

Wildlife

Eston Moor supports many plants and animals from solitary mining bees to Roe deer and Kestrels. There are lots of different species living in the heather, scrub, woodlands and marsh.

Three types of heather are found on the moor:

- Common heather, or "Ling"
- Bell heather
- Cross leaved heath (on wet soil)

along with Bilberry and patches of Crowberry.

Gorse and Broom scrub blend into birch woods scattered across the moor.

Insects and spiders thrive in the warm soil, wetlands and heather. Mining bees burrow into hot sandy banks, Large Red-Belted Clearwing Moths are found among the scrub and dragon and damselflies are abundant in the summer months.

Butterflies include the Small Copper, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Green Hairstreak, Painted Lady and Large Skipper.



Small Copper

Many birds use the moor, such as the Lapwing, Curlew, Green Woodpecker, Redstart and Linnet. During the winter, flocks of Great tits, Blue tits, Coal tits and Chaffinches roam the birch woods, whilst Stonechats and Gold Crests pick over the scrub for insects and spiders.

Mammals include Roe deer, Hares and Foxes. Kestrels hover over the heath, hunting for mice and voles. Common lizards have been seen amongst the heather.



Large Red-Belted Clearwing Moth

Management

Management of Eston Moor preserves the habitat mosaics of woodland, wetland, grassland and heath that support a range of wildlife and make the site so attractive. Work involves cutting back scrub – birch and gorse – from open heath and controlling bracken with a selective herbicide, to allow the grass and heather to regenerate. Much is undertaken by volunteers, during the autumn and winter months, and new faces are always welcome.

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/Countryside

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www.naturalengland.org.uk



Eston Moor

A Visitor's Guide



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Introduction

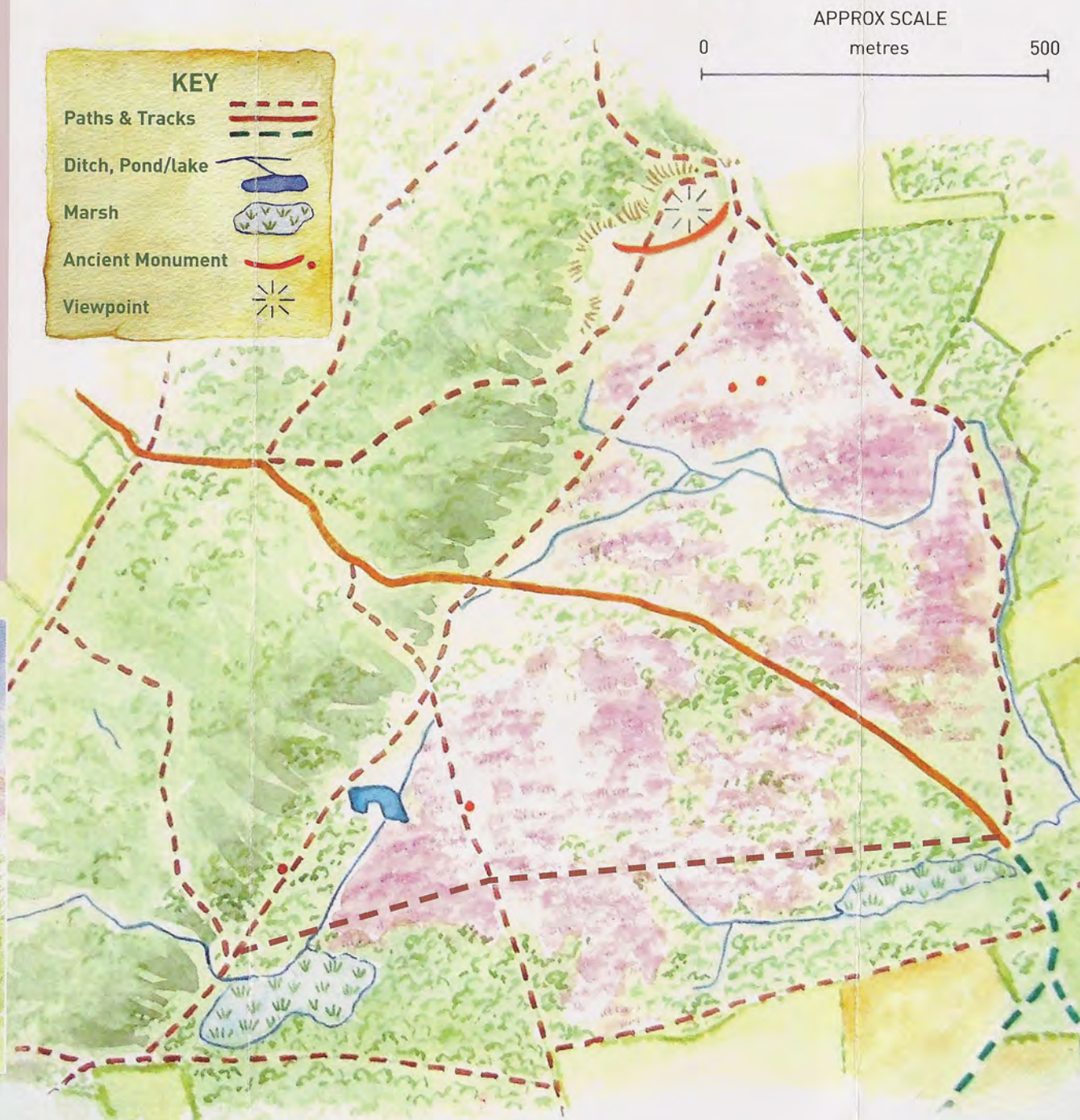
Eston Moor is lowland heath; a rare and important habitat, under 300m above sea level and commonest in the south of England.

The heathers, gorse and broom have adapted to the drought-prone, sandy soil. Only one sixth of England's heathland that existed in 1800 still remains, and the UK has around 20% of the international total.

Heathland is also valued for its wildlife, landscape and archaeology and Eston Moor is no exception.

There are numerous paths on the moor, which link to an extensive Rights of Way network in the surrounding countryside.

Eston Moor



History

Lowland heaths are ancient landscapes originating from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, when people began farming light soils for the first time.

At the end of the Bronze Age, these poor soils were exhausted and populations moved to more fertile clays.

Abandoned lands were used for grazing and the plant communities we recognise as heathland developed.

Areas of heath never ploughed again have many archaeological remains such as the hillfort and burial mounds found on Eston Moor.

See "Eston Moor Historic Landscape" leaflet.



Bell & Common Heather



Cross Leaved Hea