

The Ogham Code



Congratulations! You have found all of the Ogham symbols and identified 20 trees and plants at the If Not Now When wood. You now have all you need to unlock the Ogham code.

The Ogham, pronounced “o-em”, is an ancient Celtic language of 20 symbols, each named after a tree or plant. These symbols created messages for people to read and can be found carved on standing stones in Britain and Ireland. The messages were written vertically, from bottom to top, along a central line which was usually the edge of a standing stone.

Each Ogham symbol has an old Irish name which helps to give you the Ogham code. As there are only twenty symbols in Ogham alphabet instead of the twenty-six we have in our alphabet, we have had to make up a few symbols.

Mission 1. Get the Ogham Code

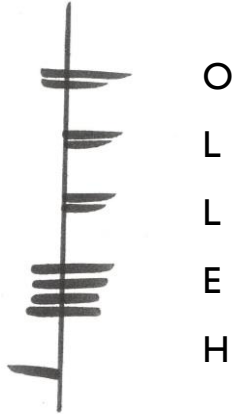
You found the 20 Ogham symbols on the four trails. Can you write the name of the tree or plant by each symbol and its old Irish name to give you the Ogham code?

Ogham symbol	Irish name and letter	Tree	Ogham symbol	Irish name and letter	Tree	Ogham symbol	Irish name and letter	Tree
	Ailm A	Pine		nGetal J			Saille S	
	Beithe B	Birch		K			Tinne T	
	Coll C			Luis L			Ur U	
	Duir D			Muin M			V	
	Eadhadh E			Nion N			W	
	Fearn F			Onn O			X	
	Gort G			P			Y	
	Huath H			Queirt Q			Straiph Z	
	Idhadh I			Ruis R				

Mission 2. Unlock the Ogham code

Now you know what the symbols mean you can start to decode Ogham messages. Remember the Ogham code is written from bottom to top.

This says "Hello"



This says "Ogham"



What does this message say? (It's 4 words)



Mission 3. Write your own Ogham message

Your last mission is to write something in the Ogham Code. Write it in the Visitors Book so other people can have try and decode it.