



# Macro-moths of Bankhead Moss

S.T. Buckland

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I have included images of all the species that I have recorded at Bankhead Moss. Most of these images were taken at Bankhead Moss, but some were taken elsewhere, to illustrate those species that I had recorded but not photographed. My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species.

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## Angle shades

Common across a range of habitats and through most of the year. Autumn numbers are boosted by immigrants.





## Antler moth

A common species with antler-like markings, often seen feeding on flowers such as ragwort during the day.







## Autumnal rustic

A common autumn species of open country.





## Barred straw

Common in a variety of lowland habitats.







## Beautiful golden Y

A fairly common species in a range of habitats.





## Bordered white

Common where pines grow.







## Bright-line brown-eye

A summer species that occurs in a wide range of habitats.





## Brimstone moth

A common woodland species.







## Brown rustic

A common species of broadleaved woodland, and occurs in a range of other habitats.



## Brown silver-line

A common species of early summer, wherever bracken occurs.







## Brown-spot pinion

A declining autumn species, but still quite common in Fife.





## Buff footman

This species is a recent arrival in Fife, spreading from the south.







## Buff-tip

This moth of open woodland is uncommon in Fife. When at rest, it looks like a broken birch twig.





## Burnished brass

A common species, especially anywhere that nettles grow.







## Canary-shouldered thorn

A common woodland species in autumn.



## Centre-barred sallow

A common autumn species where ashes grow.







## Chestnut

Chestnuts overwinter as adults and are usually seen in autumn and early spring.





## Clouded border

A common woodland species.







## Clouded-bordered brindle

A common species of broadleaved woodland.





## Clouded drab

A common woodland species in spring. Its markings are variable.







## Clouded silver

A woodland species that is expanding its range in Scotland.







## Common carpet

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





## Common Lutestring

A sparsely distributed species in east Fife. There are plenty of birches to provide food for the caterpillars at Bankhead Moss.







## Common marbled carpet

A variable species that is common in summer and autumn in a range of habitats.





## Common pug

A common summer pug in a range of habitats.



## Common quaker

A very common spring moth.







## Common rustic / lesser common rustic

Two common grassland species with variable markings that cannot be separated from images.



## Common wainscot

Very similar to the more common smoky wainscot, but with white underwings instead of smoky.





## Common wave

A common species of damp woodland, especially where willows or poplars grow.





## Common white wave

A common woodland species, especially where birches, alders or willows grow.







## Coxcomb prominent

A fairly common woodland species.





## Curren pug

Occurs where wild hops or garden currants grow.





## Dark arches

A common species of grasslands, and wherever grasses grow.







## Dark marbled carpet

A common species of woodland and moorland.







## Dotted border

A common spring species, occurring mostly in woodland.







## Dotted clay

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





## Double lobed

This species has expanded its range, but is still very scarce in Fife. This worn individual was at Bankhead Moss in early August 2023.







## Double-striped pug

A widely-distributed species, occurring in a variety of habitats. This one has one hind wing that did not expand when it emerged from a pupa.





## Dun-bar

A common species, especially in woodland.







## Early thorn

This attractive moth is common in woodland in late spring.







## Engrailed

A fairly common woodland species, mostly of late spring and early summer.







## Flame carpet

A common species across a range of habitats.



## Flame shoulder

A common species across a range of habitats.





## Garden tiger

Common in open habitats but declining.





## Ghost moth

A fairly common grassland species. Female above, male below.







## Gold swift

A locally-distributed species, but can be quite abundant where it occurs. It is often associated with bracken.





## Golden-rod pug

A fairly common species that occurs in a range of habitats.







## Green arches

A large, impressive species of broadleaved woodland.





## Green carpet

A common species that occurs in a range of habitats.







## Grey pug

A common species that occurs in a range of habitats.





## Heart and dart

Common in a very wide range of habitats.





## Hebrew character

A very common spring species across a wide range of habitats.







## Ingrailed clay

A fairly common and very variable species of woodland and moorland.







## Iron prominent

A woodland species of late spring and early summer that is becoming more common.





## July highflyer

Common in a range of habitats.





## Knot grass

A species of open habitats that is fairly scarce in Fife.





## Large emerald

A fairly common and impressive woodland species.







## Large yellow underwing

A large, variable and very common grassland species.





## Latticed heath

This species is widely-distributed but not especially common in Fife.







## Lempke's gold spot

A locally-distributed species of damp habitats. This one was at Bankhead Moss in early July.



## Lesser broad-bordered yellow underwing

Common and sometimes abundant across a range of habitats.





## Lesser swallow prominent

A fairly common species where birch trees grow.





## Lesser yellow underwing

This variable species is common across a range of habitats.







## Light emerald

A common species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





## Lunar thorn

A locally-distributed woodland species.







## Lunar underwing

A common autumn species in grassland habitats.







## Map-winged swift

A common species in areas of Fife with bracken.







## March moth

A common species from mid-February to mid-April, especially in open woodland habitats.







## Middle-barred minor

A common summer species of grasslands, often seen on flowerheads in daylight.







## Mottled beauty

A common species, especially in woodland.



## Mottled grey

An early spring species, occurring in small numbers in mostly open habitats. These were at Bankhead Moss in mid-March 2024.







## Mottled pug

A local species of woodland and scrub in Fife.





## Mouse moth

A common and widespread species. When threatened, it scuttles like a mouse, hence its name.







## Nut-tree tussock

A common species of broadleaved woodland.





## Orange sallow

A scarce species of deciduous woodland in Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss in early September 2023.







## Pale brindled beauty

A common species of broadleaved woodland in February and early March.





## Pale prominent

A locally-distributed species, occurring where poplars grow.







## Pale-shouldered brocade

A common woodland species.





## Peach blossom

A scarce species in Fife. Although a big, showy moth (above), it is remarkably difficult to spot when it folds its wings around a twig (below).







## Pebble prominent

Occurs where willows or poplars grow.



## Peppered moth

A fairly common species in woodland.





## Phoenix

A scarce species in Fife, occurring in gardens and woodland. Its foodplants are black- and redcurrants and goose berries.



## Pinion-streaked snout

A scarce species of damp habitats. This one was at Bankhead Moss in late September 2023.





## Pink-barred sawfly

A common autumn species, especially in broad-leaved woodland and marshes.





## Poplar hawkmoth

The most widely-distributed and common hawkmoth in Fife.







## Purple clay

A fairly common species of broadleaved woodland and wooded heathland.



## Red-green carpet

A common autumn species, and again in spring, when it emerges from hibernation.







## Red-necked footman

A scarce woodland species in Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss in late June and early July 2023.







## Red sword-grass

A widely-distributed but scarce species of moorland, rough pasture and damp woodland. The one above was at Bankhead Moss in early April 2023, and the one below in mid-March 2024.







## Riband wave

Common across a range of habitats.





## Rustic

A common species in lowland habitats.







## Satellite

A common species in autumn and spring, mostly in broadleaved woodland.







## Satin beauty

This species is most common in conifer plantations, but also occurs in ancient broadleaved woodland.







## Scalloped hazel

A common woodland species of late spring and early summer.





## Setaceous hebrew character

A common lowland species.







## Shaded broad-bar

Common in grassy habitats, and often disturbed during the day.



## Shoulder stripe

A spring species that occurs where dog roses grow, mostly in woodland and along hedge-rows.





## Shuttle-shaped dart

A southern species that has spread into Scotland, occurring in a range of habitats.



## Silver-ground carpet

A common and often abundant species in a range of habitats. Often seen in daylight.







## Silver Y

An abundant migrant moth, occurring in a wide range of habitats.





## Single-dotted wave

This species is close to the northern limit of its range in Fife. It occurs in woodland and damp habitats.







## Six-striped rustic

A common species of wet and damp habitats.



## Slender brindle

A fairly common woodland species.







## Small angle shades

A fairly common species of woodland, moorland and gardens.





## Small dotted buff

A species of wet grassland. Not numerous in the east of Fife.







## Small fan-footed wave

A common species, mostly in broadleaved woodland.





## Small phoenix

A common species, especially in woodland.







## Small quaker

A spring species mostly of broadleaved woodland. It is not numerous in Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss in late March 2024.





## Small rivulet

Very similar to the rivulet. It is common, occurring in a range of habitats.







## Small square-spot

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





## Small wainscot

A locally-distributed species of damp habitats.







## Smoky wainscot

A common grassland species.





## Snout

A common species where nettles grow.





## Spectacle

This species is not numerous in east Fife. The foodplant of its caterpillars is nettles.





## Spruce carpet

A common species where conifers grow.





## Square-spot rustic

A common grassland species.





## Straw dot

A fairly common grassland species.





## Suspected

A scarce species. These rather worn individuals were at Bankhead Moss in mid-August 2023.







## Tawny-barred angle

Common, occurring mostly in conifer plantations.







## Twin-spotted quaker

A species of broadleaved woodlands that has spread north in recent years, and is now common in Fife.







## V-pug

This species is becoming more common and widespread. It occurs in a variety of habitats.







## Water carpet

A common spring species, occurring mostly in April and May.







## White ermine

Common in a wide range of habitats.





## Winter moth

A widespread and common species of late autumn and early winter.







## Yellow horned

An early spring species of birch woodland.

