

# Winter in the Great North Wood Species to spot:



Oak buds



Great spotted  
woodpecker



Robin



Hazel catkins



Holly



Southern bracket  
fungus



Marble galls



Hornbeam buds



Jay

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.

## Winter in the Great North Wood

Winter is a time of hardship and hibernation. Food can be hard to find in winter and many animals either hibernate or fly away to warmer countries where food is still plentiful. Plants stop growing and many lose their leaves. You can see next year's leaves tightly packed in buds. The drumming of the great spotted woodpecker can be heard resounding through the leafless branches and robins with their bright red breasts sing right through winter when most birds have fallen silent.



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