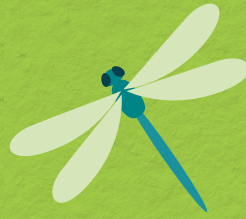


Summer in the Great North Wood

Species to spot:



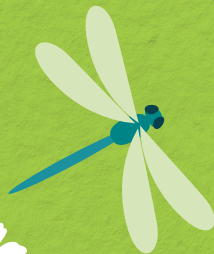
Sycamore seeds



Elder flowers



Nuthatch



Blackbird



**Chicken-of-the-woods
fungus**



Purple hairstreak



Stag beetle



Speckled wood



Green woodpecker

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.



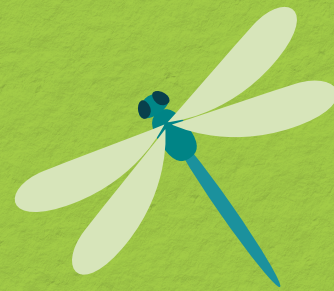
The Great North Wood

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.



Summer in the Great North Wood

Summer is a time of warmth and plenty. Baby birds learn to fly and leave their nests. Caterpillars munch away on juicy leaves, before turning into pupae and then hatching out into beautiful butterflies. The purple hairstreak butterfly flies high up in the canopy of oak trees feeding on honeydew which is a sweet liquid secreted by aphids that feed on the oak leaves. Shiny black stag beetles with their huge jaws emerge from dead wood, where they have been living as larvae for up to seven years, and take to the sky to find a mate.



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