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

Date range of material: 1950-1990

Durham University Library
November 2016
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Creation of catalogue

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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.
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
Vla. Little Dun Fell
Vlb. Hard Hill
VIIa. Studies of Nardus and Juncus vegetation
VIIb. Bog Hill. Burnt Hill. Erosion
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 km$^2$. 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

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 Ia.

Conditions of access
Open for consultation.

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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

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/ib 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/ib 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.

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.

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/IIlb ff.1-46  1954-1971
Studies of plant ecology (generally on single species) in the Moor House area, including 16 photographs.

MHO/IIlb ff.47-57  1952-1975
Reports of transplantation experiments.

MHO/IIlb ff.58-62  1974
Report of trial turnip planting.

MHO/IIlb ff.63-70  1970
Report of trial planting of grass species.

MHO/IIlb ff.71-72  1972
Report on wood layer in blanket peat.

MHO/IIlb 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

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

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/Vla ff.2-109  1954-1974
Surveys of grassland and the effects of sheep grazing at Little Dun Fell, with 18 photographs.

MHO/Vlb 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/VIIla ff.2-64  1961-1970
Studies of the effect of burning on the moorland, with 3 photographs.

MHO/VIIla ff.65-123  1966-1975
Studies of *Calluna vulgaris*, and the effects of grazing on blanket bog vegetation, with 10 photographs.

MHO/VIIla ff.124-167  1975
“An extensive study into the effects of heather burning on Moor House National Nature Reserve”, by R.J. Hobbs.

MHO/VIIlb 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.