

Timeline 1509-2022

1509-1547 King Henry VIII

1516 A Tudor survey makes reference to an area called Old Moor being unenclosed. Modern day Old Moor is roughly 260 acres. It states that Roger Wombwell owns 1120 acres (1.75 sq miles) of land in Wombwell. By 1764 the Wombwell family would own 2400 acres (3.75 sq miles).

1547-1553 King Edward VI

1553-1558 Queen Mary I

1560 Saw the appearance of the first railways. Isolated wooden tracks springing up across the country.

1558-1603 Queen Elizabeth I

1603-1625 King James I

1605 The Gunpowder Plot hatched by Guy Fawkes and his associates is foiled.

1620 A Tudor survey reveals that Old Moor remains unenclosed.

1625-1649 King Charles I

1642-1651 Civil War sees Charles I executed and England becomes a Republic ruled by Oliver Cromwell until 1658 and Richard Cromwell in 1659.

1649-1660 England was a Republic.

1660-1685 King Charles II

1665 The Plague sweeps London killing 75,000 people.

1666 The Great Fire of London

1685-1688 King James II

1688-1702 King William III / Queen Mary II

1700 Early this century sees the beginning of the Agricultural Revolution. Working practises were starting to change and land was being privatised and controlled by fewer farmers.

1702-1714 Queen Anne (no heirs)

1714-1727 King George I

1739 Highwayman Dick Turpin is hanged in York.

1727-1760 King George II

1733 William Wombwell, the last male heir dies. The land passes to his two daughters and eventually respective husbands Charles Turner and Colonel Anthony St Leger. Margaret Wombwell married Anthony St Leger in Richmond in 1761. Around 1770 St Leger purchases Turner's share of the land.

1750 – 1910 Industrial Revolution sweeps the country for the next 160 years. The transition to new mechanised methods of manufacturing has its roots deep in the North of England.

South Yorkshire and the Dearne Valley play an integral part. Mining, canals, railways and other industry is evident across the Dearne Valley.

1755 Buildings are constructed on Old Moor and appear on all future surveys and maps. A Historic Buildings Report in 2022 reveals the date stone to be correct for its construction. But roof timbers in the farmhouse are re-used, so may or may not be from an earlier building on site.

1757 An advert in the 'Leeds Intelligencer' shows a reward being offered by Edward Bramald for a horse stolen from Old Moor. One guinea reward . If the first building on site was built in 1755 as the date stone suggests then Edward Bramald would have been the first occupant of Old Moor.

1776 A map in the survey shows a stable block has now been added. Horses were playing an important part at Old Moor during this period. Colonel Anthony St Leger was known to have been training horses at Old Moor prior to establishing the inaugural running of the famous St Leger. A race run annually since 1776 at Doncaster.

1760-1820 King George III Britain emerges as one of the leading powers in Europe. Australia was colonised. Fourth July 1776 American Independence.

1793 Construction of the Dearne and Dove Canal between Barnsley and Swinton. Completed in 1804. By 1820 it was transporting 100,000 tons of coal annually.

1780-1784 The first of the Brooke family move in to Old Moor , George & Ann Brooke. The first recorded birth was daughter Sarah on 5th March 1801. George the father was born in Braithwell in 1769. His siblings were John born 1771 and James 1777 born in Braithwell and Sarah born 1780 in Stainton. The mother, Ann Brooke (nee Thompson) died and is buried in Braithwell. The entry in the burial register states Ann Brooke of Old Moor Grainge.

There are two very substantial tombs in Braithwell Churchyard to the Brooke family. The Brooke's would reside at Old Moor until 1939.

1799-1815 Napoleonic Wars.

1820-1830 King George IV

1830-1837 King William IV

1840 The boom of the railways creates a National Network run by dozens of competing companies.

1850 End of the Agricultural Revolution. Britain has undergone a remarkable social and economic change.

1885 Around this time George Brooke born in 1856 at Old Moor moves into Old Hall Farm on High Street at nearby West Melton. The family continues to farm at West Melton until around 2015 while the rest of the family continue at Old Moor.

1837-1901 Queen Victoria

1901-1910 King Edward VII

1910-1936 King George V

1914-1918 First World War

1916 Sarah (Daisy) Brooke joins The Red Cross playing her part in the war effort for the Brooke family. Sarah would lose two cousins in the war. Alfred Ormerod and James Brooke Ormerod , both killed in France in 1917 and 1916 respectively.

1916-1918 Old Moor becomes one of the airfields used by 33 Squadron (Home Defence) Royal Flying Corps . The Squadron Headquarters were at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. 33 Squadron were responsible for protecting an area covering Yorkshire, North Midlands and Lincolnshire. German Airship raids were a threat at this time.

1929-1937 Known as the 'Flying Circus Era'. The Airfield at Old Moor is utilised for a series of spectacular air shows. At the Don & Dearne Valley Aero week in 1930 it was possible to take a flight in a 14 seater Imperial Airways Cross Channel Liner for 4 shillings.

1923 By this time the National Rail Network comprises of only 4 companies. GWR, LNER, LMS and Southern Rail.

1936-1936 King Edward VIII

1938 George Brooke dies 22nd June 1938. The end of the Brooke family line at Old Moor. The two remaining daughters Sarah (Daisy) and Ethel sell up and move to Harrogate.

1939 Sees the start of the Gascoigne occupancy . William and Blanche Gascoigne move from Lane End Farm at Thurnscoe to Old Moor. Previously the family worked High House Farm at Thurnscoe.

1936-1952 King George VI

1939-1945 There was a Prisoner of War Camp situated close to the runway at Old Moor. There are stories of German P.O.W.'s being sent to the farm at Old Moor to collect milk for the camp.

1939-1945 Second World War

1948 Formation of NHS

1952-2022 Queen Elizabeth II

1959 Wath Central railway station closed.

1961 Closure of the Dearne and Dove Canal.

1963 Beeching Report – A plan to increase the efficiency of the National Rail Network. The plan was to close 2363 stations (55%) and 5,000 miles of track (30%).

1968 Wath North railway station closed.

1975 The first hide is erected Wath Hide .

1988 Wath Main and Manvers Collieries close.

1989 The idea of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) is born.

1995 Building and engineering work commences on site in February.

1998 The Gascoigne family vacate Old Moor.

1998 In September work on the Visitor Centre is completed.

2003 In March of this year RSPB take over Old Moor.

2006 September sees the opening of TPT. East-West the route from Hornsea to Southport is 207 miles. A North-South route from Leeds to Chesterfield increases this to 350 miles.

2012 First proof of breeding bitterns at Old Moor.

2022-present King Charles III