

# Where to look for wildlife specialities on Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR



## INVERTEBRATES

### Large heath butterfly

30th May – 1st week of July  
(advise coming after 15th June)

Look for a small to medium butterfly between the size of a common blue and a gatekeeper,

fluttering just above boggy vegetation. It will often cross the paths, patrolling. Look for one that settles on the path for a good photo. The forewing, when closed, is chiefly caramel brown. It is occasionally seen nectaring on cross-leaved heath. Walk back and forth along the paths marked on map.

### White-faced darter dragonfly

1st May – June 30th. It is only worth looking at the pools when sunny but check for possible sightings in vegetation if cloudy. These are also good pools for other dragonflies, black darter, common hawkers (later June – September/October). You should see lots of damselflies, teneral (newly emerged adult) black darters, robber-flies etc.

### Raft spider

Seen all year round. Big ones on the water from end of April to middle of June. They will have egg sacks and move into vegetation. Easier to see small raft spiders sitting on leaves late June – September.

### White-legged damselfly

Middle of May until end of July. Look in the tall vegetation by the Marlot ponds. They use it as a roosting place, even when its dull.

### Purple-bordered gold moth

June – mid-July. The caterpillars feed on cranberry.

### Manchester treble-bar moth

1st week of July – August (July recommended)  
Caterpillars feeding on cranberry.

## REPTILE

### Adders

There are adders on the Mosses, you might see one basking.

Many thanks to Stephen Barlow for the photos and information provided for this leaflet.



## BIRDS

### Hobbies

They gather from late April until 25th May then sometime between 20th May and the beginning of June, they disperse very quickly but you may still see the odd one about. You need sunny weather as they are hunting dragonflies. They come through again in August with youngsters (though this is not guaranteed). Little chance of seeing them when it's dull, there must be some period of sun, look for falcons doing displays, zooming around etc. High up and sitting on posts and in trees. (Sections 11, 9, 12, 3, 5, 13, 14, 17, 15)

Look out for perching **stonechats, reed buntings, whitethroats, meadow pipits, grasshopper warbler and sedge warbler**

April – July.

**Curlew** and **lapwing** – look out across Moss.

Early March – mid July

**Cuckoo** – look and listen across the Moss

## PLANTS

### Lesser bladderwort

Insectivorous, bog specialist,  
June – September

In this pool you will see small yellow flowers sticking out from sphagnum.



### Round-leaved sundew

Flowers in June/July, starts to disappear in August  
White-faced darter pool is quite good and section 12.

### Bog asphodel

Flowering period: End of June to 3rd week of July.

### Bog cranberry

Pink flowers around May, red berries in June. Same places as bog asphodel.

### Cowberry

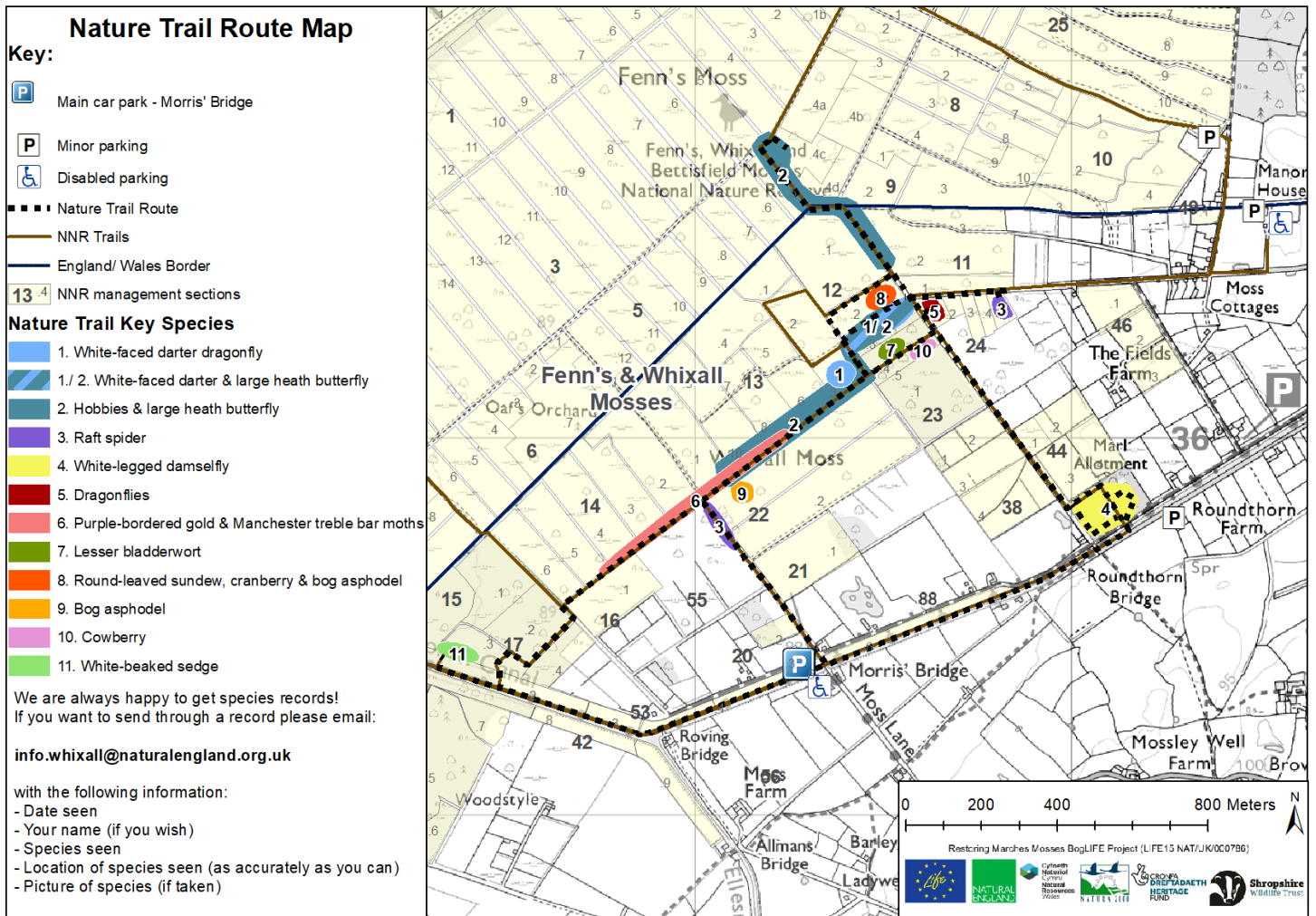
Often seen growing next to the tracks.

### Bog rosemary

Flowers April and July. White-faced darter areas.

### White-beaked sedge

Flowers early July, goes over September. Near Mammoth Tower.



## Take care on the Mosses

- Wear stout footwear or wellingtons and be prepared for the weather.
- Bring insect repellent in summer as biting insects can be abundant.
- Keep to the way-marked routes. The Mosses are riddled with deep, flooded and partially vegetated ditches.
- Do not walk through any flooded tracks.
- 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 at any time of the year – fire causes great damage to the bog and its wildlife.

## 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.

## Further information

Trail maps can be downloaded from

[www.themesandmosses.co.uk](http://www.themesandmosses.co.uk)



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