



Curlew

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.

4.3 km  

Small Heath



Want to become a moorland

wildlife  
spy?



Tick any of these you spot



Bring a crayon and some plain paper and have a go at rubbing pictures on the 6 wooden posts as you go around

Answers below



Merlin, Small Pearl Bordered Butterfly, Sundew, Dragonfly, Lizard, Curlew



Guided school visits are offered free using Higher Level Stewardship funding. Please contact the Education Officer



Discover Moorland Wildlife

Thank you to Heather and Martin Mason, whose enjoyment of wildlife photography on the moors has inspired them to donate many of the photos and fund production of this leaflet.

1. Bog Asphodel
2. Meadow Pipit
3. Male Skimmer
4. Common Adder

Supported in partnership by:



Thanks to NYMNP '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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In the North York Moors National Park

Fylingdales Moor 

# Discover Moorland Wildlife

on Fylingdales Moor

Jugger Howe Nature Trail



Time: 2-3 hours



### 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.

# Discover Moorland Wildlife



## Jugger Howe Nature Trail

1. Hovering Kestrel
2. Male Stonechat
3. Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary
4. Cuckoo
5. Willow Warbler
6. Golden Ringed Dragonfly
7. Sundew
8. Male Common Blue Butterfly
9. Common Buzzard
10. Male Wheatear
11. Male Crossbill

### Yellow post (cont.)

Retracing your steps back to the green post, turn right and follow the valley path. Keen eyes may spot a common lizard basking or down on the path an iridescent green tiger beetle.

Take care of your step in areas of wet mire. This habitat is of special conservation interest characterised by the nodding heads of cotton grass, the springy *Sphagnum* bog moss, and paler cross-leaved heath.

In summer it comes ablaze with the bright yellow flower heads of the bog asphodel and the pale purple of heath orchids. Admire a patch of the small insect-trapping plants called sundew.

From a pond created in a meander of the beck, in Springtime you may hear the croaking of mating toads or frogs as you pass by.

Look down to knee level for small heath butterflies and small and large skippers.

### Blue Post

Ascend the steps. Half way up the slope take a breather at the blue post. A mewling call may deflect your gaze towards some soaring buzzards.

When you reach the next slope, stop to enjoy the view towards Castlebeck Woods.

Now at the top, follow the path to the right. Having crossed over the bridge, look back to see the opposite end of the straight target trench.

### Black Post

As you pass the black post, look across the heather to your left. This wet area is favoured by waders including snipe and curlew.

In April and May the haunting call of their name (cor-yew) heralds their return to the moors to breed.

Look out for perched reed buntings and wheatear.

Having reached the hard standing used by military vehicles, looking from the left corner, can you spot the tway blade orchids in among the grass?

Follow the concrete along to the red post where you turn right back to the layby where you started.

In winter snow bunting, crossbill and continental thrushes are about.



Common Lizard



Merlin