

Location & Access

OS: 112 • **GR:** SE 759 145 • 188ha (401.70 acres) • Freehold 1971

Habitat type: Heathland/Woodland and Peat Bog

Crowle Moor lies in the north-west corner of the Isle of Axholme and is reached from an unclassified road running north-west from Crowle village. It is part of the Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve. For the southern area, park at grid reference SE 756 137 where there is a visitors' car park from where a waymarked route of about 2km (1.25 miles) starts. For the northern area, where there is a longer waymarked route of some 6km (3.75 miles), park at the roadside at SE 758 140. It is advisable to follow the waymarked routes, as the reserve is large and complex. There is a particular danger of fire and therefore visitors are requested not to smoke while on the reserve.

Description & Management

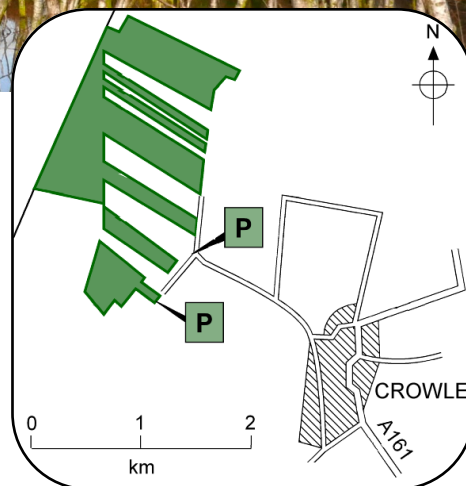
The reserve is one of the richest lowland peat vegetation areas in the north of England. The still extensive tract of Hatfield, Thorne, Goole and Crowle Moors is but a remnant of the vast complex of moor, bog and fen that once surrounded the head of the Humber estuary and included much of Lincolnshire's Isle of Axholme.

Drainage and clearance for agriculture from the 17th century onwards left the present moors as 'islands' of raised peat bog, formerly used as turbaries by the villages around. It is likely that the peat on Crowle Moor was not as thick as that on the Yorkshire moors (though it still averages about 3m) and certainly less seems to have been extracted.

The Moor is divided into 'ribbons' running into the moor from the warpings - the cultivated land near Crowle village - and represents holdings carved out of once common turbarry.

The higher, drier areas carry heather, bracken and birch scrub; the wetter parts have reedbeds, cottongrass, Sphagnum bog, willow carr and open water. Rarer plants include bog rosemary, dune helleborine and greater yellow rattle.

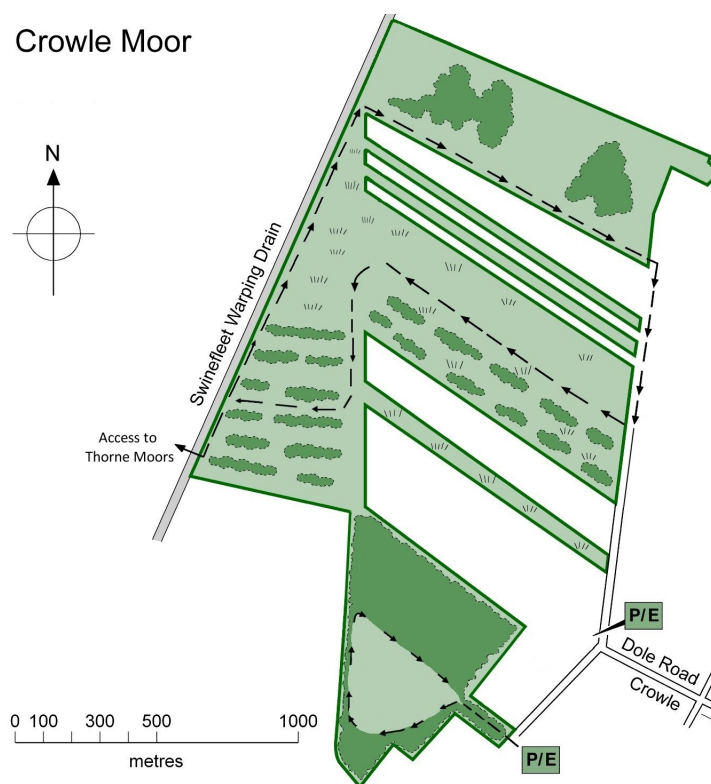
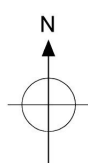
These varied habitats support a rich bird, mammal and insect fauna. The large heath butterfly occurs here at the south-eastern limit of its range in Britain. More than 30 breeding birds have been recorded, including long-eared owl, woodcock, nightjar and



tree pipit. Grass snake and adder are present.

Wellington boots are recommended as sections of the trail may be under water. On occasion it may be necessary to retrace your steps to complete the walk.

Crowle Moor



P Parking space **E** Entrance **H** Bird Hide