Keeping you up-to-date with the Moorsbus Network

MOORSBUZZ

September 2026

No.7

7.2



MOOR PLACES TO EXPLORE WITH MOORSBUS

We've been working with other bus operators to increase your access around the North York Moors and Howardian Hills.

For those who enjoy a timetable challenge, there are now over 15 routes to explore, enabling some great trips taking in Redcar, Castle Howard, Northallerton, Whitby, Scarborough and many more places.

On Moorsbus days, Moors Rover tickets are issued and accepted on:

EY 28 (Scarborough | Pickering | Helmsley)
EY & York & Country 31X (York | Easingwold | Helmsley | Kirkbymoorside)
Arriva 28 (Middlesbrough | Guisborough)
Arriva 63 (Middlesbrough | Redcar)
Arriva X4 (Middlesbrough | Redcar | Whitby)
Arriva 5 (Middlesbrough | Easington)
Arriva X93 / X94 (Middlesbrough | Whitby | Scarborough)
EY 81 (Malton | Castle Howard | York)
EY X81 (York | Castle Howard)

For lots moor places to visit see our Days Out leaflets and our website.

TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE 5 September in Helmsley

Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race starts its 165km (103 mile) route to Leyburn on Saturday 5 September.

Due to lengthy road closures as well as a rolling road closure on the route, many buses through Helmsley will be affected. We hope to pick up and set down at the usual stops outside the co-op and by the monument, but some buses will use alternative routes within the town, and there will be delays as the cyclists head along the M5 and 31X routes from Helmsley to Sproxton, Ampleforth, Byland, Coxwold and Easingwold before heading to Boroughbridge, Ripon and Leyburn.

We'll try our best to keep services running to time but there will be many more vehicles travelling and parking in the area.

The **Moorsbus Facebook page** will be kept updated with planned changes.



We're working out what services we can run in 2027 and what improvements we can make. We have to raise the money first, but here's what we'd like, tell us what you think:

▲**Similar season and similar routes**
▲**Better connections whenever possible**
▲**Maximum single fare of £2.**

We'd like to see other improvements too, but buses in rural areas are always hard to pay for.

That's because there are fewer people who live here, the distances between towns and villages are greater, and there are very few operators based in rural areas so buses have to travel much further from their depots.

Our costs are also higher because some of our routes don't qualify for reimbursement for the £3 maximum fare as they are considered 'new services,' whilst others just get a small rate compared to normal fares.

Also, many rural roads are unsuitable for bigger buses, yet we can't use a minibus because we have to cope with high demand on some parts of the journey. Nothing is easy!

But we're always optimistic, and with your help we can create a great network.

"You asked...

As you'll know, we look at every comment you write. Here's another question you've raised from the survey forms we've received so far in 2026.

"A mid-afternoon bus returning to York would be welcome as would inclusion of the Esk Valley Railway's timetable."

An earlier return to York? *We're always trying to make the best use of our resources and sending a Moorsbus back to York earlier may mean that other passengers find their day too short, as well as taking a bus out of the afternoon network.*

There are often earlier ways to get back to York using non-Moorsbus services such as the Saturday 31X from Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley or the 81 from Castle Howard. On a Sunday you could depart Helmsley at 14:42 on M8 to Castle Howard, arrive 15:22 and change there onto the X81 which leaves at 15:35, getting you back to York at 16:30.

As a bonus you have a lovely journey through the Howardian Hills to Castle Howard and then via Sheriff Hutton to York. Remember, the 31X, 81 and X81 accept Moorsbus tickets.

If you're going back from Pickering, there is the Coastliner 840, although that doesn't accept Moorsbus tickets and leaves from Eastgate.

*We'd love to include the **Esk Valley Railway times** in our Moorsbus booklet, and we'd like to include other bus and rail services too. There are two things which make it difficult. Firstly, other timetables change at different times of the year and we don't want to give out-of-date information. (Moorsbus thinks it would be good for everyone if there were fewer times when bus or rail timetables changed - maybe just twice a year, and that they should be co-ordinated. But that's a job for government.)*

Secondly, by including more timetables we'd end up with a much bigger booklet and that would be costly to produce as this year we've printed and distributed 40,000 Moorsbus timetables.

Remember that sending your comments to us (online or paper) helps us get the best service for as many people as possible and shows our funders that we respond to your views, opinions and suggestions.

Not everything is feasible, of course, but we work hard to develop timetables which have decent connections and maximise the funding we have whilst meeting the complex legal framework.

It's YOUR Moorsbus!

What's on in September

Until 13th Sept - Spirits in the Wild. Inspired by Gallery, Danby Lodge (M3, M6)

Until 5 Sept - Sculpture in the Garden at Helmsley Walled Garden (M4, M5, M7, M8, M31, 28)

Until 6 Sept - 'Fixing Fairytales' exhibition, Nunnington Hall (M8)

5 Sept - Tour of Britain Cycle Race: Helmsley start, then Ampleforth & Coxwold (M4, M5, M8, 28, 31X)

5 Sept - **BANDAMONIUM** (*see **'Follow the Bands'** below) (M1, M3, M4, M5, M6, M8, 28, 31X)*

5 Sept - Hovingham Village Market (M8)

5 Sept - Mindful on the Moor Festival. Danby Lodge (M3, M6)

5 Sept - Stokesley market (M4, M5)

6 Sept - Thirsk market (M5)

12 Sept - Castleton Show (M3, M6)

12 Sept - Shining Lights of the North Way. An exploration of Rievaulx, Byland and Fountains Abbeys in paintings. Ryedale Folk Museum (M3)

12 to 20 Sept - **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS** (www.heritageopendays.org.uk) including:

12 Sept Thirsk Museum; St Mary's Church, Thirsk; Ritz Cinema, Thirsk (M5)
19 Sept Byland Abbey (M5, M31, 31X)
20 Sept Gisborough Priory Gardens (M3, M4)
All Saints Church, Helmsley (M4, M5, M31, 28)
Nunnington Hall (M8)
NYMR Signal Box demonstration, Pickering

19 Sept - Stokesley Show (M4, M5)

19 Sept to end of Sept - Landshapes exhibition. Inspired by gallery, Danby Lodge (M3, M6)

19 to **20 Sept - Helmsley Literary Festival** at Helmsley Arts Centre (M4, M5, M7, M8, M31, 28, 31X)

26 Sept - Model railways, Meccano and much more. Beck Isle Museum, Pickering (M1, M3, M6, 28)



The Bandamonium Brass Band Festival comes to the Moorsbus Network on Saturday 5th Sept. Eight Bands from London to the Tees playing at six venues. Jump on a Moorsbus and enjoy!

New Inn, Cropton (M6)
Coach House Inn, Rosedale Abbey (M6)
Sun Inn, Pickering (M1, M3, M6, 28)
Helmsley Brewery (M4, M5, M8, 28, 31X)
Kirkbymoorside Market Square (M3, 28, 31X)
Royal Oak, Gillamoor (2 mile walk from M3, 28, 31X)

Performances start from 11:00 and each band moves from venue to venue making it possible to stay in one place or use Moorsbus to get around the event. If you're staying in the area (or live locally) there's a massed bands concert in Kirkbymoorside Market Place at 19:30.

And all the performances are free!

Rievaulx Terrace and Temples

Following a change of management to English Heritage, the spectacular terrace and its two temples is now open to the public again from 10:00 to 17:00. Catch Moorsbus M4 and get off at Rievaulx Terrace entrance (top of Rievaulx Bank). You could walk back (downhill!) to Rievaulx Abbey or catch the bus where you got off.



☑ You gave us 95%

We're still entering the information and comments you've sent us through our Survey forms (and via the e-surveys). Every comment is read by our directors and advisers and we really do try and meet your requests whenever feasible. *Final 2026 results will be on the web in December but headline figures so far show:*

Social equity and sustainable access
60% of passengers came from a household without a car. Access for all!

Modal shift
20% of passengers had a car available on the day but chose the bus. Saves emissions & congestion!

Social benefits
97% said they gained pleasure from enjoying the countryside and 74% found improved health through access to physical exercise. 52% said it reduced isolation. Better health without the NHS!

Supporting the local economy
Average spend per group was £20.19.

Overall satisfaction rating of 95%
Lowest scores: 85.4% for frequency and routes
Highest score: 99% for drivers

But we think things should be better. So we're campaigning to improve bus and rail travel everywhere, not just here.

We want all public transport to be more **frequent**, more **accessible**, more **integrated** and more **reliable**.
In a word, we think it should be **FAIR**.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

At the end of another Moorsbus season it's time to say a great big thank you to many people.

Let's start with passengers: you're the reason we exist. And the drivers (and backroom staff) at all our operators who provide the service every Moorsbus day.

There are lots of other people and businesses who've helped us by doing everything from distributing timetables, making (and selling) jam, running coffee mornings, helping passengers get the most out of Moorsbus, and creating our website, days out itineraries, walks and timetables.

Our funders make it possible. This year we've had support from York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, North Yorkshire Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council, the Howardian Hills National Landscape, North York Moors Association and many individuals who have gifted money. We're hoping that everyone who funded us in 2026 will be able to help next year. ***Thanks everyone.***

Anoraks' corner



In this corner, we've usually looked at some of the historical vehicles which have operated Moorsbus over the past 45 years. This issue features our 2026 regular M1 / M3 bus. It's East Yorkshire's double deck Enviro400MMC (A7EYC).

Built in Falkirk by Alexander Dennis and bought 'off the shelf' by East Yorkshire in June 2022, it gives huge capacity for the route which last year had standing passengers on many journeys. Its 85 seats are coach-style and fitted with seatbelts. From its 50 top-deck seats, it provides the most stunning views over the North York Moors (and of the Wolds if you're travelling all the way from Hull, Beverley or Driffield).



The Moorsbus hat

Buy now on the website for just £8 plus £3 p&p. Or email us to collect your's on the bus and save the postage.



www.moorsbus.org/shop

Please help us

If you'd like to support Moorsbus there are lots of ways to help (see the website or scan the QR code).

You could buy a Moorsbus hat, or backpack, or you could join Friends of Moorsbus. Or simply ask the driver for a **Donate Ticket** (£2, £5 or £10).

Or sponsor a bus for a day!

TIMETABLES: DONATIONS: