

What to look out for in AUTUMN

Deep, rich reds with fiery oranges and yellows fill the tree canopy with a final spectacular show of colour before the leaves fall. Autumn is an ideal time for a stroll through the leaf litter to discover the amazing fungi on the nature reserve.



Stinkhorn



Maple



Nuthatch

What to look out for in WINTER

With colder, shorter days the feeding station attracts numerous species of birds. Look out for long-tailed tits, woodcock and great spotted woodpecker.



Woodcock



Great spotted woodpecker



Long-tailed tit

COVER IMAGE: CAROLINE THOROGOOD

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity working towards a Yorkshire rich in wildlife for everyone.

We care for 97 nature reserves throughout the county and run loads of events where we hope to inspire people to love wildlife and spread the word about its importance.

Get in touch

Call: 01904 659570
Email: info@ywt.org.uk
Find us: YO32 2RE
Grid reference: SE 579 587



Location

About 5 and a half miles north of York. From York, take the A19 Thirsk road for about 3 and a half miles to Skelton. Turn right off the A19, continue through the village and the nature reserve is another 2 miles further on, on the left of the road.

Parking is permitted on the verge near the entrance gate but space is limited.

Help us look after Yorkshire's wildlife

No dogs or bikes please, they can disturb and harm our wonderful wildlife.



It is thanks to the fantastic support of our members, volunteers and supporters that we are able to continue with this work.

Why not join us?

Joining is easy! For a small amount a month you can support Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places and get involved with loads of fab activities and events. Visit www.ywt.org.uk or ask a member of staff for details.



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

MOORLANDS Nature Reserve



Scan with your smartphone to visit the website



Reserve info

Open all year round



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is registered in England no. 409650 and is a registered charity no. 210807. Issue 1

What to look out for in SPRING

Spring brings a succession of snowdrops, daffodils, bluebells, primroses and wood sorrel, which carpet the woodland floor. Coupled with the flowering of rhododendrons and azaleas, the site is a riot of colour.



Primrose

Rhododendron



What to look out for in SUMMER

In the woodland glades butterflies including the common blue and speckled wood bask in the summer sun. Also keep an eye out for damselflies around the ponds.



Common blue

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife



Pipistrelle bat

With the help of volunteers bat boxes have been put up throughout the woodland and have been used by common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats.

About MOORLANDS

Once part of the ancient Forest of Galtres, Moorlands is a small woodland garden which is ablaze with colour in spring.

The nature reserve offers visitors the chance to discover spectacular displays and heady scents of rare and mature flowering rhododendrons and azaleas from March through to July.

The woodland is an interesting mix of trees, including magnolia and dawn redwood, which grow alongside our more familiar native trees: oak, beech, birch and hazel. As well as having a wealth of trees and plants to discover, Moorlands is also a fantastic place to see fungi with over 50 species recorded here.

Woodland birds such as great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and a variety of



Moorlands in spring
JOANNA RICHARDS



Birch
PHILIP PRECEY

can be observed as they visit the feeders by the tree house. You may also see a sparrowhawk hunting and if you're lucky, glimpse an elusive woodcock in the autumn.

In 2015, with funding from Yorventure, improvements to the visitor facilities at the nature reserve were made. Be on the lookout for sculptural wood carvings on tree trunks, verses on benches, and intricate carvings as part of the nature trail.

MOORLANDS NATURE RESERVE Trail Navigation Map

KEY

- Reserve boundary
- Pond
- ▲ Treehouse
- Shelter
- Classroom
- Car park
- - Public footpath
- ▢ Wooded area

NATURE TRAIL

- 1 Wood sorrel
- 2 Frog
- 3 Wood mouse
- 4 Ladybird
- 5 Wren
- 6 Nuthatch
- 7 Acorn/oak leaf
- 8 Butterfly
- 9 Fungus
- 10 Bat



Treehouse
CATHERINE WALKER

Don't miss the treehouse, this is a great place for children (and adults) to view the nature reserve's fantastic bird life!

TIMELINE

Prehistory

Extensively wooded area known as the Forest of Galtres.

1909

Moorlands House and estate bought by Edward Grosvenor Tew who also planted many of rhododendrons and azaleas.

1940

Estate acquired by The Retreat (a Quaker Foundation) in York for use as a hospital.

1955

Three hectares sold to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; to become our second nature reserve.

2009

Tree top hide completed.

2010

Management and recording of rhododendron collection commenced with help of RHS Harlow Carr and Wildlife Trust volunteers.

2015

Series of wood carvings, interpretation and natural play features created on site through Yorventure funding.

Shipton

Fenced off area

Rhododendron

Take a seat...

This is great site for all age groups with a level path and seating at regular intervals.

Wiggington & Haxby

0 100m

Much of the work carried out to manage and maintain the site is undertaken by a dedicated group of volunteers, who meet up on a regular basis to ensure the nature reserve continues to be a fantastic place for both wildlife and people.

Skelton

P

Looking after MOORLANDS

Managing this small nature reserve is a careful balance between maintaining habitat for wildlife and managing the collection of rare rhododendrons and azaleas, whilst controlling the spread of a particular type of rhododendron (*R. ponticum*) which grows vigorously outcompeting smaller trees and plants in the undergrowth.



DAVEMATHER



R. Hy Blue Peter
MARY SKYES

Moorlands contains many old species of rhododendron and azalea, many of which were first introduced by Mr. Edward Grosvenor Tew when he bought the Moorlands House and estate in 1909. He planted many of the exotic species you see today including the stunning *R. Hy Blue Peter* and the wonderfully scented *R. luteum* with its sunny yellow flowers.

Facilities at MOORLANDS

After a short walk along the main track from the entrance visitors reach a small pond with a platform which is perfect for a spot of pond dipping. Following the track left leads to the education area with wooden toadstool seats and stepping logs and trunks. The treehouse hide is further along the path with views to the bird feeders. There are several benches along the main trail with two carved tree trunk benches to discover, allowing visitors to rest and take in the sights and sounds of Moorlands.



Seating circle
CATHERINE WALKER