

People have been farming on Exmoor for thousands of years and agriculture has played a major role in shaping the special landscape we see today. Farming remains a vital part of Exmoor life.



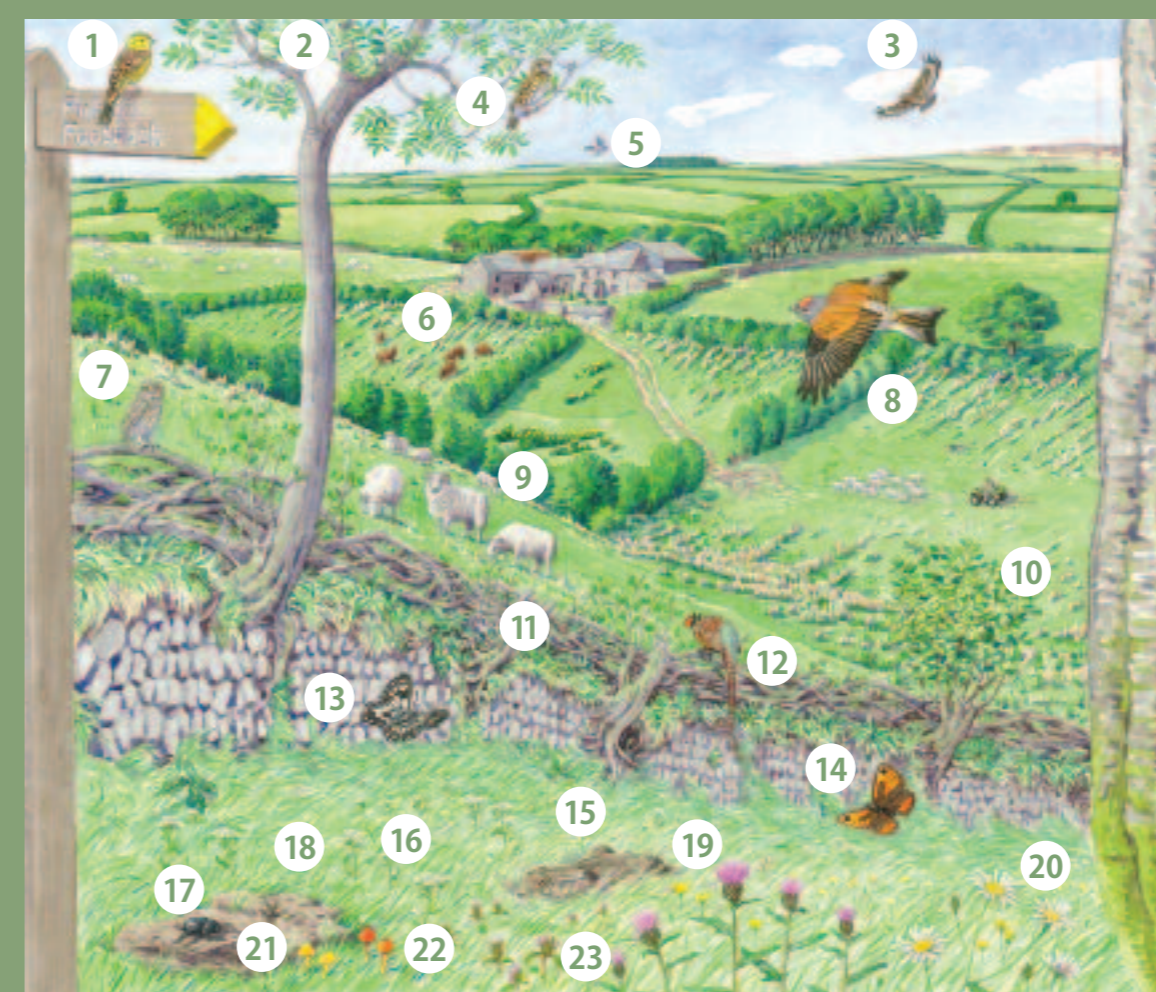
The Exmoor landscape that is so valued today for its beauty and apparent wildness is largely the result of thousands of years of farming. Woodland has been cleared, moorland burned and drained and the vegetation controlled by grazing animals, particularly cattle and sheep. Over many generations, this has led to the intimate pattern of farms, fields, woodland and moorland that make Exmoor National Park such a special place.

From dung beetles that help to recycle nutrients, and beautiful waxcap fungi that love damp unimproved pastures to birds such as linnet and little owl, farmland can provide a habitat for many species that thrive where traditional management of grasslands and hedgerows takes place.

Today, traditional management techniques such as hedge-laying, stone-faced banking, and grazing by traditional breeds such as Devon ruby red cattle and Exmoor horn sheep help to maintain the National Park in good condition.

Some great places to explore Exmoor's farmland:

Porlock Vale, Exe Valley, Dunster Vale, Wootton Courtenay, Brendon Hills, Wimbleball Lake..



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|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Yellowhammer | 5 Swallow | 9 Exmoor horn sheep |
| 2 Ash | 6 Devon red cattle | 10 Hazel |
| 3 Buzzard | 7 Little owl | 11 Newly laid hedge |
| 4 Song thrush | 8 Linnet | 12 Pheasant |
| | | 13 Marbled white butterfly |
| | | 14 Gatekeeper butterfly |
| | | 15 Hare |
| | | 16 Yarrow |
| | | 17 Dung beetle |
| | | 18 Hornet robberfly |
| | | 19 Common knapweed |
| | | 20 Ox-eye daisy |
| | | 21 Cow pat |
| | | 22 Waxcap fungi |
| | | 23 Selfheal |