

# Autumn in the Great North Wood Species to spot:



Acorns from  
oak trees



Hornbeam leaves



Ivy



Fly agaric mushroom



Beef steak fungus



Amethyst deceiver  
mushroom



Clouded funnel mushroom



Hawthorn berries



Honey fungus

The species found in woodlands are part of a delicate ecosystem. Please be careful not to pick anything or damage the environment. Never pick and eat wild mushrooms as they can be poisonous.





# The Great North Wood

The Great North Wood was once an ancient woodland that stretched across south London. For many centuries people harvested wood, to make charcoal; oak bark that was used in leather making; and timber, to build ships and houses. About 200 years ago people stopped using these woodland products and as a result woodland became less commercially valuable. Large areas of the wood were cleared to make way for fields and farmland, which in time became roads and houses. Today the Great North Wood survives as a scattering of small woodlands surrounded by the urban landscape. Even though we have lost large areas of the wood, the areas that remain are home to lots of fascinating wildlife.



## Autumn in the Great North Wood

Autumn is a time of ripening fruits and darkening skies. Acorns fall from the oak trees in their thousands and squirrels and jays harvest them and hide them away ready for the long winter. Berries turn red and provide food for birds and mice. Ivy flowers produce pollen, after most flowers have withered and died, providing a food source for bees late into the year. Trees go from green to yellow, orange and brown as their leaves change colour. With the autumn rains, the ground grows damp and mushrooms of all shapes, sizes and colours emerge from the dead wood and leaf litter.



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