

## ELM (*Ulmus procera*)

*Ulmus procera* includes most forms with a rough or harsh upper leaf surface (as opposed to smooth/shiny) <sup>[1]</sup>, that would seem to satisfy the photo on the right.

I have a small group of elms in Sandhurst Copse adjacent to Green Lane fields. They are almost certainly all clones from the same mother tree, maybe formerly in a hedgerow. They regularly succumb to Dutch Elm Disease. It is however worth letting them continue in case nature comes up with something new. In order to be infected, they need to reach the height at which the beetle flies, and have bark rough enough to be attractive to it.

The channels of the Elm Bark Beetle are very distinct. Interestingly there is this report from the 1940s <sup>[2]</sup> “All elms have suffered severely during recent years from the attacks of a fungus causing Dutch Elm Disease carried by the Elm Bark Beetle. This spread with alarming rapidity from a centre in or near Holland, and at first killed most trees affected. Latterly its virulence has apparently diminished – more trees resist its attack, and more attacked trees recover; but it is still a factor to be reckoned with, and restricts any extensive planting of the species.”



[1] “British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p25.

[2] “British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p26.