

FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR

Since 1999, our group has been actively involved in:

- *the conservation and improvement of Hob Moor*
- *researching the history and ecology of the Moor*
- *promoting the Moor as an open space to be enjoyed by the people of York.*

Visit our website at www.friendsofhobmoor.org.uk for information about Hob Moor and its history and wildlife, up-coming events, news and developments, photos and maps.

HOW TO JOIN FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR

Download a membership form from the website or phone 01904 553423.

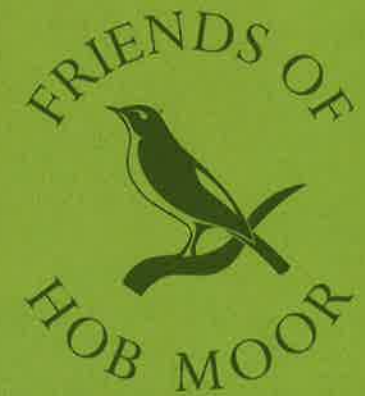
As part of Micklegate Stray, Hob Moor is one of the two ancient commons of the City of York, on which freemen have had rights of pasture since ancient times. Cattle still graze on the Moor today, between May 1st and Hallowe'en.



You can still see visible traces of the past on the Moor, from medieval farming strips to a reminder of darker times in York's history; the deadly plagues.



Caring for Wildlife and Heritage
Registered Charity No. 105454



HOB MOOR

Historic Stray & Local Nature Reserve



www.friendsofhobmoor.org.uk

A WALK ROUND HOB MOOR

1 The main expanse of the Moor (the original ancient common) has plants typical of old pastureland: there are meadow and bulbous buttercup, common sorrel and pignut, and ladysmock on the damper patches. The open habitat is perfect for meadow pipits and skylarks, both of which breed here. Listen out for the beautiful song of the skylark on sunny days in spring and summer.

There are fine views of the Minster from the old causeway leading north-eastwards to the Holly Bank Road access. This is part of an old footpath that used to lead across the fields from Askham Bryan to York.

2 Walking northwards from the central area, you will notice humps and troughs in the ground. These are ridge and furrow cultivation strips. They are straight and narrow, and are aligned roughly east to west. The strips date from the Napoleonic Wars of the early 1800s, when the Moor was horse-ploughed for food production.

3 The parallel curving ridges and furrows of medieval cultivation strips can be seen here. These are broader and deeper than the Napoleonic ridge and furrow (see 2). In medieval times, land was divided into long, narrow strips and a family would cultivate one or more of these.

4 What is now only a small ditch on the west side of the Moor was once part of the city boundary, separating York from Acomb.

5 For at least 100 years, there were brickworks around the Moor. In the south-west corner is the site of Kelsey's Pond, a former clay-pit which filled with water some time in the early 1900s and became a popular spot for fishing for tench, roach, perch, bream, carp and pike. The pond was filled in during the 1950s and as a result the ground here is more uneven than the rest of the Moor, with fewer plant varieties.

6 The number of different species in a hedgerow gives a rough indication of its age, and the boundary hedge here could be in the region of six hundred years old.

7 North Lane Pasture has very pronounced medieval ridge and furrow (see 3). There were originally two fields here, and the remnants of an ancient boundary hedge in the middle were reinforced with new hawthorn in 2007.

8 There are becks on three sides of Hob Moor, where kingfishers can occasionally be seen. Beyond the beck to the east is a small copse of silver birch and sycamore, one of the varied habitats which support wildlife round the edge of the Moor.

9 From 1920 to 1946, there was a golf course on the Moor. Remnants of a green can clearly be seen here.



- Hob Moor Boundary
- Beck
- Trees & Bushes
- Tracks
- Cycle Track
- Medieval Ridge & Furrow
- Ancient Common
- Access Points
- Disabled Access Points
- Seats
- Information Boards

10 Different plants are found on the Moor, for example...

11 The area is believed to be the site of a massacre in 1563. A record of 1563. A found medieval victims were ho... them from the...

At the east side... English elm are... where plants... such as sedge... can be se...



The Hob Stone and Plague Stone

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The Roman ro... runs under Lit... the present T... The path lea... railway under... Hob Moor, it i... document do... to a bridge a...