

Welcome to the start of the nature trail. Since 2006, on behalf of the Strickland Estate, Fylingdales Moor has been managed to conserve and enhance upland wildlife, and preserve its archaeological remains. As a Special Protection Area, a key aim is to encourage moorland birds such as the merlin, golden plover, snipe, and curlew to breed.

A wide range of species can be found along the trail marked by 6 coloured posts.

So pull on your boots and let's enjoy their wonderful wild moorland habitat.

The 4.3 km trail starts and finishes at the Jugger Howe layby off the A171 between Whitby and Scarborough (Grid Reference NZ 944002) - one mile south of the Flask Inn YO22 4QH (nearest toilets for customers).

Unsuitable for dogs - they can disturb wildlife so are not allowed off rights of way on this access land.

Wear clothing and enclosed shoes (adders) suitable for an exposed moorland and rough paths.

There are steps and a steep slope.







Thanks to NYMNPA 'HOOTS' volunteers who completed the boardwalk in all weathers. The timber was jointly funded by the North York Moors National Park Authority's LEADER Small Scale Enhancement Scheme.

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Fylingdales Moor contacts:

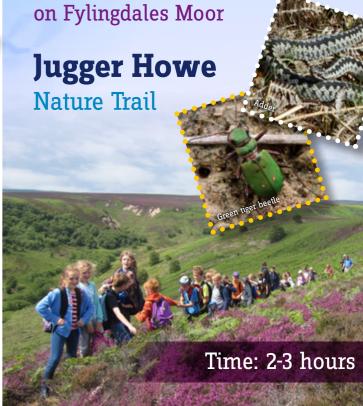
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White post

Begin along the concrete track; this was laid during WWII when the moor was used as a firing range.

The two mounds on your right are "howes" (bronze age burial mounds), after which this part of the moor is named. Try spotting the three different species of heather, all providing suitable habitat for many butterfly and moth caterpillars, and nectar for the adults (watch out for the common blue or the brilliant red of the 6-spot burnet moth). Bell heather with its brighter and longer flower heads is distinct from the more widespread and smaller flowers of the ling (common heather).

Where rainwater run-off from the track has made the peaty soil less acidic, common spotted orchids grow.

A shy but venomous snake, the adder may be seen basking, especially once it emerges from hibernation in the spring. Also look out for slow worms a legless lizard.

Red post

As you pass the red post on your left, keep straight ahead as the concrete becomes a track.

Listen out for skylarks singing, whilst the "tseep" of the meadow pipits alerts you to their presence, and watch for their more parachuting descent flight.

You may catch a fleeting glance of Britain's smallest falcon, the merlin. Watch as it hunts fast and with agility over the tops of the heather, catching small birds mid air.

Look about you and you will see a patchwork of heather, the shorter areas encourage wading birds to breed and red grouse and sheep to feed on the shoots. Listen for the unmistakable "go back, go back" call of the grouse.

Purple flowering violets grow alongside the track and these are the favoured food plant of the caterpillar of a rare yet locally abundant butterfly, the small pearl-bordered fritillary (on the wing towards the end of June/early July).

Pass on your left the 400m target trench used for firing practice in WWII. Concrete blocks are the remains of the winding mechanism.

As you reach the top of the steps leading down to Jugger Beck, take time to enjoy the view. You may see swifts gliding, or a kestrel hovering whilst watching for prey in the grass below. Or hear the "two stones being knocked together" call of the stonechat as it sits atop a bush, or hear a cuckoo.

Green post

Pause at the green post to enjoy the song of warblers such as whitethroat, willow warbler and chiffchaff and also the song of yellowhammer, redstart, chaffinch and members of the tit family.

Yellow post

Turn right and as you approach
the yellow post you can smell
the bog myrtle used to flavour
gale ale (try rubbing the
leaves). Keen eyes may
spot dragonflies such as the
golden-ringed or common
hawker along the alder-edged
beck. A plopping sound may
give away the presence
of a water vole.

