

# MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE<sup>©</sup>



Produced and edited by Tony Davison - [www.derbyshiremoths.org](http://www.derbyshiremoths.org)

VC57

## January Moth News:

**2nd January** - The first post for January 2026 was from Graham Finch, who discovered a larval case of *Coleophora flavipennella*, found on oak buds at Calke Park Explore. In the photograph below you can clearly see the humped appearance towards the end of the case, which is created from leaf debris during the construction process. The larval case of the similar *Coleophora lutipennella*, is made entirely from silk.



*Coleophora flavipennella* - Graham Finch©



*Coleophora flavipennella* - Graham Finch©

**4th January** - Well what a start to the new mothling year, when Will Soar discovered a new species for VC57. He found a larval case of *Luffia lapidella* on a stone wall at Willington. It is incredible that this species of bagworm, which is one of the most commonly recorded in the UK, is the first one, to our knowledge, to be recorded in Derbyshire.



*Luffia lapidella* - Will Soar©

**January Moth News:**

**6th January** - Andrew-John Shervill recorded the first **Light Brown Apple Moth** of the year when he found a single whizzing around his kitchen, in inner city Derby. The first of many no doubt!

**7th January** - Martin Roome investigated the old tunnels at Ticknall Lime Yards and found 43 **Herald** in hibernation and 2 more at another location.

**8th January** - Mark Radford continues to discover leaf-mines at Markham Vale North Tip, with ***Phyllonorycter ulicicolella*** on Gorse from a new site. Note the paler stem. Mark also recorded the mines of ***Phyllonorycter leucographella*** (Firethorn Leaf-miner). A common species whose larvae mine the leaves of *Pyracantha*. Graham Finch recorded 32 **Herald** from the garden tunnel at Calke Park, along with 100's of ***Pammene regiana*** cocoons, under Sycamore bark and a few larvae crawling around.



***Phyllonorycter ulicicolella*** - Mark Radford©



***Phyllonorycter ulicicolella*** - Mark Radford©



**Herald** - Graham Finch©

**January Moth News:***Pammene regiana* cocoons - Graham Finch©*Pammene regiana* larva - Graham Finch©

**12th January** - More interesting records from Mark Radford at Markham Vale. Whilst surveying the many Teasel seed-heads onsite, Mark discovered the larvae of *Endothenia marginana* (black head with an anal comb) and *Endothenia gentianaeana* (brown head and no anal comb). From the teasel heads that were opened, around 75% were tenanted. Brian Hobby, from Kirk Hallam, ran his 2nd trap of the year and managed to record one moth, the first **Chestnut** for 2026. The first **Spring Usher** of the year was recorded by Emily Milnes from Sandiacre, the moth in her garden moth trap.

**13th January** - Martin Roome recorded at least 12 **Spring Usher** from Chaddesden Wood between 17:30 and 19:00 hrs, temperature 5°C, using a 4 light travel pendant LED Lights set-up, I think this is the first time this type of lighting has been used in the county to my knowledge.

**Chestnut** - Brian Hobby©**Spring Usher** - Emily Milnes©

**17th January** - Mark Radford discovered the spore bodies on Hart's Tongue Fern of *Psychooides verhuella* at Markham Vale North Tip. There were 100+ displaced spore bodies found but only one was opened in order to reveal the larva to confirm the identification. Note the black head, prothoracic shield and anal plate, key features that distinguish *P. verhuella* from *P. flivivora*.

**January Moth News:*****Psychoides verhuella*** - Mark Radford©***Psychoides verhuella*** - Mark Radford©

**17th January** - Dave Newcombe ran his garden moth trap at Belper, for the first time since 13th November 2025, and recorded just a single **Early Moth**, which was not a bad record.

**Early Moth** - Dave Newcombe©**Pale Brindled Beauty** - Clive Ashton©

**19th January** - Spring is in the air! - Christian Heintzen reporting from Glossop on his first moth trap of the year recording a good selection of winter/early spring species, a late **Mottled Umber**, first **Dotted Border** of the year, **Spring Usher**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, first **March Moth** of the year and ***Tortricodes alternella***. (see Christian's stunning plate on next page). Also from Chaddesden Wood, Martin Roome had 8 **Spring Usher** and 3 ***Tortricodes alternella***. Clive Ashton from Cromford, recorded his first moth of the year, a **Pale Brindled Beauty**. Whilst Mark Radford put some more time in at Markham Vale, discovering the larval case of ***Coleophora flavipennella***, and what appears to be, ***Coleophora lutipennella***, both species on Oak buds. Please note that contrary to some opinions, you cannot identify ***C. lutipennella*** from ***C. flavipennella*** on the position of the larval case on the food-plant. Both species can position their larval cases on either the side bud, or a terminal bud. The best way to ID these two species is by the construction of the larval case. This is very important in order to get a correct ID. Check the website for more details.

**January Moth News:*****Coleophora flavipennella*** - Mark Radford©***Coleophora flavipennella*** - Mark Radford©

Mark Radford's super photo of the larval case of ***Coleophora flavipennella*** above, clearly shows the amazing construction of the case. In the left hand photo you can clearly see the leaf debris on the right hand side, built up like a small hump. This is the classic ID feature of the case for this species. The larval case of ***Coleophora lutipennella*** is constructed entirely of silk and looks totally different. Good photographs of the larval case must accompany the record for verification please.

Christian Heintzen's plate of winter/spring moths  
from 19th January 2026

## January Moth News:

**20th January** - Tanya Fisher found an **Early Moth** on her doorstep at Stretton and Andrew-John Shervill recorded ***Tinea pellionella* (Case-bearing Clothes Moth)** in his Bathroom in Inner City Derby. You don't necessarily need moth traps to record moths!

**23rd January** - Continuing the none moth trap theme, Matt Leedell discovered a **Spring Usher** on an office building on Chequers Road, Derby and Clive Ashton found a **Pale Brindled Beauty** on the inside of a toilet door at Carsington Reservoir. Finally a **Chestnut** was recorded by Clive Ashton from his garden moth trap at Cromford.

**24th January** - Sid Morris conducted his Monsal Trail Tunnels survey - Headstone Tunnel, no moths, Cressbrook Tunnel 3 **Herald** and Litton Tunnel just 1 **Herald**.



**Early Moth** - Tanya Fisher©



**Chestnut** - Clive Ashton©

Mark Radford continued his success of discovering some superb leaf-mines at Markham Vale and Hall Lane Ponds. Several mines (10+) in the bark of an Oak tree belonging to ***Zimmermannia atrifrontella/longicaudella*** (most likely ***a. atrifrontella*** due to limited range of ***Z. longicaudella***). The mines cannot be told apart and neither can the adults (CAT4) which require Gen Det. A great historical record to the Genus nevertheless.



***Zimmermannia atrifrontella/longicaudella***  
Mark Radford©



***Stigmella aurella*** - Mark Radford©

### January Moth News:

**25th January** - From Hall Lane Ponds, Markham Vale at least 200 mines of *Stigmella aurella* and a much harder mine to find was that belonging to *Coptotriche marginata* both on Bramble and both found by Mark Radford. Mark also found the larvae of *Metzneria metzneriella* inside the hard seed casings of Knapweed.



**Seed Case of Knapweed** - Mark Radford©



**Larva of Metzneria metzneriella** - Mark Radford©

**29th January** - Mark Radford discovered the silk spinnings of *Agonopterix assimilella* on Broom stems at Markham Vale. The three stems were spun together by the larva. Mark opened up the spinnings to reveal the dark purple/brown larva which quickly retreated deeper into the stem. Despite plenty of Broom onsite, he only managed to find just three silk spinnings. Mark also discovered four mines of *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* in a new area of Markham Vale. All were found on straggly Gorse bushes with thinly distributed spines and in partial shade.



**Agonopterix assimilella - silk spinnings** -  
Mark Radford©



**Phyllonorycter ulicicolella** - Mark Radford©

**January Moth News:**

**30th January** - Martin Roome braved the weather for an hour in Chaddesden Wood before the downpour stopped play! He recorded a single **Pale Brindled Beauty** and a **Tortricodes alternella**. Brian Hobby recorded a **Pale Brindled Beauty** at Kirk Hallam (temperature was 3.4°C).

**31st January** - After a month of empty traps, Pete Mella recorded his first moth of the year at Norton Lees, a **Pale Brindled Beauty**. Finally Clive Ashton recorded **Agonopterix heracliana/ciliella** to his 20W actinic at Cromford, bringing the January moth records to a close.

**January finished on 25 species for the year.**

Another friendly reminder, If you haven't already done so, can you please upload your 2025 moth records to iRecord. With over 1000 species recorded in 2025, it's looking like a bumper year for moths in Derbyshire. It would be a great shame to miss out on any records not yet uploaded. I have set a deadline of end of March 2026, which will hopefully give people plenty of time.

Please remember that moth recording is conducted to monitor population trends, assess environmental health, and inform vital conservation efforts. Moth recording also provides the evidence base for Nature Recovery, as we all know that many species are in decline due to habitat loss and climate change. So your valuable records are really important to us.

The records you submit to our database on iRecord are contributing towards scientific research via the Butterfly Conservation's National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS). Moths have been studied for hundreds of years and moth recording is now more popular than ever before.

Thank you so much.

So that's the end of the first Moth Bulletin for 2026. Some interesting records to "Kick Start" the year, but for some of us this year's moth trapping has yet to get started.

Good Moth-ing

*Tony Davison*

**January Moth News:**

**Moth of the Month - Spring Usher by Martin Roome - Chaddesden Wood 13th January 2026**

A really good image of one of the early spring species. This is a particularly well marked individual.



**Spring Usher - Martin Roome©**