

Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*

Once more common in native woodland, Small-leaved Lime have been planted in the young Magog Down woodlands. They are graceful, deciduous trees, medium to large sized, growing to 35 metres. Able to withstand hard pruning, lime was once widely coppiced.



The heavily scented flowers open in late June and are loved by bees and other insects. Each flower contains male and female reproductive parts. The flowers hang in clusters, with the flower stalk fused with a pale green, tongue-shaped bract. The fruit falls with this wing-like bract once it is ripe.



Small-leaved Lime leaves are heart-shaped. The leaf is pointed with fine sharply toothed edges.



Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*



The graceful arching branches of the lime trees in the woods in autumn.

Winter buds are smooth, shiny and red.



Interesting Facts:

Lime trees found in Britain are not related to the citrus lime.

Tilia tree species are also known as linden.



As the name suggests, leaves are smaller than for other lime species.



Lime bark is smooth, grey- brown and thin at first, becoming dark grey or blackish and ridged with age.

Common Lime *Tilia x europaea*



The Common Lime on Little Trees Hill

The Common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*) is a hybrid of the Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and the Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) which are native to Britain. Common Lime is rare in the wild in Britain, and where it occurs it has usually been planted.

The lime trees on Little Trees Hill are Common Lime, planted a hundred years or more before the younger woods on Magog Down.

Common Lime are also host to the lime aphid which produces the sticky honey-dew.



Aphids on the underside of the lime leaf.

The flowers are pollinated by insects and develop into oval or round fruits with the wing-like bracts.

