



# Moths of Elmwood Golf Course

S.T. Buckland

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I have included those species that I have been able to photograph on the golf course. My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species.

Steve Buckland

[steve@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:steve@st-andrews.ac.uk)

12/Dec/2023

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## Angle shades

A widespread species, occurring in a range of habitats.





## Antler moth

A common species that can sometimes be seen feeding on flowers in daylight.







## Barred red

A fairly common species of coniferous woodland.





## Barred straw

A common species of grassy habitats.







## Barred yellow

A widely but sparsely distributed species of habitats where dog roses grow.





## Bordered white

A common species where mature conifers occur.







## Bright-line brown-eye

A common species of sub-urban areas and salt marshes.





## Brimstone moth

A common species in summer, which can often be seen during the day.







## Brown rustic

A fairly common summer moth. This one was on the course in mid-May, an unusually early date for this species.





## Brown-spot pinion

A common autumn species.







## Bulrush wainscot

This male was near bulrushes by the large pool at the bottom of the course in mid-August 2022.







## Burnished brass

A common species with variable patches of metallic reflections. Its caterpillars typically feed on nettles.





## Canary-shouldered thorn

A common species of broadleaved woodland.







## Cinnabar

This day-flying moth is most common in coastal areas, but is increasingly recorded from inland sites.





## Clouded border

A common species that can sometimes be seen during the day.





## Clouded drab

A common early-season species.







## Common carpet

A very common species in summer, often seen during the day in grassy areas.





## Common marbled carpet

A common species with variable markings. Usually they are more distinctively marked than these are.







## Common pug

A common species in summer.





## Common quaker

A common early-season species that can be very numerous.







## Common rustic / lesser common rustic

Two species that cannot be separated from images.





## Common wainscot

A grassland species that is becoming more common in Fife.







## Common white wave

A common woodland species.





## Copper underwing / Svensson's copper underwing

Two southern species that have spread into Fife in the last few years. This one is too worn to identify which of the two species it is.







## Coxcomb prominent

A fairly common moth of woodland.



## Dark arches

A common species in any habitat with grass.





## Dotted clay

A common species of woodland and heathland.







## Dotted rustic

A locally-distributed species of open country. Relatively little is known about it.



## Double square-spot

A common and often abundant species in a wide range of habitats.







## Double-striped pug

A common pug in a wide range of habitats.



## Dun-bar

Common, especially in woodland.





## Dusky brocade

A common species in grassy areas.





## Dwarf pug

A fairly common pug, mostly in conifer plantations.



## Early grey

An early-season species that is widespread but not especially common.







## Elephant hawk-moth

A large, attractive moth that is relatively common.





## Fan-foot

A locally-distributed woodland species.





## Feathered thorn

A common autumn species of broadleaved woodland. Males have remarkable antennae, shown in these images, which were taken by one of the outside lights on the clubhouse in late October 2022.





## Flame

A common species in a range of habitats in Scotland.







## Flame carpet

A common species in a range of habitats.



## Flounced rustic

A common species in a range of habitats.





## Garden carpet

A common species of gardens and woodland.





## Ghost moth

A large and quite common species. Males appear to glow and swing like a pendulum in the air when trying to attract females. Male above, female below.







## Gold swift

A locally-distributed species of open woodland. It is quite common on the course in summer, and males can be seen at dusk swinging to and fro above the long grass between fairways.





## Green-brindled crescent

A common autumn species of broad-leaved woodland, scrub, hedgerows and gardens.







## Green carpet

A common species wherever bedstraws grow.





## Green pug

A common species in a variety of habitats.





## Grey dagger

A widely-distributed species, although it is not very common.





## Grey pine carpet

A common species of coniferous woodland.







## Grey pug

There are many pug species, and identifying them can be difficult! This is one of the more common ones.







## Heart and dart

A common farmland species.







## Hebrew character

A common early-season species.







## Iron prominent

A fairly common species where birches or alders grow.







## July highflyer

Common, especially where willows grow.







## Knot grass

Widely-distributed but scarce in Fife.







## Large yellow underwing

An abundant species, especially in grasslands.







## Lesser broad-bordered yellow underwing

Common in a variety of habitats.





## Lesser yellow underwing

Widespread, occurring in a variety of habitats.



## Light arches

Common in grassy habitats.







## Light emerald

A common species of broadleaved woodland.





## Lunar underwing

A common autumn species in grassland.







## Lychnis

A common species where red or white campion occurs.







## Map-winged swift

A fairly common moth in Fife that can be quite numerous on the golf course. Its caterpillars usually feed on roots of bracken. The plain form (below) is less common.







## Marbled beauty

Mostly a southern species that is locally-distributed in Fife, usually occurring where there are stone walls or rocky outcrops.





## Marbled minor

Occurs in a range of grassy habitats. Becoming less common.







## March moth

A common early-season species. This is a male; the females of this species are flightless.





## Middle-barred minor

A small, common species that can often be seen feeding on flowers during the day.







## Mottled beauty

A common woodland species.





## Mottled pug

A locally-distributed species in Scotland.





## Mottled rustic

A relatively scarce species in Fife. It occurs in a range of habitats.



## Mouse moth

Named because it runs like a mouse when threatened. Common in a range of habitats.







## Muslin footman

Locally distributed, mostly in stony places.



## November moth

A late-autumn species that is common where broadleaved trees grow.







## Nut-tree tussock

Fairly common in broadleaved woodland, especially where hazel or birch occurs.





## Pale-shouldered brocade

A common woodland species. This one is showing wear and tear!





## Pine carpet

Common where there are extensive areas of pines.





## Plain golden Y

Common in a range of habitats.





## Purple bar

A fairly common moth where bedstraws grow. This one was attracted to the lights by the driving range.



## Purple clay

A fairly common woodland species.





## Red-green carpet

This species hibernates as an adult and may be seen in autumn and (less frequently) spring. The one above was on the course in mid-March, and the one below in mid-May 2022.







## Riband wave

A common species in a range of habitats.







## Rivulet

A common summer moth.





## Ruby tiger

A fairly common species of open habitats.







## Rustic

Common in lowland habitats.



## Rustic shoulder-knot

A common grassland species.





## Sallow

A fairly common species where willows or poplars grow.



## Sandy carpet

Common where red campion grows.







## Satellite

A common species of broadleaved woodland.





## Satin beauty

A fairly common woodland species.





## Setaceous hebrew carpet

A common lowland species.





## Shaded broad-bar

A very common species that can often be seen in daylight.







## Shoulder stripe

Common in spring where dog-roses grow.



## Shoulder-striped wainscot

A species that is spreading in Scotland, and is now relatively common in Fife.





## Silver-ground carpet

A common day-flying moth.







## Silver Y

A common species, with large numbers of migrants arriving in most years.







## Six-striped rustic

Most abundant in wet meadows and damp woodland.





## Small fan-foot

A relatively common species of broadleaved woodland.





## Small fan-footed wave

A common woodland species.





## Small phoenix

A common summer moth where willowherb grows.







## Small quaker

A mostly southern species that has spread north in recent years.



## Small rivulet

A common species in a range of habitats.







## Small square-spot

A common summer species.





## Smoky wainscot

A common grassland species.







## Snout

A common moth where nettles occur.





## Spruce carpet

A common species of coniferous woodland and plantation.







## Square-spot rustic

A common grassland moth that can be very abundant on the course in late summer.





## Straw dot

A relatively scarce species of damp meadows and woodland in Fife.







## Streak

A late-autumn species that is fairly common in areas where broom grows.





## Swallow-tailed moth

A fairly common species, mostly of broadleaved woodland.





## Tawny barred angle

A fairly common species of coniferous woodland.







## True lover's knot

Common where heather grows. It has greatly extended its range in lowland habitats through the planting of heathers in gardens.





## Turnip moth

A fairly common species whose larvae feed on roots of various plants, including turnips.





## Twin-spot carpet

Most common in moorland and woodland.







## Twin-spotted quaker

Like the small quaker, a southern species that has spread north in recent years.





## V-pug

A small moth that was only seen in Fife in summer just a few years ago, with one generation per year. With climate change, spring records are becoming fairly regular, allowing two generations per year. It is still not especially common in Fife. This one was by the 16th fairway in mid-April 2022. Its name arises from the black V on the forewing.







## Water carpet

A common spring moth. The one above shows the typical form, but the very different-looking one below is the same species. Perhaps around 25 or 30% have this form.







## White ermine

A common summer moth.







## Yellow horned

An attractive species of birch woodland. These moths have found a home on the birch trees along the edges of the course.





## Yellow shell

A common species, although it is less common away from the coast in Scotland.





## Water veneer *Acentria ephemerella*

This species is not common in Scotland. However, they are numerous at the pools at the bottom of the course.





## The cinereous *Acompsia cinerella*

This species has only very rarely been recorded in Fife. This one was present in late June 2022.







## Hawthorn knot-horn *Acrobasis advenella*

A fairly common species where hawthorns grow.





## Garden straw *Agapeta hamana*

A common species where thistles grow.







## Brindled buff *Agonopterix arenella*

A fairly common species that occurs where thistles, knapweeds or burdocks grow.







## Common brindled brown *Agonopterix heracliana*

A very common species that can be found overwintering in most garden sheds, garages and outbuildings.







## Burnt-tip buff *Agonopterix nervosa*

A fairly common species, especially where broom or gorse grows.







## Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

A common and often abundant grass moth.







## Common grass-moth *Agriphila tristella*

Larger than *Agriphila straminella*, and can also be abundant in grasslands.





Small magpie *Anania hortulata*

A common species.





## Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana*

A very common day-flying species that can be found wherever nettles grow.





## Birch marble *Apotomis betuletana*

A fairly common species where birches grow.





## White-shouldered marble *Apotomis turbidana*

A common moth where birch or alder trees grow.



## Dark blackthorn tip moth *Argyresthia albistria*

A fairly common species where blackthorn grows, although it has only previously been recorded from two sites in Fife.







## Hawthorn tip moth *Argyresthia bonnetella*

A common species where hawthorn grows.





## Gold W *Argyresthia brockeella*

A common moth where birch or alder trees grow. The above is the more common colour form.







## Apple fruit moth *Argyresthia conjugella*

A common moth where rowans or apples occur. They usually look like the above moth. The dark form (below right) occurs, and the one below left is very unusually coloured.





## Brassy Y *Argyresthia goedartella*

A common moth where birch or alder trees grow.







## Cherry fruit moth *Argyresthia pruniella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where cherries grow.





## Purple-washed tip moth *Argyresthia semifusca*

A locally-distributed species, only recorded from a single site in Fife previously. This one was in a rowan tree on 11 August 2022.







## Marsh lance *Bactra furfurana*

Seldom recorded in Fife, this species usually occurs in marshes and bogs. This one was recorded near the clubhouse in mid-June 2022.



## Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

A common species across a range of habitats.







## Large pale masoner *Blastobasis lacticolella*

A common species that is increasing its range.





## Birch stilt *Caloptilia betulicola*

This is a scarce species that occurs where birches grow. This one was at the course in early August 2022.







## Wood sage plume *Capperia britanniodactylus*

An uncommon moth in Fife. This one was present in late June 2022.



## Chequered grass-moth *Catoptria falsella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland. Its caterpillars feed on moss.







## Double-barred needle-miner *Cedestis gysselella*

A pinewood species seldom recorded in Fife. These were alongside the railway line down from the clubhouse in early August 2022.





## Barred needle-miner *Cedestis subfasciella*

As for the previous species, a pinewood species seldom recorded in Fife. They were also alongside the railway line down from the clubhouse in early August 2022.







## Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

A very common species.





## Garden grass-moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

A very common grass moth. In June, large numbers occur in the long grass between fair-ways.







## *Cnephasia* sp

A group of species that cannot always be identified to species from photos.





## Clothed case-bearer *Coleophora mayrella*

One of many species of *Coleophora*, and unlike many, it can be identified from photos as the lower section of the antennae is thickened.





## Chervil brown *Depressaria sordidatella*

The golf course is only the second location in Fife for this rare grassland species to be recorded. This one was by the path close to the bridge over the railway on 7 July 2022.



## *Dichrorampha* sp

These moths cannot be firmly identified to species from photos, but they are probably either dingy daisy moth *Dichrorampha aeratana* or northern yarrow moth *Dichrorampha alpestrana*.







## Dotted cloak *Eana osseana*

A common species of rough grassland and heathland.





## Silver grass-miner *Elachista argentella*

A common grassland species.







## Yellow-headed grass-miner *Elachista luticomella*

A fairly common species in grassy habitats.





## Triple-spotted grass-miner *Elachista triatomea*

This species has only rarely been recorded in Fife. These two were by the pools at the bottom of the course in late June 2022.







## Brown china mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

Sparsely distributed in Fife, these were by the pool at the bottom end of the course.





## Common ridge-back *Epermenia chaerophyllella*

A tiny moth that is common, occurring in a wide range of habitats.







Small spruce tortrix *Epinotia nanana*

A tiny tortrix, about 4mm long.



## Brindled poplar tortrix *Epinotia nisella*

A fairly common species where poplars or willows grow.





## Black-marked tortrix *Epinotia ramella*

A fairly common species where birches grow.





## Hoary tortrix *Eucosma cana*

A common species where thistles or knapweed occur.







## Garden grey *Eudonia mercurella*

A common species where mosses are available for its caterpillars.





## Cocksfoot moth *Glyphipterix simpliciella*

A very common moth that is so small that it is seldom noticed. A single dandelion flower head can often have ten or more on it.







## Hawthorn piercer *Grapholita janthinana*

A rare species in Scotland. This one is worn, making it difficult to be certain of the identification.



## Marbled orchard tortrix *Hedya nubiferana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland.





Brown house moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

A common species, often found in houses or outbuildings.



## Broom stem miner *Leucoptera spartifoliella*

A tiny moth that is common where brooms grow.







## Bulrush down moth *Limnaecia phragmitella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where bulrushes grow. These were by the pools at the bottom of the course.





## Knapweed seedhead moth *Metzneria metzneriella*

A locally-distributed species in Fife. The caterpillars feed mostly on knapweed.







## Plain pollen-moth *Micropterix calthella*

A tiny species that can be abundant on the course.





## Amber mompha *Mompha ochraceella*

The golf course is only the third location in Fife where this species has been recorded. Its foodplant is great willowherb. This one was by the pools at the bottom of the course in July 2022.





Black cloak *Notocelia cynosbatella*

A common species.



## Hawthorn shoot moth *Notocelia trimaculana*

This species is not often recorded in east Fife. This one was on the course in late June 2022.





## Double orange-spot *Pammene aurana*

A locally-distributed species that can sometimes be seen during the day on hogweed flowers.





## Dark fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis heparana*

A common species in woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





## Hawthorn drab *Paraswammerdamia nebulella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where hawthorns or rowans are available.



## Mother of pearl *Patania ruralis*

A common species wherever nettles grow.







## Spotted shoot moth *Rhyacionia pinivorana*

Seldom recorded away from Tentsmuir in Fife, the caterpillars of this species feed on Scots pine.





## Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

A common species occurring in a variety of habitats, wherever moss occurs.







## Large grey *Scoparia subfusca*

A fairly common species.







## Dark-barred tortrix *Syndemis musculana*

A relatively common species of late spring and early summer.







## Triple-spotted nest moth *Tinea trinotella*

Although common in some southern parts of Britain, this species is not often recorded in Fife. Its caterpillars feed off debris in bird nests. This one was by the 13th fairway on 14 May 2022.





## Spring harbinger *Tortricodes alternella*

Fife is towards the edge of the range of this species. It occurs mostly on or near oak trees, and this slightly-damaged individual was by the mature oaks alongside the road just west of Cuparmuir on 25 February 2022.







## Pale straw pearl *Udea lutealis*

A common species in a wide range of habitats.





## Garden pearl *Udea olivalis*

A fairly common moth in a variety of habitats.





## Timothy tortrix *Zelothereses paleana*

A fairly common species of damp, rough ground.

