

# MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE

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VC57

## November Moth News -

**1st November** - The month started with more leaf mine records. There are now a few really active recorders that have taken up this tricky but interesting side to moth recording. Andrew John Shervill reported the first records of the month, the leaf mines of *Stigmella trimaculella* on Poplar and *Parornix anglicella* on Hawthorn x *lavalleei*, (Lavallee's Hawthorn a type of hybrid) from Alvaston Lake, Derby. Nikki Barrow recorded the first macro moth for the month from her Shirland garden light trap, recording a **Satellite**, also **Light Brown Apple Moth** and a **Spruce Carpet**.

More leaf mines from Mark Radford at Markham Vale with *Tischeria ekebladella* and *Stigmella basiguttella* (a first record for the vice-county) on Oak, *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* on Creeping Thistle and *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* on Gorse.

**2nd November** - I ran my garden light trap in Melbourne and recorded **The Brick**. The first one I've had for a number of years. Andrew John Shervill recorded the leaf mines of *Stigmella anomalella* at Sinfin Moor LNR. I also found several leaf mines at Staunton Harold Reservoir including *Stigmella atricapitella*.



The Brick - Tony Davison©



*Stigmatella basiguttella* - Mark Radford©

**3rd November** - Clive Ashton recorded **December Moth** during a windy night at Cromford, along with **Red-green Carpet**, **Juniper Carpet** and **Feathered Thorn**.

**4th November** - Andrew John Shervill discovered two leaf mines of *Bucculatrix thoracella* and 3 mines of *Stigmella tiliae* on Birch from his inner city Derby garden. Mark Radford recorded *Bucculatrix ulmella* and *Stigmella plagiolella* (classic tadpole mine) from Markham Vale

**November Moth News -*****Bucculatrix thoracella*** - Andrew John Shervill©***Bucculatrix ulmella*** - Mark Radford©***Stigmella plagicolella*** - Mark Radford©**Winter Moth** - Clive Ashton©

**5th November** - Clive Ashton recorded **Winter Moth**, **Mottled Umber**, **Red-green Carpet**, **Juniper Carpet** and **Chestnut** from his Cromford garden light trap. Pete Mella from Norton Lees was pleased with his trap result, 23 ***Tachystola acroxantha*** (**Australian Orange-tip**), 7 **Red-green Carpet**, 3 **Mottled Umber**, **Oak Nycteoline**, **Barred Sallow**, 4 **Light-brown Apple Moth**, 2 ***Acleris sparsana*** and a single **Scarce Umber**. Smith's Gorse, Foremark produced a **Sprawler** for Martin Roome, (the first since 2021 of this rare species in the county), along with 12 **Feathered Thorn**, 3 ***Epirrita agg.*** and a **Red-green Carpet**.

**Sprawler** - Martin Roome©**Oak Nycteoline** - Pete Mella©



## November Moth News -

**6th November** - The mine of *Stigmella atricapitella* was found at Markham Vale by Mark Radford.

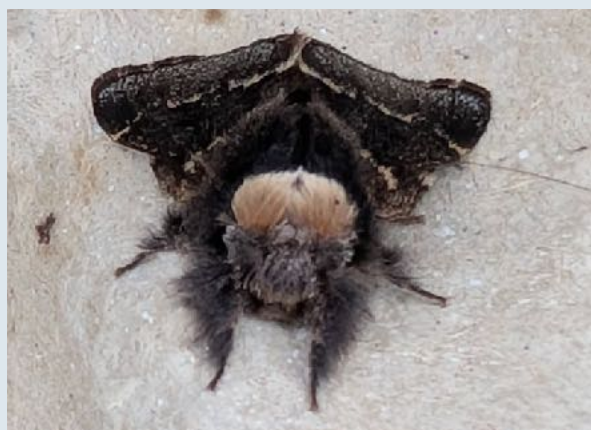


*Stigmella atricapitella* - Mark Radford©



*Stigmella atricapitella* - Mark Radford©

I ran my garden light trap in Melbourne and recorded a **Turnip Moth**, two **Juniper Carpet** and a ***Tachystola acroxantha*** as highlights. Emily Milnes from Sandiacre recorded 30/3 with 27 **Light Brown Apple Moth**, 2 **Red-green Carpet** and a **Juniper Carpet**. From Shirland Nikki Barrow recorded a **December Moth**, **Mottled Umber** and **Feathered Thorn** as her highlights from 9/5. Nikki also had a daytime observation of ***Blastobasis lacticolella*** at The Stone Centre, Wirksworth.



**December Moth** - Nikki Barrow©



**Mottled Umber** - Nikki Barrow©

Matt Leedell found a **Large Wainscot** on an office building on Chequers Road, Derby. Clive Ashton recorded 6 moths of 5 species from his Cromford garden light trap which included **White-point**, **Mottled Umber**, **Juniper Carpet** and a late **Straw Dot**. Sid Morris recording from his Staveley garden had another **White-point** and 3 **December Moth** from 20/5. A **Merveille du Jour** was recorded in Chaddesden by Martin Roome, and Steve Orridge recorded 18/11 from his Buxton garden, with his highlights of **White-point**, 6 **December Moth** and **Angle Shades**. A **Hummingbird hawk-moth** was recorded by Alex Wells at Ridding's, a rather late record but well photographed.

**7th November** - Andrew John Shervill found the leaf mine of ***Coleophora gryphipennella*** at Sunnysdale LNR, Derby on Rosa. A mine that is surely under recorded in the vice-county. Graham Pollock from Quarndon completed his final GMS trap for 2025, recording his first **Mottled Umber** of the year, also a **Diamond-back Moth** and a **Red-green Carpet**.

**November Moth News -**

**7th November** - Christian Heintzen sent the recording team a post advising - *"My wife found this cutie in the house this morning. There was a lifeless bundle of something dangling from a cobweb and we wondered what it was. When I freed it from the web it suddenly started running. Realising what it was it was quickly potted and duly photographed: a female Northern Winter Moth if I am not mistaken. I had 100+ Northern Winter Moth (outnumbering Winter Moth by 25:1) at the trap a couple of nights ago so my best guess is that I carried it into the house with my trapping gear".*



**Northern Winter Moth** - female  
Christian Heintzen©



**Mottled Umber** - Graham Pollock©

Brian Hallam also ran his final GMS trap for the 2025 season from his Findern garden and recorded **December Moth**, **Mottled Umber**, a really well marked **Rush Veneer**, a very late **Vine's Rustic**, 2 **Feathered Thorn** and a **Silver Y**.



**White-point** - Clive Ashton©



**Red Sword-grass** - Ian White©

**8th November** - Ian White recorded a stunning **Red Sword-grass** from his Buxton garden on his last GMS trap of the year. The **Red Sword-grass** seems to be confined to the far north west of the county.



**November Moth News -**

**9th November** - Brian Hobby's final GMS moth trap of the year produced 11 moths of 6 species from his garden in Kirk Hallam. Brian's results were a **Winter Moth**, 3 **December Moth**, **Blair's Shoulder-knot**, **Red-green Carpet**, **Juniper Carpet** and 4 ***Blastobasis adustella***. Mark Radford recorded the mines of ***Exoteleia dodecella*** at Markham Vale. The larva of this species mine the needles of Scots Pine.



**Blair's Shoulder-knot** - Brian Hobby©



***Exoteleia dodecella*** leaf mines - Mark Radford©

Mark Radford recorded the leaf mine of ***Ectoedemia heringi*** (White-spot Dot) at Markham Vale North Tip on the 4th November 2025. It took a few days to sort out and get confirmation of the record which is a first for VC57 Derbyshire. Recording leaf mines is becoming an ever popular side of moth recording, and it just goes to show that the opportunities are out there to find new species for the vice-county.



***Ectoedemia heringi*** - Mark Radford©



***Ectoedemia heringi*** - Mark Radford©



**November Moth News -**

Despite unusually mild conditions for November, between the 9th and 12th there was plenty of heavy rain and breezy weather, making for difficult moth trapping conditions. There were no returns on the 10th and only one set of records on the 11th.

**11th November** - Clive Ashton braved the weather at Cromford and had an overnight result of 20 moths of 6 species which included, 9 **Mottled Umber**, **Scarce Umber**, **Turnip Moth**, **Winter Moth**, 4 **Red-green Carpet** and 4 *Epiphyas postvittana* (**Light Brown Apple Moth**).



**Mottled Umber** - Clive Ashton©



**Scarce Umber** - Clive Ashton©



**Mottled Umber** - Clive Ashton©



**Winter Moth** - Clive Ashton©

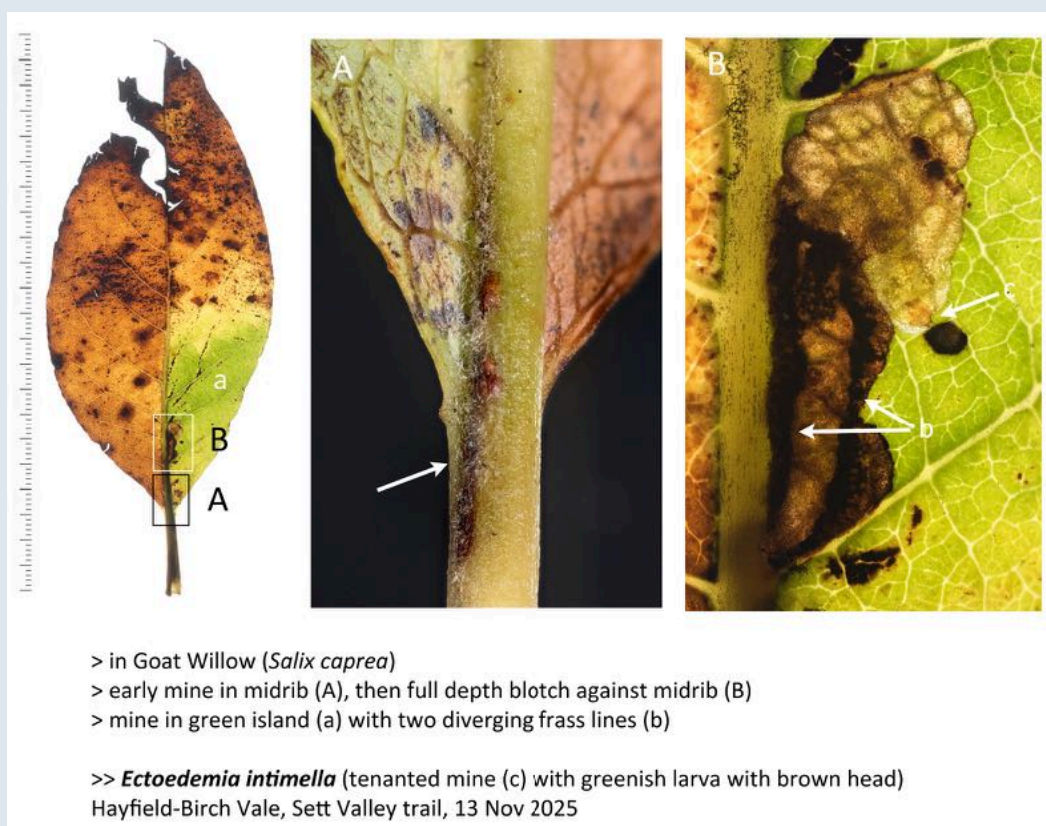
**12th November** - A *Palpita vitrealis* was trapped overnight at Kings Newton by one of our verification team members, Will Soar. Will also had 6 **Rusty Dot Pearl** and 2 **Scarce Umber** among a nice spread of species.



## November Moth News -

*Palpita vitrealis* - Will Soar©*Ectoedemia intimella* - Mark Radford©

**13th November** - A remarkable day as two independent recorders discovered a leaf mine species that has not been recorded in Derbyshire since 1975. Not because the species has become rare or gone missing, simply it has been under-recorded and overlooked, as I am sure is the case with many leaf miner species that have been previously recorded in the county. *Ectoedemia intimella* was found at Sett Valley trail by Christian Heintzen, one of our verification team members, and Mark Radford discovered 12 of the mines at Markham Vale amongst Goat Willow leaf litter. Mark discovered them by the distinctive "Green Islands" that the larvae create whilst mining the leaves.

*Ectoedemia intimella* - Christian Heintzen©

## November Moth News -

**13th November** - cont'd - Clive Ashton ran his light trap in the rain, that seemed to pour down over night, recording 7/4 from his Cromford garden, 4 **December Moth**, **Scarce Umber**, ***Epiphyas postvittana*** and ***Blastobasis lacticolella***. Some intrepid mothing from Clive. I recorded a **Mottled Umber** (NFY) over night from my Melbourne garden.



**December Moth** - Clive Ashton©



**A Quad of December Moths** - Clive Ashton©

**15th November** - Brian Hobby ran his first moth trap for the Winter Garden Moth Scheme (WGMS), with just a single **Mottled Umber**, overnight temperature was 6.4°C.

Richard Winspear found a rather bedraggled moth in Melbourne during the evening of 15th which caused me to make an ID blunder. Should have checked the moth books before making a statement. Photo colouration threw me in thinking it was a rather bedraggled **Merveille du Jour**, but Dave Newcombe got it right in saying it looked like a **Grey Shoulder-knot**. Mark Skevington, the Leicestershire moth recorder, confirmed the ID and agreed on **Grey Shoulder-knot**, explaining why. "Posture is atypical for **Grey Shoulder-knot**, black basal streak makes it Grey or Blair's, and stigmata look a better fit to Grey. Can see no clear pro-MDJ features". Oh well another learning curve.



**Mottled Umber** - Brian Hobby©



**Grey Shoulder-knot** - Richard Winspear©



**November Moth News -**

Well from the 15th onwards bad weather stopped play and mothing came to a grinding halt in terms of regular trapping. The weather conditions were either very wet and windy or very cold with overnight temperatures dropping to below freezing on several nights to the 23rd.

**The 20th November** was an exciting day as Emily Milnes and myself travelled down to Bristol to attend the National Biodiversity Network Conference and Award Ceremony for 2025. Emily entered the Derbyshire Moth Verification and Recording Team into the NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording Group Category earlier in the year. We received notification in September that we had been chosen as a finalist. Well we only went and won it, against some very stiff competition. Well done to all the team and I'm over the moon. What an achievement.



**Our NBN Certificate**

## November Moth News -

**22nd November** - The first moth records since 15th came from Buxton when Steve Orridge recorded a **Satellite** and a **Winter Moth** from his garden light trap, but heavy overnight rain put paid to his MV bulb, spoiling his chances of possibly a few more moths.

**24th November** - Sid Morris conducted his winter survey of Monsal Trail tunnels and recorded 2 **Herald** and 2 **Tissue**.

Towards the month end a warm spell gave a window of opportunity to some recorders and on 27th **December Moths** were recorded by John Turner at New Mills, Martin Roome at Allestree Park (6), Mark Radford at Markham Vale and Brian Hobby at Kirk Hallam (4) who also had **Mottled Umber** (2) a **Silver Y** and a **Light-brown Apple Moth**.



**DecemberMoth** - John Turner©



Brian Hobby's moth trap result©

**29th November** - Christian Heintzen found the leaf mine of **Coptotriche marginea** on bramble. This species must be on the very edge of its distribution here in Derbyshire. The mine was tenanted and you can see the larvae inside the mine. I discovered the leaf mines of **Stigmella aurella** found at Staunton Harold Reservoir.



**Coptotriche marginea** - Christian Heintzen©



**Stigmella aurella** - Tony Davison©

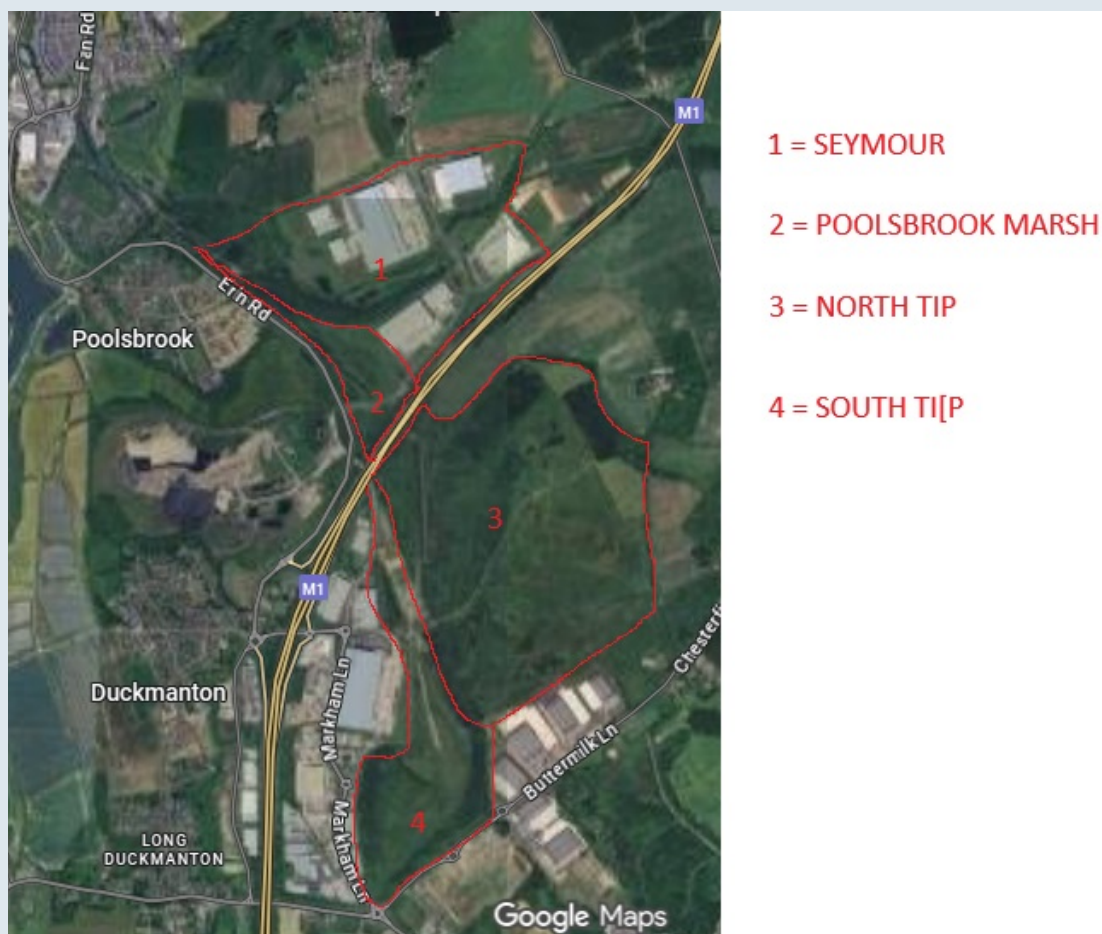


**November Moth News -****Markham Vale update by Mark Radford.**

A team of amateur moth enthusiasts began seriously recording moths, at the Markham Vale reclaimed colliery site, around two and half years ago. Their record keeping has comprised of moth trapping and observations of leaf mines and day-flying moths. The team have recently gone past the 500 milestone and have managed to record several species new to the vice-county, which in such a short space of time is a remarkable achievement. The Markham Vale team comprises of Sid Morris, Mark Radford, Don Cambridge, Jim Windle and April Darby.

**Markham Vale Complex**

Markham Vale is a large, former colliery site in North East Derbyshire. Approximately 300 acres of the site are buildings and infrastructure, the remaining 600 acres is the more interesting part for us naturalists and consists of former colliery spoil heaps and railway sidings that nature has reclaimed over the past 30 years. The site is fairly diverse with woodland, scrub, river, ponds and grassland. For recording purposes we divide the site into four main parts, as seen below (there are a couple of smaller areas controlled by Markham Vale that are not shown such as Hall Lane Ponds in Staveley).



**A Map of the Markham Vale Site**

**November Moth News -****Macro Moths**

Our small group have been recording daytime observations of moths for several years, mostly from individuals seen whilst completing one of our four butterfly transects on site or when completing conservation management tasks, then a couple of years ago everything changed! Sid Morris constructed a moth trap. Since then more of us became interested and now we run up to five traps in short three hour sessions at various locations out on site. As you can imagine our moth list sky rocketed, particularly macros, including a few species that are scarce in the county.

**Micro Moths**

Then came the micros, some fairly easy to identify, others nigh on impossible without resorting to scalpel and microscope, a task which none of us have the required skill or desire to attempt. The solution to this conundrum came in the form of larval stages, particularly leaf mines and larval cases, some of which are very distinct and fairly easy to identify and once you start to look, they're everywhere, even in the smallest garden. The British Leaf-mine website is an invaluable identification tool and very easy to use, just click 'mine keys' in the menu bar and select your desired tree or plant and a list of moth species with dates and mine characteristics opens. We've managed to find several 'new for county' species and many more rare or scarce, often in good numbers indicating a lack of recording.

The Markham Vale moth list is just over 500 with 'new for site' species being added almost weekly, not bad in two and a half years! If you're new to moth trapping or only trap on your garden then nothing can prepare you for the sheer variety and abundance of moths when trapping out in the field.

Markham Vale is easy to find, straight off the M1 at junction 29a and anyone wanting a guided tour or to join us on a trapping session can contact Sid Morris or myself to arrange, everyone is welcome and we'd love to share what we think is a very special site.



**View looking towards Seymour and Poolsbrook**



## November Moth News -



**Looking across South Tip**



**Looking across North Tip**



**November Moth News -**



**South Tip**



**South Tip.**



**November Moth News -**

Christian Heintzen writes - "For the leaf mine enthusiasts it is a good time to look for fallen beech leaves with so called "green islands". These almost always contain the mines of ***Stigmella tityrella***.

The majority of mines are vacated at this time of the year but some are still tenanted (containing a larva). Unfortunately a good proportion of the larvae in tenanted mines are parasitised, with some still containing the larva of a (presumably hymenopteran) parasite actively devouring its host.

The photograph below, of the mine of ***Stigmella tityrella***, shows the larva close to the finish line, when it was discovered by a species of parasitic wasp. You can see the parasitic larva inside the moth larva towards its rear end. Also a video of a healthy ***Stigmella tityrella*** larva munching away at the epidermal layer of the leaf". (click on the photo on the right)

Such fascinating insights into events that take place all around us and often remain unseen.



Mine of ***Stigmella tityrella*** - Christian Heintzen©  
The arrow points at the parasitic larva inside its host.



A video of the larva of ***Stigmella tityrella***  
by Christian Heintzen©



**November Moth News**

**The Derbyshire Macro Moth Report for 2024** has now been released and can be viewed by clicking on the below link or by visiting [www.derbyshiremoths.org](http://www.derbyshiremoths.org) and clicking the link on the home page. <https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/derbyshire-vc57-macro-moth-report-2024/>

Also on the website there is now a full user guide on how to use the site and navigate around it. The document can be downloaded here:-

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/derbyshire-moths-website-user-guide/>





**November Moth News -**

**Moth Photo of the Month - Martin Roome - The Sprawler - Smith's Gorse, 5th November 2025**



The year is quickly coming to an end but another interesting month of moth recording in our county. I do hope you enjoy this edition and especially Mark Radford's introduction to Markham Vale. Good mothing!!

*Tony Davison.*