

MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE



Produced and edited by Tony Davison - www.derbyshiremoths.org

VC57

February Moth News:

February commenced with some of the wettest weather on record, with almost continuous rain and grey skies for the first 7 days and recorders found few opportunities to moth trap.

1st February - Clive Ashton recorded the first species for February, a single *Agonopterix heracliana/ciliella* from his Cromford garden 20W actinic. Clive also discovered the larva of **Marbled Beauty** on a lichen covered wall. Pete Mella from Norton Lees managed to record 4 **Pale Brindled Beauty** and a *Tortricodes alternella*.

3rd February - Mark Radford spent several hours searching a local graveyard and discovered around 50 larval cases of *Luffia lapidella*, certainly putting this species well and truly on the Derbyshire map, after the first record for VC57 was one case being found in early January.

4th February - Further exploration of the Staveley cemetery, Mark found another 100+ *Luffia lapidella* larval cases. Interestingly Springtails were in close association with the larval cases, likely benefitting from the micro-habitat or by feeding on the same lichen/algal growth that the moth larva consumes. This association is described as potential Commensalism.



Luffia lapidella with Springtail - Mark Radford©



Luffia lapidella larval case - Mark Radford©

7th February - A single **Pale Brindled Beauty** to Martin Roome's Chaddesden garden mv light. Brian Hobby ran his WGMS at Kirk Hallam recording 5 moths of 3 species, **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2); **Dotted Border** (2) and a single *Ypsolopha ustella*.

8th February - Clive Ashton found a single **Early Moth** on a door at Carsington Reservoir visitor centre.

February Moth News:

9th February - Martin Roome recorded 22/6 between 18:00 - 20:30 at Chaddesden Wood - **Pale Brindled Beauty** (13); **Dotted Border** (2); **Spring Usher** (1); **Common Quaker** (1); **Tortricodes alternella** (4) and a single **Ypsolopha ustella**. Clive Ashton found a **Scarlet Tiger** caterpillar on his garden fence at Cromford. Just two moths from his overnight garden trap - **Dotted Border** and **Agonopterix heracliana/ciliella**.

10th February - Mark Radford discovered 46 **Luffia lapidella** cases, which he found whilst searching Eckington Cemetery, some contained actively feeding larvae. More importantly, Mark also found, 108 **Dahlica triquetrella**, a new species for VC57 Derbyshire. The identification has taken sometime to get confirmed as it is a very tricky species. Trevor Pendleton finally confirmed the ID on 12th February 2026. At Norton Lees, Pete Mella recorded **Ypsolopha ustella** and a soggy **Satellite**.



Dahlica triquetrella - active larva in larval case - Mark Radford©

Mark Radford spent a week (6th - 12th Feb) surveying local cemeteries in his area and has produced the following results. Staveley - 150 **Luffia lapidella**; Brimington Cemetery none; Bolsover Churchyard 17 **Dahlica triquetrella**; Eckington Cemetery 46 **Luffia lapidella** and 108 **Dahlica triquetrella**; Barlborough Churchyard none and Clowne Churchyard 39 **Luffia lapidella**.

11th February - I ran my garden light trap in Melbourne for the first time this year and recorded a **Chestnut** and an early **Common Quaker**, from 17:30 - 22:30hrs.



Common Quaker - Tony Davison©



Chestnut - Tony Davison©

February Moth News:

Also on the **11th February** Clive Ashton ran his 20W actinic on Rose End Meadows from 17:30 - 20:00hrs, recording 3 moths: 2 **Chestnut** and a **March Moth**.

13th February - Pete Mella discovered the larval cases of *Narycia duplicella*, on an old lichen covered wall in the Gleadless Valley. Probably a first record for VC57 Derbyshire of the larval cases of this bagworm. Mark Skevington confirmed the ID based on shape of the larval cases.



Narycia duplicella - larval case - Pete Mella



Narycia duplicella - larval case - Pete Mella

20th February - Brian Hobby recorded a single **Hebrew Character** during his weekly WGMS (Winter Garden Moth Scheme).

22nd February - A break in the weather as mild conditions arrived and one or two traps were active. The first **Oak Beauty** of the year was recorded from Norton Lees by Pete Mella, who also trapped his first **Spring Usher** for his garden. A few **Common Quaker** were recorded from Derby, Sandiacre and Norton Lees. Clive Ashton trapped a **Satellite** in Cromford, the second one of the year.



Oak Beauty - Pete Mella©



Satellite - Clive Ashton©

February Moth News:

24th February - the evening of the 24th turned out to be a bumper night for Derbyshire moth recorders. Ten trapping sessions were reported via DMFG (Derbyshire Moth Facebook Group) - a good spread of early spring species were on the wing with a number of **Common Quaker**, **Spring Usher**, **March Moth**, **Dotted Border**, **Satellite**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, and **Oak Beauty**, including a very unusual colour form (aberration form) **ab. berus** from Long Clough, Glossop by Christian Heintzen. Christian researched the colour form via the Natural History Portal and a subsequent search for the original publication. Quite a distinctive looking individual.



Oak Beauty form *ab.berus* - Christian Heintzen©



Acleris laterana - Tony Davison©

The first records of **Shoulder Stripe** and **Engrailed** from Sid Morris at Markham Vale, **Small Quaker**, **Clouded Drab** and ***Acleris laterana*** from Tony Davison at Melbourne, **Yellow Horned** from Dave Evans at Belper and **Pale Pinion** from Emily Milnes at Sandiacre. Clive Ashton from Cromford recorded ***Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*** and Nikki Barrow recorded just 2 **Hebrew Character** from her garden moth trap at Shirland.

25th February - Firsts for the year of **Pine Beauty** from Emily Milnes at Sandiacre and **Grey Shoulder-knot** from Pete Mella at Norton Lees. I was so pleased to see Dave Evans back out moth trapping again and good to see him recording some useful moths. **Shoulder Stripe**, **Pale Pinion**, **Hebrew Character**, **March Moth**, **Clouded Drab**, the first ***Diurnia fagella*** for the year and ***Agonopterix heracliiana/ciliella*** all from his Belper garden light trap.



Pine Beauty - Emily Milnes©



Grey Shoulder-knot - Pete Mella©

February Moth News:

Shoulder Stripe - Dave Evans©



Clouded Drab - Dave Evans©

Clive Ashton ran two moth traps, one in a local woodland and one in his garden, both at Cromford, with results of **Shoulder Stripe**, **Chestnut** 6, **Satellite** 2, **Common Quaker** 5, **March Moth** 3, **Hebrew Character** 2, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Yellow Horned** 6, ***Tortricodes alternella*** 30, and ***Agonopterix heracliiana/ciliella***



Satellites - Clive Ashton©

***Tortricodes alternella*** - Clive Ashton©

26th February - Whilst checking a dividing wall between Staveley Hall and Staveley Churchyard, Mark Radford has discovered what is highly likely to be the larval cases of ***Diplodoma laichartingella***, the first record in VC57 Derbyshire since 1892. The cases are made up with lots of tiny insect bits and pieces and are exactly the same in appearance to others that have been posted on the internet on varying moth websites. Another remarkable find by Mark who has spent a fair amount of time looking for ***Psychidae*** moth cases.

The difficulty with ***Psychidae*** is that the adults are short-lived, with the males alive from a few hours to rarely more than a day. Females may live for up to two weeks and are usually wingless, except in the case of ***Diplodoma laichartingella***, where both sexes are fully winged. The males flying by day, often in sunshine and neither sex are attracted to lights, which is why the species maybe under-recorded.

February Moth News:



Diplodoma laichartingella - larval case
Mark Radford©



Diplodoma laichartingella - larval case
Mark Radford©



Shoulder Stripe - Clive Ashton©



Common Quakers - Brian Hobby©



Yellow Horned - Clive Ashton©



Small Quaker - Tony Davison©

February Moth News:

Another month comes to a close all too quickly. February has been a very interesting month, particularly for the discovery of a variety of *Psychidae* larval cases. Mark Radford has done a sterling job regarding this family. He has put in many hours and already discovered a new species for the Vice County, *Dahlica triquetrella*, quite simply put *Luffia lapidella* well and truly on the Derbyshire map, with the discovery of several 100 larval cases from two sites and recorded the larval cases of *Diplodoma laichartingella*, the first records for the Vice County and first record of the species since 1892. Pete Mella also recorded *Narycia duplicella*, another first record for VC57 Derbyshire of the larval cases.

We have already recorded 21 species of macro moth and 26 species of micro moth so far this year.

To follow is a resume of the highlights of the 2025 Derbyshire Mothing Year. A full and detailed report on the macros and micros for 2025 will appear in the forthcoming Derbyshire Moth Reports to be published later in the year.

In the meantime we look forward to what the month of March may bring.

Good Mothing.

Tony Davison.

MOTH OF THE MONTH

This month's moth of the month goes to Christian Heintzen's **Oak Beauty** of the form *ab. berus* recorded on 24th February 2026, Long Clough, Glossop.



OAK BEAUTY *ab.berus* - Christian Heintzen©

February Moth News:**Highlights from 2025 :-**

- The recording team commenced the revival of VC57 Derbyshire moth records early 2024.
- Since then the team of 10 volunteers; 2 County Recorders and 8 verifiers, have completely rejuvenated Derbyshire's moth recording, verifying well over 180,000 records in two years, which includes over 40,000 records that were sitting on the iRecord database that were previously untouched. This doesn't include the back-dated records that many recorders submitted for past years.
- There has been a huge support from over 500 recorders across the county, who have willingly submitted their records through either iRecord (the preferred platform) or iNaturalist.
- A very small number of records are now submitted via other sources.
- Over 231,000 moth records are now on iRecord for VC57 Derbyshire, with some 500,000 records sitting on the Derbyshiremoths.org website. Nearly 270,000 records have been provided by BC (Butterfly Conservation) and DaNES (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Entomological Society) in the form of legacy records and historical records for use in preparing moth reports and status maps.
- Gradually we are building up a much better profile of the county's moths and a solid base for future analysis and statistics. This data which has simply not been available to a wider audience before, will help towards a better understanding of Derbyshire's moths for future generations.
- To date (end of February 2026) 1,011 species were recorded in 2025 from 1,295 sites, with 51,874 records submitted to the iRecord database. The verification team process all records carefully and within strict national guidelines, but some slight adjustments are taken into account to suit our local vice county requirements. The team often review species and so inevitably have to re-contact recorders for additional information or photographs, especially on scarcities and changes in status.
- During 2025 a total of 472 macro moths and 539 species of micro moth were recorded within the VC57 area.
- There were 3 new species of macro moth recorded during 2025 :-
Kentish Black Arches, Small Marbled and Cloaked Pug.
- There were 18 new species of micro moth, which included 6 new leaf-miners :-
***Caloptilia falconipennella*; *Depressaria daucella*; *Ancylis upupana*; *Grapholita lobarzewskii*; *Argyresthia arceuthina*; *Monochroa cytisella*; *Dichomeris alacella*; *Bedellia somnulentella*; *Evergestis extimalis*; *Zimmermania atrifrontella*; *Denesia albimaculea*; *Nephopterix angustella*.** The Leaf-miners were - ***Acrocercops brongniardella*; *Coleophora inulae*; *Phyllonorycter comparella*; *Stigmella basiguttella*; *Ectoedemia heringi*; *Phyllocnistis xenia*.**

February Moth News:

- Other moth highlights were the 2nd and 3rd records of **Blossom Underwing**, a small influx of **Four-spotted Footman**, the first records since 1894, a single record of **Pauper Pug** during May, the first **Bordered Sallow** since 2010, the 2nd record of **Brindled White Spot**, the first record of **Lunar-spotted Pinion** since 2020, the first record of **Pimpinel Pug** since 2001, 2nd record of **Dark Crimson Underwing** on 13th July, 4th and 5th records of **Ni Moth** during a superb year of migrant moths into Derbyshire. The rare **Dusky Lemon Sallow** was recorded on 19th September and 5th October from what appears to be one remaining site in the county. The macro moth year was brought to a close by a record of the **Sprawler**, the first one since 2021.
- The micro moth year was just as interesting with the first new species on 24th March, **Caloptilia falconipennella**. **Depressaria daucella** was identified by genitalia dissection (Gen Det) and recorded from Buxton on 26th March. The first new leaf-miner for the year was **Acrocercops brongniardella**, discovered at Markham Vale on 7th May. **Ancyliis upupana**, a nationally scarce B species, was new for VC57 when one was recorded on 25th May. **Evergestis extimalis** was a new species and likely a migrant, recorded from Shirland on 13th August.
- Full details of all the new species and other statistical data will appear in the forthcoming Derbyshire Moth Reports for 2025.
- In early 2025, the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) opened their annual award nominations for individuals, groups of people or organisations that are making outstanding contributions to wildlife recording in the UK. This was developed by the NBN Trust in partnership with the National Forum for Biological Recording and the Biological Records Centre. As a team, we decided to put ourselves forward for it with zero expectations for an award. At the time, when the nominations were opened, the Derbyshire Joint Recording Team had verified just under 155,000 records in 16 months.
- In November 2025, the Joint Derbyshire Moth Verification and Recording Team **won** the NBN group award, the natural history equivalent of the Oscars (and a shock as we were up against The National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme!). It was an absolute honour to be involved and really exciting to win.
- Some reminders from the Verification team - It is very important that when entering your records to iRecord can you please ensure you complete the Stage of the Moth i.e. adult or Larva or Mine (if a leaf Mine) - please do not use sub-adult or just leave blank, this will totally mess-up the plotting of the map records on the website, but more importantly the data that goes through to the National Moth Recording Scheme will also be affected. Please also use rounded numbers of moths e.g. 1, 2, 50, 120 and not approx 50, or 50+, or about 100 etc. The numbers can be rounded up for example if you are counting leaf mines estimate to a rounded number.
- Many thanks for your assistance.

February Moth News:• **Top 10 recorders for 2025 based on verified records**

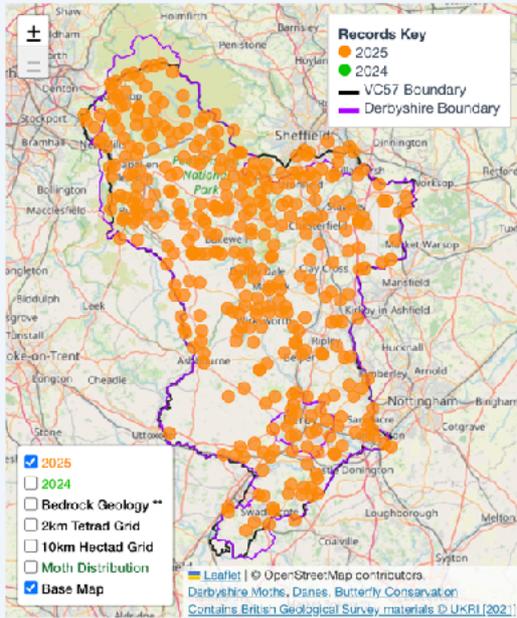
Rank	Recorder	Records	Species	First	latest
1	Dave Evans	4,659	575	02/02/2025	11/10/2025
2	Clive Ashton	4,304	507	21/02/2025	08/12/2025
3	Dave Newcombe	3,133	361	07/03/2025	20/08/2025
4	Steve Orridge	2,479	374	21/02/2025	27/11/2025
5	Christian Heintzen	1,948	379	14/01/2025	29/11/2025
6	Jan Turner	1,907	255	20/02/2025	20/10/2025
7	Pete Mella	1,849	300	08/03/2025	05/11/2025
8	Martin Roome	1,827	318	05/03/2025	06/11/2025
9	Brian Hallam	1,810	322	20/02/2025	12/11/2025
10	Stephen Plant	1,725	270	08/03/2025	22/12/2025

• **Top 10 moths for 2025 based on abundance totals.**

Rank	Checklist No:	Taxon	Vernacular Name	Abundance totals	Total records	First	Last
1	73.342 BF2107	Noctua pronuba	Large Yellow Underwing	21,084	1230	04/03/2025	12/11/2025
2	49.039 BF998	Idaea aversata	Riband Wave	4,454	676	16/05/2025	17/10/2025
3	70.016 BF1713	Agrotis exclamationis	Heart and Dart	4,310	645	24/04/2025	10/10/2025
4	70.226 BF1906	Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches	3,319	552	16/05/2025	12/11/2025
5	73.317 BF2089	Epiphyas postvittana	Light Brown Apple Moth	2,981	847	15/01/2025	22/12/2025
6	70.258 BF1937	Agrotis puta	Shuttle-shaped Dart	2,364	596	12/04/2025	30/10/2025
7	73.329 BF2102	Peribatodea rhomboidaria	Willow Beauty	1,885	611	16/05/2025	13/10/2025
8	73.325 BF2092	Opisthograptis luteolata	Brimstone Moth	1,798	653	03/04/2025	17/10/2025
9	73.162 BF2321	Ochropleura plecta	Flame Shoulder	1,439	593	11/04/2025	18/10/2025
10	70.097 BF1764	Dysstroma truncata	Common Marbled Carpet	1,152	526	29/04/2025	30/10/2025

Distribution Map for Macro Moths in VC57 Derbyshire

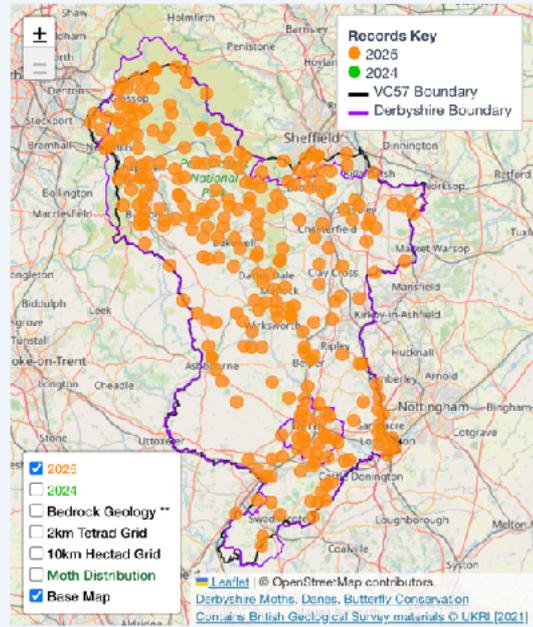
From 63,666 records
└ 26,248 records from 2024
└ 37,418 records from 2025



Macro Moth records 2025

Distribution Map for Micro Moths in VC57 Derbyshire

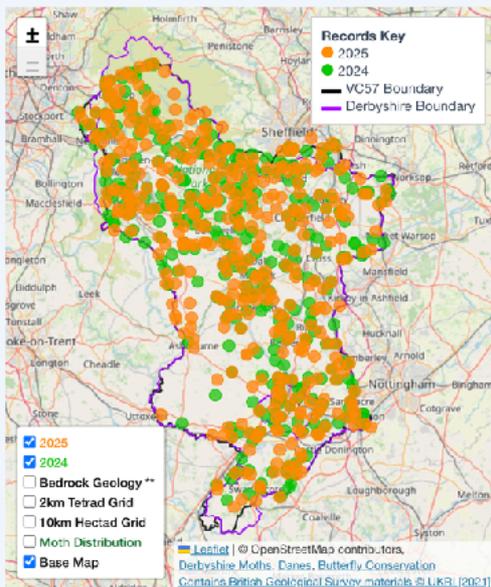
From 23,474 records
└ 9,731 records from 2024
└ 14,343 records from 2025



Micro Moth records 2025

Distribution Map for Macro Moths in VC57 Derbyshire

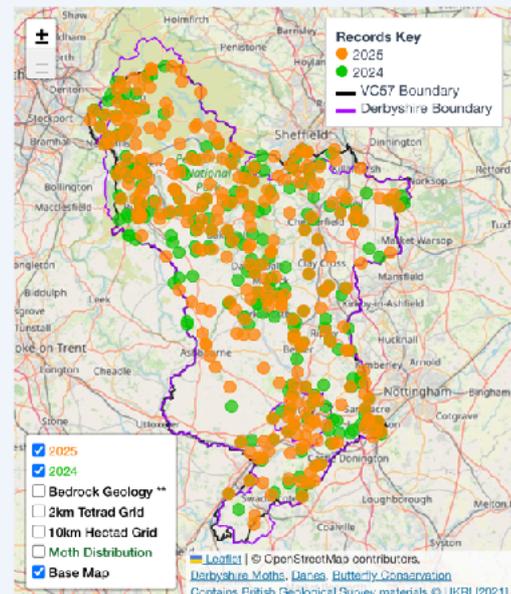
From 63,752 records
└ 26,248 records from 2024
└ 37,504 records from 2025



Macro Moth 2025 records overlaid over 2024 records

Distribution Map for Micro Moths in VC57 Derbyshire

From 23,501 records
└ 9,131 records from 2024
└ 14,370 records from 2025



Micro Moth 2025 records overlaid over 2024 records