

Spring in the Great North Wood

Species to spot:



Bluebell



Wood anemone



Lesser celandine



Blue tit



Tree bumble bee



Black cap



Holly blue



Tawny mining bee



Wild garlic

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.

Spring in the Great North Wood

Spring is a time of new life. Birds sing to attract mates and defend their territories and busy themselves making nests to lay their eggs in. Some birds like chiffchaff and blackcap arrive after their epic migrations from Africa and southern Europe. Leaves burst open from buds on the trees and flowers like bluebell and wood anemone bloom. Bees that have just woken up from their winter hibernation take advantage of the spring flowers to build up reserves of pollen to feed their young.



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