Lancashire, Manchester and Merseyside
Butterfly and Moth Recording Report
2011

Laura Sivell
Graham Jones
Stephen Palmer
Record Format

More recorders who have computers chose to send their records by email. This is certainly preferred for ease of data input. The new version of Levana now has an excellent import facility, that can convert pages of records in a few seconds. MS Excel, MS Works, or tables in MS Word or tab-text are all acceptable file types. It not only makes my life much easier, it is a joy to use!

Please remember to include your name in the file name of your records. On days where several different recorders send a file called ‘butterfly records 11’, it’s chaos! It also helps if you include a header with your name on so that your printed records can be easily attributed to you. Woefully few people have taken this on board. Thanks to those that have, it takes so little to bring joy and relief to this poor recorder.

Any recorders with computers but not currently sending their records electronically, please consider doing so. Even if you don’t have email, records can be sent on disc. The following format is ideal:

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<th>12/5/10</th>
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<th>Pilling Moss</th>
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<th>all females, eggs also seen</th>
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<td>C</td>
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</table>

please don’t put m or f for male or female, or anything else, in the numbers column as it makes the programme crash. You can still put the code letters in though, where A=1, B=2–9, C=10–29, D=30–99, E=100+. Any mixture of code letters and real numbers is fine. Also, please copy down the grid references, site names or whatever, rather than using ditto marks. Any other standard date formatting is fine too.

For recorders still using good old paper and pen, please write clearly, and in reasonably large writing, as I have to wear glasses to read now. It would also help if you were to draw horizontal lines across the page every so often, to make reading across easier for me. Please remember to write your name on the top sheet and ideally, name or initials on each sheet for when the whole lot slides to the floor.

Please continue to send your butterfly records to:

**Lancashire and Merseyside**

Laura Sivell, email laura.sivell@mypostoffice.co.uk. **I have moved house. NOT EVERYBODY READ THIS in 2009 or 2010!** Postal address - 22 Beaumont Place, Lancaster LA1 2EY. Phone 01524 69248. Please note that for records to be included in the annual report, the deadline is the end of January. Late records will still be used for the database, but once the report is written, I’m not going to update or rewrite on the basis of late records. The report is also going to have to be written earlier in the year, in February as I’m full on with work in March/April and I just can’t do it!

**East Lancs**

The East Lancs report will no longer be compiled by the Howarths. There is a possibility it will be taken on by John Plackett, but I have not had a definite commitment - so please all send your records to the Lancashire recorder. If John Plackett does take on the East Lancs Report, I will forward any relevant records to him.

**Greater Manchester**

These records should only go to Peter Hardy, 81 Winstanley Road, Sale, M33 2AT, email pgll@btopenworld.com - not to Laura Sivell. Some people have been sending their records to both, leading to a fair amount of wasted time in sorting out the duplicate records. Likewise Lancashire and Merseyside records should only go to Laura.

For next year’s report, we could also do with some more illustrations. Colour photos of Butterflies as JPEG files to Laura please! A file of around 700—1200 pixels wide, compressed down to a bit under 200kb would be ideal.

Cover Photo—Netted Carpet by Graham Jones
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### Butterfly Recorders 2011

- **S Allen**
- **G Almond (GAI)**
- **G Ashworth (GA)**
- **D Barker**
- **L Beaton (LB)**
- **D Beattie**
- **D Beevers (DB)**
- **R Biggs**
- **A Bissett**
- **T Bond**
- **M Broomfield**
- **S Burnet**
- **R Carter**
- **D M Caunce**
- **J Catterall**
- **S Challenger**
- **J Cobham**
- **C Cockbain (CC)**
- **D Cook (DC)**
- **B Crooks (BC)**
- **D Cumpstey**
- **M Cunliffe**
- **R Danson (RD)**
- **E Dean**
- **R Dennis**
- **B Derbyshire**
- **M Dockery**
- **D Downing (DD)**
- **T Dunn**
- **B Dyson (BDy)**
- **M Edmondson**
- **C Ellison**
- **M Evans**
- **A Ferguson (AF)**
- **P Finnegan (PF)**
- **M Fuller**
- **K Garnett**
- **K Gartside**
- **J Gibson**
- **N Godden (NG)**
- **S Graham**
- **P Green (PG)**
- **R Greenwood (RG)**
- **J Hallsworth (JH)**
- **B Hancock**
- **I Harper (IH)**
- **L Hardy**
- **P Hardy (PH)**
- **K Haydock**
- **D W & L Hill**
- **G Hodgkinson (GHo)**
- **A Holmes (AH)**
- **P Hornby**
- **J & S Howarth**
- **B Hugo (BH)**
- **J Hurst (JH)**
- **G Hutton (GH)**
- **J Innes**
- **C Johnson**
- **R Petley-Jones (RPJ)**
- **P Kinder (PK)**
- **P Kirk**
- **P Kitching**
- **M Lambert**
- **E Langrish (EL)**
- **M Laycock**
- **V Leather**
- **Leighton Moss Team (LMT)**
- **G Lightfoot**
- **G Lilley**
- **E Livesey**
- **D Lumb (DL)**
- **P Marsh (PM)**
- **J Marshall (JM)**
- **D Martin**
- **S Martin (SM)**
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Small Skipper

First 3.6.11 CO-P, Warton Crag RSPB
Last 1.9.11 RPJ, Gait Barrows
PK, Syke
PBH, Syke

Highest 97 DL, Cox Green Quarries

The Small Skipper generally had a good year across the transects where it is normally recorded, with the best ever counts at Arnside Knott (see graph below) and Gait Barrows BMS. Martin Mere had relatively poor numbers, and there was a reduction at Warton Crag RSPB.

Large Skipper 2007-2011 (crosses 2002-2006)

Large Skipper at Arnside Knott

Dingy Skipper

First 18.4.11 CP, Warton Crag
Last 3.7.11 LR, Carnforth Ironworks

Highest 29 CP, Warton Crag LNR

Transect results were a bit of a mixed bag for this butterfly. Warton Crag LNR had the best ever count, and there was an increase at Leighton Moss. Things were average at Yealand Hall Allotment and Gait Barrows BMS but poor on the Warden’s transect. Eaves Wood also had a poor show. The species is also still present at Carnforth old ironworks site, but in low numbers.

Large Skipper

None

All Sections

Year

2011 80
2010 75
2009 70
2008 65
2007 60
2006 55
2005 50
2004 45
2003 40
2002 35
2001 30
2000 25
1999 20
1998 15
1997 10
1996 5
1995 0

Large Skipper at Eaves Wood

Clouded Yellow

First 3.7.11 DL, Cox Green Farms
Last 1.11.11 PS, Princes Park, L’pool

Highest all 6 records were of 1 only

A typically low year for this migrant. Apart from the first sighting at Cox Green Farms, the other records were from coastal locations.

Large Skipper 2007-2011 (crosses 2002-2006)

Small Skipper 2007-2011 (crosses 2002-2006)

Large Skipper

None

All Sections

Year

2011 19
2010 18
2009 17
2008 16
2007 15
2006 14
2005 13
2004 12
2003 11
2002 10
2001 9
2000 8
1999 7
1998 6
1997 5
1996 4
1995 3
1994 2
1993 1
1992 0

Dingy Skipper

None

All Sections

Year

2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006
2005
2004
2003
2002
2001
2000
1999
1998
1997

Total Number Counted
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0

Clouded Yellow

None

All Sections

Year

2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006
2005
2004
2003
2002
2001
2000
1999
1998
1997

Total Number Counted
1

Small Skipper

None

All Sections

Year

2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006
2005
2004
2003
2002
2001
2000
1999
1998
1997

Total Number Counted

A rather average year with no spectacular peaks or troughs across the transects; however, 20 more squares were recorded as containing the species, a significant increase over 2010. Most of the new tetrads are close to the southern edge of our recording area.

Like the Large White, this species had an indifferent year. Transect counts varied between average and poor, with Martin Mere having their worst count. However, it remains one of our commonest butterflies.

With such a warm, dry spring, it seems odd that this damp-tolerant species did better than the Large and Small Whites. Warton Crag LNR had their best count, and Arnside Knott and Martin Mere both had above-average years.

2011 was the best year since 1999 in terms of the numbers of recorded squares, with an increase of over 25% on 2010. On the transects, there were increases on many routes, with Gait Barrows BMS and Yealand Hall Allotment having their best ever years. The counts at other sites were average to good.

Across the transects, a picture of average to poor appears. There was only one 'worst' count, at Gait Barrows BMS; a 'second worst' at Martin Mere. Myers Allotment managed a 'good'. The last date is indeed very late for this species - possibly the ridiculously mild December lured a rash pupa into emergence. The high count is modest; often it can be far higher close to brassica fields.
Green Hairstreak

First  8.4.11  GA, Birchen Holts
Last   4.6.11  NG, Warton Crag
Highest 463  BDy, Docker Moor

Very few records of this species came from the transects. Arnside Knott had their best ever count - 3 individuals. Other sites were average to poor.

The moorland sites had a better time of it, with the colony at Docker Moor putting on a stonking show - not for the first time. Clougha had a count of 60 (MW) on 17th April, with a further 50 at Birkbank, quite good for this site, and GT saw 152 on Pendle Hill. GA also had a very good count of 107 at Birchen Holts.

Purple Hairstreak

First  28.6.11  RPJ, Gait Barrows
Last   1.9.11  Gal, Cliviger fish ponds
Highest  42  PS, Speke

RD recorded Purple Hairstreak at the isolated Hackensall Woods, Preesall on 2 different dates, the first record from that tetrad since 2004. BDy also recorded the species nearby at Little Singleton, a new site. A further new site was noted by LS - woods at Halton army training camp by the river Lune, visible from an adjoining public footpath.

Across the transects (where this species does not show well), the new Butterfly Conservation reserve at Myers Allotment had their best ever count of 5. Other transects had average numbers, where it was recorded at all.

White-letter Hairstreak

First  26.6.11  PBH, Dead Elms Lane
Last   3.8.11  AH, Brockholes
Highest  3  JH, Rawtenstall
          JH, Helmshore
          IS, Helmshore
          PK, Chadkirk
          PBH, Bradley Lane

In terms of the number of recorded tetrads, 2011 is the best year on record with 28 squares containing the species. This is without the 2 tetrads at Stairend Bridge where the White-letter Hairstreak is normally recorded; no recorders visited the site at the appropriate time.

On the transects, Yealand Hall Allotment had their best year ever, and Warton Crag RSPB had their best year since 1997. Eaves Wood had their first transect record.

CC and SP were lucky enough to have sightings in their own gardens.

Dutch Elm disease has become more apparent though at the Devonshire Road site in Blackpool, scene of several successful field trips to see this species.

Northern Brown Argus

First 11.5.11 COP, Warton Crag RSPB
Last 15.8.11 RM, Warton Crag RSPB
Highest 103 COP, Warton Crag RSPB

Generally an average year, with small increases at some sites, and declines in others. None have been recorded from Jack Scout since 2007, so it may now be assumed to be extinct there.


Common Blue
First 28.4.11 PK, Chadkirk
Last 29.9.11 PH, Lytham
Highest 250 BDy, Fleetwood Nature Park

Not a great year for this butterfly - the number of recorded squares was down, and transect counts were generally low-average. Eaves Wood did better, with their highest ever count, and Arnside Knott had their second-best year. Fleetwood Nature Park has consistently good counts, so is a good place to visit for this species.

Holly Blue
First 23.3.11 JS, Woodley
Last 1.10.11 PS, St James’ cemetery, L’pool
Highest 5 RM, Cemetery Road

Across the transects, numbers were low but, as has become usual in recent years, garden sightings were much better. The species seems to be at quite a low period in its normal ‘boom and bust’ cycle.
Duke of Burgundy

First 15.4.11 LS, Gait Barrows
Last 25.5.11 RPJ, Gait Barrows
Highest 15 LS, Gait Barrows

The Duke emerged very early in 2011. There is an ongoing project begun in 2009 to boost their numbers at Gait Barrows (the last site in Lancashire) by captive rearing and release. So far it seems to be successful, as the transect counts of Duke in 2011 were the best ever.

The ‘early’ date is that for the first ‘wild’ Duke seen; a captive-reared one emerged on April 14th, and was released after being marked. The ‘wild’ record was the first unmarked individual to be seen.

All released butterflies were marked, and recorders helped chart their spread and survival by photographing them and sending the photos in (to laura.sivell@mypostoffice.co.uk) where the individual butterfly’s emergence date and markings were charted. It seemed the butterflies were not moving far from the release area, but most were not re-recorded and could have moved further afield; the females in particular are believed to move more widely.

Red Admiral

First 23.1.11 DB, Euxton
Last 27.12.11 LB, Thornton
Highest 50 SW, Seaforth

It was quite surprising that any Red Admirals survived the winter of 2010-11, as it is not long since it was believed they could not live through such harsh conditions - yet the early date can only have been from a successfully overwintered adult. There was no month in 2010 in which this species was not recorded, as the very mild autumn and early winter led to many sightings right through to the end of the year.

Another butterfly with a mixed picture on the transects - Yealand Hall Allotment had their best count, things were generally good on Warton Crag, Eaves Wood, Myers Allotment and Gait Barrows wardens, average at Martin Mere and Leighton Moss, but few at Gait Barrows BMS. Jack Scout had a count of just 2, a disappointing result for such good habitat (if a little windy).

Painted Lady

First 2.4.11 JR, Hazel Grove
Last 22.10.11 MC, Waddington
Highest 20 RM, Warton Crag RSPB

2011 was one of the poorer migration years for the Painted Lady, with only 39 recorded squares. This was reflected on the transects, with most routes having few or no records.

Small Tortoiseshell

First 24.2.11 KMC, Flixton
SS, Preston
CaP, Fulwood

Last 16.12.11 LS, Lancaster
Highest 120 PS, Speke

In terms of the number of squares recording the Small Tortoiseshell, 2011 was the best year since 2004. 2010 saw a noticeable resurgence, and there was a slight increase again on that. Transect results were mixed, with the best ever count at Yealand Hall Allotment, good at Arnside Knott, Gait Barrows wardens, Leighton Moss, Warton Crag RSPB and Trowbarrow. Average numbers were seen at Martin Mere, Warton Crag LNR, there were few at Eaves Wood and Myers Allotment had their worst count.
Like the Small Tortoiseshell, the Peacock had a good year though the number of recorded squares fell slightly. Best ever transect counts were achieved at Gait Barrows Warden’s, and Myers Allotment, and good or better than average numbers were seen on the other routes.

The Comma had a generally average year across the transects - some slight increases, some moderate decreases. The number of squares recording the butterfly has been stable for the last 3 years.

The Peacock had a good year though the number of recorded squares fell slightly. Best ever transect counts were achieved at Gait Barrows Warden’s, and Myers Allotment, and good or better than average numbers were seen on the other routes.

The Comma had a generally average year across the transects - some slight increases, some moderate decreases. The number of squares recording the butterfly has been stable for the last 3 years.

Things were looking up for this butterfly on several transects - Gait Barrows Wardens transect, Yealand Hall Allotments and Jack Scout had their best ever years. Gait Barrows BMS had the best count since 1995, and Arnside Knott had the best since 1992. There were also increases at Warton Crag LNR and RSPB. The species has continued to decline at Eaves Wood.

No records were received from Birkbank Bog or the upland sites around the Lancs/Yorkshire border, and consequently the number of recorded squares fell.

Things were looking up for this butterfly on several transects - Gait Barrows Wardens transect, Yealand Hall Allotments and Jack Scout had their best ever years. Gait Barrows BMS had the best count since 1995, and Arnside Knott had the best since 1992. There were also increases at Warton Crag LNR and RSPB. The species has continued to decline at Eaves Wood.

No records were received from Birkbank Bog or the upland sites around the Lancs/Yorkshire border, and consequently the number of recorded squares fell.

This species has been causing concern for some time, and 2011 did little to change what looks like a rather bleak picture. The butterfly emerged very early, as other spring species did after the very warm March and April (it is normally expected around 3 weeks later in these parts) and the weather during the flight period was generally favourable for breeding and egg-laying, so will see what 2012 brings.
High Brown Fritillary

First  20.6.11  RPJ, Gait Barrows
        COP, Warton Crag RSPB
        LMT, Leighton Moss

Last   22.8.11  CP, Warton Crag LNR

Highest 52  RM, Warton Crag RSPB

2011 was a depressing year for the High Brown. There was a sharp fall at Gait Barrows BMS transect, though he Warden’s transect was just average. Eaves Wood had their worst year ever, and there were few records from Leighton Moss. Warton Crag LNR and RSPB both showed declines; Warton Crag LWT has a new transect route, so a direct comparison with previous years cannot be made. Average or low-average counts came from Arnside Knott, Jack Scout and Myers Alltment.

Dark Green Fritillary

First  10.6.11  SMP & RW, Cabin HIll
        AF, Arnside Knott
        PS, Ainsdale NNR

Last   9.8.11  AF, Arnside Knott

Highest 54  AF, Arnside Knott

On the Morecambe Bay Limestone transects, 2011 gave mixed results for this species. Gait Barrows Warden’s transect had the 2nd best year, though there was a sharp decline on the BMS route. Warton Crag RSPB and Yealand Hall Allotment had their best year ever; things were normal at Arnside Knott and Myers Alltment.

Apart from the Morecambe Bay transects, casual records from the Sefton Coast (no data was received from Ainsdale NNR transect), where Ravenmeols produced good numbers (PS). Other records came from Sheddon Clough (AH) and Stephen Park, Stocks (GHo).

Speckled Wood

First  2.4.11  KMC, Mersey embankment

Last   4.11.11  BDy, Stannah

Highest 66  J&D, Eaves Wood

For this species, 2011 was pretty damn average. There was no notable change in range, and transect counts were - well, average.

Wall

First  3.5.11  CP, Warton Crag LNR
        BC, Warton Crag LWT

Last   15.9.11  RG, Rough Meadow

Highest 5  BC, Warton Crag LWT

Be warned, this makes grim reading. We have seen how the Wall has virtually disappeared from huge areas of England. Now it really seems to be hitting us. The only sites that turned up reasonable numbers were Warton Crag LWT and the coast around Fluke Hall. The number of recorded squares (look at the table on pages 3 & 4) has fallen from 27% in 2000 to 9.5% in 2010 - that was 48 recorded squares. In 2011 it fell to 22 recorded squares - a drop of over 50% in just one year. Personally, despite looking, I didn’t see a Wall in Lancashire at all last year. I used to get them in the garden.

In 2012, it’s important to make an effort to monitor the Fluke Hall site (Warton Crag LWT has monitoring in place), and if someone could do a single-species transect there through the year, that would be a great help.

The cause of the disappearance of the Wall is unknown. A disease hitting just one member of a family like this seems unlikely, and there has not been any noticeable deterioration in habitat.

Wall 2011. Empty circles are 2002-2006
Gatekeeper

First | 27.6.11 | DD, Heath Charnock
Last  | 23.8.11 | SS, Broadbottom
Highest | 137   | SW, Seaforth

The Gatekeeper increased its range by 1 square and had a good year despite the dismal summer. ‘Best’ counts were achieved at Jack Scout, Arnside Knott, Eaves Wood, Gait Barrows Warden’s, and Warton Crag RSPB with their first records. Other transect sites were average.

Grayling

First | 11.6.11 | JN, Warton Crag LWT
Last  | 1.9.11  | AF, Arnside Knott
Highest | 206   | BDy, Starr Hills

Another good year was had by the grayling, with best ever counts at Yealand Hall Allotment, Jack Scout and Gait Barrows Wardens transects. Arnside Knott and Eaves Wood also had good numbers, though down on the highs of 2010. Warton Crag RSPB and LNR recorded fewer graylings.

It has been a few years now since the species was recorded at Heysham LNR and the landscape strip near the power stations, and it may now be assumed to have become extinct there.

There is no regular transect at Starr Hills, but the count there looks good. Other records came from Ainsdale NNR, Crosby dunes, and Freshfields.

Meadow Brown

First | 3.6.11 | KMC, Flixton
Last  | 30.9.11 | DD, Ellerbeck, Coppul
Highest | 425 | BDy, Fleetwood Nature Park

Apart from Yealand Hall Allotments, which turned in their second-best count, Meadow Brown numbers were average across the board, along with the number of recorded squares which has remained remarkably stable for a number of years.

Ringlet

First | 11.6.11 | GH, Birtle Church Wood
JN, Warton Crag LWT
Last  | 9.8.11  | RM, Warton Crag RSPB
Highest | 250   | AH, Rowley

By whatever means the Ringlet arrived in the Morecambe Bay limestone area, it has ‘set in’ in fine style and had a stonking year in 2011. Best ever counts were achieved at Yealand Hall Allotment, Gait Barrows (both transects with a huge increase on the BMS route) and Warton Crag RSPB. The first 5 transect records were noted at Eaves Wood, which has plenty of suitable habitat - watch that space!

A strong roadside colony was also found at Sawley (PG).
Small Heath

First  28.4.11  CP, Warton Crag LNR
Last  30.9.11  SW, Seaforth
Highest  150  RRMH, Belmont

This butterfly is not well represented on transects, and Arnside Knott and Warton Crag were, as usual, the only sites to turn in any reasonable numbers. Yealand Hall Allotment was average, and Myers Allotment, Eaves Wood and Leighton Moss counted one at each site.

Good numbers were recorded at Fleetwood Nature Park, Seaforth and there was the usual good crop of sightings from upland sites - Belmont and Werneth Low standing out from the crowd.


Large Heath

First  14.6.11  SR, Cockerham Moss
Last  14.8.11  BDy, Cockerham Moss
Highest  20  DS, Thrushgill Fell

Normally, we just get records in from 2 or 3 recorded squares, Winmarleigh Moss and Goodber Common if anyone goes up there. In 2011, we had a massive 7 squares recorded, covering 3 10k squares, and showing up the extent of the Goodber group of colonies. There were records from Bowland Clear Fell, White Moss and Higher Thrushgill - not massive numbers but present nonetheless.

At our lowland site, the habitat restoration work at Cockerham Moss proved its worth with the butterfly being recorded there.

Large Heath 2011. Empty circle is 2006-2010.
Annual Report (Moths)

Macromoth Report for 2011

Graham Jones

There were no new macromoths recorded for VC59 & 60 during 2011. Nonetheless, the year still provided plenty of surprises. Barred Carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* and Devon Carpet *Perizoma taeniata* were both new for VC59 and Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* new for VC60. While Chocolate-tip *Clostera curtula*, Striped Wainscot *Mythimna pudorina* and Lyme Grass *Chortodes elymi* all continued to show signs of gaining a precarious foothold in the county.

12 species were recorded after several years’ absence, and these were –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>last date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red-tipped Clearwing <em>Synanthedon formicaeformis</em></td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Twin-spot Carpet <em>Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata</em></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Mountain Carpet <em>Entephria caesiata</em></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beech-green Carpet <em>Colostygia olivata</em></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streak <em>Chesias legatella</em></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brindled Beauty <em>Lycia hirtaria</em></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Arches <em>Lymantria monacha</em></td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarce Footman <em>Eilema complana</em></td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Dart <em>Euxoa nigricans</em></td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Drab <em>Orthosia opima</em></td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crinan Ear <em>Amphipoea crinanensis</em></td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-veined Wainscot <em>Archanara dissoluta</em></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lastly, all of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan species present within VC59 & 60: Goat Moth *Cossus cossus*, Forester *Adscita statices*, Barred Tooth-striped *Trichopteryx polyommata* and Netted Carpet *Eustroma reticulatum*, were all surveyed during 2011, with very pleasing results obtained for all. Indeed, Goat Moth, Forester and Netted Carpet all had their best years to date.

HEPIALIDAE

0016 **Gold Swift** *Hepialus hecta* (Linn.) – 1 at Upper Croasdale Beck on 3rd July (T Whitaker); 1 at Astley Moss on 2nd June (K McCabe & G Riley); and an impressive 30 at Stanley Bank Meadows on 18th June, with a further 7 at the same site on 2nd July (R. Banks).

COSSIDAE

0162 **Goat Moth** *Cossus cossus* (Linn.) – Single adults to MV at Birkdale Green Beach on 4th and 25th June (G Jones), with 2 fresh pupal exuviae found at Freshfield Dune Heath on 27th June (G Jones). Wandering late instar larva were photographed at Lifeboat Rd, Formby on 27th July (B Haizelden), and Freshfield Dune Heath on 1st September (M Rimmer).

ZYGAENIDAE

0163 **Forester** *Adscita statices* (Linn.) – an outstanding year, with records from 6 1km squares along the Sefton coast. Ainsdale NNR: 10 records, 2nd – 22nd July, with a maximum count of 16 on 11th July (G Jones). Larkhill Lane NT: 13 records, 28 June – 23rd July, with a maximum count of 4 on 28th & 29th June (G Jones & R Walker). Freshfield Dune Heath: 1 on 3rd July (P Smith).

0164 **Cistus Forester** *Adscita geryon* (Hubn.) – the best year on record for numbers at the Warton Crag colony, with 15 on 6th June (S Palmer) and a record count of 30 on 11th June (G Jones).
SESIIIDAE

0371 Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* (Hubn.) - a mating pair was photographed at Elton Reservoir on 20th June (M O'Shea), and 2 pupal exuviae were found at Lightfoot Green on 4th July (S Palmer).

0373 Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* (Clerck.) – 3 at Lytham on 20th June (B Dyson), and 1 at Hale on 19th June (C Cockbain).

0380 Red-tipped Clearwing *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (Clerck.) – 1 was attracted to a pheromone lure at Ainsdale NNR on 26th June (G Jones), the first county record since 1999 despite extensive searching.

LASIOCAMPIDAE

1636 Grass Eggar *Lasiocampa trifolii* (Schrank.) - the highest count was 14 to MV light at Birkdale Green Beach on 2nd August (G Jones). Only 4 records of adults were received this year, despite intensive light trapping by moth group members at several locations along the Sefton coast. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this species may be in decline, with inbreeding cited as a possible cause.

1637 Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus* (Linn.) – an interesting record was received of a minimum of 100 cocoons counted after a fire at Angelzarke Moor on 2nd May (S Martin).

SATURNIIDAE

1643 Emperor *Saturnia pavonia* (Linn.) – records slightly down on 2010, with 26 the highest number recorded at Belmont Moor on 24th April (S Martin). A Hobby *Falco subbuteo* was watched at the same time, catching Emperor and devouring them on the wing!

DREPAHIDAE

1645 Scalloped Hook-tip *Falcaria lacertinaria* (Linn.) – new 10k records were received from Ainsdale Hills on 18th April (J Clews, C Daley, R Moyes), and Dolphinholme on 1st June (N Rogers).

THYATIRIDAE

1658 Oak Lutestring *Cymatophorima diluta* (D. & S.) – a good count of 15 at Baines Crag on 30th August (J Girdley). Singles at Millhouses on 27th August and 1st September (P Marsh).

GEOMETRIDAE

1661 Orange Underwing *Archiearis parthenias* (Linn.) – 15 records were received in total, with a peak count of 15 at Astley Moss on 23rd March (G Riley). 6 at Heysham Moss on 18th March (C&S Palmer) and 6 at Ainsdale NNR on 23rd March (R Moyes) were new 10k records.

1665 Grass Emerald *Pseudoterpna pruinata* (Hufnagel.) – 6 records in total, nearly all from Heysham and Middleton Nature Reserves (J Girdley, P Marsh), with 1 from nearby Sunderland Point on 27th July (J Farraday and A Smith).

1674 Little Emerald *Jodis lactearia* (Linn.) – away from the Silverdale area, 2 records were received from Dolphinholme, with 2 on 29th May and 1 on 1st June (N Rogers).

1681 Clay Triple-lines *Cyclophora linearia* (Hubn.) – 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 25th June (J Clews, C Daley, R Moyes) was a new 10k record, and the only record received for 2011.

1689 Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (Goeze) – 4 records, and all from VC60: 1 at Yealand Conyers on 29th May (B Hancock); 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 2nd July (G Jones & S Palmer); 1 at Jenny Brown’s on 3rd July; 1 at Heysham on 11th August (D Holding)

1690 Small Blood-vein *Scopula imitaria* (Hubn.) – away from what appears to be the main stronghold along the Sefton coast, 1 was recorded at Hale on 22nd September (C Cockbain).

1692 Lesser Cream Wave *Scopula immutata* (Linn.) – the only record received was 1 at Gait Barrows NNR on 28th June (R Petley-Jones).

1694 Smoky Wave *Scopula ternata* (Schrank) – 1 at Cockerham Moss on 1st June (G Jones&S Palmer); 1 at Cross of Greet on 2nd June (P Marsh); 1at Dolphinholme on 3rd June (N Rogers); 1 at Whitray Fell on 3rd July (P Marsh); 1 at Blaze Moss on 4th July (S Palmer).

1702 Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata* (Hufnagel) – 1 recorded in Oswaldtwistle on 2nd August (B Clegg) was a new 10k record.

1705 Dwarf Cream Wave *Idaea fuscovenosa* (Goeze) – as usual, all records received were from the Sefton coast, with 1 to a garden MV at Formby on 25th June (T Davenport), and 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 2nd July (J Clews, C Daly)
1707 **Small Dusty Wave** *Idaea seriata* (Schrank.) – 1 at Euxton on 26th July (Richard Hoult) was a new 10k record.

1709 **Satin Wave** *Idaea subsericeata* (Haw.) – 8 records received, all from the Sefton coast. 6 to MV at Freshfield Dune Heath on 10th June, was both a record count and a new 10k record (R Burkmar & G Jones).

1715 **Plain Wave** *Idaea straminata* (Bork.) – 1 at Formby Point on 29th May (R Walker); 3 at Cadishead Moss on 27th June (K McCabe), and another at the same site on 12th July (K McCabe & G Riley).

1716 **Vestal Rhodometra sacaria** (Linn.) - see Migrant Report

1720 **Gem Orthonoma obstipata** (Fabr.) – see Migrant Report

1724 **Red Twin-spot Carpet** *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* (D. & S.) – 1 at Lythe Fell on 2nd June (J Girdley), and another at the same date at Cross of Greet (P Marsh).

1726 **Large Twin-spot Carpet** *Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata* (Clerck.) – 1 at Flixton on the 21st July (K McCabe), and another at the same site on the 26th July (K McCabe) was the first since 2007, and only the 2nd record for VC59&60.

1734 **July Belle** *Scototeyryx luridata* (Hufnagel) – 9 at Freshfield Dune Heath on 10th June (R Burkmar & G Jones), and 1 at Sunderland Point on 26th June (J Girdley). Both were new 10k records.

1744 **Grey Mountain Carpet** *Entephrina caesiata* (D&S.) – 1 at Botton Crag on 3rd July (T Whitaker) was the first record since 2007.

1748 **Beautiful Carpet** *Mesoleuca albicillata* (Linn.) – singles at Formby NT on the 30th June and 30th July (R Walker), and 2 at Ainsdale NNR on 16th May and 13th August (J Clews, C Daly, R Moyes).

1749 **Dark Spinach** *Pelurga comitia* (Linn.) – records were more spread out in 2011 compared to 2010, and interestingly, all sites that did record this species had more than 1 record. Singles at Hale on 25th July and 4th August (C Cockbain), Formby NT on 21st and 25th July (R Walker), and Sunderland Point on 26th July and 5th August, and a further 2 records from a Formby Garden, with 1 on 26th July and 2 on 30th July (M Dean & R Hill).

1751 **Devon Carpet** *Lampropteryx oreigata* (Metcalfe) – The first record for VC59 was recorded at a garden MV in Swinton on 16th August (G Riley). While in VC60 there was another good count at White Moss, Yealand Redmayne, with 14 on 29th May (J Girdley), and at Leighton Moss RSPB, despite being new for the reserve, singles were recorded on 6 occasions between 1st – 16th August (J Beattie).

1753 **Striped Twin-spot Carpet** *Nebula salicata* (Hubn.) – 1 at Warton Crag on 13th April (G Jones, R Neville, S Ryder); 1 at Lythfell on 2nd July; 1 at Leck Fell on 3rd August (J Girdley).

1758 **Barred Straw** *Eulithis pyraliata* – new 10k records came from Calderbrook, Littleborough on 10th July (Y Mynett & S Pinnington), and Beacon Fell on 16th July (E Langrish & A Barker).

1761 **Autumn Green Carpet** *Chloroclysta miata* (Linn.) – 1 found indoors in Oswaldtwistle on 14th October (B Clegg) was a new 10k record (B Clegg).

1762 **Dark Marbled Carpet** *Chloroclysta citrata* (Linn.) - away from the north, 1 was recorded at Belmont on 24th August (R Rhodes), and 8 at Brinscall Moor on 2nd September (A Barker & G Jones) was a good count for VC59.

1765 **Barred Yellow** *Cidaria fulvata* (Forster.) – a species that has declined markedly over the last 3 years, with only 15 records received in 2011, compared to 35 in 2010, and 90 in 2009. It will be interesting to see how 2012 compares.

1766 **Blue-bordered Carpet** *Plemyria rubiginata* (D. & S.) – another poor year, with just 2 records: 1 at Flixton on 26th July (K McCabe), and 1 at Hale on 28th July (C Cockbain).

1772 **Netted Carpet** *Eustroma reticulatum* (D. & S.) – the annual larval survey at the Warton colony was undertaken on 5th September with 240 recorded; a 44% increase on the 2010 total (G Jones, S Palmer et al)

1774 **Beech-green Carpet** *Colostygia olivata* (D&S.) – 1 was recorded at Millhouses on 3rd August (P Marsh), with another at the same site on the 25th September (J Girdley, P Marsh). The first records for the county since 2007.

1779 **Ruddy Highflyer** *Hydriomena ruberata* (Frey.) – 2 records were received. 1 at Heysham Nature on 24th April (J Girdley) continued the good run of records for this site. While 1 at Mere Sands Wood on 26th April (R Boydell & I Kippax) was a new 10k record, and the first for VC59 since 1985.

1784 **Pretty Chalk Carpet** *Melanthia procellata* (D &S.) – 6 on the 2nd July was the peak count at Jenny Brown’s Point (B Hancock). 1 at Warton Village on 21st June (P Ashton) may have been a wanderer from this colony, or perhaps another Silverdale colony is yet to be discovered?
1789 Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulata* (Linn.) – 1 at Ainsdale NNR on the 25th June was a new 10k record (J Clews, C Daley, R Moyes).

1790 Tissue *Triphosa dubitata* (Linn.) – 20 on the 12th February was the highest count from the Warton Crag bat hibernacula (G Armstrong). 1 at Walmer Bridge on 25th February was a new 10k record (G Jones).

1791 Brown Scallop *Philereme vetulata* (D. & S.) – an impressive 14 were recorded at Myers allotment on 2nd July (A. Barker, E Langrish, R Moyes, S Priestley). 1 at Yealand Conyers on 4th July was, surprisingly, a new 10k record (B Hancock).

1796 Pale November Moth *Epirrita christyi* (Allen.) - 2 at Brinscall on 15th October (G Jones & E Langrish) was a new 10k record.

1798 Small Autumnal Moth *Epirrita filigrammaria* (Herr.-Schaff.) – 53 at Brinscall Moor on the 2nd September was a county record. Interestingly, most were found by torchlight searching of heather, with only a relative few attracted to adjacent light traps (A Barker & G Jones).

1800 Northern Winter Moth *Operophtera fagata* (Scharfenberg) – 42 at Brinscall on 12th November was a county record (G Jones & E Langrish), and 2 at Ainsdale NNR on the 16th November was a new 10k record (R Moyes).

1801 Barred Carpet *Perizoma taeniata* (Steph.) – 1 at Formby NT on 16th July was new for VC59 (C Fletcher, G Jones). In VC60 1 was recorded at Hyning Scout Wood on 20th July (G Jones) and another on the same date at Yealand Conyers (Brian Hancock).

1804 Barred Rivulet *Perizoma bifaciata* (Haw.) - away from the main colony at Heysham Nature Reserve, 1 was recorded at Ellenbrook on 23rd August (P Mansfield).

1809 Twin-spot Carpet *Perizoma didymata* (Linn.) – an impressive daytime count of 200 at Tarnbrook Fell on 13th July was a new county record (B Dyson).

1813 Haworth's Pug *Eupithecia haworthiata* (Doubl.) – away from the colony at Jenny Brown’s Point, 1 was recorded in a garden light trap at Carnforth on 27th August (J Rae).

1816 Toadflax Pug *Eupithecia linariata* (D. & S.) – 1 at Heysham NR on 14th July and 30th August (P Marsh et al); 1 at Hale on 31st August (C Cockbain); 1 at Heysham on 15th September (D Holding).

1822 Marsh Pug *Eupithecia pygmaeata* (Hubn.) – 1 at Altcar Rifle Range on 27th May (G Jones); 1 at Heysham NR on 17th June (Janet Packham); 1 at Fleetwood Nature Park on 15th August (B Dyson).

1823 Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosa* (Fabr.) – 1 at Parr, St Helens on 25th June (R Banks) was the only record received.

1827 Freyer's Pug *Eupithecia intricata* (Zetterstedt.) – 1 at Edenfield on 4th June was a new 10k record (I Smith)

1839 Bordered Pug *Eupithecia succenturiata* (Linn.) – an improvement on previous years, with 14 records in total. Apart from 1 at Heysham on 31st July (D Holding), all records received were from VC59.

1840 Shaded Pug *Eupithecia subumbraata* (D. & S.) – all records received were from the Heysham / Middleton stronghold, with 5 at Middleton NR on 20th June the maximum count (J Girdley).

1844 Ochrous Pug *Eupithecia indigata* (Hübner.) – singles at Swinton on 27th April and 4th June (G Riley); 3 at Ainsdale NNR on 6th May (J Clews, C Daly, R Moyes), with 1 at Southport on 4th May (R Moyes) a new 10k record.

1849 Ash Pug *Eupithecia innotata* f. *fraxinata* (Crewe) – 1 at Walmer Bridge on 11th July (G Jones).

1856 Larch Pug *Eupithecia lariciata* (Frey.) – 1 at Upper Coldwell Reservoir on 25th June (K McCabe & G Riley), and 1 at Walmer Bridge on 29th June (G Jones), were both new 10k records. In VC60 1was recorded at Lords Lot on 9th May (J Girdley).

1857 Dwarf Pug *Eupithecia tantillaria* (Bois.) – 4 new 10k records: 1 at Formby on 20th April (A & S Parsons); 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 6th May (J Clews, C Daly, R Moyes); 1 at Walmer Bridge on 17th May (G Jones); and 1 at Swinton on 28th May (G Riley).

1859 Sloe Pug *Pasiphae chloerata* (Mabille.) – 1 at Lightfoot Green on 14th June (S Palmer); 1 Yealand Hall Allotments on 1st June; 1 Leighton Moss RSPB on 9th June (B Hancock).

1864 Streak *Chesia legatella* (D&S.) – 1 at Calderbrook, Littleborough on 5th October (Y Mynett & S.Pinnington), was the 1st record for VC 59 & 60 since 2007. A species that seems to have all but disappeared from the county.

1866 Manchester Treble-bar *Carisia sororiata* (Hubn.) – 1 at Blaze Moss and another at Black Clough Head on 27th July (B Dyson), with the latter a new 10k record.

1872 Blomer's Rivulet *Discoloxia blomeri* (Curt.) – 5 at Hyning Scout Wood on 20th July (G Jones), was the only record in 2011.

1873 Welsh Wave *Venusia cambrica* Curtis – 7 at Brinscall Moor on 2nd September (A Barker & G Jones) was a record count for VC59.

1874 Dingy Shell *Euchoeca nebulata* (Scop.) – 15 on the 26th June was the maximum count for the Flixton colony (K McCabe). 1 at Walmer Bridge on 4th July (G Jones) was a new 10k record.

1875 Small White Wave *Asthena albula* (Hufnagel) – 1 at Gait Barrows NNR on 17th April (G Jones), and 1 Silverdale Moss on 11th May (J Girdley).
1880 Barred Tooth-striped Trichopteryx polychalma (D. & S.) – recorded from 4 sites in the Silverdale area 9th – 22nd April, with a maximum count of 7 at Yealand Conyers 10th April (B Hancock).

1885 Clouded Magpie Abraxas sylvestris (Scop.) – the maximum count at Millhouses was 7 on 1st June (T Whitaker). 1 at Caton on 15th June was a new site record (S Ryder), and 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 12th June (J Clews, S Daly, R Moyes) was a new 10k record and the first for the Sefton coast in over 50 years.

1888 Scorched Carpet Lgidia adustaria (D. & S.) – 1 at Middlewood on 10th April was a new 10k record (G Jones)

1897 V-Moth Macaria wavaria (Linn.) – 1 at Myers Allotment on 2nd July (A Barker, J Clews, E Langrish, S Priestley) & 3rd July (G Jones). 1 at Yealand Redmayne on 11th & 28th July (S Stokes); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 15th & 16th July (B Hancock).

1903 Barred Umber Plagodis pulveraria (Linn.) – singles at Millhouses on 9th, 11th & 29th May (P Marsh); 3 at Silverdale Moss on 29th April & 11th May (G Jones). 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 6th May (J Beattie); 4 at Gait Barrows on 17th April (G Jones).

1907 Bordered Beauty Epione repandaria (Hufnagel) – 1 recorded in Warrington (VC59) on 22nd July (J Mitchell-Lisle), was a new 10k record.

1909 Speckled Yellow Pseudopanthera macularia (Linn.) – maximum counts were 8 at Warton Crag on 28th April and 3rd May (C Peacock), and 8 at Gait Barrows NNR on 9th May (G Jones).

1910 Lilac Beauty Apeira syringaria (Linn.) – an improvement on last year’s single record, with 5 records in total: 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 20th June & 10th July (J Beattie); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 28th June (B Hancock); 1 at Myers Allotment on 23rd July (A Barker, E Langrish, R Moyes, S Priestley); 1 at Millhouses on 4th July (P Marsh).

1914 Dusky Thorn Ennomos fuscantaria (Haworth.) – 1 at Carnforth on 28th September (L Lyon) was a new 10k record.

1915 September Thorn Ennomos erosaria (D. & S.) – 1 at Warrington (VC59) on 1st September (J Mitchell-Lisle) was a new 10k record.

1925 Small Brindled Beauty Apocheima hispidaria (D. & S.) – the maximum count at Millhouses was 6 on 25th February (P Marsh), with 1 at Mealbank on 26th February (J Girdley).

1927 Brindled Beauty Lycia hirtaria (Clerck.) – 1 at St Helens on 6th April (C Davies), and 1 at Lightfoot Green on 18th April (S Palmer), were the first records since 2007.

1928 Belted Beauty Lycia zonaria (D. & S.) – the annual Lancashire Moth Group count took place on 10th April with 566 recorded.

1932 Spring Usher Agriopis leucophaearia (D. & S.) – the mild temperatures in the latter half of 2011 produced 2 very early records, with 2 at Swinton on 25th October (G Riley), and 1 at Cuerden Valley Park on 21st December (G Jones).

1933 Scarce Umber Agriopis aurantiaria (Hübner) – an impressive count of 414 at Rivington School Wood on 24th November (A Barker & E Langrish). 5 at Ainsdale on 16th November was a new 10k record (R Moyes).

1936 Waved Umber Menophra abruptaria (Thunberg.) – 1 at Swinton on 10th May (G Riley) was new for the 10k square, and a good VC59 record.

1940 Satin Beauty Deileptenia ribeata (Clerck) – 4 at Ainsdale NNR on 2nd July (J Clews & C Daly) was a new 10k record, and the first for the Sefton coast.

1949 Square Spot Paradarisa consonaria (Hubn.) – 1 at Eaves Wood on 6th April (B Hancock & S Palmer), and 1 at Lords Lot on 9th May (J Girdley).

1970 Grass Wave Perconia strigillaria (Hubn.) – the maximum count at Cockerham Moss was 14 on 1st June (G Jones & S Palmer).

SPHINGIDAE

1984 Humming-bird Hawk-moth Macroglossum stellatarum (Linn.) – see Migrant Report.

1987 Bedstraw Hawk-moth Hyles gallii (Rottemburg.) – see Migrant Report

NOTODONTIDAE

1995 Puss Moth Cerura vinula (Linn.) – another poor year, with just 6 records. 1 at Formby on 20th April (T Davenport); 1 at Rainford on 22 April (S Williams); 1 at Horwich on 1st May (R Burkmar); 1 at Radcliffe on 4th May (A Simpson); 1 at Caton on 7th May (S Ryder); and a mating pair at Thornton Cleveleys on 23rd June (E Nicholson).
1996 Alder Kitten *Furcula bicuspidis* (Bork.) – 1 at Dolphinholme on 1st June (N Rogers), and 1 at Widnes on 1st June (P Hillyer), which was also a new 10k record.

1998 Poplar Kitten *Furcula bifida* (Brahm) – 1 at Sutton Leach, St Helen’s on 8th June (S Briers).

2005 Great Prominent *Peridea anceps* (Goeze.) – singles at Yealand Conyers on 23rd, 24th, 26th April & 4th May (B Hancock). Singles at Leighton Moss RSPB on 19th & 26th April (J Beattie).

2010 Scarce Prominent *Odontosia carmelita* (Esper) – 2 at Gait Barrows NNR (G Jones) and 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB (J Beattie) on the 17th April.

2019 Chocolate-tip *Clostera curtula* (Linn.) – following on from last year’s first for the county, 1 was recorded at Pennington Flash on 1st August (P Alker). It will be interesting to see if 2012 produces any further records.

**LYMANTRIIDAE**

2027 Dark Tussock *Dicallomera fascelina* (Linn.) – 12 to MV at Birkdale Green Beach on 25th June was a new county record (G Jones), with a further 2 at Ainsdale NNR on 2nd July (J Clews R Daly).

2031 White Satin *Leucoma salicis* (Linn.) - a population explosion at Ainsdale Dunes in early June produced clouds of moths, and in a 2 hour count on the 4th a minimum of 1000 adults was estimated (G Jones), with equal numbers of larvae and pupae.

2033 Black Arches *Lymantria monacha* (Linn.) – 2 at Ainsdale NNR on 22nd August (J Clews, R Daly, R Moyes) was the second record for VC59&60. The first was at the nearby Martin Mere WWT in 2005. Is there a small resident population in west Lancashire / north Merseyside?

**ARCTIIDAE**

2039 Red-necked Footman *Atolmis rubricollis* (Linn.) – impressive numbers were recorded at Thrushgill Fell throughout late June and early July, with a maximum count of 54 on 2nd July (J Girdley). 1 at Moss Green, Formby on 14th June was a new 10k record (M Dean, R Hill).

2044 Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (Hübner.) – 1 at Crosby on 27th July (J Donnelly), and 1 at St Helens on 7th August (C Davies), were both new 10k records.

2047 Scarce Footman *Eilema complana* (Linn.) – 1 at Birkdale Green Beach on 25th June (G Jones), and 1 at Flixton on 11th July (K McCabe), were the first records since 2004.

2054 Crimson Speckled *Utetheisa pulchella* (Linn.) – See Migrant Report

2056 Wood Tiger *Parasemia plantaginis* (Linn.) – VC60: 1 at Cockerham Moss on 14th June (B Dyson, S Ryder); 2 at Holdron Moss on 27th July (B Dyson); 1 at Black Clough on 27th July (B Dyson); 1 at Blaze Moss on 3rd August (T Whitaker); 1 Red Syke Hill on 3rd July (T Whitaker): 1 Winmarleigh Moss on 4th June (J Girdley). VC59: 1 near Egerton, Bolton, on 29th June (D Lumb).

**NOCTUIDAE**

2082 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* (Linn.) – 1 to a garden MV at Morecambe on 7th August (J Girdley) was the first confirmed record since 2006.

2088 Heart and Club *Agrotis clavis* (Hufnagel) – now firmly established along the Sefton coast with 49 records, and a peak count of 18 at Formby on 25th June (T Davenport). In VC60, 11 records were received from Carnforth 18th June – 9th July, with a peak count of 8 on 20th June (J Rae). 1 at Warton on 17th June (M Elsworth), and 1 at High Tatham on 6th July (Gary Jones & A Shaw) was a new 10k record.

2091 Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel.) – see Migrant Report

2099 Portland Moth *Actebia praecox* (Linn.) – Another good year for this species following on from last year’s record numbers. Recorded from 6 sites along the Sefton coast, with a peak count of 6 on 2nd September at Formby NT (R Walker).

2114 Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* (Fabr.) – Away from the north Lancs stronghold, 1 was attracted to garden light trap at Formby on 4th July (T Davenport). The only VC59 record, and the same site that recorded 2 in 2010.

2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hubn.) – see Migrant Report.

2121 Barred Chestnut *Diarsia dahlia* (Hubn.) – 6 at Baines Crag on 30th August (J Girdley)
2127 **Triple-spotted Clay** *Xestia ditrapezium* (D. & S.) – 1 Leighton Moss RSPB on 2\(^{nd}\) July (G Jones & S Palmer) & 15\(^{th}\) July (J Beattie); 1 at Myers Allotment on 2\(^{nd}\) July (A Barker, E Langrish, R Moyes, S Priestley); 1at Millhouses on 4\(^{th}\) July (P Marsh): 1 at Warton on 10\(^{th}\) July; 1 at Yealand Redmayne on 11\(^{th}\) & 27\(^{th}\) July (S Stokes)

2132 **Neglected Rustic** *Xestia castanea* (Esper) – The majority of records were from the Manchester mosses, with 1 on 23\(^{rd}\) August, 2 on 2\(^{nd}\) September, and 2 on 9\(^{th}\) September at Cadishead Moss (K McCabe & S Hind), and at nearby Astley Moss; 1 on the 1\(^{st}\) September and 1 on the 17\(^{th}\) September (I Walker). In VC60, 1 was recorded at Baines Crag on 30\(^{th}\) August (J Girdley).

2142 **Beautiful Yellow Underwing** *Anarta myrtilli* (Linn.) – 1 to MV at Astley Moss on 21\(^{st}\) April, and 5 larvae recorded at Cadishead Moss on 20\(^{th}\) June (K McCabe), 1 at Cockermoor Moss on 3\(^{rd}\) May (S Palmer) and 3\(^{rd}\) June (G Jones), and 1 at Freshfield Dune Heath on 14\(^{th}\) July (G Jones).

2152 **White Colon** *Sideridis albicolon* (Hubn.) – 1 at Birkdale Green Beach on 25\(^{th}\) June (G Jones).

2162 **Glaucous Shears** *Papestra biren* (Goeze.) – 1 to a garden MV at Rochdale on 10\(^{th}\) May was a new 10k record (P Stevens).

2164 **Broad-barred White** *Hecatera bicolorata* – 9 records in total, with 1 at Ashton on Ribble on 15\(^{th}\) June (D Rumley) a new 10k record.

2165 **Small Ranunculus** *Hecatera dysidea* (D. & S.) – no records received in 2011; the first gap since 2007. It will be interesting to see if this species continues to maintain its foothold, with further records in 2012.

2171 **Marbled Coronet** *Hadena confusa* (Hufnagel) – singles at Heysham, 4-7\(^{th}\) May and 14\(^{th}\) June (D Holding), and singles at Sunderland Point2\(^{nd}\)-3\(^{rd}\) June (J Girdley).

2177 **Hedge Rustic** *Tholera cespitis* (D. & S.) – The decline continues. 1 at Fixton on 13\(^{th}\) August (K McCabe); 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 30\(^{th}\) August (J Clews, C Daly); 1 at Formby NT on 2\(^{nd}\) September (R Walker).

2183 **Blossom Underwing** *Orthosia miniosa* (D. & S.) – the most surprising record was 1 at Parr, St Helens on 19\(^{th}\) April (R Banks); the first record for VC59 since 1952 and possibly of migrant origin. At Silverdale, singles were recorded at Yealand Redmayne on 25\(^{th}\) March, 9\(^{th}\) & 21\(^{st}\) April (S Stokes); Leighton Moss RSPB on 1\(^{st}\) April (J Beattie); Myers Allotment on 6\(^{th}\) April (M Elsworth & B Hancock).

2184 **Northern Drab** *Orthosia opima* (Hübner) - 1 at Ravenmeols on 10\(^{th}\) April (G Jones) was the first record for the Sefton coast since 1987, and the first for the county since 2000.

2187 **Common Quaker** *Orthosia cerasi* (Fabr.) – the mild end to 2011 produced 2 early emergences; 1 at Lightfoot Green on 23\(^{rd}\) October (S Palmer), and 1 at Croston on 18\(^{th}\) November (A Barker, E Langrish, S Priestley)

2196 **Striped Wainscot** *Mythimna pudorina* (D&B) – Following on from last year’s record, a further 5 individuals were recorded in 2011: 1 at White Moss on 14\(^{th}\) June (J Girdley); 1 at Heysham on 26\(^{th}\) June (D Holding); 2 at Cadishead Moss on 27\(^{th}\) June (K McCabe), with another on 12\(^{th}\) July (K McCabe & G Riley). Is this the beginning of colonisation in Lancashire?

2201 **Shore Wainscot** *Mythimna litoralis* (Curtis) – 1 at Fleetwood Dunes on 14\(^{th}\) August (B Dyson), was a new 10k record.

2204 **Obscure wainscot** *Mythimna obsoleta* (Hubn.) – 1 at Astley Moss on 9\(^{th}\) June (K McCabe & G Riley), and 1 at Warrington (VC59) on 9\(^{th}\) June (J Mitchell-Islie), were both new 10k records.

2214 **Chamomile Shark** *Cucullia chamomillae* (D. & S.) – 1 at Formby on 2\(^{nd}\) May (T Davenport); 1 at Rainford on 20\(^{th}\) April (S Williams), and another at Swinton on the same date (G Riley). 1 at Hoghton on 16\(^{th}\) April (G Dixon) was a new 10k record. 5 larvae recorded at Holiday Moss on 3\(^{rd}\) July (C Darbyshire).

2221 **Mullein Shargacucullia verbasci** – 10 larvae recorded at Silverdale on 20\(^{th}\) May (B Hancock).

2225 **Minor Shoulder-knot** *Brachyloma viminalis* (Fabr.) – 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 29\(^{th}\) June (J Beattie), and 1 at Millhouses on 30\(^{th}\) July (P Marsh).

2227 **Sprawler** *Asteroscapus sphinx* (Hufnagel) – up to 3 at Millhouses 12\(^{th}\)-15\(^{th}\) November (J Girdley & P Marsh). 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 30\(^{th}\) October (J Beattie), and 1 at Yealand Conyers on 4\(^{th}\) November (B Hancock).

2231a **Northern Deep-brown Dart** *Aporophyla lueneburgensis* (Freyer.) – 1 at Worsthorne on 23\(^{rd}\) September (G Gavaghan), and 1 at Hoghton on 29\(^{th}\) September (G Dixon).

2235 **Tawny Pinion** *Lithophane semibrunnea* (Haw.) – another decrease in records. 1 on 29\(^{th}\) March at Morecambe (J Girdley); 1 on 1\(^{st}\) April at Horwich (R Burkmar); and 1 on 6\(^{th}\) April at Swinton (G Riley), were the total spring records. With singles to sugar at Hutton on 29\(^{th}\) & 30\(^{th}\) September (A Barker), and 1 at Lighthouse Green on 30\(^{th}\) September (C & S Palmer)

2237 **Grey Shoulder-knot** *Lithophane ornitopus* (Hufnagel.) – 17 records received, compared to last year’s 12, with 3 new 10k records: 1 at Heysham NR on 5\(^{th}\) March (P Marsh); 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 22\(^{nd}\) March (G Jones); 1 at Parr, St Helens on 24\(^{th}\) March (R Banks).

2250 **Dark Brocade** *Blepharita adusta* (Esper.) – 2 at Upper Coldwell Reservoir on 25\(^{th}\) June (K McCabe & G Riley), and 1 at Bolton on 11\(^{th}\) July (J Anderton) were both new 10k records.
2256 **Satellite** *Eupsilia transversa* (Hufnagel.) – an impressive 305 to sugar at German Lane on 26th November (E Langrish) was a county record.

2256 **Flounced Chestnut** *Agrochola helvola* (Linn.) – 40 at Gait Barrows NNR on 1st October was a county record (G Jones). 1 at Billinge on 16th October (C Darbyshire) was the first VC59 record since 2009.

2256 **Brown-spot Pinion** *Agrochola litura* (Linn.) – an improvement on previous years. 9 records from Hale, with a maximum count of 5 on 15th September (C Cockbain). 1 at Carnforth on 27th & 28th September (J Rae); 1 at Warton on 9th September (M Elsworth); 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 7th October (J Beattie); 1 at Gait Barrows NNR on 1st October (G Jones), and 3rd October (R Petley-Jones).

2270 **Lunar Underwing** *Omphaloscelis lunosa* (Haw.) – 45 records received, compared to last year’s dismal 14, and all widely dispersed around the county. Let’s hope this is the start of a turnaround in fortunes for this species.

2271 **Orange Sallow** *Xanthia citrata* (Linn.) – 10 records, all singles, and the majority from VC59.

2272 **Barred Sallow** *Xanthia aurata* (D. & S.) – a notable increase in records. 13 records from Hale, with a peak count of 4 on the 4th October (C Cockbain). 4 records from Widnes, with 1 on 20th September and 2 on 11th, 26th & 29th September (P Hillyer). 1 at Warrington (VC59) on 29th September (J Mitchell-Lisle); 1 at Ainsdale on 27th September (J Clews, C Daly, R Meyes); 1 at Formby on 1st October (R Walker); 1 at Ince Woods on 26th September (J Donnelly & C Fletcher); 1 at St Helens on 24th September (C Davies); and 1 VC60 record, with 1 at Longridge on 3rd October (D Lambert).

2275 **Dusky-lemon Sallow** *Xanthia gilvago* (D. & S.) – another *Xanthia* that showed a marked improvement in records: 1 at Walmer Bridge on 29th September (G Jones); 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 8th October (S Palmer); 1 at Sutton Leach, St Helens on 13th October (S Briers); 1 Hale on 22nd October (C Cockbain).

2281 **Alder Moth** *Acronicta alni* (Linn.) – a poor showing, with only 5 records, compared to last year’s 20 records (4 of which were new 10k records). 1 at Ellenbrook on 6th May (P Mansfield); 1 at Heysham on 9th May (D Holding); 1 at Swinton in 10th May (G Riley); 1st Worsley on 15th May (I Walker); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 29th May (B Hancock).

2283 **Dark Dagger** *Acronicta tridentis* (D. & S.) – 1 Birkdale Green Beach on 25th June (G Jones), and 1 at Morecambe on 14th June (J Girdley).

2286 **Light Knot Grass** *Acronicta menyanthidis* (Esper) – 1 Burn Moor on 29th May and 1 Cross of Greet on 2nd June (P Marsh).

2291 **Coronet** *Craniophora ligustri* (D. & S.) – 1 at Myers Allotment on 1st June (J Girdley) & 2nd July (A Barker, E Langrish, R Meyes, S Priestley); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 8th May 7th & 27th June; 1 Leighton Moss RSPB on 2nd July (S Palmer); 1 Wray west (Gary Jones & A Shaw).

2325 **Crescent Striped** *Apamea oblonga* (Haw.) – 6 records from Sunderland Point with a maximum count of 3 on 26th July (P Girdley). 1 at Little Singleton on the 12th and 26th July (S Bedford); 1 at Carnforth Foundry on 22nd July (J Girdley & P Marsh); 1 Hale on 26th July (Carol Cockbain); and 1 at Birkdale Green Beach on the very early date of the 4th June (G Jones).

2344 **Least Minor** *Photodes captivncula* (Treits.) – 1 at Warton Crag on 11th June (G Jones).

2348 **Lyme Grass** *Chortodes elymi* (Treits.) – the 3rd consecutive year that the moth has now been recorded (see 2010 report), with 1 at Birkdale Green Beach on 2nd August (G Jones).

2354 **Sandhill Rustic** *Luperina nickerlilii* ssp. *gueneei* (Doubl.) – The most extensive survey to date was undertaken in 2011, with all suitable habitat surveyed from Southport to Crosby, 5th August-16th September. 450 moths were recorded in total. The most notable finding was of a previously unknown colony at Ravenmeols (R Burkmak, D Flenley, G Jones et al).

2358 **Saltmarsh Ear** *Amphipoecia fucosa* (Tutt.) – 1 at Swinton on 10th July (G Riley) was a notable inland record and new for the 10k area.

2359 **Crinan Ear** *Amphipoecia crinanensis* – 1 at Leck Beck on 1st October (T Whitaker) was the first since 2008, and a new 10k record.

2361 **Butterbur** *Hydraecia petasitis* Doubl. – 1 at High Tatham on 30th August (J Girdley)

2371 **Brown-veined Wainscot** *Archanara dissoluta* (Treitschke.) – 1 at Billinge on 29th July (C Darbyshire) was the first record since 2007.

2377 **Fen Wainscot** *Arenostola phragmitidis* (Hubn.) – 1 at Dolphinfelome on 31st July (N Rogers) was a new 10k record.

2384 **Vine’s Rustic** *Hoplodrina ambigua* (D&S) – 2 at Formby NT on 1st October (R Walker).

2385 **Small Mottled Willow** *Spodoptera exigua* (Hubn.) – see Migrant Report

2394 **Anomalous** *Stilbia anomalata* (Haw.) – singles at Calderbrook, Littleborough on 2nd & 14th September (Y Mynett, S Pinnington).

2397 **Small Yellow Underwing** *Panemirera tenebrata* (Scop.) – singles at Gait Barrows NNR on 19th May (B Hancock) and 25th May (R Petley-Jones).
2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** Helicoverpa armigera (Hubn) – see Migrant Report

2403 **Bordered Straw** Heliothis peltigera (D&S) - see Migrant Report

2408 **Small Marbled Eublemma parva** (Hubn) - see Migrant Report

2410 **Marbled White Spot** Protodeltote pygarga (Hufnagel) – 14 records, with the bulk from the mossland strongholds of Asley and Cadishead, although no large counts this year.

2412 **Silver Hook** Deltote uncula (Clerck) – 1 at Asley Moss on 27th May (G Riley & I Walker); 1 at Cutacre on 2nd June (G Jones); 1 at Middleton NR on 3rd June (J Girdley); and 1 at Birkdale Slack on 11th July (T Davenport, P Smith)

2421 **Scarce Silver- lines** Bena bicolorana (Fuessly.) – 1 on 25th June at St Helens (D Owen). Singles at Swinton (G Riley), Ellenbrook (P Mansfield), Longton (R Boydell) and Fulwood (A Powell) all on 4th July.

2425 **Nut-tree Tussock** Colocasia coryl (Linn.) – 14 records, all from Silverdale, with a maximum of 3 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 6th May.

2432 **Ni Moth** Trichoplusia ni (Hubn) - See Migrant Report

2437 **Golden Plusia** Polychrysa moneta (Fabr.) – 1 at Widnes on 14th June (P Hillyer); 1 at Orrell on 19th June (P Alker); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 2nd July (B Hancock); 1 at Carnforth on 10th July (J Rae), and another on the same date at Longton (R Boydell)

2440 **Lempke’s Gold Spot** Plusia putnami (Lempke.) – 1 at Cadishead Moss on 27th June and 12th July (K McCabe & G Riley); 1 at Millhouses on 4th July (P Marsh); 1 at Wigan on 23rd July (G & B Wynn); 1 at Caton on 1st August (S Ryder); 1 Glazebury on 22nd August (R Rhodes & JD Wilson)

2441 **Silver Y** Autographa gamma (Linn.) – see Migrant Report

2444 **Gold Spangle** Autographa bractea (D. & S.) – a slight improvement on last year’s dismal 6 records, with 17 records received in total. 1 at Helmhore on 5th August was a new 10k record (I Smith).

2447 **Scarce Silver Y** Syngrapha interrogationis (Linn.) – 1 at Worsthorne on 31st July (G Gavaghan)

2462 **Mother Shipton** Callistege mi (Clerk.) – 15 records in total, all singles. 1 at Norden Reservoir on 3rd May (G Ashworth), and 1 at Holmes Chapel on 4th May (K McCabe) were new 10k records.

2463 **Burnet Companion** Euclidia glyphica (Linn.) – 1 at Heysham NR on 15th June (J Packham)

2466 **Blackneck** Lygephila pastinum (Treitschke) – singles at Cox Green Meadows on 2nd July (D Lumb), Yealand Redmayne on 5th July (S Stokes), and Birtle on 20th July (P Hardy), were all 10k records.

2470 **Small Purple-barred** Phytometra viridaria (Clerck) – 1at Birkdale Green Beach on 26th June (G Jones); 1 at Ainsdale Dunes on 26th June (G Jones); 1 at Formby NT on 28th July (R Walker); 1 at Ainsdale NNR on 6th May (J Clews, C Daly, R Moyes). The latter, surprisingly, was a new 10k record.

2473 **Beautiful Hook-tip** Laspeyria flexula (D&S.) – 1 at Sutton Leach, St Helens on 25th June (S Briers); 1 at Widnes on 26th June (P Hillyer); 1 at Martin Mere WWT on 9th July (A Bunting); 1 at Millhouses on 21st July (T Whitaker)

2476 **Beautiful Snout** Hypena crassalis (Fabr.) – 1 at Edenfield on 17th May (I Smith), and 1 at High Tatham on 5th July (P Marsh).

2485 **Marsh Oblique-barred** Hypenodes humidalis (Doubl.) – singles at Cadishead Moss on 12th July and 19th August (K McCabe & G Riley).

**Micromoth Report for 2011**

**Steve Palmer**

Over 17,000 records of micromoths were submitted by the moth recorders covering Lancashire’s two Vice Counties (VC59 and VC60) during 2011 – a healthy increase of about 2000 records over the 2010 total. These were made up of 592 different species highlighting the continuing growth in interest in this group. The large number of species found precludes mentioning each species individually and as a consequence only a summary of some of the more interesting, localised and notable species is presented below.

There were several new micros new to the county during 2011 of which two were probably previously over-looked residents. It seems likely that the other five moths were expanding their range nationally although some of these were quite dramatic expansions and involved moths being found at more than one site. Those few species new to just one or other of the vice counties (VC59 – 1 and VC60 – 3) are all good candidates for national range expansions.
Of the species new to Lancashire, five were totally unexpected and unpredicted. The discovery of *Coleophora frischella* in Upper Coldwell (Kevin McCabe - KM) could perhaps be explained in that it is very easily confused with several similar looking Coleophora and had to be confirmed by dissection. Also moving well outside their known range, *Mompha bradleyi* and *Mompha jurassicella* caused several days of head scratching and research before they were positively identified. Both specimens ended up in London at one point to allow a top lepidopterist to confirm the identifications. *M. bradleyi* was first found by KM at Flixton in May, followed several months later near Warrington by Joy Mitchell-Lisle (JM-L) where it was present in good numbers. *M. jurassicella*, found by John Girdley (JG) at Heysham, was particularly tricky to identify (until the hind wings were examined and dissection was carried out) as the moth’s forewings were darker than existing descriptions, drawings and photos suggested it should be. The discovery of several *Hypochalcia ahenella* by Graham Jones (GJ) in a disused limestone quarry near Clitheroe suggested this moth had been present for some time and over-looked, the same probably being the case with *Pammene herrichiana* in Fulwood, Preston (Alan Powell - AP) where two were attracted to light under mature Beech trees. The find of the year however must be the *Pammene ochsenheimeriana* attracted to light in Swinton by Geoff Riley (GR). This is a rare moth nationally with a few very scattered records throughout England and up into Scotland; it is associated with pine trees. GR also found *Gelechia nigra* in his light trap, another exciting find in Lancashire and well north of its known range. However much to Geoff’s dismay another recorder forwarded a specimen of the same species which had been found a week or so earlier than his (in Formby by Richard Walker - RW) just pipping him to the post for first county record. Related to this last species, it may be of interest to those studying micromoths that a new national recording scheme for the Gelechiidae has recently started and a website is slowly under construction which contains some provisional distribution maps (http://www.gelechiid.co.uk/).

Moths new to one or other of the vice counties and moving northwards in the UK included *Ectoedemia sericopeza* in Preston (Steve Palmer - SMP), a moth that was first found in St Helens in 2006. The larva mine the seeds of the widely planted Norway Maple and it is likely the moth is under-recorded as the mines can be difficult to spot and the moth doesn’t seem to be a regular at light. In St Annes, Jean Wardle (JW) came across *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* in her light trap, the moth first being found in Lancashire in Woolston, near the R. Mersey in 2002. It has gradually expanded its range north and eastward across the county and was also found at Martin Mere for the first time in 2011 (Andy Bunting - APB).

The above report relates to the uncommon and newly arrived species but most people’s experience is with the micros that come regularly to their light traps. The species most commonly reported during 2011 was the bird-cherry ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*. Large silken webs constructed by the gregarious larvae of this moth had been quite widespread during 2010 so perhaps the widespread nature and large numbers of this moth were not unexpected. This was closely followed by the common pyralid grass moth *Agriphila straminella*, while the light brown apple moth, *Epiphyas postvittana* was left lingering in sixth place following another poor year for this formerly dominant species. Numbers of *E. postvittana* had increased a bit since their rapid decline in 2010 but it seems to be taking its time to build back up to holding the most common species slot it had attained for so long.

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Only one of our micromoths occurs on the National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) list. *Anania funebris* is a small but beautiful black, white and yellow day-flying moth that can be seen in May on the limestone areas of north Lancashire. During 2011 it was recorded in low numbers between the 29th April and 11th June at two sites (Gait Barrows and Warton Crag) by several recorders. Anyone visiting the north Lancs limestone during 2012 is asked to keep a particular look out for this moth – any reported sightings can be passed on to Graham or I.

I can only pick a small selection of the remaining records for inclusion in this report. Each year Kevin McCabe very kindly puts together a list of new 10km records for each micromoth species. This list is invaluable in picking up trends in range expansion, recording effort in new areas and a more general advance in our knowledge of the distribution of the county’s moths. Of
those showing range expansions, the fantastic effort by KM in tracking the spread of Cameraria ohiidella (horse chestnut leafminer) has added 13 new 10km squares to its distribution as well as the moth being found by Carolyn Palmer north of Preston, new to 10km square SD53. Other moths showing a strong range expansion included Tachystola acroxantha, found for the first time in Crook o’ Lune (SMP & A. Sarney), Fazakerley (Les Ward – LW), Southport (Ron Moyes – RM) and Warrington (JM-L) and Agryresthia trifasciata found in Poulton le Fylde (Anne Smith – AES), Rainford (Stu Williams – SW) and Sunderland Point (JG). The arrival of Lobesia abscisana at an upland site in VC60 (Dolphinholme – Nigel Rogers – NR) on 27th July is a significant move for this moth, which has previously restricted itself to lowland and coastal sites in that vice county. Other species which may still be on the move, but at a much slower rate, include Grapholita lunulana, found near Hazelhurst Wood SD71 (D. Lumb) and Phlyctaenia perlucidalis, in Sutton Leach (S. Briers).

With the number and geographical range of records now coming in, a much better understanding of the status of some of our local species (as opposed to under-recorded) is now being established. A few of these type of moth recorded in 2011 included Aethes beatricella in Southport (RM) on 26th June (only three other sites in Lancs), Trachycera marmorea, found in a new 10km square at Yealand Conyers on 25th June (B. Hancock) and Piniphila bifasciata in Wigan on 4th July by Geoff and Barbara Wynn. Conversely, one moth thought to be quite local but which is turning out to be under-recorded is Philedone gerningana, found at five upland sites in SD55 and SD65 during daytime walks by Barry Dyson. We’ve still a lot to learn!

As well as the new county and vice county records (in bold), the majority of moths listed below are new to the 10km squares in which they were located. Quite a few of these records come from garden light-trap sites, but it is daytime visits, rearing of larvae or leaf mine searches away from gardens that produce many of the most interesting records. Rearing of larvae and looking for feeding signs can be much more successful than light trapping where micros are concerned and I would urge all recorders to give this a try. Try the British Leaf-mining fauna website (http://www.leafmines.co.uk/index.htm) as an excellent identification resource.

Spring 2012 sees the arrival of a brand new identification guide specifically aimed at identifying a large percentage of British micromoths. It is in the same style as Waring, Townsend and Lewington’s field guide and Richard Lewington is also the artist for this work. It has been put together by Phil Sterling (one of the country’s top micromoth experts) and Mark Parsons, head of Moth conservation at Butterfly Conservation. More information on this will be distributed via the Lancashire Moth Yahoo email group when a publication date is known. If you wish to join the Yahoo group do contact Graham Jones for details (see back page for contact details).

Nepticulidae

21 Ectoedemia sericopeza (Zell.) – Lightfoot Green SD513333 (60) to MV light 9.ix.2011, genitalia det. – S. Palmer

25 Ectoedemia intimella (Zell.) – Lightfoot Green SD513333 (60) vacated mine on Salix caprea 7.xii.2011, first VC record with data – S. Palmer

Prodoxidae

137 Lampronia morosa Zell. – Sunderland Point SD4256 (60) netted on Rosa pimpinellifolia

25.v.2011, first VC record with data – S. Palmer

Yponomeutidae

436 Pseudoswammerdamia combinella (Hubn.) – Rainford SD475014 (59) to actinic light 10.v.2011, first in over 100 years – S. Williams

442 Cedestis gysseleniella (Zell.) – Fulwood SD5332 (60) to MV light 26.vi.2011, det. S Palmer – A. Powell

Coleophoridae

517a Coleophora frischella (Linn.) – Upper Coldwell LWT reserve SD9036 (59) netted 19.v.2011, genitalia det. S. Palmer – K. McCabe

Oecophoridae

635 Denisia subaquilea (Staint.) – Freshfield Dune Heath LWT reserve SD3009 (59) netted 11.5.2001, first for 60 years, det. S Palmer – G. Jones

678 Depressaria sordidatella Tengst. – Flixton SJ741938 (59) to MV light 20.vii.2011, first in over 100 years, genitalia det. S. Palmer – K. McCabe

Gelechiidae


Momphidae

890 *Mompha jurassicella* (Frey) – Heysham SD4059 (60) to blended bulb 4.ix.2011, genitalia det. S. Palmer – J. Girdley

**Cosmopterigidae**

902 *Chrysoclista lathamella* Fletcher – Cadishead Moss SJ6995 (59) 20.vi.2011, second county record of this nationally rare moth - K. McCabe

**Tortricidae**

1145 *Epinotia nanana* (Treits.) – Swinton SD766001 (59) to MV light 3.vi & 27.vi.2011 – G. Riley, genitalia checked S. Palmer

1236a *Pammene herrichiana* (Hein.) – Fulwood SD5332 (60) two to MV light below several mature Beech trees *Fagus sylvatica* 10.v.2011 det. S. Palmer – A. Powell

1238 *Pammene ochsenheimeriana* (L. & Z.) – Swinton SD766001 (59) to MV light vi.2011 – G Riley, genitalia checked S. Palmer

**Pyralidae**

1380 *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* (Hubn.) – St Annes SD337278 (60) to MV light 26.vi.2011 – J. Wardle

1421 *Aglossa pinguinalis* (Linn.) – Formby (National Trust) SD278076 (59) 15.vi.2011 to MV light, first for 60 years – R. Walker

1457 *Hypochalcia ahenella* Hubn. Crosshill Quarry LWT reserve SD743432 (59) six to MV light 3.vi.2011 – G. Jones

I am always happy to receive specimens or good quality photos of micromoths to identify, particularly from areas where this group has not been studied before (see “Number of species per 10km sq” by Kevin McCabe on the Lancashire Moth Group website - [www.lancashiremoths.co.uk/visitor/MothListAndMaps.aspx](http://www.lancashiremoths.co.uk/visitor/MothListAndMaps.aspx)). It is always very much appreciated if those regularly submitting photos do try to identify species encountered annually at their sites as this reduces our work-load. If someone else has identified the moth for you then do please name that person as the Determiner when submitting a record. If there are any subsequent questions about the record it will be known whom to address the questions to.

I mentioned the following issue in the 2010 report but it is worth repeating again as it is a problem when Kevin, Graham and I are checking data, making up site lists and submitting records both locally and nationally. Please don’t enter any grid references on Mapmate at greater than an eight digit level (if you want to note a ten digit please place this in the comments column). Mapmate will accept these on entry but whenever data searches are made Mapmate only shows the first eight digits thereby giving the grid ref incorrectly. For our own purposes, six digit references are ideal.

Thanks very much to all of you who have submitted records for 2011 and I look forward to a bumper crop of records in 2012.

**Migrant Report for 2011**

After several disappointing years, 2006 was the best for migrant moths since 2006. And the first year in which Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* and Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* have appeared in numbers. The first two weeks of October produced an impressive run of Vestal *Rhodometra sacaria* records, as a result of a sustained warm southerly airflow, which also produced several records of the pyralid *Palpita vitrealis*. But migrant highlight of the year has to go to the Crimson Speckled at Formby Point on the 25th August. Here’s hoping that 2012 produces the same.

0464 **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella* (Linn.) – 116 records. First recorded at Southport on 6th April (R Moyes), and last recorded on 25th December (G&B Wynn). Maximum count of 5 on 20th July at Southport (R Moyes).

1395 **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis* (Hubn.) – 117 records. First recorded at Blaze Moss on 4th July (S Palmer), and last recorded at Lightfoot Green on 20th November (S Palmer). Maximum count of 3 on several dates.
1398 **Rush Veneer** *Nomaphila noctuella* (D. & S.) – 12 records. First recorded at Yealand Conyers on 9th April (B Hancock), last recorded at Hale on 31st August (C Cockbain). All singles. Surprisingly few considering the amount of migrant activity.

1408 **Palpita vitrealis** (Rossi.) – 3 records. 1 at Southport on 30th September (R Moyes); 1 at Morecambe on 7th October (J Girdley); 1 at Leighton Moss RSPB on 2nd October. All singles. The first records for VC59 & 60 since 2006.

1716 **Vestal Rhodometra sacaria** (Linn.) 18 records. First recorded at Lightfoot Green on 2nd October (S Palmer), and last recorded at Billinge on 16th October (FA Middlehurst). Maximum count of 2 at Hale on 2nd October (C Cockbain), and Bootle on 5th October (C Fletcher).

1720 **Gem Orthonauta obstipata** (Fabr.) – 1 at Sunderland Point on 1st October (J Girdley), and 1 at Carnforth on 12th November (L Lyon).

1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* - (Linn.) – 44 records. First recorded on 24th April (anom.) and last recorded on 3rd November (A Reading). The maximum was 3 at Chorley on 16th August (C & J Haddon).

1987 **Bedstraw Hawk-moth** *Hyles gallii* (Rottemburg.) – 1 at Heysham on 28th July (D Holding). The first record for VC59&60 since 2008.

2054 **Crimson Speckled** *Utetheisa pulchella* (Linn.) – 1 at Formby Point on 25th August (R Hill). The only other record for VC59&60 is 1 at Middleton in 1871.

2091 **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel) – 181 records. First recorded at Heysham (D Holding) and Sunderland Point (J Girdley) on 1st April, and last recorded at Heysham (J Holding) on 18th November. Maximum count of 5 at Martin Mere WWT on 18th April (A Bunting).

2119 **Pearly Underwing** *Peridroma saucia* (Hubn.) – 1 at Heysham on 29th September (D Holding); 1 at Morcambe on 3rd October and 2nd November (J Girdley); 1 Walmer Bridge on 7th October (G Jones).

2385 **Small Mottled Willow** *Spodoptera exigua* (Linn.) – 1 at Lightfoot Green on 4th July (A Barker), and another at High Tatham (P Marsh) on the same date.

2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubn.) – 1 at Sunderland Point on 20th July (J Girdley); 1 at Heysham on 27th September (D Holding); 1 at Lightfoot Green on 3rd October (S Palmer). The first records for VC59&60 since 2006.

2403 **Bordered Straw** *Heliothis peltigera* (D&S.) – 1 at Lightfoot Green on 3rd October (S Palmer). The first record for VC59&60 since 2008.

2408 **Small Marbled** *Eublemma parva* (Hubn) – 1 at Fulwood on 31st July (Z Hinchcliffe); 1 at Walmer Bridge on 4th July (G Jones); 1 at Crosby on 14th July (C Fletcher). The first records for VC59&60 since 2005.

2432 **Ni Moth** *Trichoplusia ni* (Hubn) – 1 at Lightfoot Green on 28th September (S Palmer); 1 at Yealand Conyers on 1st October (B Hancock); 1 at Yealand Redmayne on 2nd October (S Stokes). The first records for VC59&60 since 1996.

2441 **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma* (Linn.) - 897 records. First recorded at St Annes on 30th March (P Davies), and last recorded at Lightfoot Green on 23rd November (S Palmer). Maximum count was 25 at Brinscall Moor on 2nd September.

A Detailed look at the………Geometridae (part) Steve Palmer

A regular feature of the Annual Report is a detailed look at the status and distribution, in systematic order, of a few of the macromoths recorded in Lancashire, both past and present. The current status, distribution and ecology of each species are presented in a brief summary together with an up-to-date map showing each species’ known distribution in the two vice counties (59 and 60).

This report covers seven Carpet moths amongst which are one of the more difficult pairs to identify and also a national rarity. The genera covered start with *Thera* which has nine species in Europe, six of which occur in the UK; of these, five have been recorded in Lancashire. The other two genera, *Eustroma* and *Electrophaes*, are represented by single species in Europe, both of which occur in Lancashire.

Distribution maps have been produced for all of the species using MapMate and only include confirmed records (so may differ slightly from the maps available on the wider Mapmate network). The graph at top right on the maps demonstrates the flight period and average voltinism (number of broods per year). Foodplant information is based on that published in Porter (1997), Skinner (2009) and Waring, Townsend and Lewington (2009).
1767 *Thera firmata* (Hubn.) Pine Carpet

The Pine Carpet is a local species in the county and its range appears to be limited to areas where small groups or larger congregations of long established Scots Pine trees are found. It is readily identified by the presence of the strong V-shaped indentation on the inner edge of the central cross band. Although the Grey Pine Carpet can sometimes be a similar orangey brown colour, the indentation should allow separation of the two species. The moth is strongly attracted to light and is single-brooded, being most frequently encountered from July to early November, although July records are few in number. A few June records are known, although some of these may relate to the orange form of the Grey Pine Carpet which at times can have a slight indentation on the inner band. Extreme early and late dates are 31st May 1992 in Billinge (C. Darbyshire) and 10th November 2011 in Ainsdale (J. Clews, C. Daly, R. Moyes). The larva feed on Scots and Corsican Pine.

1768 *Thera obeliscata* (Hubn.) Grey Pine Carpet

This is a widespread and occasionally common species found in a wide range of habitats, primarily where conifer plantations occur. It is perhaps less common in gardens than records suggest due to confusion with the similar Spruce Carpet (see comments under that species). The moth is double-brooded flying from late April to mid July and again from late August to early November. The larva feed on a wide range of coniferous tree species including Scots Pine, Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Red Cedar, Lawson’s Cypress and Monterey Cypress. Extreme early and late dates are 15th April 2010 in St. Helens (D. Owen) and 26th November 1997 in Mere Sands Wood (I. Kippax).

1769 *Thera britannica* (Turner) Spruce Carpet

This is a common species throughout most of the county and a regular and frequent visitor to garden light traps. It has been increasing in numbers particularly over the last decade. A recent publication (Townsend, C. M., Clifton, J. and Goodey, B., 2010) has highlighted the problems of separating this and the previous species. The following is a short summary of various published material. Generally Spruce Carpet has the cross markings more strongly highlighted with white edging and the dark central cross-band has more strongly scalloped edges (usually smooth in Grey Pine). Similarly the outer cross line is usually stronger and more “fluted” in Spruce Carpet but both species can be quite variable. The male antennae do show differences under the microscope (see Townsend, C. M., Clifton, J. and Goodey, B., 2010 and www.dissectiongroup.co.uk). It is noted in the above book that a third species found on the continent is very similar to Spruce Carpet. It is thought (hoped?) that DNA analysis may shed further light on the relationship between the three species. As the two British species show considerable variation and no strong genitalia differences are apparent, records should be submitted based on as many of the features mentioned above as possible. The larva has a mostly similar range of foodplants to Grey Pine Carpet and has also been recorded on Sitka Spruce. Extreme early and late dates are 3rd April 1995 in Preston (S. Palmer) and 13th December 2006 in Bolton (D. Lumb).

1770 *Thera cognata* (Thunb.) Chestnut-coloured Carpet

There are only historic records for this species in Lancashire, as detailed in Mansbridge, W., 1940 under *Thera juniperata*, where it is given as *Scarce and local amongst Juniper in North Lancs.; Silverdale (A. E. Wright) and Warton (G. L.)* – the full name of GL is not given and no dates are mentioned. The 2001 record on the general copy of MapMate was entered in error and it has not been possible to remove it as the person no longer sends in Mapmate flies. The larva feed on Juniper from September to June and this is the best way to locate the species as it is rarely seen as an adult. It is quite possible that the moth could still be present within the limestone areas of north Lancs. It was noted in VC69 (south Cumbria) until at least 1993 (Kydd, B. & Hewitt, S., 2000).

1771 *Thera juniperata* (Linn.) Juniper Carpet

Until the late 1960s, records of this species nationally were restricted to areas where its foodplant, juniper, occurred naturally. In Lancashire this meant it was a very local moth with records restricted to the Silverdale limestone. The first indications of it expanding beyond these areas came with a record from Preston in 1970. Since then it has spread to most parts of the county taking advantage of cultivated junipers in gardens and is a regular late autumn species at many garden light traps. The black streak occurring at the tip of the forewing is diagnostic. The moth is single brooded flying from late September to early November. The larva feed on Juniper, including garden varieties. Extreme early and late dates are 11th September 2010 in Ellenbrook (P. Mansfield) and 30th November 2007 in Worsley (I. Walker).

1772 *Eustroma reticulatum* (D. & S.) Netted Carpet

The discovery of a strong colony of this delightful and rare moth in Lancashire by Jenny and Martin Elsworth and Brian Hancock in 2009 will go down as one of the main highlights in moth recording history in the county. Searches had been carried out in the Hynning Wood area near Warton and elsewhere in previous years but no signs had been found. The discovery of several larvae in September 2009 has led to regular surveys of adults and larvae taking place, the latter being the most successful way
of recording this moth. Larval counts of well over 200 have been achieved in both 2010 and 2011 and some habitat creation and scrub clearance has been carried out to improve conditions for this national BAP species. The larva feed on Touch-me-not Balsam (itself a rare plant). The moth is on the wing during July while the larva is best located in September.

1773 *Electrophaes corylata* (Thunb.) Broken-barred Carpet

This locally common moth is primarily a species of the more scrubby and wooded parts of the county. It is encountered less frequently and not necessarily annually in gardens away from this type of habitat. The moth is single brooded and is on the wing during May and June. Larval food-plants include birch, oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, sweet chestnut and other deciduous trees. Extreme early and late dates are 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 at Astley Moss (G. Riley, I. Walker) and 9<sup>th</sup> July 1999 in Littleborough (I. Kimber).

References:

Mansbridge, W., 1940. The Lepidopterous Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire by Ellis, revised Mansbridge, 1940.
Borrow a Moth Trap

The Lancashire Branch of Butterfly Conservation has two moth traps available for loan (subject to prior bookings) usually for about a fortnight to a month at a time. One is a mains electricity powered mercury vapour bulb “Robinson” trap, which has a very bright light and can catch large numbers of moths in suitable conditions. The other is a reasonably portable battery powered 15W Actinic trap which can be used in gardens or elsewhere. Its light output is much lower than the Robinson and consequently it catches fewer moths but is ideal for areas where the bright light of the other might cause nuisance to neighbours. The traps come with an identification book and are an ideal way to experiment with moth trapping and to see if it is something you might like to continue with in the future. Even if you don’t take up moth trapping any records you make during the loan period will be of great value in expanding our knowledge of moth distribution in Lancashire.

Moth Recorders 2011

Apologies if anyone has been omitted from this list by mistake – if so please let Steve Palmer know (address below). Please keep the records coming in, with Date, Location, Grid Reference (to six figures if poss.) and Recorder to:

Alker, Pete
Allen, Sonia
Anderton, John
Armstrong, Gail
Ashton, Pippa
Ashworth, Gavin
Baines, Ashley
Ball, Tony
Banks, Ray
Barker, Andrew
Barnes, Peter J
Bateson, Alex
Bayton, Eddie
Beattie, Jim
Beavan, Stella
Bedford, Susan
Berry, Pete
Birch, John
Burkmar, Richard
Bond, Anthony
Bond, Dave
Boydell, Roy
Briers, S
Brighton, Philip
Broome, David
Broomfield, Mary
Bullock, Kenneth
Burkmar, Richard
Butler, Brenda
Caunce, Dorothy
Cargill, Alan
Chadwick,
JCheney, Alec
Clarke, Jeff
Clegg, Brian
Clerk, Mike & Joyce
Clews, John
Cockbain, Carol
Daly, Colin
Darbyshire, Chris
Davenport, Trevor
Davie, Tim & Janet
Davies, Colin
Davies, Megg
Davies, Patrick
Davies, Vicki
Dean, Mary
Dixon, Graham
Dockery, Mike
Donnelly, John
Dorman, S
Draper, Alan
Dunstan, Doreen
Dyson, Barry
Elsworth, Martin &
Jenny
Farraday, Jackie
Flenley, Daniel
Flenley, Philip
Fletcher, Charlie
Gavaghan, Graham
Gibson, John & Margaret
Gilchrist, Peter &
Veronica
Girdley, John
Goth, Anna
Greenwood, R
Griffiths, Robin
Haddon, C & J
Haizelden, Billy
Hall, Philip
Hall, Rick
Hall, Russell
Hancock, Brian
Hannan, Amy
Hardy, Peter
Haydock, Ken
Heckford, Bob
Hemingway, C
Hide, James
Hill, Rod
Halliwell, Steve
Hazelden, B
Hillyer, Paul
Hilton, Roy
Hinchcliffe, Zac
Hind, Steve
Hiscocks, Geoff
Holding, John & Betty
Horsfall, Chris
Houltn, Richard
Hutchinson, Tim
Jackson, Mrs S H
James, Hazel & Chris
Jolly, Stephen
Johnson, Tony
Johnston, Daisy
Jones, Gary
Jones, Graham
Kilgour, John
Kinder, Phillip M
Kinsella, Peter
Kippax, Ian
Krischkiw, Peter
Lambert, Denis
Langrish, Eddie
Langrish, Emma
Lawson, Tony
Lumb, David
Luscombe, David M
Lyon, Liz
Mansfield, Phil
Marsh, Pete
Martin, Steve
Mayor, A
McCabe, Kevin
McGrath, Dave
Middlehurst, F A
Miller, Diane
Miller, Richard
Mills, Jill
Mitchell-Lisle, Joy
Morbey Ganley, Hazel & John
Mower, Irene
Moyes, Ron
Mynnett, Yvonne
Neville, Reuben
Newton, Jennifer
Nicholson, Elaine
O'Shea, Mike
O'Shea, Mike
Owen, David W
Packham, Janet
Palmer, Carolyn
Palmer, Claire
Palmer, Mark
Palmer, Steve
Parker, Helen
Parker, Rick
Parsons, Alex & Shelagh
Peacock, Colin
Petley-Jones, Rob
Piggot, Alex
Pinnington, Steve
Powell, Alan
Priestley, Stephen
Prior, Stephen
Purnell, Anna
Rae, Jennifer
Rhodes, Roy
Riden, Tony
Riley, Geoff
Rimmer, Maureen
Rogers, Nigel
RSPB Vol. team
Rumley, David
Riden, Tony
Ryder, Steve
Sarney, A
Scott, Anne
Scragg, Jonathan
Shaw, Anne
Simms, S J
Simpson, Archie
Sivell, Laura
Slade, D J
Smart, Ben
Smith, Alan
Smith, Anne E
Smith, Derrick & Ida
Smith, Ina
Smith, Phil
Stevens, Peter
Stokes, Sylvia
Titmuss, P
Tordoff, Martin
Wain, Martin
Walker, Ian
Walker, Richard
Walmer, Jean
Ward, Les
Wardle, Jean
Whitaker, Terry
White, Les
Williams, Stuart
Wilson, Dave
Winnard, David
Wood, Margaret & Paul
Wright, David
Wynn, Geoff & Barbara

**County Macro-moth Recorder**

Graham Jones,
45 Liverpool Old Road, Walmer Bridge, Preston PR4 5QA.  01772 617221 or email - gra_ham_jones@yahoo.co.uk

**County Microlepidoptera Recorder**

Steve Palmer, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR4 0AH.  01772 861570 or s.palmer12@btopenworld.com

Any offers of articles on moths or moth related items for the Lancashire Branch of BC Newsletter or the Lancs Moth Group Newsletter can also be directed to Steve.

Records can be sent to either of the above. Please continue to send Mapmate files to Steve (CUK - 1b8). If recorders would like a written reply acknowledging receipt of their records or other correspondence, a stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated by Graham and Steve.
2012 Events programme

In the event of inclement weather, it is advisable to check with the leader that the outdoor events detailed below are going ahead.

Sunday, 15th April, starting at 1130

Green Hairstreaks at Clougha

Meet at Rigg Lane Car Park, Quernmore, SD527604. Suitable clothing for cold and wet conditions should be worn. Waterproof walking boots are recommended as the route involves going across rough wet ground and some reasonably steep paths. The initial walk will be for one hour with a possible extension to higher ground if time and weather permit.

For more details and confirmation in event of inclement weather please contact Leader, Martin Wain, on 01524 33851 or 07773 431420

Sunday, 22nd April, starting at 10.30am

Belted Beauty Count, Potts Corner

Annual survey of the Belted Beauty colony, meeting in the Potts Corner Car Park (SD413571) at 10.30am. Be prepared for cold wet and windy conditions. Waterproof walking boots or wellies are advisable. On occasions a charge is levied for parking but is unlikely to exceed 50p. This is a joint meeting with the Lancs Moth Group. Organiser: Steve Palmer – s.palmer12@btopenworld.com 01772 861570

Friday 4th May, starting at 7.30pm

Lancashire Branch AGM together with a talk entitled “Back from the Brink: the Marsh Fritillary in Cumbria” by Keith Porter

Meet at the headquarters of the Lancs Wildlife Trust – The Barn (directions below).

This is an opportunity for all members to come along and meet fellow butterfly and moth enthusiasts, meet the Branch Committee and to learn all about the fascinating story of the reintroduction of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly in Cumbria. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available free of charge at the mid point of the evening.

Directions: To find The Barn, come off the M6 at J28 and take the B5256 eastbound, crossing the A49 at the traffic lights. After one mile (and just as you leave the houses) turn left at the top of the hill onto Shady Lane. Proceed for about a mile past Nell Lane on your left then take the next right down Berkeley Drive. The Barn is on your left after a couple of hundred yards with ample parking beyond (a car parking charge applies in some parts of this area – please check for signs).

Sunday, 13th May, starting at 11am

Spring Butterflies at Gait Barrows

Meet at the metal barn in the centre of Gait Barrows (SD473774), approaching along the rough track from the north. For further details contact the leader, Laura Sivell, on 0152469248 or email laura.sivell@mypostoffice.co.uk

Sunday, 20th May, starting at 11am

Myers Allotment - A “Save our Butterflies Week” event


As well as looking for butterflies, this is an opportunity to see the fantastic work already carried out to help save a raft of rare butterfly and moth species at the Lancashire Branch’s new reserve in north Lancashire. Northern Brown Argus and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary are the target species, finishing around 1pm.

Meet at the reserve entrance (SD475749) – very limited parking, but only five minutes walk from RSPB Leighton Moss.

For more details contact leader, Dave Wrigley on 01524 782962
Sunday, 17th June, starting at 10am and 1pm
Moth Talk and Butterfly Walk, Yarrow Valley Visitors Centre

A talk on the Moths of Lower Burgh Meadows including moth-trap opening. From 1pm there will be a butterfly and day-flying moth walk around the park. Meet at the visitors centre car park (SD570152) Leader: Eddie Langrish. For more details contact Eddie on 01257 232100 or email edwinlangrish[at]btinternet.com

21st-23rd June 2012 National Moth Count events

The former National Moth Night has been re-branded and covers three consecutive days and nights in mid season. Brownfield sites have been designated as the habitat of choice for those who may wish to target these sorts of areas. You might also like to note that NMN 2013 will be on 8th to 10th August 2013 and 3rd to 5th July 2014. As well as the opportunity to record in your gardens or elsewhere there are two formal events as detailed below.

Friday, 22nd June, starting at 3pm and carrying on after midnight
Middleton Nature Reserve, near Heysham

Afternoon event:
Meet at Middleton reserve car park SD419590. A North Lancs Naturalists event (Lancs Moth Group & BC members welcome) for this National Moth count on a brown-field site; daytime fieldwork possible light trapping later.

Evening event:
The early evening will initially be spent at nearby Heysham Nature Reserve - meet at the Car Park (SD407599). This also qualifies as ‘brownfield’ and includes use of the classroom facilities. A decision will then be made whether to transfer to Middleton, based on weather and other considerations. It is important, for safety and logistics at Middleton, as well as the weather-related details of arrangements, that anyone wishing to attend emails Pete Marsh pmash123@aol.com

Saturday, 23rd June, starting at 3pm and carrying on after midnight
Trowbarrow Quarry, Silverdale

Enter via Moss Lane, Red Bridge and unlocked gate on right, parking here at SD477757, or in Storrs Lane or Leighton Moss.

Joint event with the North Lancs Naturalists for this National Moth count on a brown-field site. Daytime fieldwork and night moth light trapping if weather suitable. Please email John Girdley, johngirdley@btinternet.com for final details of arrangements according to weather.

Saturday, 14th and Sunday 15th July
RSPB Leighton Moss, Annual Moth Event and Breakfast

This Lancashire Moth Group event is open to BC members and starts with a moth trapping demonstration on Saturday night from 10pm - traps are then run through the night. On Sunday morning (8am to 10 am) the RSPB have arranged their usual moth breakfast. Booking is essential for the breakfast which is followed by the opportunity to examine the moths caught overnight. Cost: The prices have yet to be confirmed by the RSPB but last year were £8 per person (£7 for RSPB members) which includes a cooked breakfast. For further details, and booking for the breakfast (essential), phone the RSPB on 01524 701601.

Saturday, 14th July, starting at 12 (midday)
Winmarleigh Moss, nr Pilling

Walk will have a specific target of finding the rare Large Heath butterfly but other species of butterfly and moth can be seen on this lowland heather site. The walk takes you over some rough terrain on uneven scrubby ground so please come suitably attired. As parking near the site is limited and on private land please meet at the Car Park (with toilets) in the middle of Pill- ing village (SD404483).

Please phone beforehand to advise if you are attending. For more details contact leader, Derrick Smith, on 01253 356173.
Saturday, 21st and Sunday 22nd July

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

As part of Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count over a three week period in late July and early August (http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/) the Lancs. Branch have put together a fantastic choice of five events over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd July. Covering many parts of the county, this weekend’s events will allow you to choose an event close to you. Perhaps you’ve never attended a BC walk before – well now is the opportunity to see what we have to offer. You’ll be amazed at what a wide variety of butterflies and moths can be found at this time of year.

Saturday, 21st July, starting at 11am

Brockholes, Lancs Wildlife Trust Wetland Reserve

A butterfly walk will take place around this new nature reserve. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to examine the contents of a moth trap set on the previous night. Bring your own packed lunch or eat in the visitors centre.

Meet at Information Centre SD584304 – a parking charge is applied at this site.

For more details contact Leader - James Hide on 01772 865392 or email jamesandgeri@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday, 21st July, starting at 2pm

Ainsdale National Nature Reserve butterfly walk

Meet at the gated entrance to the Ainsdale National Nature Reserve. (OS map grid ref. SD 303113.) Just north of Woodvale Airfield on the A565 (south of Southport) are traffic lights, turn west here along the Coast Road until the road rises over the railway line. Immediately after this, on the left is the entrance into ANNR. The area contains one of the few Lancashire sites to see Forester Moth and has a small area of meadow, grasslands associated with the dunes, some mixed woodland and all backed by pine forest. There are no car park facilities here, but a small road prior to the rail bridge on the left can be used.

For further details or for confirmation of the event going ahead in the case of inclement weather please phone Richard Walker on 01704 876747. Mobile 07974555326.

Saturday, 21st July, meet at 9pm for a 10pm start to moth trapping

Formby Dunes National Trust

Meet at the National Trust’s Countryside Office, Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool, L37 1PH. (OS map grid ref SD276076). Free parking available.

Those with their own generator and light set-up are most welcome. Even in the event of a windy night there are a number of well sheltered areas amongst the dunes and trees. Last year in June five traps were operated and around 86 different moth species were recorded. It would be helpful to know in advance the number of people bringing their own traps. Suitable warm and wet-proof clothing is advisable as is a good torch.

For further details or for confirmation of the event going ahead in the case of inclement weather please phone Richard Walker on 01704 876747. Mobile 07974555326.

Saturday, 21st July, starting at 2pm

Butterflies in the Altrincham area

Dark Lane and the disused railway. Meet at the gate to Dark Lane, which is at the junction of Sinderland Lane and White House Lane, SJ738900.

We hope to see Purple Hairstreak; it wasn’t too difficult to find them last year. Limited parking by the gate; masses of free parking less than 2 minutes away at the crematorium car park on White House Lane. Also please note that the half-hourly autobus, service 247, from Altrincham to Eccles via Partington, Flixton and Davyhulme stops right at the junction.

Contact details: Peter B Hardy 01619720725, 07880891428 email pgll@btopenworld.com

Sunday, 22nd July, starting at 11am

Yealand Hall Allotments - followed (weather permitting) by a visit to Butterfly Conservation’s new reserve at Myers Allotment. It is hoped to find High Brown Fritillary, White-letter Hairstreak and, later at Myers, Purple Hairstreak.
Meet at gated entrance to the Yealand site (SD494761), limited parking.

For more details contact leader, Brian Hancock on 01524 730 223 or email brian@yealand.demon.co.uk

Sunday, 29th July, starting at 1pm

**Butterfly and Moth Stroll at Starr Hills Dunes**

Meet at Clifton Drive North (SD309307), west of Blackpool Airport, where there is free roadside parking. Another chance to see Grayling butterflies where we will inevitably disturb the males as they lay in wait for a passing female. Much more to see as well as we wander around this pleasant site.

For further details contact Leader Barry Dyson on 01253 885144

Wednesday, 8th August, starting at 11am

**Butterfly Conservation’s Myers Allotment Reserve**

Midweek visit to Butterfly Conservation's reserve at Myers Allotment

Meet at Reserve Entrance (SD475749). There is very limited parking at the site but Leighton Moss is only five minutes walk away. Ground conditions require suitable foot-ware as there are stretches of steep, narrow and rough footpaths.

For more details contact Leader Archie Simpson on archie.simpson2@gmail.com

or phone 07918 123922

Sunday, 12th August, starting at 12 midday

**Beacon Country Park, Upholland**

A two hour event to examine the Butterflies of meadow and woodland – target species include Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Common Blue, Comma, Small Copper and the general butterflies and day flying moths of Beacon Country Park. Would suit those beginning their interest in Lepidoptera and with a general interest in natural history. Binoculars are useful for observing butterflies as well as birds! There are designated paths, tracks and rides with some slopes and slightly rough ground. Light walking boots advised. Beacon Country Park is West Lancashire Borough Council’s main countryside site, consisting of over 300 acres of rolling countryside on the slopes of Ashurst Beacon above Skelmersdale.

Meet at the Visitor Centre Car Park (SD505066) by the Ranger Service hut. The entrance to the Country Park Visitor Centre is on Elmers Green Lane, off Beacon Lane, which runs between Upholland and Dalton. It is locally well signposted. If weather forecast looks bad please contact the leader, Dr Richard Charles 01257 464604 Mobile:07802 83 84 32 or Email: RichardGCharles@aol.com

Saturday, 18th August, starting at 10.30am

**Red Moss, Horwich and surrounding area**

Meet at Middlebrook car park, SD644099. If coming on the M61, exit at junction 6 and follow signs to the Middlebrook shopping centre. We have permission to park but have been asked to leave our cars in the middle of the large area equidistant from Homebase and Pets at Home.

Wear strong shoes/boots and dress according to the weather on the day.

Bring a packed lunch. Leaders Jill Mills and Ken Haydock

For further details, contact Jill on 01204 692787, mobile 07512 711397 or Ken on 01204 694968, mobile 07949 460308