

The oak dominated woodlands found in many of Exmoor's valleys are among the best of their type in the world thriving in our cool, damp and unpolluted Atlantic air. These special woodlands support a wide range of species.



When you walk through one of Exmoor's woodlands, it's hard to imagine that for hundreds of years these were busy places, alive with the sound of industry. Charcoal workers carefully harvested the timber every 15 years or so, producing charcoal for iron smelting. This created a mosaic of different aged trees which allowed sunlight in to dapple the forest floor. Today many different species of plant and animal flourish including butterflies, dormice and bluebells.

Our woodlands are nationally important for bats such as the barbastelle and brown long-eared bat and support a complex ecosystem. Birds such as the pied flycatcher and redstart return each summer to nest in Exmoor's woodlands and we have some of the most important woodland lichen communities in the UK.

As well as oak, many other tree species can be found including ash, hazel, rowan, holly and hawthorn.

Some great places to explore Exmoor's woodlands:

Horner Woods, Watersmeet, Tarr Steps, Dulverton, Hawkcombe, Culbone Woods, Nutcombe Bottom.



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| 1 Dormouse | 6 Long tailed tit | 11 Nuthatch |
| 2 Pied flycatcher | 7 Great spotted woodpecker | 12 Coppiced hazel |
| 3 String-of-sausages lichen | 8 Hazel | 13 Bluebells |
| 4 Brown long-eared bat | 9 Jay | 14 Roe deer |
| 5 Honeysuckle | 10 Barbastelle bat | 15 Speckled wood butterfly |
| | | 16 Badger |
| | | 17 Grey squirrel |
| | | 18 Silver washed fritillary |
| | | 19 Lungwort lichen |
| | | 20 Greater wood-rush |
| | | 21 Redstart |
| | | 22 Wood sorrel |
| | | 23 Wood anemone |
| | | 24 Wood ant nest |
| | | 25 Fern |
| | | 26 Ramsons |
| | | 27 Wood avens |
| | | 28 Bramble |