



Moth Survey Report

Summary

Location:	Green Cross Cottage, South Garden (TQ3615)
Date:	05/09/2026
Survey Method(s):	MV Light
Recorders(s):	Chris Chapman
Moth Count:	251
Species Count: (see notes)	47 New for Year: 7 New for Location: 1 Total new species for Location this Year: 33 Species Count for Year: 363 Species Total for Location: 564
Non-species Count:	0
Notable Record Count:	14

Full List

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

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Ash-bark Knot-horn (<i>Euzophera pinguis</i>)	1	Micro	Common (2,366)	Resident. Larvae feed under the bark of ash
Barred Marble (<i>Celypha striana</i>) *	2	Micro	Common (1,639)	
Black-dotted Groundling (<i>Stenolechia gemmella</i>) NFY NFG	1	Micro	Very Rare (21)	
Brimstone Moth (<i>Opisthagraptis luteolata</i>)	5	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 China-mark (<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>) NFY	1	Micro	Common (1,514)	
Burnished Brass (<i>Diachrysis chrysis</i>)	1	Macro	Common (5,792)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Centre-barred Sallow (<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>)	29	Macro	Common (2,219)	Resident. The larvae feed on ash.
Chinese Character (<i>Cilix glaucata</i>)	1	Macro	Common (4,424)	Resident. Larvae feed on hawthorn, apple, pear, sloe and oak.
Clancy's Rustic (<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>) NFY	1	Macro	Fairly Common (877)	Resident. Larvae have never been discovered in this country.
Common Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila tristella</i>)	10	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>)	2	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 nivalis</i>)	1	Micro	Common (2,280)	Resident. Larvae have been associated with self-heal.
Common Wainscot (<i>Mythimna pallens</i>)	4	Macro	Very Common	Resident. Larvae feed on various grasses.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
			(12,382)	
Delicate (<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>)	4	Macro	Common (2,391)	Immigrant and suspected episodic resident species. Larvae feed on various grasses.
Dusky Thorn (<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>)	1	Macro	Common (6,013)	Resident. The larvae feed on ash and wild privet.
Elbow-stripe Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>)	12	Micro	Common (4,472)	Resident. The larval plant is unknown in Sussex but unspecified grasses are noted for elsewhere.
Feathered Gothic (<i>Tholera decimalis</i>)	3	Macro	Common (2,359)	Resident. Larvae feed on unspecified grasses.
L-album Wainscot (<i>Mythimna l-album</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (4,228)	An immigrant and episodic resident. Larvae feed on unspecified grasses.
Large Yellow Underwing (<i>Noctua pronuba</i>)	36	Macro	Abundant (32,567)	Resident reinforced by regular immigration. Larvae feed on unspecified garden vegetables and flowers.
Lesser Yellow Underwing (<i>Noctua comes</i>)	3	Macro	Very Common (12,869)	A resident species reinforced by episodic immigration. Larvae feed on dock, primrose, nettle, honeysuckle, willowherb and garden arum.
Light Brown Apple Moth (<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>)	1	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>)	11	Macro	Very Common (9,291)	Resident. Larvae feed on beech, birch, oak, ash, heather and grey willow.
Lime-speck Pug (<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Common (7,228)	Resident. Larvae have been specifically found on flowers of ragwort, knapweed, yarrow, burnt saxifrage, ornamental garden races of Canadian golden-rod, scabious and lantana.
Oak Hook-tip (<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>)	5	Macro	Common (3,925)	Resident. Larvae feed on oak.
Orange Sallow (<i>Tiliacea citrargo</i>)	1	Macro	Very Scarce (155)	Resident. The larvae feed on lime.
Ox-tongue Conch (<i>Neocochylis molliculana</i>)	3	Micro	Common (1,059)	Resident. The larvae feed on bristly ox-tongue.
Pale Eggar (<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>)	4	Macro	Scarce (231)	Resident. Occasionally common in a few special deciduous woods. Larvae feed on sloe, hawthorn, and oak and occasionally on wayfaring tree.
Pale Mottled Willow (<i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>)	1	Macro	Common (6,659)	Resident. Larvae feed on bramble, willow, unspecified low-growing plants including thistle, hop, poplar and in captivity oak.
Rhomboid Tortrix (<i>Acleris rhombana</i>) ^{* NFY}	1	Micro	Scarce (360)	
Riband Wave (<i>Idaea aversata</i>)	1	Macro	Very Common (14,278)	Resident. Larvae feed on Bedstraw and Chickweed.
Rush Veneer (<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>)	9	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>)	1	Micro	Common (7,620)	Immigrant. Larvae feed on hemp agrimony, strawberry and woundwort.
Scarce Bordered Straw (<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Fairly Common (784)	
Setaceous Hebrew Character (<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>)	3	Macro	Abundant (20,549)	Resident species reinforced by episodic immigration. Larvae feed on dock and probably other herbaceous plants.
Single-dotted Wave (<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>) [*]	1	Macro	Common (5,847)	Resident. Larvae feed on Burnet Saxifrage and Beaked Parsley.
Six-striped Rustic (<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>)	1	Macro	Common (2,678)	Resident. The larval foodplant has been recorded as unidentified herbaceous plants.
Small Mottled Willow (<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>)	9	Macro	Fairly Common (781)	Immigrant. Larvae have not been recorded in Sussex although they have been found on <i>Persicaria</i> elsewhere.
Snout (<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>)	1	Macro	Very Common (11,707)	Resident. Larvae feed on stinging nettle.
Square-spot Rustic (<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>)	42	Macro	Very Common (13,911)	Resident. Larvae feed on unspecified species of ribbon grass.
Straw Dot (<i>Rivula sericealis</i>)	2	Macro	Very Common (10,829)	Resident sometimes reinforced by migration. Larvae feed on unidentified grasses.
Straw Underwing (<i>Thalophila matura</i>)	3	Macro	Common (4,020)	Resident. Larvae feed on unidentified grasses.

Species	Count	Type	Sussex Status	Comment
Tawny Speckled Pug (<i>Eupithecia icterata</i>) ^{NFY}	1	Macro	Fairly Common (437)	
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.
Vestal (<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>)	16	Macro	Common (1,013)	An immigrant. Larvae have been associated with Knotgrass and Redshank.
Vine's Rustic (<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>)	3	Macro	Very Common (13,502)	Resident and immigrant species. The larval foodplant has not been recorded in Sussex.
White-headed Ermel (<i>Paraswammerdamia albicapitella</i>) *	1	Micro	Scarce (330)	Resident. The larvae feed on sloe.
Willow Beauty (<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>)	8	Macro	Abundant (16,389)	Redsident. Larvae feed on privet, lilac, ivy, honeysuckle, hawthorn, dock, heather and gorse.

Notable Records

Species	Comment
Black-dotted Groundling (<i>Stenolechia gemmella</i>)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; First time recorded at this location.
Brown China-mark (<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>)	Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.
Centre-barred Sallow (<i>Atethmia centrago</i>)	29 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 26.
Clancy's Rustic (<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>)	Likely to be only the 6th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Elbow-stripe Grass-veneer (<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>)	12 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 11.
Feathered Gothic (<i>Tholera decimalis</i>)	3 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 2.; Only the 5th time recorded at this location.
Orange Sallow (<i>Tiliacea citrago</i>)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex
Pale Eggar (<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; 4 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 2.; Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Rhomboid Tortrix (<i>Acleris rhombana</i>)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 4th time recorded at this location.
Scarce Bordered Straw (<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>)	Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.
Tawny Speckled Pug (<i>Eupithecia icterata</i>)	Likely to be only the 4th time recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.
Turnip Moth (<i>Agrotis segetum</i>)	Only the 6th time recorded at this location.
Vestal (<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>)	16 is now the highest number recorded during a single survey at this location. The previous highest count was 6.
White-headed Ermel (<i>Paraswammerdamia albicapitella</i>)	A relatively scarce or rare species within Sussex; Only the 3rd time recorded at this location.

Images



Barred Marble (*Celypha striana*)



Black-dotted Groundling (*Stenolechia gemmella*)



Brown China-mark (*Elophila nymphaeata*)



Chinese Character (*Cilix glaucata*)

Clancy's Rustic (*Caradrina kadenii*)



Feathered Gothic (*Tholera decimalis*)



Lesser Yellow Underwing (*Noctua comes*)



Lime-speck Pug (*Eupithecia centaureata*)



Pale Mottled Willow (*Caradrina clavipalpis*)



Rhomboid Tortrix (*Acleris rhombana*)



Tawny Speckled Pug (*Eupithecia icterata*)



White-headed Ermel (*Paraswammerdamia albicapitella*)

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](#))