



Sundew

© Stephen Barlow

Dogs

While on the Mosses, we ask owners to keep their dogs on short leads to minimise disturbance to wildlife and to reduce their chance of encountering an adder.

Please remember to bag up your dog's poo and put it in the bins provided.

Refreshments

The Waterside Café at Whixall Marina is just a mile from Morris' Bridge car park.



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Take care on the Mosses!

- Wear stout footwear or wellingtons.
- Bring insect repellent in summer as biting insects can be abundant.
- Keep to the way-marked routes. The Mosses are riddled with ditches.
- Watch out for adders. You're unlikely to see one and even less likely to be bitten but keep your eyes open, just in case. If bitten keep calm and seek medical attention.
- Smoking is banned on the Mosses.
- Do not walk along any flooded tracks.

Further information

Find out more about the Mosses and download trail maps from themeresandmosses.co.uk

The main starting point for exploring the Mosses is Morris' Bridge car park.

Postcode **SY13 2RT**

 **What3Words** [update.sleep.rhino](https://www.what3words.com/update.sleep.rhino)

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Exploring Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve



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Welcome to wildness

The Mosses lie low in the land, so you don't see them until you arrive. It is only when you emerge from the trees at its fringe that the unique drama of this vast bog becomes apparent. At once you find yourself in a different world: a brown, spongy landscape, dotted with bushes and peaty pools, stretching far into the distance, encircled by a ribbon of woodland.

Here is a place where you can listen to birdsong and the sound of wind blowing through leaves and grasses without the disturbance of traffic noise. The calls of curlew and cuckoo can be heard in spring, along with many other migrant and resident birds.

A series of trails along well-marked paths make it easy to explore, with different options of route and length. One of these takes you through the history of the Mosses, including the discovery of ancient, pickled bog bodies and the story of a top-secret World War II operation staged here to avert bombs falling on cities in north-west England.

Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve covers 750 hectares in northern Shropshire and north-east Wales.

White-faced darter



Mammoth tower

Stroll along the Llangollen Canal from Morris' Bridge car park and you will arrive at a 5-metre tower providing panoramic views of the Mosses. Carved wooden tusks at the top of the steps are a reminder of the woolly mammoths that once roamed across this landscape. There is much to enjoy at the foot of the tower too, with information about this precious peat bog and its Ice Age history.

Bogs have their own special wildlife, including insect-eating plants such as sundews, a huge array of dragonflies, butterflies, moths and birds. Take time to stop and look in the pools, you might see a raft spider - a big, chocolate-brown beast that hunts its prey across the surface of the water.

Peat bogs are one of the rarest habitats on earth and hold enormous amounts of carbon. This nature reserve encompasses one of the largest lowland raised bogs in the UK, with a million tonnes of carbon stored in its peaty depths. Like many of the UK's bogs, they were badly damaged over the centuries but since 1990 a process of restoration has been underway, leading to significant recovery and flourishing wildlife.



Teal

Ducks and waders

Shropshire Wildlife Trust's bird hide at Charles Sinker Fields, a 5-minute walk from Morris' Bridge car park, is a spectacular building from which you can look out across a large, shallow pool, where a great variety of water birds can be seen through the year. In winter you are likely to see ducks such as teal and wigeon, while waders including greenshank and little ringed plover regularly drop by in spring and autumn on their way to and from their breeding grounds. The hide is fully accessible to wheelchairs. Scan this QR code to access the entry code for the hide.

