

I have a smooth grey bark with horizontal etchings



My leaves are lime green with silky hairs at first but, as they mature, they become darker green and lose their hairs. They are 4–9cm long, stalked, oval and pointed at the tip, with a wavy edge.



I am home to many species of wildlife including butterflies

voles,



squirrels



and birds



What is my name?



My fruits are triangular nuts which form in prickly four-lobed seed cases.



In winter look out for my leaf buds which are distinctively sharply pointed and not pressed against the twigs.



I often hold on to my leaves throughout winter – this is known as marcescence.