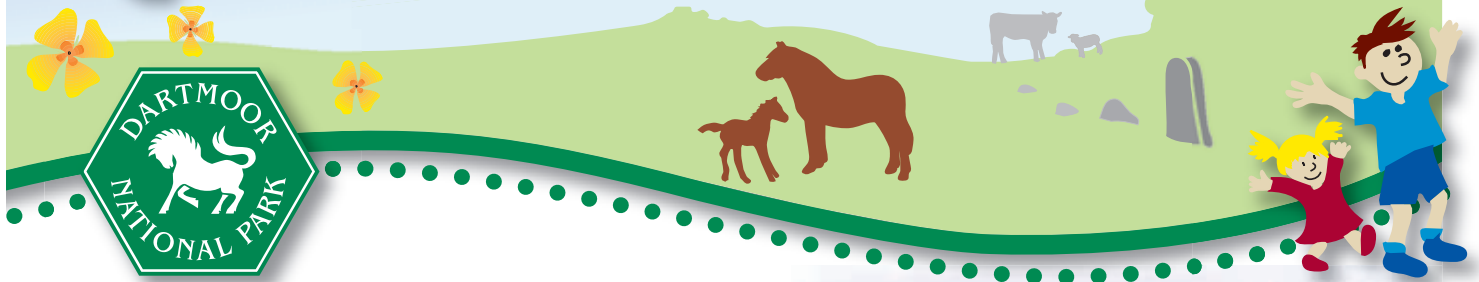


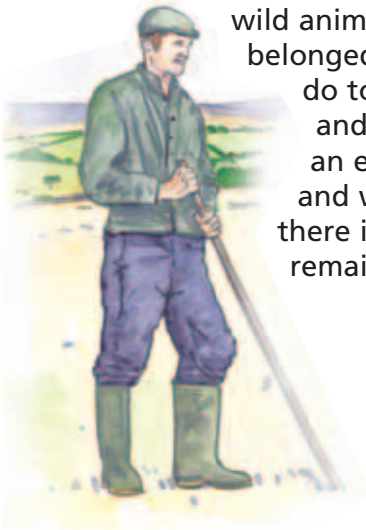


# Introducing the Nature of Dartmoor



## How the moorland is looked after

The sheep, the cows and the ponies have created the moorland that we see today. They have been eating grass (grazing) the moor for thousands of years. They are not wild animals. They have always belonged to farmers as they still do today. The sheep, cows and ponies (LIVESTOCK) are an essential part of the moor and we need to keep them there if we want Dartmoor to remain as moorland.



*the cows and sheep produce meat for the farmers to feed us*



## Swaling/Burning

During dry spells in the winter the farmers try to burn away some of the older tougher plants on the moor. Careful burning in small areas clears away old growth and encourages fresh new plant shoots to grow. The big animals like to graze areas that have been recently burnt. Some areas may get burnt once every ten years.

farmer

## The Big Beasts of Dartmoor

pony

cow

sheep



*the animals eat/graze the plants (mainly grass)*

*the animals enrich the soil with their manure and this helps plants to grow*

## Common Moorland Plants

heather

bracken

gorse

grass





# Introducing plants on Dartmoor

Plants grow well in places where the conditions are best for them. All animals depend on plants for food in some way.

## Grasses

**Cotton Grass** likes very boggy high open places

**Greater woodrush** likes wet grassy places

**Purple Moor Grass** likes high open places

## Flowers

**Sundew** grows in wet mossy places and traps and eats insects

**Bluebells** like hillsides that are covered by trees or bracken

**Stone crop** can store water in its leaves; it likes rocks and walls

**Tormentil** likes open areas that are grazed

**Lousewort** lives in between grasses

## Trees

**Hawthorn** is a very tough thorny tree and useful in hedges

**Oak** can grow very old and grows very slowly on the moor, it only grows on sheltered steep slopes or among granite boulders to be out of reach of the grazing animals, who love to eat it

**Rowan** trees can survive the worst conditions - cold windy and wet weather, and poor soils

## Ferns and Liverwort

**Liverwort** grows on river and stream banks

**Polyphy fern** likes to grow in shady places on trees or rocks

## Mosses and Lichens

**Cladonia (Devil's Matches)** likes to grow on rocks and stones

**Sphagnum moss** likes flatter, wetter places and makes them even wetter by soaking up rain water



# Introducing the wild animals of Dartmoor

These are some of the typical wild animals found on the higher parts of Dartmoor. Some animals eat plants while others hunt and eat other smaller animals. Some can wander far and wide across the moor. Others like to stay close to their food and keep as safe as possible.

## Birds



*Dippers* dive into rivers to feed off underwater insects



*Buzzards* like gliding high up looking for worms, beetles or rabbits to eat

## Furry animals



*Rabbits* like grazing short grass and flowers near to their burrows



*Dormice* specialise in woodlands and only come out at night and like to sleep a lot



*Foxes* like to roam and hunt anywhere at any time



*Wheatears* nest on the ground and like to perch on rocks



*Stonechats* like sitting on gorse bushes making loud "chat" noises

## Mini beasts of Dartmoor



*High Brown Fritillary butterflies* are very rare and their caterpillars feed on violets that grow under bracken



*Golden-ringed dragonflies'* larvae live for years in muddy, peaty puddles



*Common lizards* scuttle away quickly to hide in the heather

## Cold blooded creatures



*Newts* need to live near to a pond to breed



*Common frogs* need to stay damp and need still standing water to spawn in

## Fish



*Trout* need clean fast flowing streams or rivers to live in

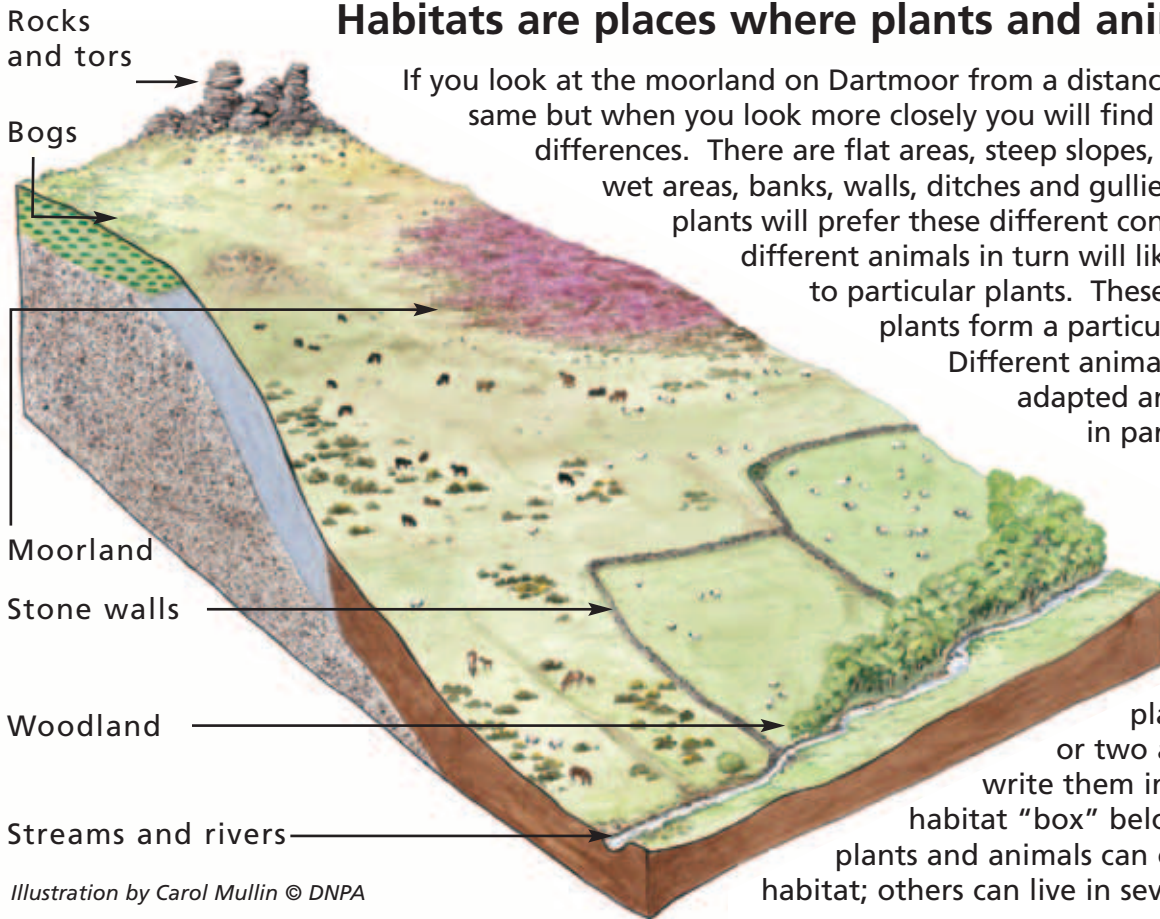


*Dor beetles* lay eggs and feed on animal dung

*Fox Moth caterpillars* eat nothing but heather



# Habitats are places where plants and animals live



If you look at the moorland on Dartmoor from a distance it all looks the same but when you look more closely you will find there are differences. There are flat areas, steep slopes, rocky places, wet areas, banks, walls, ditches and gullies. Different plants will prefer these different conditions and different animals in turn will like to live close to particular plants. These groups of plants form a particular **habitat**. Different animals will have adapted and prefer to live in particular habitats.

Look carefully at the plants and animals on pages 1, 2 and 3. Pick one or two plants and one or two animals and write them into the correct habitat "box" below. Some plants and animals can only live in one habitat; others can live in several habitats.

Illustration by Carol Mullin © DNPA

HABITATS	PLANTS	ANIMALS
rocks and tors		
bogs	for example <b>sundew</b>	
moorland		
woodland		for example <b>fox</b>
stream and rivers		

Further information available from our web site

[www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)

- Fun Zone
- Factsheets
- Publications

For further information, and a list of other Fact Sheets available, contact the:

Communications, Education and Information Service,  
 Dartmoor National Park Authority,  
 Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot,  
 Devon TQ13 9JQ  
 Tel: (01626) 832093

E-mail: [education@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](mailto:education@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)  
 Web site: [www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)

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