



Moth Survey Report

Summary

Location:	Green Cross Cottage, South Garden (TQ3615)
Date:	03/08/2026
Survey Method(s):	MV Light
Recorders(s):	Chris Chapman
Moth Count:	350
Species Count: (see notes)	83 New for Year: 18 New for Location: 3 Total new species for Location this Year: 27 Species Count for Year: 311 Species Total for Location: 552
Non-species Count:	5
Notable Record Count:	31

Full List

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

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Alder Kitten (<i>Furcula bicuspis</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Fairly Common (741)	
Ash-bark Knot-horn (<i>Euzophera pinguis</i>)	1	Micro	Common (2,366)	Resident. Larvae feed under the bark of ash
Ashy Button (<i>Acleris sparsana</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Fairly Common (977)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, hornbeam, sycamore and maple.
Blood-vein (<i>Timandra comae</i>)	2	Macro	Common (5,613)	Resident. Larvae feed on Dock and other unspecified low-growing plants.
Brimstone Moth (<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>)	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.
Brown House Moth (<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>)	1	Micro	Common (4,291)	Resident. Larvae feed on almost anything except green leaves.
Bud Moth (<i>Spilonota ocellana</i>)	2	Micro	Common (1,517)	Resident. The larvae feed on a great variety of deciduous trees and shrubs including apple, hawthorn, alder, sea-spurge, common dock and sea-buckthorn.
Burnished Brass (<i>Diachrysis chrysis</i>)	3	Macro	Common (5,792)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Canary-shouldered Thorn (<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (3,502)	Resident. The larvae feed on (silver) birch, alder, willow and lime.
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix (<i>Pandemis corylana</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Common (1,108)	Resident. Larvae feed mainly on oak.
Chinese Character (<i>Cilix glaucata</i>)	1	Macro	Common (4,424)	Resident. Larvae feed on hawthorn, apple, pear, sloe and oak.
Cloaked Minor (<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>)	3	Macro	Common (2,400)	Resident. Larvae feed on unidentified grasses.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Clouded Border (<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>)	7	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 willow, grey willow, and sometimes aspen, hazel and birch.
Comfrey Ermel (<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>)	2	Micro	Fairly Common (665)	Resident. The larvae live in a silken web and feed on the foliage of comfrey (<i>Symphytum</i> spp.) and lungwort (<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>).
Common Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila tristella</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Common (6,855)	Resident. The larvae feed at the base of unspecified grass stems but this has yet to be confirmed in Sussex.
Common Marble (<i>Celypha lacunana</i>)	6	Micro	Very Common (9,032)	Resident. Larvae feed in the young shoots of almost any shrubs and plants, including <i>Epilobium</i> and <i>Hypericum</i> species.
Common Purple and Gold (<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>)	5	Micro	Common (2,280)	Resident. Larvae have been associated with self-heal.
Common Rustic agg. (<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.)	18	Macro		
Common Wainscot (<i>Mythimna pallens</i>)	18	Macro	Very Common (12,382)	Resident. Larvae feed on various grasses.
Common White Wave (<i>Cabera pusaria</i>)	2	Macro	Common (3,638)	Resident. Larvae feed on (silver) birch, willow and hazel.
Coxcomb Prominent (<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>)	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 sweet
Cream-bordered Green Pea (<i>Earias clorana</i>) ^{NFY NFG}	1	Macro	Fairly Common (932)	Resident. Sometimes double-brooded flying mainly from late May to late July and again from early August to early September. Larvae feed on osier.
Dark Bordered Pearl (<i>Evergestis limbata</i>)	1	Micro	Common (1,056)	Resident and suspected occasional immigrant. Larvae feed on the leaves of hedge mustard.
Dark Fleabane Neb (<i>Apodia bifractella</i>) ^{NFY NFG}	1	Micro	Very Scarce (157)	Resident. Larvae feed in the seedheads of spikenard and fleabane.
Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix (<i>Pandemis heparana</i>)	2	Micro	Common (1,461)	Resident. Larvae feed on willow, birch, fruit trees and many other deciduous trees and shrubs.
Delplanqueia dilutella/inscriptella (<i>Delplanqueia dilutella/inscriptella</i>)	5	Micro		
Diamond-back Marble (<i>Eudemis profundana</i>) ^{NFY}	2	Micro	Scarce (366)	Resident. Single-brooded, flying mainly from early July to early September. The larvae feed on oak, sometimes on their green oak-apples.
Diamond-back Moth (<i>Plutella xylostella</i>)	1	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.
Dingy Dowd (<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>) ^{NFY}	4	Micro	Common (7,844)	Resident. Larvae have been found to feed on fresh, decaying or dried vegetable matter.
Dingy Footman (<i>Eilema griseola</i>)	28	Macro	Common (5,895)	Resident. Larvae feed on commonplace lichen, <i>xanthoria parietina</i> . Also said to feed on bramble, although this may only be in captivity.
Ermine Knot-horn (<i>Phycitodes binaevella</i>)	2	Micro	Fairly Common (759)	Resident The larvae feed in the seed-heads of spear thistle.
Flame Shoulder (<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>)	3	Macro	Abundant (19,960)	Resident. Larvae feed on various unidentified wild and cultivated plants that have been listed from elsewhere.
Garden Cosmet (<i>Mompha subbistrigella</i>)	1	Micro	Fairly Common (552)	Resident. Larvae feed on the seed-pods of broad-leaved willowherb.
Garden Grass-veneer (<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>)	1	Micro	Very Common (10,982)	Resident. Autumnal sightings may be due to a partial overlapping second emergence. The larvae feed on unspecified grasses.
Garden Rose Tortrix (<i>Acleris variegana</i>)	2	Micro	Common (2,994)	Resident. Larvae feed on burnet-rose, sloe and hawthorn and in domestic gardens on rose and the leaves of apple, pear, cherry and apricot.

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Grey Knot-horn (<i>Acrobasis advenella</i>)	6	Micro	Common (2,554)	Resident. Larval foodplant is hawthorn and rowan.
Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)	2	Macro	Scarce (335)	Immigrant and currently extinct temporary resident. The larval foodplants have not been recorded in Sussex. On the continent the species feeds on a wide variety of wild and cultivated trees.
Heart and Dart (<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>)	9	Macro	Abundant (20,709)	Resident. Larval foodplants include a wide variety of unidentified wild and garden plants.
Inlaid Grass-veneer (<i>Crambus pascuella</i>)	1	Micro	Common (4,312)	Resident. The larvae feed on grasses, especially <i>Poa</i> species.
Jersey Tiger (<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>)	8	Macro	Common (1,727)	Immigrant and an occasional temporary resident. Larvae never found in Sussex; elsewhere feed on common nettle, hemp-agrimony, plantain, and other low-growing plants.
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix (<i>Archips podana</i>)	1	Micro	Common (2,984)	Resident. Larvae feed on deciduous trees in woods and on ivy, hops, <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> , etc., in gardens and parks.
Large Yellow Underwing (<i>Noctua pronuba</i>)	3	Macro	Abundant (32,567)	Resident reinforced by regular immigration. Larvae feed on unspecified garden vegetables and flowers.
Leopard Moth (<i>Zeuzera pyrina</i>) ^{NFY}	2	Macro	Fairly Common (934)	Resident. Larvae feed inside the limbs of a wide variety of trees and shrubs.
Lesser Swallow Prominent (<i>Pheosia gnomia</i>)	1	Macro	Common (4,216)	Resident. The larvae feed on (silver) birch.
Light Brown Apple Moth (<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>)	2	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 (<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>)	1	Macro	Very Common (9,291)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, birch, oak, ash, heather and grey willow.
Maiden's Blush (<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i>)	1	Macro	Common (3,783)	A resident and suspected immigrant. Larvae feed on Oak and (silver) Birch.
Marbled Piercer (<i>Cydia splendana</i>)	2	Micro	Common (2,697)	Resident. Larvae feed on oak acorns.
Miller (<i>Acronicta leporina</i>)	2	Macro	Common (1,049)	Resident. The larvae feed on birch, alder and aspen.
Mocha (<i>Cyclophora annularia</i>)	1	Macro	Fairly Common (714)	Resident. Larvae feed on Maple.
Mother of Pearl (<i>Patania ruralis</i>)	8	Micro	Common (7,180)	
<i>Noctua janthe/janthina/tertia</i> agg. (<i>Noctua janthe/janthina/tertia</i> agg.)	4	Micro		
Oak Eggar (<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (1,260)	Resident. Larvae feed on hawthorn, sloe, bramble, hazel, honeysuckle, veronica, heather, camellia, periwinkle, garden rose, broom and spruce.
Ochreous Pearl (<i>Anania crocealis</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Common (1,422)	Resident. Larvae feed on ploughman's spikenard and common fleabane.
Orange Swift (<i>Triodia sylvina</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (3,385)	Resident. Larvae feed on the roots of various plants including bracken, burdock and viper's bugloss.
Ox-tongue Conch (<i>Neocochyliis molliculana</i>)	10	Micro	Common (1,372)	
Pale Mottled Willow (<i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (6,659)	Resident. Larvae feed on bramble, willow, unspecified low-growing plants including thistle, hop, poplar and in captivity oak.
Pale Prominent (<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>)	5	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 willow.
Pale-streak Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila selasella</i>)	21	Micro	Fairly Common (880)	Resident The larval foodplant in not known in Sussex but is listed elsewhere as unspecified grasses.
Peach Blossom (<i>Thyatira batis</i>)	1	Macro	Common (2,136)	Resident. Larvae feed on bramble and raspberry.
Pebble Prominent (<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>)	1	Macro	Common (4,157)	Resident species found in a wide range of habitats. Double-brooded flying mainly in two overlapping emergences between late April and mid June then from mid-July to late August. Larvae feed on willows and sallows, aspen and balsam poplar.
Rosy Footman (<i>Miltochrista miniata</i>)	6	Macro	Common (6,345)	Resident. Larval foodplants have not been recorded

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				in Sussex, but peltigera canina and other unidentified lichens, growing on trees are mentioned elsewhere.
Rosy-striped Knot-horn (<i>Oncocera semirubella</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Scarce (372)	Nationally Notable Class B. Suspected immigrant and episodic resident. Larvae feed in the shoots of birds-foot trefoil.
Rush Veneer (<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>)	6	Micro	Very Common (8,199)	Immigrant appearing each year in widely varying numbers. Larvae feed on clover and unspecified grasses.
Rusty-dot Pearl (<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>)	2	Micro	Common (7,620)	Immigrant. Larvae feed on hemp agrimony, strawberry and woundwort.
Saltmarsh Knot-horn (<i>Ancylosis oblitella</i>) ^{NFY NFG}	1	Micro	Very Scarce (101)	Resident and suspected immigrant. The larval foodplant has yet to be determined in Sussex, although goosefoot has been listed from elsewhere.
Scalloped Oak (<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>)	2	Macro	Common (7,076)	Resident. The larvae feed on honeysuckle, plum, ivy, birch, ground ivy, sloe and bramble.
Scorched Wing (<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>)	1	Macro	Common (3,234)	
Setaceous Hebrew Character (<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>)	4	Macro	Abundant (20,549)	Resident species reinforced by episodic immigration. Larvae feed on dock and probably other herbaceous plants.
Sharp-angled Peacock (<i>Macaria alternata</i>)	5	Macro	Common (2,159)	Resident. Larvae feed on sloe and sea buckthorn.
Silver Y (<i>Autographa gamma</i>)	2	Macro	Abundant (20,687)	An annual immigrant and episodic resident. The moth usually appears from July to September but large numbers of immigrants can be seen at any time between mid May and early November. The larvae feed on a wide variety of plants.
Single-dotted Wave (<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>)	2	Macro	Common (5,847)	Resident. Larvae feed on Burnet Saxifrage and Beaked Parsley.
Small Grey (<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>)	1	Micro	Common (4,016)	Resident. Larvae feed on unspecified mosses on walls. rocks etc.
Small Mottled Willow (<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>)	47	Macro	Fairly Common (781)	Immigrant. Larvae have not been recorded in Sussex although they have been found on <i>Persicaria</i> elsewhere.
Small Rufous (<i>Coenobia rufa</i>) ^{NFY}	2	Macro	Fairly Common (647)	Resident. Larvae feed on the stems of jointed rush and soft rush.
Snout (<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>)	1	Macro	Very Common (11,707)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Southern Bell (<i>Crociosema plebejana</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Micro	Fairly Common (741)	Resident and suspected immigrant. The larvae are associated with tree-mallow.
Square-spot Rustic (<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>)	3	Macro	Very Common (13,911)	Resident. Larvae feed on unspecified species of ribbon grass.
Straw Dot (<i>Rivula sericealis</i>)	1	Macro	Very Common (10,829)	Resident sometimes reinforced by migration. Larvae feed on unidentified grasses.
Straw Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila straminella</i>)	7	Micro	Common (5,619)	Resident. The larvae feed on unspecified grasses.
Swallow Prominent (<i>Pheosia tremula</i>)	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 willow, poplar and aspen.
Turnip Moth (<i>Agrotis segetum</i>)	1	Macro	Common (5,419)	Resident sometimes reinforced by immigration. Larval foodplants are the roots of turnips and swedes and some other garden and farm crops.
Uncertain/Rustic (<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria/blanda</i>)	3	Macro		
Vagrant Piercer (<i>Cydia amplana</i>)	3	Micro	Fairly Common (665)	Resident and suspected immigrant. Larvae feed inside acorns, hazel nuts and sweet chestnuts.
Vestal (<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>)	1	Macro	Common (1,013)	An immigrant. Larvae have been associated with Knotgrass and Redshank.
White-point (<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>)	5	Macro	Common (7,725)	Immigrant and episodic resident. Larvae feed on unspecified grasses.
Willow Beauty (<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>)	2	Macro	Abundant (16,389)	Redsident. Larvae feed on privet, lilac, ivy,

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				honeysuckle, hawthorn, dock, heather and gorse.
Yponomeuta sp. (Yponomeuta)	5	Macro		

Notable Records

Species	Comment
Alder Kitten (Furcula bicuspis)	Likely to be only the 5th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chilmington.
Brown House Moth (Hofmannophila pseudospretella)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Bud Moth (Spilonota ocellana)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Clouded Border (Lomaspilis marginata)	7 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 5.
Comfrey Ermel (Ethmia quadrillella)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Common White Wave (Cabera pusaria)	2 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 1.
Cream-bordered Green Pea (Earias clorana)	First time recorded at this location.; Likely to be only the 5th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chilmington.
Dark Bordered Pearl (Evergestis limbata)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Dark Fleabane Neb (Apodia bifractella)	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 Chilmington.
Diamond-back Marble (Eudemis profundana)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Dingy Dowd (Blastobasis adustella)	4 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 3.
Ermine Knot-horn (Phycitodes binaevella)	2 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 1.; Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Garden Cosmet (Mompha subbistrigella)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Grey Knot-horn (Acrobasis advenella)	6 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.
Gypsy Moth (Lymantria dispar)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Jersey Tiger (Euplagia quadripunctaria)	8 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.
Leopard Moth (Zeuzera pyrina)	Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.
Lesser Swallow Prominent (Pheosia gnoma)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Miller (Acronicta leporina)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Mocha (Cyclophora annularia)	Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Oak Eggar (Lasiocampa quercus)	Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Ochreous Pearl (Anania crocealis)	Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.
Ox-tongue Conch (Neocoehylis molliculana)	10 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 3.
Pale Prominent (Pterostoma palpina)	5 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.
Pale-streak Grass-veneer (Agriphila selasella)	21 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 4.; Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Rosy-striped Knot-horn (Oncocera semirubella)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Saltmarsh Knot-horn (Ancylosis oblitella)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; First time recorded at this location.
Small Mottled Willow (Spodoptera exigua)	47 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 19.; Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Small Rufous (Coenobia rufa)	2 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 1.;

Species	Comment
	Only the 2nd time recorded at this location.
Southern Bell (<i>Crociosema plebejana</i>)	Likely to be only the 3rd time recorded in Plumpton & East Chilington.
Turnip Moth (<i>Agrotis segetum</i>)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.

Images



Alder Kitten (*Furcula bicuspis*)



Ashy Button (*Acleris sparsana*)



Burnished Brass (*Diachrysia chrysis*)



Diamond-back Marble (*Eudemis profundana*)



Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)



Leopard Moth (*Zeuzera pyrina*)



Miller (*Acronicta leporina*)



Mocha (*Cyclophora annularia*)



Oak Eggar (*Lasiocampa quercus*)



Orange Swift (*Triodia sylvina*)



Pale Mottled Willow (*Caradrina clavipalpis*)



Rosy-striped Knot-horn (*Oncocera semirubella*)



Saltmarsh Knot-horn (*Ancylosis oblitella*)



Scorched Wing (*Plagodis dolabraria*)



Small Rufous (*Coenobia rufa*)



Southern Bell (*Crociosema plebejana*)

Notes

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

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](#))