Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife Group

Moth Survey Report

Summary

Location:	Green Cross Cottage, South Garden (TQ3615)
Date:	25/05/2026
Survey Method(s):	MV Light
Recorders(s):	Chris Chapman
Moth Count:	330
Species Count: (see notes)	83 New for Year: 26 New for Location: 4 Total new species for Location this Year: 16 Species Count for Year: 190 Species Total for Location: 541
Non-species Count:	3
Notable Record Count:	23

Full List

NFG = New Species For Location/Garden NFY = New Species For Year

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Alder Moth (Acronicta alni)	5	Macro	Fairly Common (665)	Resident. The larvae feed on beech, birch, hazel, oak and sweet chestnut.
Ash Bud Moth (Prays fraxinella) * NFY	1	Micro	Scarce (365)	Resident. The larvae feed on the buds and shoots of ash.
Bee Moth (Aphomia sociella)	2	Micro	Common (4,308)	Resident. Larvae are associated with the nests of wild bees and wasps.
Bramble Shoot Moth (Notocelia uddmanniana) NFY	1	Micro	Common (2,737)	Resident. The larvae feed on bramble.
Bright-line Brown-eye (Lacanobia oleracea)	2	Macro	Very Common (14,145)	Resident. Larvae feed on a wide variety of plants including bindweed, bracken, primrose, plantain and dock.
Brimstone Moth (Opisthograptis luteolata)	7	Macro	Abundant (17,349)	A common, resident species. Double brooded, flying from late April to mid July and then again from early August to early October. The larvae feed on hawthorn, apple, plum, hazel and sloe.
Brindled Twist (Ptycholoma lecheana) * NFY NFG	1	Micro	Rare (91)	Resident. The larval food plants are oak, elm, maple, wild rose and hawthorn.
Brown Silver-line (Petrophora chlorosata) NFY	1	Macro	Common (2,269)	Resident. The larvae feed on bracken.
Brussels Lace (Cleorodes lichenaria)	3	Macro	Fairly Common (632)	Resident and suspected immigrant. Larvae feed on unspecified species of lichens growing on trees and old palings
Buff-tip (Phalera bucephala)	2	Macro	Common (6,382)	Flying mainly from mid-May to mid-August, but also an partial second emergence in September/October. Larvae feed on elm, hornbeam, cherry, oak, sallows and willows, hazel, silver birch, sweet chestnut, alder and lime.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Burnished Brass (Diachrysia chrysitis)	2	Macro	Common (5,792)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Cinnabar (Tyria jacobaeae)	2	Macro	Common (7,718)	Resident. Larvae feed on ragwort, hoary ragwort and (rarely) on groundsel.
Clouded Border (Lomaspilis marginata)	4	Macro	Common (7,447)	A resident species which is often a common visitor to mv light. It is probably generally distributed. It is single-brooded, flying mainly from mid May to late August. Larval foodplants include sallow, grey willow, and sometimes aspen, hazel and birch.
Clouded Silver (Lomographa temerata)	3	Macro	Common (3,150)	Resident and occasional autumn immigrant. Single-brooded occurring mainly from early May to early August, occasionally from mid April or to mid August. Larvae feed on sloe and plum.
Cnephasia sp. (Cnephasia)	1	Micro		
Comfrey Ermel (Ethmia quadrillella)	7	Micro	Fairly Common (665)	Resident. The larvae live in a silken web and feed on the foliage of comfrey (Symphytum spp.) and lungwort (Pulmonaria officinalis).
Common Marble (Celypha lacunana)	8	Micro	Very Common (9,032)	Resident. Larvae feed in the young shoots of almost any shrubs and plants, including Epilobium and Hypericum species.
Common Plume (Emmelina monodactyla) NFY	1	Micro	Very Common (12,093)	Resident. Larvae feed on bindweed and on races of the related "Morning Glory".
Common Pug (Eupithecia vulgata)	1	Macro	Common (3,651)	Resident. Larvae feed on hawthorn, willow, bramble and sea buckthorn.
Common Swift (Korscheltellus lupulina)	29	Macro	Common (7,395)	Resident. Larvae feed inside the roots of various herbaceous plants.
Common Wainscot (Mythimna pallens)	5	Macro	Very Common (12,382)	Resident. Larvae feed on various grasses.
Common White Wave (Cabera pusaria)	1	Macro	Common (3,638)	Resident. Larvae feed on (silver) birch, sallow and hazel.
Common Yellow Conch (Agapeta hamana) NFY	2	Micro	Common (3,808)	Resident. The larvae are believed to feed on the roots of thistles.
Coxcomb Prominent (Ptilodon capucina)	1	Macro	Common (2,014)	A resident which occurs in a wide range of habitats. Well distributed but high numbers are local. Double-brooded, flying mainly from late April to mid June and again from early July to late August. Larvae feed on beech, hazel, oak, (silver) birch and swee
Dark Arches (Apamea monoglypha)	2	Macro	Abundant (17,012)	Resident and suspected episodic immigrant species. Chiefly single-brooded, flying mainly from late May to early September with a sporadic second emergence occurring at any time between late October and mid-December. Larvae feed on the roots and stem-bases
Diamond-back Moth (Plutella xylostella)	5	Micro	Very Common (8,538)	A resident and immigrant species. Larvae feed on turnips, cabbages and allied plants including sea kale. Also associated with marsh yellow-cress.
Dusky Hook-tip (Drepana curvatula) NFY	1	Macro	Very Rare (43)	Immigrant. Larvae feed on alder in Europe.
Elephant Hawk-moth (Deilephila elpenor) NFY	1	Macro	Very Common (8,073)	Resident. Single brooded until recently, flying mainly from late May to mid-August. Larvae feed on garden godetia, fuscia, willowherb, bedstraw, bogbean and balsam.
Flame Carpet (Xanthorhoe designata) NFY	1	Macro	Common (1,884)	Resident. The larval foodplant is not known in the wild, although Cabbage, Wallflower, and other Cruciferae have been utilised in captivity.
Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura plecta)	2	Macro	Abundant (19,960)	Resident. Larvae feed on various unidentified wild and cultivated plants that have been listed from elsewhere.
Garden Cosmet (Mompha subbistrigella) NFY	1	Micro	Fairly Common (552)	Resident. Larvae feed on the seed-pods of broad-leaved willowherb.
Great Twist (Choristoneura hebenstreitella) NFY NFG	1	Micro	Very Rare (49)	A scarce and declining resident, in danger of extinction in East Sussex. The larval food plants are hazel, birch and oak.
Green Carpet (Colostygia pectinataria)	2	Macro	Common (4,761)	Resident. Larvae feed on bedstraw.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Green Oak Tortrix (Tortrix viridana) NFY	4	Micro	Common (1,852)	Resident. Larvae feed on oak both evergreen and pedunculate.
Green Pug (Pasiphila rectangulata) *	1	Macro	Common (3,966)	Resident. Larvae can be found feeding on the flowers of cultivated apple and pear, and on the flowers of sloe.
Grey/Dark Dagger (Acronicta psi/tridens)	1	Macro		
Heart and Dart (Agrotis exclamationis)	10	Macro	Abundant (20,709)	Resident. Larval foodplants include a wide variety of unidentified wild and garden plants.
Hoary Bell (Eucosma cana)	1	Micro	Common (1,890)	Resident. The larvae feed in the seed-heads of Arctium, Carduus and Centaurea spp.
Hook-streak Grass-veneer (Crambus lathoniellus)	8	Micro	Common (1,897)	Resident. The larval foodplant has yet to be determined in Sussex but elsewhere it has been recorded in unspecified grasses.
Knot Grass (Acronicta rumicis)	1	Macro	Common (5,038)	Resident. Double-brooded, flying mainly from mid-April to mid-June and from mid-July to mid-September. Larvae feed on bramble, sallow, unspecified low-growing plants including thistle, hop and poplar.
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix (Archips podana) NFY	3	Micro	Common (2,984)	Resident. Larvae feed on deciduous trees in woods and on ivy, hops, Euonymus japonicus, etc., in gardens and parks.
Light Brocade (Lacanobia w-latinum)	1	Macro	Common (1,885)	Resident. Larvae feed on dyer's greenweed.
Light Brown Apple Moth (Epiphyas postvittana)	7	Micro	Abundant (20,303)	Resident. First recorded in Sussex record in 1984. The species originated from Australia. Larvae feed on a huge variety of flowers, shrubs and crops.
Light Emerald (Campaea margaritaria)	18	Macro	Very Common (9,291)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, birch, oak, ash, heather and grey willow.
Maiden's Blush (Cyclophora punctaria)	1	Macro	Common (3,783)	A resident and suspected immigrant. Larvae feed on Oak and (silver) Birch.
Marbled Minor agg. (Oligia strigilis agg.)	28	Macro		
Marbled Orchard Tortrix (Hedya nubiferana) NFY	2	Micro	Common (1,287)	Resident. Larvae feed on hawthorn, sloe, and fruit trees
Marsh Grey (Eudonia pallida)	1	Micro	Common (1,473)	Resident. The larval foodplant is not known in this country.
May Highflyer (Hydriomena impluviata)	2	Macro	Fairly Common (855)	Resident. Larvae feed on Alder.
Mocha (Cyclophora annularia) NFY	1	Macro	Fairly Common (714)	Resident. Larvae feed on Maple.
Mottled Rustic (Caradrina morpheus)	1	Macro	Common (5,716)	Resident. The larval foodplant has not been recorded in Sussex although sting nettle and dandelion have been listed elsewhere.
Narrow-winged Grey (Eudonia angustea) NFY	1	Micro	Common (4,133)	Resident. Larvae feed on unspecified wall-mosses.
Orange Footman (Eilema sororcula)	7	Macro	Common (1,988)	Resident. Larvae feed on unidentified lichens growing on trees and bushes of oak and beech.
Ox-tongue Conch (Neocochylis molliculana) *	1	Micro	Common (1,059)	Resident. The larvae feed on bristly oxtongue.
Pale Oak Beauty (Hypomecis punctinalis) NFY	2	Macro	Common (1,097)	Resident. Larvae feed on oak, (silver) birch and sallow.
Pale Prominent (Pterostoma palpina)	3	Macro	Common (3,840)	Resident. The moth usually occurs sparingly or fairly commonly in a wide range of habitats, Well distributed. Double-brooded, flying mainly from late April to early July and again from late July to late August. Larvae feed on poplar and sallow.
Pale Tussock (Calliteara pudibunda)	9	Macro	Common (3,338)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, oak, hazel, hop, sweet chestnut, birch, elm, and lime.
Pebble Hook-tip (Drepana falcataria) NFY	1	Macro	Common (2,739)	Resident and suspected immigrant. Larvae feed on birch and probably alder.
Plum Tortrix (Hedya pruniana)	6	Micro	Common (1,383)	Resident. Larvae feed on the young shoots of sloe and plum.
Poplar Grey (Subacronicta megacephala)	3	Macro	Common (3,021)	Resident. The larvae feed on aspen, poplar, black poplar and probably on introduced hybrids.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Poplar Hawk-moth (Laothoe populi)	2	Macro	Very Common (9,664)	Resident . Larvae feed on goat willow, grey willow, aspen, poplars, sallows and occasionally beech.
Portland Ribbon Wave (Idaea degeneraria)	4	Macro	Fairly Common (469)	An increasingly common immigrant.
Privet Twist (Clepsis consimilana) NFY	1	Micro	Common (1,626)	Resident. Larvae are said to feed on privet.
Red-barred Tortrix (Ditula angustiorana) NFY	1	Micro	Common (2,192)	Resident. The species feed on almost any tree and many low growing plants.
Riband Wave (Idaea aversata) NFY	2	Macro	Very Common (14,278)	Resident. Larvae feed on Bedstraw and Chickweed.
Rustic Shoulder-knot (Apamea sordens)	2	Macro	Common (1,236)	Resident. The larval foodplants have not been determined in Sussex but cock's-foot and other unidentified grasses serve elsewhere.
Scorched Carpet (Ligdia adustata)	1	Macro	Common (1,770)	A resident species. Larvae feed on spindle.
Scorched Wing (Plagodis dolabraria)	9	Macro	Common (2,745)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, oak, sallow, and (silver) birch.
Setaceous Hebrew Character (Xestia c-nigrum)	6	Macro	Abundant (20,549)	Resident species reinforced by episodic immigration. Larvae feed on dock and probably other herbaceous plants.
Sharp-angled Peacock (Macaria alternata)	2	Macro	Common (2,159)	Resident. Larvae feed on sloe and sea buckthorn.
Shuttle-shaped Dart (Agrotis puta)	1	Macro	Very Common (10,390)	A common resident species and generally distributed. Double brooded, flying from mid May to mid June and again from late July to late September. An overlapping partial third emergence has become increasingly frequent in late autumn. Larvae feed on unspeci
Sloe Flat-body (Luquetia lobella) NFY NFG	1	Micro	Very Rare (32)	Resident. Larvae feed on sloe.
Small Fan-foot (Herminia grisealis) NFY NFG	1	Macro	Common (1,230)	
Small Mottled Willow (Spodoptera exigua)	11	Macro	Fairly Common (781)	Immigrant. Larvae have not been recorded in Sussex although they have been found on Persicaria elsewhere.
Small Rivulet (Perizoma alchemillata) NFY	1	Macro	Fairly Common (808)	Declining resident. Larvae feed on hemp-nettle.
Snout (Hypena proboscidalis)	2	Macro	Very Common (11,707)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Spindle Knot-horn (Nephopterix angustella) NFY NFG	1	Micro	Fairly Common (611)	Resident. Larvae feed inside spindle berries.
Spruce Carpet (Thera britannica) NFY	1	Macro	Common (1,244)	Resident. Larvae feed on spruce.
Straw Dot (Rivula sericealis)	8	Macro	Very Common (10,829)	Resident sometimes reinforced by migration. Larvae feed on unidentified grasses.
Swallow Prominent (Pheosia tremula)	1	Macro	Common (4,210)	A resident occurring singly or sparingly in a wide range of habitats. Probably generally distributed. Double-brooded, flying mainly from late April to mid June and again from late July to early September. The larvae feed on sallow, poplar and aspen.
Treble Lines (Charanyca trigrammica)	14	Macro	Common (7,171)	Resident. The larvae foodplant is greater plantain, common knapweed and dwarf thistle.
Triple-blotched Bell (Notocelia trimaculana)	2	Micro	Scarce (386)	Resident. The larvae feed on hawthorn.
White Ermine (Spilosoma lubricipeda)	5	Macro	Common (7,635)	A resident and occasional immigrant. Previously single-brooded, flying from late April to mid July but, incresasingly, from mid August to late September. Larvae feed on ivy flowers, dock, plantain, bindweed, hop, goosefoot and bedstraw
White-headed Ermel (Paraswammerdamia albicapitella) NFY	1	Micro	Scarce (330)	Resident. The larvae feed on sloe.
Willow Beauty (Peribatodes rhomboidaria)	17	Macro	Abundant (16,389)	Redsident. Larvae feed on privet, lilac, ivy, honeysuckle, hawthorn, dock, heather and gorse.
Yellow Oak Button (Aleimma loeflingiana) NFY	1	Micro	Fairly Common (977)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, hornbeam, sycamore and maple.

Notable Records

Species	Comment
Ash Bud Moth (Prays fraxinella)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Likely to be only the 5th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Brindled Twist (Ptycholoma lecheana)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; First time recorded at this location.; Likely to be only the 2nd time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Brown Silver-line (Petrophora chlorosata)	Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.
Comfrey Ermel (Ethmia quadrillella)	7 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 5.
Common Swift (Korscheltellus lupulina)	29 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 17.
Diamond-back Moth (Plutella xylostella)	5 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.
Dusky Hook-tip (Drepana curvatula)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Garden Cosmet (Mompha subbistrigella)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Great Twist (Choristoneura hebenstreitella)	Likely first record for Plumpton & East Chiltington. No records prior to 2025.; A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex
Marsh Grey (Eudonia pallida)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Mocha (Cyclophora annularia)	Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Pebble Hook-tip (Drepana falcataria)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Red-barred Tortrix (Ditula angustiorana)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Rustic Shoulder-knot (Apamea sordens)	Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Sloe Flat-body (Luquetia lobella)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; First time recorded at this location.
Small Fan-foot (Herminia grisealis)	First time recorded at this location.
Small Mottled Willow (Spodoptera exigua)	11 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.
Small Rivulet (Perizoma alchemillata)	Likely to be only the 4th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Spindle Knot-horn (Nephopterix angustella)	First time recorded at this location.
Spruce Carpet (Thera britannica)	Likely to be only the 4th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Triple-blotched Bell (Notocelia trimaculana)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Likely to be only the 5th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
White-headed Ermel (Paraswammerdamia albicapitella)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Likely to be only the 4th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Willow Beauty (Peribatodes rhomboidaria)	17 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 13.

Images



Alder Moth (Acronicta alni)



Ash Bud Moth (Prays fraxinella)



Brussels Lace (Cleorodes lichenaria)



Burnished Brass (Diachrysia chrysitis)



Dusky Hook-tip (Drepana curvatula)



Elephant Hawk-moth (Deilephila elpenor)



Mocha (Cyclophora annularia)



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Red-barred Tortrix (Ditula angustiorana)



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Small Rivulet (Perizoma alchemillata)



Spruce Carpet (Thera britannica)



Triple-blotched Bell (Notocelia trimaculana)

Notes

The numbers in the **Species Count** section of the **Summary** section only include moths that have been identified to species level.

An * by the name of the species indicates that the species has not been verified by the County Recorders yet. In total this applies to 4 records for this survey.

You can see more details of each species from the UK Moths website by clicking on the name of the species. This doesn't apply to records at genus level or aggregates.

The Sussex Status is an **unofficial** indication of the likelihood of encountering the species in Sussex based on data sourced from the Sussex Moth Group website. The number in brackets is the minimum number of times the moth has been recorded in Sussex.

The species comments are primarily sourced from the excellent volumes of **A Revised History of the Butterflies and Moths of Sussex** by C R Pratt.

For further details of the records see Green Cross Nature

Produced by Chris Chapman (Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife Group)