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Catalogue of the Records of the Moor House National Nature Reserve (North Pennines)

Date range of material: 1950-1990

Durham University Library
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Preface

Creation of catalogue

EAD finding aid created RH February 2004.

Contact details

Durham University Library: Archives and Special Collections
Palace Green
Durham
DH1 3RN
England
Telephone: 0191 334 2972
Email: PG.Library@durham.ac.uk
URL: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/>
[ark:/32150/s1hd76s010c/PDF](http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ark:/32150/s1hd76s010c/PDF)

Introduction

Collection title: Records of the Moor House National Nature Reserve (North Pennines)

Reference code: GB-0033-MHO

Dates of creation: 1950-1990

Extent: 9 volumes in 18 parts.

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Creator: records of the Moor House National Nature Reserve in Upper Teesdale (Co. Durham and Cumbria)

Language of material: English

Contents

The collection consists of a set of the official records of the Moor House National Nature Reserve, mainly consisting of reports and detailed datasets arising from experiments and surveys conducted at the site between 1951 and 1980. The data varies between fairly summary accounts and notes to extensive reports with survey records, statistics, maps, charts and large black & white photographs.

Ia. Information about the establishment of Moor House and the research programme.

Press cuttings.

Ib. Warden's diary. Plant lists

II. Game and shooting records for the site.

IIIa. Meteorology. Geology. Hydrology

IIIb. Plant and vegetation studies

IIIc. Zoology

IVa. Trees

IVb. Tree growing trials

IVc. Trees at Green Hole

Va. Alluvial grassland

Vb. Knock Fell

Vc. Knock Fell

VIa. Little Dun Fell

VIb. Hard Hill

VIIa. Studies of *Nardus* and *Juncus* vegetation

VIIb. Bog Hill. Burnt Hill. Erosion

VIIIa. Burning. Blanket bogs.

VIIIb. Blanket bogs at Silverbeck, Troutbeck and Johnny's Flush

IX. Rough Sike

Some include bibliographies of publications arising from the research.

Moor House National Nature Reserve

The establishment of controlled areas in Britain in which indigenous plants and animals could be preserved for study dates back to the founding of the Nature Conservancy by the government after the Second World War. It was not, however, until the acquisition of the Moor House area in 1951 that the British National Nature Reserves included any area of upland moors with blanket-peat cover and a variety of habitats and vegetation types associated with open fell and mountain tops. A field station was established at Moor House in 1952, supported by a base at Merlewood Research Station (Grange over Sands, Cumbria), and substantial input to the systematic experimental field work at Moor House

was made by geologists, botanists, zoologists, and other researchers from the University of Durham, as well as those visiting from other Universities.

According to the current webpage for the site (<http://www.ecn.ac.uk/sites/moorh.html>) "This site lies in the North Pennine uplands of England and has an area of 74 km². It is England's highest and largest terrestrial National Nature Reserve (NNR), a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a European Special Protection Area. Habitats include exposed summits, extensive blanket peatlands, upland grasslands, pastures, hay meadows and deciduous woodland. Altitude ranges from 290 to 850 m and a large part of the catchment of the River Tees, from its source near Great Dun Fell to High Force waterfall, is included in the reserve. The site comprises two areas divided by Cow Green Reservoir, which were each separate NNRs until 1999 ... It extends from the upper edge of enclosed land in the Eden Valley, over the Great Dun Fell (848 m), Little Dun Fell and Knock Fell to the upper end of Cow Green Reservoir on the River Tees. The Tees forms its northern boundary. The geology is Carboniferous in age, with alternating strata of limestone, sandstone and shale into which the dolerite of the Great Whin Sill intrudes. The gently sloping eastern side of the area is overlain by glacial till, making poor drainage, which has led to the development of blanket bog with peat 2-3 m deep. The vegetation here is dominated by *Eriophorum* (cotton grass), *Calluna vulgaris* (heather), and Sphagnum moss. The western side of the area is steeper and the soils and vegetation are more variable. The land is owned by English Nature, and provides free range common grazing (mainly sheep) for villages in the Eden Valley."

Accession details

Presented by John Adamson, via Dr. Jeff Warburton, Dept of Geography, University of Durham (Misc. 2001/2002:83).

Arrangement

See contents list above. The records were collected into green binders before deposit. Nearly all material is typescript, some double-sided, and has been foliated or paginated within each binder. Many items are marked "London copy", and there have been some cross-references added during the assembly of the volumes. A few items have been removed from the files (prior to their transfer to DULASC); these are noted in the tables of contents. Each volume has a contents list and there is a summary contents list to all the volumes at the start of la.

Conditions of access

Open for consultation.

Copyright and copying

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Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0033-MHO, or the collection name Records of the Moor House National Nature Reserve, followed by the *reference number*

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

Bibliography

Johnson, G. A. L. & Dunham, K. C., *The geology of Moor House: a national nature reserve in north-east Westmorland* (London, 1963)

Volume I

1951-1979

1 vol. in 2 parts (191f. & 272f.).

MHO/la ff.3-10 1952

Report on the reserve and its scientific role, with map and photograph.

MHO/la ff.11-12 1953

Development report on the reserve.

MHO/la ff.13-18 1955

Offprint from SPNR *Handbook* describing reserve.

MHO/la ff.19-29 1958

Report on scientific work at the reserve.

MHO/la ff.30-35 1959

Report on scientific work at the reserve.

MHO/la ff.36-57 1959

Management plan for the reserve (with amendment).

MHO/la ff.58-170 1960-1979

Annual progress reports summarising staff and activities, with some annexes relating to issues such as access, skiing etc.

MHO/la ff.171-191 1951-1977

Press cuttings. Includes article about the death of two Birkdale shepherds in 1836; typescript obituary of T.W. Pearson; extract from sale catalogue giving statistics of grouse shot over Birkdale Moor; newspaper articles on the founding and progress of the site.

MHO/lb ff.2-252 1951-1978

Warden's diary. Dated observations of wildlife, with some weather notes and from about 1972, more information on other activity on the reserve, fauna other than birds and mammals, plants and fungi. No report October-December 1973.

MHO/lb ff.253-272 1952-1974

List of plants and fungi found on the reserve site during various surveys.

Volume II

ca.1956
1 vol. (77f.)

MHO/II ff.2-5 ca.1956

Bibliography of data sources used for volume II.

MHO/II ff.6-15 1955-1956

Extracts on sheep grazing rights.

MHO/II ff.16-52 ca.1956

Records of game shooting on the Moor House Shootings, 1909-1917 from the game book of J. Harris of Brackenburgh, the then lessee.

MHO/II ff.53-60 ca.1956

Other game records for the area, various dates, 1912-1960

MHO/II ff.61-65 ca.1956

Lists of vermin killed at Moor House 1900-1925; 1900-1928.

MHO/II ff.66-67 ca.1956

Dates grouse first found nesting at Moor House, 1900-1915.

MHO/II ff.68-77 ca.1956

Appendix of extracts of documents relating to above, with 3 photographs of Moor House.

Volume III

1951-1979

1 vol. in 3 parts (197p., 73f. & 150f.).

MHO/IIIa pp.3-14 1953-1955

Early meteorological observations at Moor House, with 10 photographs of the setting up of the station.

MHO/IIIa pp.15-17 [195-]

Various meteorological notes.

MHO/IIIa pp.18-30 ca.1968

"Weather and climate", by F.H.W. Green and A. Millar, on observations collected in the Moor House area.

MHO/IIIa pp.31-59 1952-1974

Annual summary tables of meteorological records for Moor House (those for 1975-1979 are included with the annual reports).

MHO/IIIa pp.60-107 1955-1959

Geological survey of Moor House: annual reports.

MHO/IIIa pp.108-116 1969 & 1977

Other geological reports.

MHO/IIIa pp.117-142 1960

Hydrological reports, including 4 photographs and tables of annual precipitation and discharge from Burnt Hill and Bog Hill weirs 1954-1960.

Summary published as Conway, V.M. & Millar, A., "The hydrology of some small peat-covered catchments in the Northern Pennines", *Journal of the Institute of Water Engineers*, 14, no.6 (1960), 415-424.

MHO/IIIa pp.143-155 1956-1967

Other notes and surveys relating to percolation of water through peat.

MHO/IIIa pp.156-197 1952-1977

Soil and peat analyses, reports relating to hydrological, chemical and microbiological surveys, including 7 photographs.

MHO/IIIb ff.1-46 1954-1971

Studies of plant ecology (generally on single species) in the Moor House area, including 16 photographs.

MHO/IIIb ff.47-57 1952-1975

Reports of transplantation experiments.

MHO/IIIb ff.58-62 1974

Report of trial turnip planting.

MHO/IIIb ff.63-70 1970

Report of trial planting of grass species.

MHO/IIIb ff.71-72 1972

Report on wood layer in blanket peat.

MHO/IIIb ff.73 1959

Agricultural crop trial at Knock Fell.

MHO/IIIc ff.2-3 1953

Survey of potential zoological research to be done at Moor House.

MHO/IIIc ff.4-6 1966

Survey of zoological research done at Moor House.

MHO/IIIc ff.7-122 1951-1979

Summaries and reports of zoological research projects at Moor House, with many datasets recording observations of fauna, especially birds, mammals and insects, including 7 photographs.

MHO/IIIc ff.123-150 Undated and 1956-1964

19 photographs (and 1 noted as missing), mainly landscape views and records of visits and activities by the staff.

Volume IV

1953-1980

1 vol. in 3 parts (117f., 149f. & 210f.).

MHO/IVa ff.1-9 1959

General account of the Moor House reserve by A. Millar considering potential tree planting work.

MHO/IVa ff.10-32 ca.1960

General description, analyses, maps and statistics relevant to investigation of tree planting at Moor House.

MHO/IVa ff.33-85 1953-1980

Reports from projects and surveys relating to trees at Moor House.

MHO/IVa ff.86-95 1962-1963

Reports and summaries of other studies of trees in the region.

MHO/IVa ff.96-116 ca.1963

Report on the Moor House tree nursery, 1953-1961 and other tables of statistics relating to plantings in the early 1960s.

MHO/IVa f.117 1963

List of publications arising from research at Moor House.

MHO/IVb ff.2-8 1961-1976

Observations on tree growth

MHO/IVb ff.9-11 ca.1965

Summary of locations of tree experiments.

MHO/IVb ff.12-60 1962-1980

Experimental tree planting at Bog End with Lodgepole pine.

MHO/IVb ff.61-84 1953-1980

Experimental tree planting at Nether Hearth, with 8 photographs.

MHO/IVb ff.85-101 1953-1979

Experimental tree planting at Force Burn, with 4 photographs.

MHO/IVb ff.102-110 1957-1963

Experimental tree planting at Rough Sike.

MHO/IVb ff.111-146 1961-1979

Experimental tree planting at the Pasture Enclosure, with 2 photographs.

MHO/IVb ff.147-149 1974

Experimental tree planting near meteorological station site.

MHO/IVc ff.2-210 1954-1980

Experimental tree planting at Green Hole, with vegetation surveys, soil profiles etc. With 33 photographs.

Volume V

1956-1978

1 vol. in 2 parts (119f. & 95f.).

MHO/Va f.2 1959

Map of productive grassland on the Moor House site.

MHO/Va ff.3-8 [1957]

"The productivity of high level alluvial grasslands in relation to sheep grazing", with 1 photograph.

MHO/Va ff.11-63 1957-1960

"The productivity of festuca-agrostis alluvial grassland", with page of dried specimens and 26 photographs.

MHO/Va ff.64-85 1959

"The productivity of limestone grassland", with 7 photographs.

MHO/Va ff.86-94 1962-1974

Vegetation and sheep grazing, with 3 photographs.

MHO/Va ff.95-109 1976

"A survey of the potential of the Moor House National Nature Reserve for natural colonisation by imported species", by J.C. Hodrien.

MHO/Va ff.110-119 1978

"A survey of Moor House Nature Reserve to assess the extent to which natural colonisation by tree species is occurring", by J. Jewell.

MHO/Vb ff.2-95 1956-1961

Studies of the grassland at Knock Fell, with 7 photographs.

Volume VI

1954-1974

1 vol. in 2 parts (109f. & 108f.).

MHO/VIa ff.2-109 1954-1974

Surveys of grassland and the effects of sheep grazing at Little Dun Fell, with 18 photographs.

MHO/VIb ff.2-108 1955-1970

Surveys of grassland and the effects of sheep grazing at Hard Hill, with 7 photographs.

Volume VII

1952-1975

1 vol. in 2 parts (105f. & 145f.).

MHO/VIIa ff.2-105 1957-1967

Studies of the *Juncus* and *Nardus* grasslands, with 8 photographs.

MHO/VIIb ff.2-20 1952-1967

Studies of vegetation and erosion at Bog Hill, with 22 photographs.

MHO/VIIb ff.21-116 1952-1975

Studies of vegetation and drainage at Burnt Hill, with 8 photographs.

MHO/VIIb ff.117-118 1952

Vegetation analysis, River Flats.

MHO/VIIb ff.119-128 1952-1960

Plant recolonisation after erosion, with 8 photographs.

MHO/VIIb ff.129-145 1966-1972

Report on the Moor House International Biological Programme.

Volume VIII

1961-1975

1 vol. in 2 parts (167f. & 147f.).

MHO/VIIIa ff.2-64 1961-1970

Studies of the effect of burning on the moorland, with 3 photographs.

MHO/VIIIa ff.65-123 1966-1975

Studies of *Calluna vulgaris*, and the effects of grazing on blanket bog vegetation, with 10 photographs.

MHO/VIIIa ff.124-167 1975

"An extensive study into the effects of heather burning on Moor House National Nature Reserve", by R.J. Hobbs.

MHO/VIIIb ff.2-147 1966-1974

Investigations into the effects of sheep grazing on blanket bog, at Silverband, Troutbeck and Johnny's Flush, with 1 photograph.

Volume IX

1953-1975

1 vol (99f.).

MHO/IX ff.2-99 1953-1975

Studies of the vegetation of the limestone gorge at Rough Sike, including experiments in transplantation and recolonisation, with 57 photographs.