

# MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE

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VC57

## December Moth News:

A very cold, wet and windy start to the month, which turned mild, but still wet, around the weekend of the 6th. Matt Leedell recorded the first moth for December when he was out walking on the evening 3rd, when using his flashlight, he picked out a **Winter Moth** in woodland off Shaw Lane, Milford.



Winter Moth - Matt Leedell©



December Moth & Dark Chestnut  
Brian Hobby©

**6th December** - Brian Hobby from Kirk Hallam ran his moth trap for his Winter Garden Moth Survey (WGMS) - 3.5°C over night and recorded just two moths, **December Moth** and **Dark Chestnut**. Also Clive Ashton ran his Cromford garden light trap for the first time in over three weeks. Six moths of three species: **Mottled Umber** 4, **December Moth**, a female and **Epiphyas postvittana (Light-brown Apple Moth)**.



December Moth - Clive Ashton©



Mottled Umber - Clive Ashton©

**December Moth News:**

**8th December** - Mark Radford recorded **The Brick** on a tree trunk at Markham Vale, North Tip.

**9th December** - Martin Roome ran a 4x6w LED moth trap at Chaddesden Wood between 18:30 - 20:45 and recorded **Chestnut**, **December Moth**, **Mottled Umber** (9), **Red-green Carpet** and **Winter Moth** (7male and 1 female).

**10th December**- Martin Roome recorded 31 **Heralds** and 11 **Peacock Butterflies** roosting in the Calke Park tramway tunnel.

**11th December**- Emily Milnes ran her first moth trap in over a month from her Sandiacre garden and for her efforts recorded 2 **Light-brown Apple Moth** and a single **Mottled Umber**.



**Mottled Umber** - Emily Milnes©



**Chestnut** - Christine Maughan©

Christine Maughan ran her garden moth trap at Mickleover managing to record a **Chestnut**, **Winter Moth** and **Light-brown Apple Moth**.

**16th December** - Bryan Barnacle recorded the third record for VC57 Derbyshire on 16th December 2025 at Froggatt of ***Carpatolechia decorella*** during daylight, as he watched it fly across his garden landing on a nearby window. After a number of tentative conversations on the ID of the moth, which does not show the usual markings of the species, it has today been confirmed by Stephen Palmer. Many thanks to Bryan for the use of his image and to Stephen for ID confirmation.



***Carpatolechia decorella*** - Bryan Barnacle©



***Carpatolechia decorella*** - Bryan Barnacle©

**December Moth News:**

**19th December** - Brian Hobby ran his WGMS (Winter Garden Moth Survey) at Kirk Hallam despite temperature down to 0.1°C on his weather station. He was pleased to record three moths - **Mottled Umber**, **Common Plume** and ***Ypsolopha ustella* (Varied Ochre)**, a nice micro moth to record at this time of year.



Mottled Umber - Brian Hobby©



Common Plume - Brian Hobby©

*Ypsolopha ustella* Brian Hobby©

**22nd December** - Sid Morris completed his surveys of the Monsal Tunnels for December, recording a **Tissue** from Headstone Tunnel and two each of the **Herald** from Cressbrook and Litton tunnels.



The Tissue - Headstone Tunnel - Sid Morris©

**24th December** - Mark Radford discovered the larval cases of ***Coleophora lutipennella*** on the tips of Oak buds at Markham Vale North Tip.

**27th December** - Brian Hobby ran his WGMS at Kirk Hallam and despite temperature being 5.7°C, he only recorded a single **Winter Moth** for his efforts.

**December Moth News:*****Coleophora lutipennella*** - Mark Radford©**Winter Moth** - Brian Hobby©

**29th December** - Mark Radford produced the last moth post for 2025 with several records of larval cases from Markham Vale South Tip. Discovering numerous ***Coleophora laricella*** (13 cases in ten minutes), one larval case of ***Coleophora lutipennella*** and ***Coleophora alticolella/glaucicolella*** estimated to be in their thousands across the Juncus beds on the reserve.

***Coleophora lutipennella*** - Mark Radford©***Coleophora laricella*** - Mark Radford©

There is now a new user guide for the DerbyshireMoths.org website, with contents page and fully indexed. You can download a copy here:

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

**December Moth News:**

A plan is in place to present a live zoom meeting in February to cover in detail the moth highlights of 2025, so keep an eye open for further information. In the meantime here are some snippets.

With 2025 drawn to a close, let's look back over the year's moth highlights - There were 3 new macro moths for the recording area - **Kent Black Arches** and **Small Marbled** in June and **Cloaked Pug** in July. There were 17 new species of micro moths (includes 6 Leaf Mines) which included **Caloptilia falconipennella** and **Depressaria daucella** in March, **Ancylis upupana** in May, **Grapholita lobarezewskii** and **Argyresthia arceuthina** in June, **Monochroa cytisella**, **Dichomeris alacella** and **Phyllonorycter joannisi** in July, **Evergestis extimalis** and **Zimmermannia atrifrontella** in August and **Nephopterix angustella** in September.

2025 was truly a good year for micro moths and one of the best in recent times. Two moth reports have been completed this year - The 2024 report covering Derbyshire Macro Moths, which was published in the DaNES Journal No: 174 and a copy can be downloaded here if you are not a member of DaNES :-

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/derbyshire-vc57-macro-moth-report-2024/>

also a five year Micro Moth Report covering 2020-2024 update & new species. The document is currently with DaNES awaiting publication in their next journal.

The VC57 Derbyshire recording area is now right up to date with reference to moth reports and moth recording. Many thanks to the recording team for their continuous hard work during the year in verifying the data and to you the moth recorders for your support in terms of submission of your valuable records.

Just to close with a friendly reminder regarding 2025 moth records. Please ensure that:

**All 2025 moth records need to be entered to iRecord please by end of March 2026.** This will allow me to begin to prepare for the 2025 Macro Moth report.

**I'll ask this question again, if anyone wants to submit any articles of interest relating to Moth Trapping, ID features etc., please feel free to get in touch.**

Hope you have had an enjoyable 2025 year of Moth-ing and let's all look forward to 2026. Here's hoping for one or two new Macro moths and I dare say a host of leaf mines and more micros to follow. My prediction for 2026 is **Clancy's Rustic**.

All the best

*Tony Davison*

**December Moth News:**

Clive Ashton has completed the below collage of some of his memorable Macro Moths from 2025.

Clive submitted 4,304 records of 507 species during 2025. Do you appear in the top 20 recorders for 2025? - click here to find out - <https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/recorder-records/>.

