

A Yarner Wood Route

Start at the car park at Middle Trendlebere Down (SX782793) and enjoy the spectacular view northwards along the Bovey Valley before crossing the road to enter Yarner Wood. Walk through the gate and turn right along the wide track.



Lining the track along the edge of the wood, you will see many birch trees. They can be recognised by their distinctive white bark and drooping branches. Dotted amongst them you will see groups of coniferous trees, with orange-pink bark on the higher trunk and branches. These sculptural trees are our native conifer, the Scots Pine.

B

As you pass a small building on your right, look out for a small path on the left hand side of the track. You leave the main track here. From this elevated position you are looking right into the tree canopy. Follow the narrow path down to the stream below.

KEY
 Yarner Wood Route
 - - - - - Bovey Valley Route



C

Cross the bridge over the small stream. Turn immediately left to follow the route through the oak wood. Or, turn right to visit the timber framed shelter, before returning to the route.

The oak trees in these woods are a uniform age and height, as they were once cut for charcoal. This practice finished here over a hundred years ago and the woods have since developed a healthy shrub layer of hazel and rowan, providing a good woodland structure for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.



bats for roosting and birds can nest in hollows and forage for invertebrates under the bark. Dead wood on the ground is alive with invertebrates that recycle the nutrients from the wood into the soil.

D

At the fork in the track, keep left, and follow the track as it crosses the stream. Continue on this track downhill.

As you walk through the wood you will notice that there is a high proportion of dead wood. This is a very important part of the woodland habitat. Standing dead wood can be occupied by

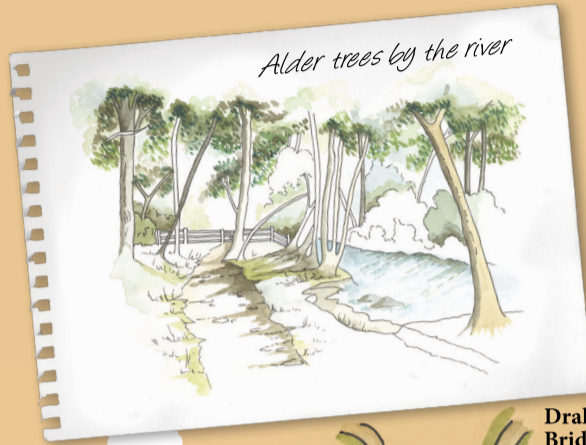
E

At the end of the track you will see a gate and cattle grid, keep right, and cross the small bridge over the stream. You are walking around the old pond, where willow and alder trees grow. As you meet the concrete track, admire the avenue of beech trees, before turning left. Pass through the gate and turn left towards the car park.

For many years, beech trees were planted to mark boundaries and have become a typical feature of the Dartmoor landscape.

F

As you enter the car park, take the small path on the right. The path goes uphill to a small gate. Follow the path as it bends to the left, keeping the line of old oak trees to your right. You will pass the reservoir and bird hide. Continue back to the small gate, where you cross the road back to the car park.



I

The oaks give way to an area of wet woodland, where you will find a large rounded boulder or "pudding stone" beside the track. Turn right and go through the gate to cross the River Bovey, using the ancient pack horse route over Hisley Bridge.

J

Turn right again to follow the river. Continue through the gate and follow the route along the river bank.

Many of the trees along the river bank are alder. This is a species that tends to grow in wet ground. Look for the tiny cones on the end of the branches.



K

Continue along the river bank as it sweeps to the left and the walk enters Rudge Meadow.

There are some large oak trees here, these are a different species to those in Yarner Wood. They are pedunculate oak, which are often broader, with spreading branches.

L

Leave the woodland and walk across the field. Leave the field by the gate and follow the lane. Please ensure gates are shut as stock graze this field.

A

Bovey Valley Route

Start at the car park at Middle Trendlebere Down (SX782793). Exit the car park in the bottom right corner before heading east along the heath.

G

After a few minutes you will reach the Lower Trendlebere car park. Follow a small, informal path down through the gorse and bracken to meet the Old Manaton Road. Turn left and follow the old stone track down the hill. Vehicles do use the Old Manton Road, so please be aware.

You will pass a stand of tall conifers on your right, these are Douglas fir. The species was introduced to this country from North America and was planted here to produce high quality timber.

H

Where the stream crosses the track – you will see some grand oak trees that line the route of an old boundary.

The holly has been cleared around these old boundary trees. This will let in the light, which will benefit the many species of lichen that grow in these woods.



M

At Drakeford Bridge turn right and cross the river. Turn right again into Pullabrook Wood car park. Once you are back in the woods, follow the main track.

Along the field boundary look for wych elm – they are an important food plant for a rare butterfly – the white-letter hairstreak.

N

Follow the track all the way through Pullabrook Wood where it rises high above the river.

In Pullabrook Wood you will see many mixed species of trees including native ash, oak and rowan next to areas of planted Douglas fir and Scots pine.



O

Leave the wood through the gate and turn left onto the Old Manaton Road, retracing your steps to the start.





Alder

You will find this tree growing along the river bank by Hisley Bridge. Its leaves are smooth and broad, and have a leaf tip that is never pointed and is often indented. Look for the small brown cones, which are the female catkins, that stay on the tree all year round.

Alder



Mych elm

The leaves of this tree have a serrated edge, a characteristic asymmetrical base and are covered with small hairs that feel rough to the touch. This tree is an important food plant for a rare butterfly, the white-letter hairstreak.

Mych elm



Douglas fir

A small tree often seen growing in the understorey beneath the larger canopy trees. Rowan is also known as mountain ash, as its leaves look similar. In spring look for dense clusters of creamy white flowers, which are followed by orange berries, a rich source of autumn food for birds.

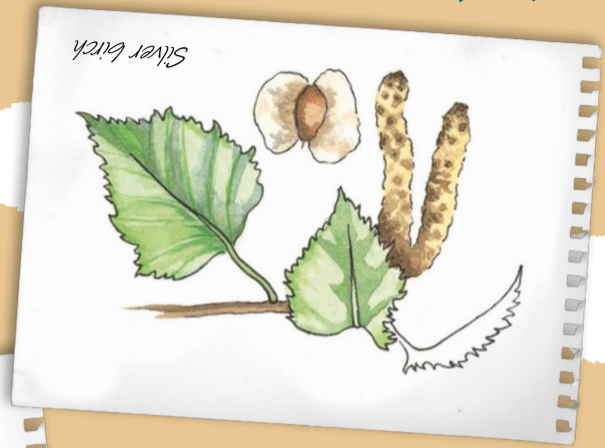
Rowan

This fast growing tree was introduced from North America for its high quality timber. It is an evergreen conifer, retaining its needle-like leaves throughout the year. The larger, more mature trees have rough bark with vertical ridges. The cones have distinctive bracts between the scales. Look carefully - they look like the back legs and tail of a mouse!

Douglas fir



Rowan



Silver birch

These two walks allow you to compare the Atlantic oak woods of Yarner Wood with the Bovey Valley woodlands. The shorter route (1.5km) can be completed in approximately 1 hour and takes you into the heart of the wood, where majestic oaks stand high above you. The longer route takes you through Hisley, Rudge and Pullabrook Woods, where deciduous trees stand side by side with introduced species, planted for timber during the last century. This route is approximately 4.5km and will take up to 2 1/2 hours.

These walking routes follow woodland tracks and riverside paths with gentle and steady inclines. In each case, good boots will be required for the wet ground.

Silver birch

Young birch trees have purple coloured bark but as they grow older birch develops its distinctive white papery bark with black markings. It has small serrated leaves on drooping branches, which form a light canopy, allowing plants to grow beneath it. Birch are known as a "pioneer species" as they quickly colonise open areas.

Discover the Dartmoor Story



For further information on local heritage, or if you would like to get involved with helping to save our woodlands, please contact:

Woodland Trust
Tel: 0330 333 3300
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Dartmoor National Park Authority
Tel: 01626 832093
hq@dartmoor.gov.uk

Natural England
Tel: 0845 600 3078
enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk



The Woodland Trust is a registered charity, numbers 294344 and SC038885.

www.dartmoorstory.org

Please use an OS map alongside this leaflet



Moor than meets the eye
Landscape Partnership



Woods and Trees Trail

East Dartmoor NNR



Sessile oak

Oak trees support more wildlife than any of our other native trees. The sessile oak is one of two oaks native to Britain, and it is this species of oak that dominates these Atlantic oak woods. Its leaves have a long stalk and the acorn cups grow in clusters that sit on the twig without a stalk.



Pedunculate oak

Pedunculate oak

The pedunculate, or English oak, is a broad tree with spreading branches. A number of large pedunculate oaks stand in the riverside meadow in Rudge Wood. You can identify this oak as the leaves have a short stem and the acorn cups grow on long stalks.