

Howdale Moor and Brow Moor

The wild birds of Fylingdales Moor

The vast heather moorland of Fylingdales Moor is a flourishing haven for wildlife, especially the wild birds of prey which make it their home. It's very different from most moors in the North York Moors National Park as grouse-shooting is not allowed. Instead, the Hawk and Owl Trust has been working here since 2006, using traditional techniques to help moorland birds thrive. Some heather is still burned each year to produce a patchwork of new shoots for red grouse to eat. But other stands of heather are left to grow taller, providing a more welcoming habitat for birds of prey, including the merlin (Britain's smallest falcon) and the short-eared owl.

After the Fylingdales fire

This area of moorland is flourishing today but the walk runs through the heart of an area destroyed by wildfire in 2003. The fire burned for six days and stripped away an area of peat and heather the size of 500 football pitches – underneath were revealed long-hidden archaeological remains, including prehistoric burial mounds, reservoirs linked with the alum industry and even relics of a World War II battle training site. Restoration work since the fire has helped young heather, cotton grass and wavy hair-grass to re-colonise the area, and the new vegetation provides a protective cover to save the archaeology from the elements.



Whitby Gazette



Magical moorland, birds of prey



Choose a clear day for this 4-mile circular walk to enjoy amazing views of two very different landscapes of the National Park – sweeping heather moorland and the dramatic Ravenscar coastline looking across to Robin Hood's Bay. The walk also passes several prehistoric burial mounds, providing a fascinating glimpse into our past, and if you're lucky you'll catch sight of Fylingdale Moor's wild birds of prey.

Did you know?

Ravenscar got its name in Victorian times. 'Scar' means 'cliff' or 'rocky outcrop' in Old Norse. You can see these 'scars' – hard layers of rock stretching out to sea – from the top of the moorland.

Great for:

big sky views, history buffs, nature nuts

Length:

4 miles (6.4km)

Time:

2 hours 30 minutes

Start/Finish:

Car park near transmitter mast, Scarborough Road, half-mile (800m) west of Ravenscar

Grid Reference:

NZ 970 012

Map:

OS Explorer OL27

Refreshments:

Ravenscar

Toilets:

Ravenscar

 The Raven Hall Hotel on the cliffs at Ravenscar has a bar and restaurant (and spectacular views from the gardens). Ravenscar Tea Rooms in the village is sited by the Cinder Track, the old Scarborough-to-Whitby railway line. There are also drinks, snacks and ice cream available in the Visitor Centre.

 National Trust's Ravenscar Visitor Centre, Ravenscar.

... magical moorland, birds of prey ...

Route instructions

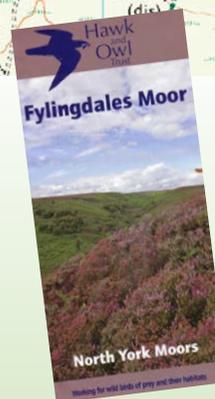
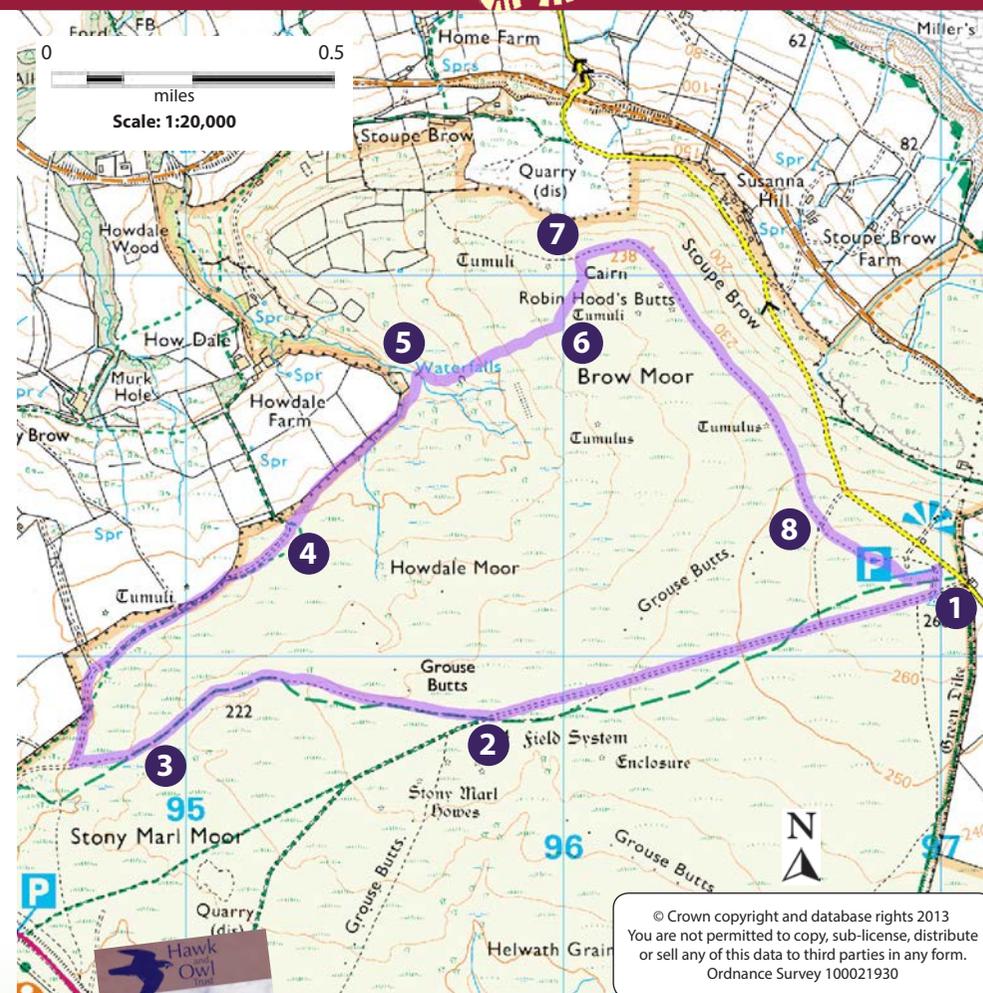
- 1 Opposite the transmitter mast, follow the bridleway across the moor, heading away from the mast (car park on your right).
- 2 Not far after a pond on your left, fork right on a bridleway and follow the grassy track towards Cook House.
- 3 Turn right on a clear grassy track heading towards a wall corner and surfaced track. Turn right on the surfaced track and follow it around the edge of the moor.
- 4 When the track bends left downhill, turn right over a boardwalk and follow the path. It continues ahead and then downhill – with wall and fields on your left – before entering a small wooded area.
- 5 Ford the shallow beck just to the right of a small waterfall. As you emerge from the trees, follow the clear path ahead uphill through the heather.
- 6 Turn left at Marker Post 7 on the 'Stoup Brow Trail'. Follow the obvious path gently uphill and bear slightly left to reach Stoup Brow Trail Post 6.
- 7 Turn right and join the track leading round the edge of Brow Moor. (Just before Stoup Brow Trail Post 5, divert a few yards left to a large cairn, from where there is an excellent view of the coast. Return to the main track and carry on towards the mast.)
- 8 Cross a track and continue towards the mast and car park.



The walk follows paths through heather and over rough tracks. Some of the paths may be overgrown and muddy at times. There are no stiles. The walk is on Open Access land, which means that walkers do not have to stick to footpaths or other public rights of way.



You cannot complete the full walk with a dog as they are not allowed off rights of way on Open Access land (from point 3 onwards). Dogs are welcome on the public bridleway between points 1 and 3 only but keep them on a short lead or to heel at all times (and always on a lead near livestock). Also keep them on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July when rare birds are nesting on the ground.



Like this walk?

The Hawk and Owl Trust manages the Fylingdales moorland. Visit www.hawkandowl.org/fylingdales to discover more about their work – and about the moorland and wildlife on this walk.