

If Not Now When community woodland



Pink Ogham Trail

Learning the trees and plants of the woodland

The Ogham is an ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 symbols, each named after a tree or plant growing in the UK. These symbols can be found carved on hundreds of standing stones in Britain and Ireland, dating from nearly 2000 years ago. It was not a spoken language but rather a secret code, each symbol having a different meaning and idea.

The If Not Now When wood has examples of the Ogham trees and plants and you can learn them all with our **FOUR** trails.

This is the **PINK** trail where you learn to identify 5 of them.



Dunloe Ogham Stones, Beaufort, Co. Kerry, Ireland (Photo: Robert Linsdell)

Using the information on the back of this trail, find and identify the 5 trees or plants marked on the map. Each will have its own Ogham symbol near to it.

Write the tree or plants name below and draw the Ogham symbol.

Ogham symbol

Tree name.....

.....

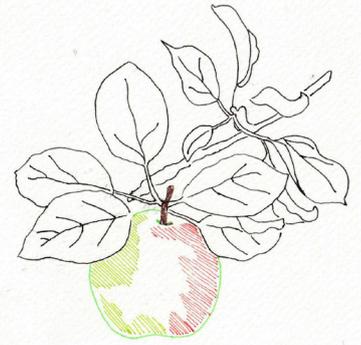
.....

.....

Apple

In Britain more than 2,500 different apple varieties are grown for eating, cooking and cider production. They all have different names, see how many you can spot at the If Not Now When wood.

The apple is known as the supposed forbidden fruit which grew on the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden Bible but the apple isn't actually mentioned anywhere in the Bible story.



Heather

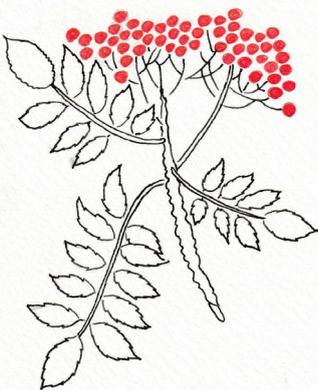
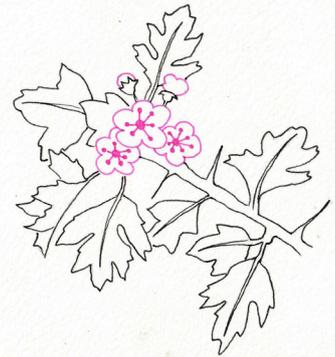
Heather is a small bushy evergreen plant which forms a thick carpet over huge areas of land. It flowers from July through to September, turning whole hillsides and landscapes purple and pink.

It's said heather, particularly white heather, is supposed to bring good luck. Sometimes you see people selling sprigs of heather as lucky charms.

Blackthorn

Blackthorn is one of the first plants to flower in Spring. Later those flowers turn to small deep purple fruits called sloes.

The thorns of a blackthorn are incredibly strong, sharp and long. A scratch by one can easily get infected. It is said the Sleeping Beauty pricked her finger on blackthorn which put her into a deep long sleep. While she slept the thorn grew all around the castle forming an impassable thorny thicket.



Rowan

The rowan tree produces clusters of creamy white flowers in Spring which turn into bunches of orange red berries in Autumn.

Rowan has a long history in folklore as a tree which protects you against evil spirits. Some people even used to carry bits of rowan wood wrapped in red string around in their pockets.

Reed

Reeds are a general name for varieties of large grasses which live near or in water.

We have bulrushes at the If Not Now When wood which turn into tall, sturdy plants which have long brown flower spikes. These turn into the fluffiest of seeds which have been used for pillow or bedding, stuffing life and aviation jackets in World War II, insulation for buildings and make a really good tinder for starting a fire.

