

# Holly

## About holly

A well known shrub that can grow up to 15m tall and live for around 300 years. You will find it growing in woodlands, scrub and hedgerows.

Holly grows densely and so provides good cover for nesting birds and the dry leaf litter underneath it is ideal for hibernating hedgehogs and small mammals. The flowers provide nectar and pollen for insects, including bees and the berries are a vital source of food for birds and mammals during the winter. The leaves provide food for the holly blue caterpillar as well as moth caterpillars. Deer will browse the leaves that grow higher up the tree – these aren't as spiky as the lower leaves.

Holly wood is white, dense and fine-grained. It can be used for walking sticks and furniture and burns well.



# Identifying Holly

**#1 Location** Holly grows in woodlands, scrub and hedgerows



Bark

**#2 Leaves and berries** – the leaves of holly are dark green, shiny and spiky at lower levels. Higher leaves and those on older trees are less likely to be spiky. Red berries form on female trees.

**#3 Bark** – holly has smooth bark with lots of ‘warts’; bark on twigs tends to be darker

## Where to find holly trees in Torfaen

Holly is common throughout Torfaen and you will find it at:

Herberts Wood, Pontypool

Footpath between Grotto and Folly, Pontypool

Pontypool Park

Holly berries



Holly leaves

