## Wyre Forest Callow Hill area

Key

- P Parking
- i Information
- Toilets
- All access
- Cafe
- Play area
- Picnic area
- Horse riding
- ••• Buzzard Trail
- ••• Woodpecker Trail
- ••• Wren Trail
- ••• Family Mountain Bike Trail
- ← → National Cycle Route
- ---- Public footpaths
- -- Public bridleways
- 1 Emergency numbered posts

0   100   200m

N

Wimperhill Wood
Dowles Brook
disused railway
New Parks
Black Gate
Bench Corner
New Parks
Callow Hill
Bare Hole
Arboretum
Park Pool
Doghanging Coppice
Woodland Giants
Albert's Oak
Go Ape!
Discovery Centre
Park Brook

Tenbury Wells   A456   Bewdley ▶

Wyre Visitor Centre
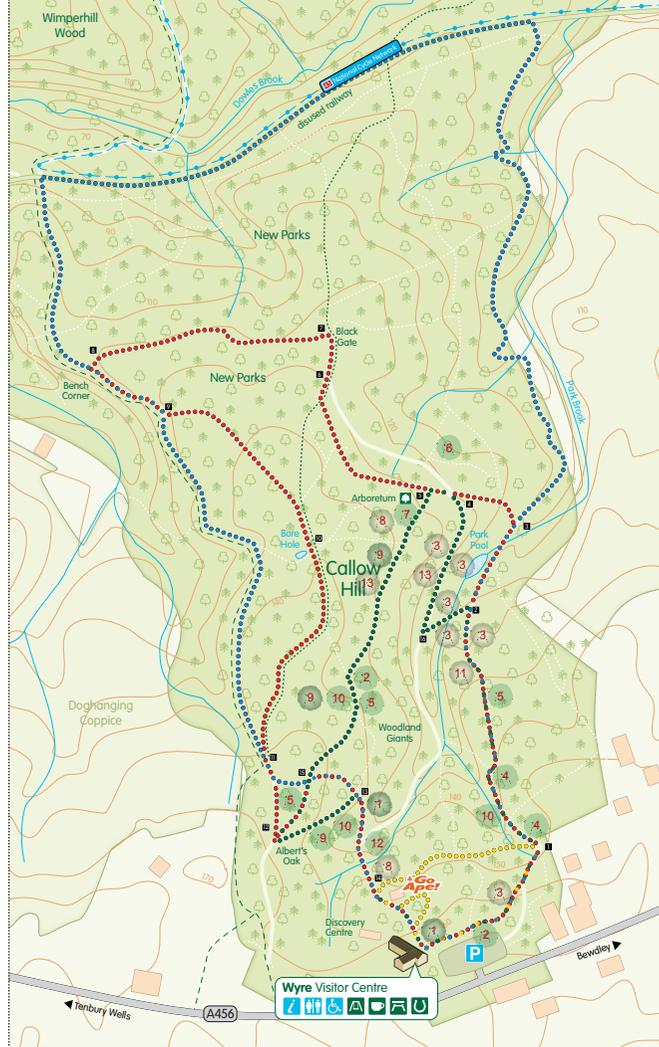
Key to trees

1. European Larch
2. Holly
3. Douglas Fir
4. Oak
5. Silver Birch
6. Wild Service
7. True Service (Whitty Pear)
8. Ash
9. Scots Pine
10. Corsican Pine
11. Alder Buckthorn
12. Hazel
13. Hawthorn

NB: Some numbers relate to individual trees and some to plantations of a single species.

As you learn the trees see if you can spot them at other locations around the route. (Eg silver birch is very common just about everywhere!)

You will also come across different tree species on this route - look at their leaves, buds and bark and see if you can identify what they are by using a book or the internet.

wyre
Forest of discovery

Alder Buckthorn

Use this map to find an example of this tree when you next visit Wyre.

Alternatively, to print a bigger version click here

Alder Buckthorn - Frangula alnus

Folklore
What's in a name?

It is thought that the name 'alder' buckthorn comes about because the leaves look similar to that of alder and the two trees/shrubs often grow in similar places.

The name alder buckthorn is not to be taken literally as a description for the plant; the shrub itself is not an alder and cannot be considered thorny in any way.

Alder Buckthorn is closely related to the Buckthorn family. It is a common deciduous shrub living in hedges and damp woodlands.

Size
Shrub up to 5m tall.

Age
Up to 50 years old.

Alder Buckthorn - identification

This colourful shrub has attractive berries which change colour from red to purple as they ripen. This clashes with the bright yellow colour of the wood.

✿ **Leaves**
The dark green leaves are alternate with 6-10 pairs of lateral veins. They are not toothed like the Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica). They turn yellow-red in autumn.

✿ **Flowers and seed**
Flowers are greenish-white (May - September)
The berries go from green, through red to purple. (July - September)

✿ **Bark**
Shoots lack thorns and have many longitudinal corky projections.

Alder Buckthorn - associated wildlife (insects)

Alder Buckthorn provides good cover and food for game birds.
The leaves are the specific food source of the caterpillar of the Brimstone butterfly.
The flowers are valuable for bees, and the fruit is an important food source for birds, particularly thrushes.

✿ Common Brimstone Butterfly - Gonepteryx rhamni
Alder Buckthorn is mainly grown for its conservation value, particularly to attract Brimstone butterflies.

✿ Bees
pollinate the flowers.

Alder Buckthorn - associated wildlife (birds)

✿ Thrush
They feed on the berries.
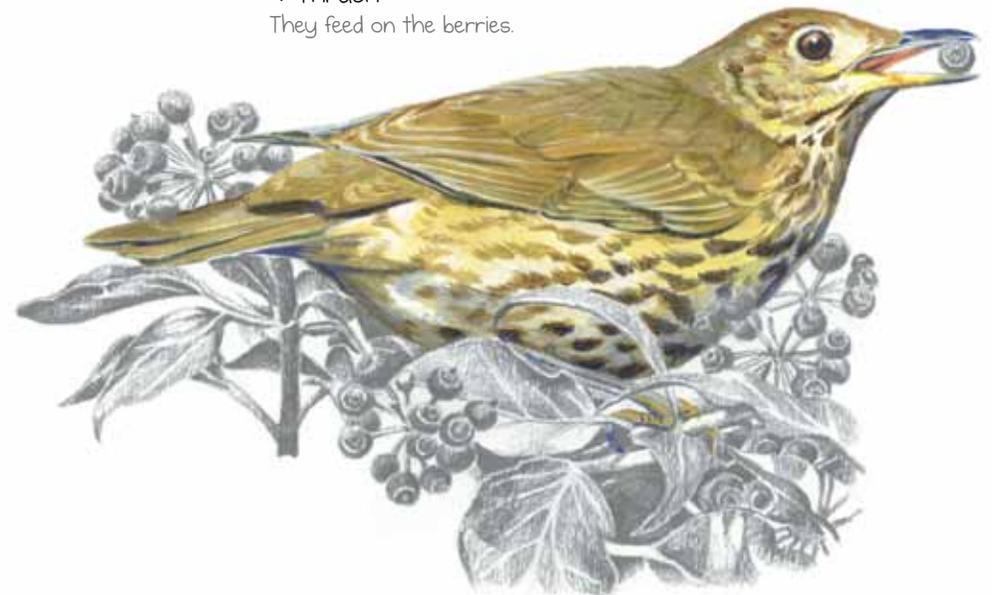
Alder Buckthorn - timber properties

The timber has a suprisingly bright yellow colour.
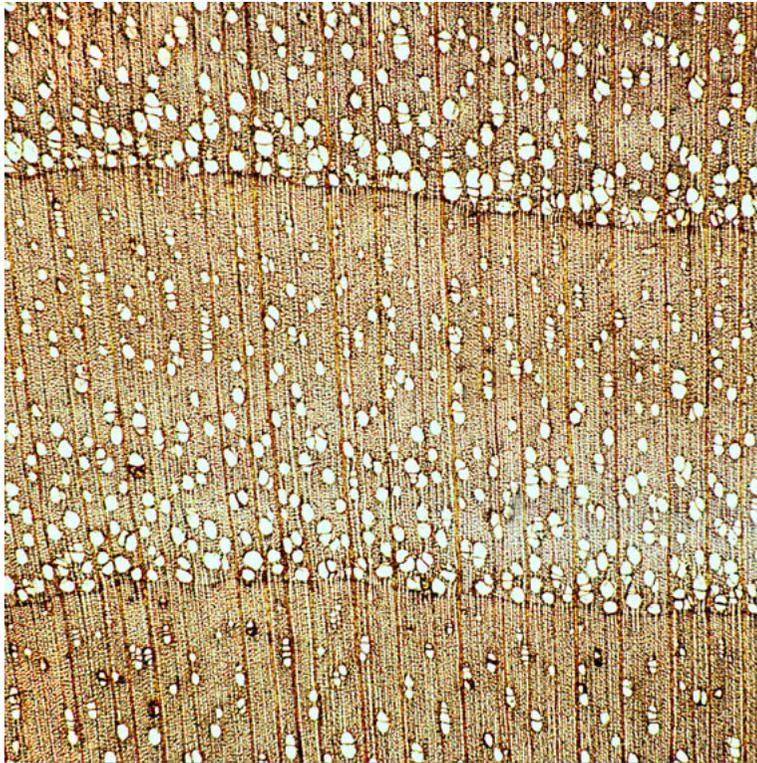
Alder Buckthorn - uses past and present
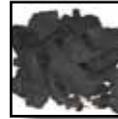
The wood made into charcoal was said to be prized for gunpowder. It is particularly highly valued for time fuses because of its very even burn rate.

Straight shoots are used for walking and umbrella sticks.

Berries yield a good green dye, which was traditionally used to make the artist colour 'Sap Green'

The bark (and to a lesser extent the fruit) has been used as a laxative. Bark for medicinal use is dried and stored for a year before use, as fresh bark is violently purgative; even dried bark can be dangerous if taken in excess.

Alder Buckthorn - activity

Make an umbrella trellis

An old umbrella is more than just junk. Turn it into a garden trellis and, once the flowers of the vines bloom, the umbrella will have cascading blossoms along the ribs. Building an umbrella trellis simply involves preparing the ribs for the plants, and setting the umbrella in the ground. You must secure it upright properly so the weight of the plants does not cause the trellis to topple over.

You will need:
Scissors
Measuring tape
Post hole digger
No-mix cement
Water
Old umbrella
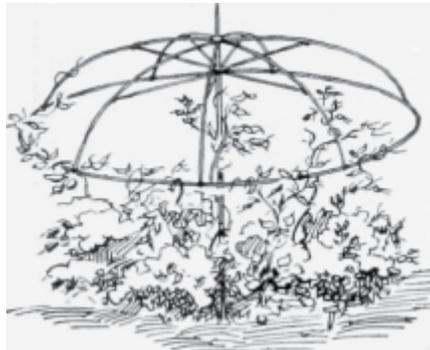
1 Cut the fabric off the umbrella top, leaving the ribs intact. Discard the fabric. Adjust the ribs so they point in the direction you want.
2 Measure the length and width of the umbrella pole.
3 Dig a hole in the soil where you want the trellis to go. Make sure the spot gets the appropriate amount of sunlight for whatever plant you want to grow on the trellis. Use a post hole digger, and make the hole three times the width of the pole. Divide the pole's height by 3, and make the hole that deep. For example, if the pole is 210 cm tall, make the hole 70 cm deep.
4 Lower the umbrella into the hole. Fill the hole with no-mix concrete until it is about 10cm below the ground level. Add water until the concrete is saturated. Let it dry for four hours before planting next to the trellis

Read more: How to Build an Umbrella Trellis | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_12005159_build-umbrella-trellis.html#ixzz1cO5bLaOo