

## PRESS RELEASE

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## One of Derbyshire's Best Years for Moths: Three New Species and a Record-Breaking 2025

*Derbyshire recorders log nearly 39,000 macro moth records in one of the best years for moth recording nationally in recent times.*

Derbyshire's moth recording community has reported its most successful year on record, according to the *VC57 Derbyshire Macro Moth Report for 2025*, edited by Joint County Moth Recorder Tony Davison. A total of 475 species of macro moth were recorded by 549 recorders across 1,049 sites in the county during 2025, generating 53,813 records submitted to the iRecord database – of which 38,888 related to macro moths, representing a total of 134,123 individual moths.

A warm, dry spring, a hot and dry summer, and a mild autumn combined to create exceptional conditions for moth activity and an influx of migrant species from southern Europe and beyond – contributing to what is being described as one of the best years for moth recording nationally in the last decade.

### Three Brand New Species for Derbyshire

Three macro moth species never before recorded in VC57 Derbyshire were confirmed during 2025:

- **Cloaked Pug** – attracted to light in a Findern garden on 11th July, likely arriving as part of a wider migrant influx.
- **Small Marbled** – first found at Matlock on 29th June, with three further individuals turning up at Allestree and Sandiacre within 48 hours.
- **Kent Black Arches** – recorded at Drakelow Reserve on 28th June, suggesting the species may be expanding into Derbyshire from established populations in neighbouring Leicestershire.

### Rare Returns and Remarkable Records

Alongside the new arrivals, several long-absent species made a comeback:

- **Four-spotted Footman** – recorded in Derbyshire for the first time since 1894, with six individuals found following a national influx in June.

- **Blossom Underwing** – the second and third county records, both from the same Cromford garden, following the first-ever VC57 sighting in 2021.
- **Bordered Sallow** – first seen since 2018.
- **Dark Crimson Underwing** – only the second VC57 record of this rare migrant, normally a New Forest breeding species.
- **The Sprawler** – first recorded since 2021.
- **Pimpinel Pug** – first adult since 2001.

## A Bumper Year for Migrants and Abundance

Sixteen species of migrant macro moth reached Derbyshire during 2025, including the Clifden Nonpareil, with 20 records of 22 individuals – including an exceptional count of three together at a single trap in Sandiacre – suggesting the species may now be establishing local populations in the county.

The Elephant Hawk-moth enjoyed one of its best seasons on record, with 332 records totalling 1,637 individuals, including a remarkable 48 moths in a single garden trap at Chaddesden on 16th June – thought to be a county record for one trap.

The Scarlet Tiger moth also continued its dramatic expansion across the county, with 80 records of 155 individuals in 2025 – more than double the 37 records received in 2024 – having been virtually absent from Derbyshire prior to 2012.

## Recording Effort at an All-Time High

The 2025 season saw a substantial increase in recording effort compared with the previous two years, with 390 tetrads covered during the year, contributing to a county total of 752 recorded tetrads. The Derbyshire Moth Recording Team's growing army of volunteer recorders submitted records from a wide and increasing range of locations across the county.

The achievements of the team were recognised nationally in 2025, when Tony Davison and Emily Milnes travelled to Bristol to accept the National Biodiversity Network Trust Group Award for Wildlife Recording on behalf of the Derbyshire Moth Recording Team.

***“Steve Thorpe and I are delighted and very encouraged to see such a huge increase in moth data. It has taken time, but records are now being received from a wide range of areas within VC57 and we hope that this trend will continue. This clearly shows the importance of recording, which is the foundation for protecting our wildlife.”***

— Tony Davison, Joint County Moth Recorder and Editor

## Get Involved

Anyone interested in moths and moth trapping is encouraged to get in touch with the Derbyshire Moth Recording Team or Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Entomological Society (DaNES). Further information is available at [www.Derbyshiremoths.org](http://www.Derbyshiremoths.org).