



# Macro-moths of Carphin

S.T. Buckland

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I have included images of the species that I have been able to photograph on Carphin Farm. My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species — and some of the less difficult ones! I'm also grateful to Stuart Paul, Briony Marcus, Ross Stuart and Billy Walker for welcoming me to Carphin, and giving me free access.

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# Contents

Angle shades	5	Common carpet	39	Green arches	74
Anomalous	6	Common footman	40	Green-brindled crescent	75
Antler moth	7	Common marbled carpet	41	Green carpet	76
Autumnal rustic	8	Common pug	42	Grey pine carpet	77
		Common rustic	43		
Barred chestnut	9	Common quaker	44	Heart and club	78
Barred red	10	Common white wave	45	Heart and dart	79
Barred straw	11	Confused	46	Heath rustic	80
Barred yellow	12	Convolvulus hawk-moth	47	Hebrew character	81
Beautiful golden Y	13	Copper underwing	48	Hedge rustic	82
Black rustic	14	Coxcomb prominent	49	Herald	83
Bordered white	15				
Brick	16	Dark arches	50	Ingrailed clay	84
Bright-line brown-eye	17	Dark sword-grass	51	Iron prominent	85
Brimstone moth	18	Dotted border	52		
Brindled pug	19	Dotted clay	53	July belle	86
Broad-bordered yellow		Double square-spot	54		
underwing	20	Double-striped pug	55	Knot grass	87
Broom moth	21	Dun-bar	56		
Brown-line bright-eye	22	Dusky brocade	57	Large ear	88
Brown rustic	23	Dwarf pug	58	Large wainscot	89
Brown silver-line	24			Large yellow underwing	90
Brown-spot pinion	25	Early thorn	59	Least black arches	91
Buff ermine	26	Early tooth-striped	60	Lesser broad-bordered	
Buff footman	27	Ear moth	61	yellow underwing	92
Buff-tip	28	Elephant hawk-moth	62	Lesser swallow prominent	93
Bulrush wainscot	29			Lesser yellow underwing	94
Burnished brass	30	Flame	63	Light arches	95
		Flame carpet	64	Light emerald	96
Canary-shouldered thorn	31	Flame shoulder	65	Lime-speck pug	97
Centre-barred sallow	32	Flounced rustic	66	Lunar thorn	98
Chestnut	33	Foxglove pug	67	Lunar underwing	99
Cinnabar	34			Lychnis	100
Clay	35	Garden tiger	68		
Cloaked minor	36	Ghost moth	69		
Clouded-bordered brindle	37	Gold spangle	70		
Clouded drab	38	Gold spot	71		
		Gold swift	72		
		Golden-rod pug	73		

# Contents

Map-winged swift	101	Sallow kitten	138	Tawny speckled pug	171
Marbled minor	102	Sandy carpet	139	Triple-spotted clay	172
March moth	103	Satin beauty	140	True lover's knot	173
Merveille du jour	104	Scallop shell	141	Twin-spot carpet	174
Middle-barred minor	105	Scalloped hazel	142	Twin-spotted quaker	175
Miller	106	Scalloped oak	143		
Mother shipton	107	Scorched wing	144	V-pug	176
Mottled beauty	108	Scotch annulet	145		
Mottled grey	109	Setaceous hebrew character	146	Water carpet	177
Mottled rustic	110	Shoulder-striped wainscot	147	White ermine	178
Mouse moth	111	Shuttle-shaped dart	148	White-line dart	179
Muslin footman	112	Silver-ground carpet	149	Willow beauty	180
		Silver Y	150	Wood tiger	181
Narrow-winged pug	113	Single-dotted wave	151	Wormwood pug	182
November moth	114	Six-striped rustic	152		
Nutmeg	115	Slender brindle	153	Yellow-line quaker	183
Nut-tree tussock	116	Small dotted buff	154	Yellow shell	184
		Small fan-footed wave	155		
Oak beauty	117	Small phoenix	156		
Orange sallow	118	Small quaker	157		
Orange swift	119	Small rivulet	158		
		Small square-spot	159		
Pale brindled beauty	120	Smoky wainscot	160		
Pale-shouldered brocade	121	Snout	161		
Peach blossom	122	Spectacle	162		
Peppered moth	123	Spruce carpet	163		
Pine beauty	124	Square-spot rustic	164		
Pink-barred sallow	125	Straw dot	165		
Plain golden Y	126	Streak	166		
Poplar hawk-moth	127	Streamer	167		
Purple bar	128	Striped twin-spot carpet	168		
		Suspected	169		
Red chestnut	129	Svensson's copper			
Red-green carpet	130	underwing	170		
Red-line quaker	131				
Riband wave	132				
Rivulet	133				
Rosy minor	134				
Rosy rustic	135				
Ruby tiger	136				
Rustic	137				





## Angle shades

A common moth that is relatively large and showy. Numbers are often boosted by migrants.





## Anomalous

A widespread summer species in a range of habitats, although it is uncommon in Fife.







## Antler moth

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







## Autumnal rustic

A common species of open habitats, occurring in late summer and autumn.







## Barred chestnut

A locally-distributed species of moorland and broadleaved woodland on acid soils. This worn individual was a few yards up the Norman's Law path from the western boundary of Carphin Farm in late August 2025.





## Barred red

Common, especially in conifer plantations.





## Barred straw

A common summer species where cleavers or other bedstraws grow.





## Barred yellow

A fairly common species where dog-roses or other roses grow.







## Beautiful golden Y

A fairly common species across a range of habitats.







## Black rustic

A common autumn species.







## Bordered white

A common species of pinewoods and conifer plantations.





## Brick

A relatively scarce autumn species of broadleaved woodland.







## Bright-line brown-eye

A common species in a range of habitats.





## Brimstone moth

A common moth, especially where hawthorn or blackthorn grows.







## Brindled pug

A spring species, appearing earlier in the year than most pugs. Associated with oak and hawthorn. This one was at Carphin in late March.







## Broad-bordered yellow underwing

A common species in broad-leaved woodland.







## Broom moth

A common species of open habitats.







## Brown-line bright-eye

A common grassland species.





## Brown rustic

Common in late spring and early summer across a range of habitats.







## Brown silver-line

A common species where bracken occurs.







## Brown-spot pinion

A fairly common but declining autumn species, occurring in a range of lowland habitats.





## Buff ermine

Rarely recorded in eastern Scotland north of the Firth of Forth. This one was on Berry Brae in mid-June 2025.







## Buff footman

A southern species that has been spreading northwards quite rapidly, and is now widespread in Fife.







## Buff-tip

A large moth of open woodland that looks like a broken birch twig. It is becoming more common in Fife.







## Bulrush wainscot

Relatively common in areas with bulrushes.





## Burnished brass

A common species where nettles grow.







## Canary-shouldered thorn

A common species in late summer and autumn, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





## Centre-barred swallow

A common species in late summer and autumn wherever mature ash trees are present.







## Chestnut

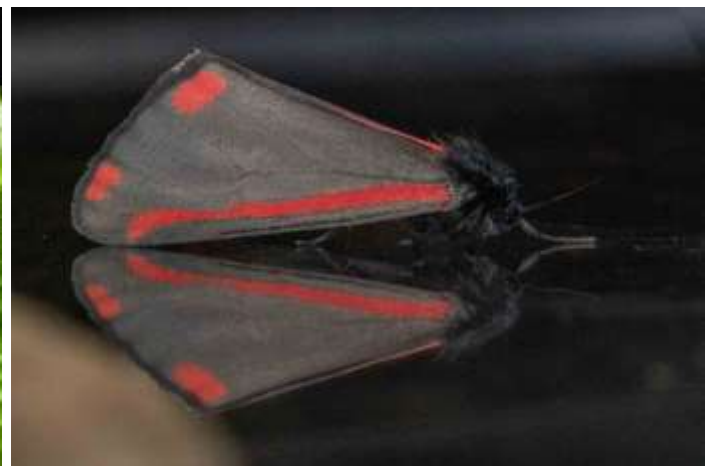
A common autumn species that overwinters as an adult and reappears in early spring. It can also be seen on mild nights through the winter.





## Cinnabar

A common autumn species that overwinters as an adult and reappears in early spring. It can also be seen on mild days through the winter.







## Clay

A fairly common grassland species.







## Cloaked minor

A locally-distributed grassland species that occurs mostly at or near the coast. These were at Carphin in early July 2023 and late July 2025.







## Clouded-bordered brindle

A common grassland species in late spring and early summer.







## Clouded drab

A common spring species, most numerous in woodland.







## Common carpet

A common species, often occurring in gardens.







## Common footman

A species that is spreading northwards. In Fife, it occurs mostly at or near the coast. However, they now seem to be fairly common at Carphin.







## Common marbled carpet

A common summer species with widely-varying markings, occurring across a wide range of habitats.







## Common pug

A widely-distributed species of late spring and early summer.







## Common quaker

A common spring species in lowland habitats, and can be very numerous in woodland or other areas with trees and shrubs.





## Common rustic / lesser common rustic

Two species that cannot be separated from photos. They are common in grassland habitats.







## Common white wave

A common woodland species.



## Confused

Rarely seen in Fife, I recorded four in mid-July 2025, one by the path between Black Craig and Berry Brae, and the other three just off Carphin estate, by the path up to Norman's Law.







## Convolvulus hawk-moth

This huge moth is a scarce migrant. This one was on the crag east of Norman's Law, about 200m west of the boundary to Carphin estate, in early September 2025.







## Copper underwing

Very similar to Svensson's copper underwing, and like it, this is a southern species that has spread northwards into Fife.







## Coxcomb prominent

A fairly common woodland species that also occurs in gardens.



## Dark arches

A common summer species of grassland habitats.







## Dark sword-grass

A scarce migrant species. This one was on Berry Brae in early September 2025.





## Dotted border

A common species of late winter and spring, mostly in woodland habitats.







## Dotted clay

A common species in a variety of habitats.





## Double square-spot

A common summer species in a wide range of habitats.







## Double-striped pug

A common species in a range of habitats.





## Dusky brocade

Widespread in grassy habitats.







## Dun-bar

A common woodland species.





## Dwarf pug

Most often in areas with introduced conifers. The flight season is mostly May and June.







## Early thorn

A common spring species, especially in deciduous woodland.





## Early tooth-striped

A fairly common spring species of broadleaved woodland, especially in damp woodland.







## Ear moth

Although mostly a coastal species in Fife, a few occur at Carphin.







## Elephant hawk-moth

A large, attractive moth that is relatively common.







## Flame

A common species in a range of habitats in Scotland.





## Flame carpet

A common species in a range of habitats.







## Flame shoulder

A common species across a wide range of habitats.





## Flounced rustic

A common species of late summer in grassy habitats.







## Foxglove pug

This species occurs in late spring and summer where foxgloves grow.





## Garden tiger

Still a common species, though declining. Below right is one of its “woolly bear” caterpillars.







## Ghost moth

A fairly common grassland species. This is a male. Males performing a ghost-like dance, swinging back and forth.





## Gold spangle

A northern species that is scarce in Fife. This one was at Carphin in late July 2025.







## Gold spot

This species is sparsely distributed in Fife, occurring mostly in or around wet habitats.





## Gold swift

A locally-distributed species associated with bracken.





## Golden-rod pug

A common species, first appearing in late April or May.







## Green arches

A fairly scarce species of broadleaved woodland.







## Green-brindled crescent

A common autumn species of broadleaved woodland.







## Green carpet

A common summer species across a range of habitats.







## Grey pine carpet

A common species where pines grow.





## Heart and club

A variable species, occurring in open, dry habitats. It is relatively scarce in Scotland. This one was on the estate in early June 2025.







## Heart and dart

A common species across a wide range of habitats.





## Heath rustic

A locally-distributed species of heath and moorland. These were on Black Craig.







## Hebrew character

A spring moth that is common and often abundant.





## Hedge rustic

A scarce grassland species that has seen large declines in recent decades. These were at Black Craig and just off Carphin Farm on the east slope of Norman's Law.







## Herald

A fairly common species where willows or poplars grow.





## Ingrailed clay

A common species with variable markings. It occurs mostly on moorland.







## Iron prominent

Occurs in broadleaved woodland and heathland where birches or alders grow.





## July belle

A locally-distributed species, mostly on heathland and moorland.







## Knot grass

A widespread species of open habitats that is seldom numerous.





## Large ear

A locally-distributed species of wet, acid moorland. This one was on Black Craig in early September 2025.





## Large wainscot

A locally-distributed and mostly coastal species where reeds grow. These were near one of the wildlife ponds (Nancy's Pond) in September 2025.





## Large yellow underwing

A common summer species, often flushed from grass during the day.







## Least black arches

A woodland species that used to be rare in Scotland, but is now widespread.



## Lesser broad-bordered yellow underwing

A common species in a range of habitats.







## Lesser swallow prominent

A common species where birches grow.





## Lesser yellow underwing

A variable species, common across a range of habitats.







## Light arches

A common grassland species though much less numerous than the dark arches.





## Light emerald

A common summer species in broadleaved woodland.







## Lime-speck pug

Mostly a coastal species in Fife, this one was on Black Craig in July 2025.



## Lunar thorn

A species of late spring and early summer, occurring mostly in open woodland.







## Lunar underwing

A common autumn species in grassland habitats.





## Lychnis

A common species where red or white campions grow.







## Map-winged swift

A species that is widespread and fairly common in Fife.







## Marbled minor

This species cannot usually be separated from two rarer species from photos, so the identity of these is not certain. The species is in decline, and becoming relatively scarce.







## March moth

A common species in spring, most numerous in open woodland.





## Merveille du jour

A relatively scarce autumn species of broadleaved woodland.







## Middle-barred minor

A common summer species, often seen in daylight on flowers.





## Miller

A locally-distributed summer species, associated with a range of deciduous trees.







## Mother Shipton

Not a common moth in Scotland. These were at Black Craig.







## Mottled beauty

A common woodland species.







## Mottled grey

A widespread spring species of moorland and other open non-agricultural habitats, though seldom numerous.







## Mottled rustic

A relatively scarce moth in Fife, it occurs in a range of lowland habitats.







## Mouse moth

A common species across a range of habitats.





## Muslin footman

A sparsely-distributed species.







## Narrow-winged pug

Common on heathland and moorland.





## November moth

A very common moth of late autumn, especially in broadleaved woodland.







## Nutmeg

A scarce species in Scotland, where it is thought records are mostly of migrants. This one was on the west side of Berry Brae in late August 2025. A second one was recorded on the same night on Norman's Law.







## Nut-tree tussock

A common species of broadleaved woodland.







## Oak beauty

A scarce species in Fife, with most records coming from the south-west of the county, where oak is more plentiful. These were at Carphin in late March 2025.







## Orange sallow

A locally-distributed species of late summer and early autumn, occurring where lime trees grow.







## Orange swift

A locally-distributed species in Fife. Male above and below left, female below right.







## Pale brindled beauty

A common species of late winter and early spring, mostly in deciduous woodland.







## Pale-shouldered brocade

A widely-distributed species of late spring and early summer.





## Peach blossom

A relatively scarce species in Fife, occurring where brambles grow.







## Peppered moth

A common species of woodland, parks and gardens.







## Pine beauty

A fairly common species where pines occur.







## Pink-barred swallow

A common autumn species where willows or poplars grow.





## Plain golden Y

A fairly common species across a range of habitats.







## Poplar hawk-moth

The most common hawk-moth in Fife, occurring where poplars, sallows or willows grow.







## Purple bar

A common summer species wherever bedstraws grow.







## Red chestnut

A spring species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.







## Red-green carpet

A common species, especially in broad-leaved woodland.







## Red-line quaker

A common autumn species where willows grow.





## Riband wave

Common across a variety of habitats.







## Rivulet

Common wherever red champions grow.





## Rosy minor

A locally-distributed grassland species in Scotland.







## Rosy rustic

A common species across a range of habitats.





## Ruby tiger

A fairly common species of open habitats.







## Rustic

A common species that is difficult to separate from the appropriately-named uncertain.







## Sallow kitten

A scarce species in Fife. It can occur where willows or poplars grow.







## Sandy carpet

A common species where campions grow, though it is seldom numerous.







## Satin beauty

A woodland species that has increased its range in Scotland in recent decades.







## Scallop shell

An uncommon species in Scotland. It is associated with willows, aspen and bilberry. This one was on Berry Brae in late June 2025.







## Scalloped hazel

A common woodland species of late spring and early summer.







## Scalloped oak

A fairly common species, mainly in woodland.





## Scorched carpet

A southern species that has spread in Scotland, but which is still very scarce, especially in Fife. This one was at Carphin in mid-May 2025.







## Scotch annulet

A mountain species. The colony at Black Craig and Berry Brae was first discovered in 2022. It is the only known colony in Fife. It extends onto the eastern slopes of Norman's Law, which is where the above moth was recorded in 2025.







## Setaceous hebrew character

A common species, mostly in lowland habitats with rich herbaceous vegetation.







## Shoulder-striped wainscot

A common summer species of grasslands.







## Shuttle-shaped dart

A southern species that has spread rapidly northwards, and is now quite common in Fife.







## Silver-ground carpet

A common summer species across a range of habitats. It can often be seen in daylight.





## Silver Y

A common species, often seen nectaring during the day. Large numbers sometimes arrive from the continent.







## Single-dotted wave

This species is close to the northern limit of its range in Fife, and is not numerous. These were recorded in June and July 2025.







## Six-striped rustic

A common species, mostly in wet habitats.







## Slender brindle

A southern species that has spread through Fife. Occurs mostly in woodland with grassy areas.



## Small dotted buff

A common species in wet grasslands.







## Small fan-footed wave

A common species where willowherbs grow.







## Small phoenix

A common species where willowherbs grow.







## Small quaker

A widespread woodland species but seldom numerous.





## Small rivulet

A common species in lowland habitats.





## Small square-spot

A widespread and common species, especially in damp habitats.





## Smoky wainscot

A very common grassland species in summer.







## Snout

Common wherever nettles grow.





## Spectacle

The caterpillars feed on nettles. Adults are sparsely distributed through Fife.







## Spruce carpet

A common species where conifers grow.







## Square-spot rustic

A very common grassland species with variable markings.







## Straw dot

A common species of grasslands.





## Streak

A fairly common autumn moth in areas where broom grows.







## Streamer

A common spring species where dog roses grow.





## Striped twin-spot carpet

This species is associated with bedstraw and rocky outcrops. This one was on the north-east slope of Berry Brae on 10 May 2025. It is only the second record of this species in Fife.





## Suspected

A scarce species in Fife, associated with birch. This worn one was at Black Craig in mid-August 2023.





## Svensson's copper underwing

A southern species that is spreading northwards through Scotland, and is now fairly common in woodland habitats in Fife.







## Tawny speckled pug

A fairly common species where yarrow or sneezewort grows.







## Triple-spotted clay

A rare species in east Scotland. It is a species of open, wet broadleaved woodland. The above two were at Black Craig in late July 2022, and the one below was at the same site in early July 2023.







## True lover's knot

A common species of heather moorland.







## Twin-spot carpet

A mostly southern spring species that has spread northwards, and is now widespread in broadleaved woodland through much of Scotland.







## Twin-spotted quaker

A mostly southern spring species that has spread northwards, and is now widespread in broadleaved woodland through much of Scotland.







## V-pug

A small pug that is quite common in a range of habitats.







## Water carpet

A common spring species where bedstraws or cleavers grow.







## White ermine

A common species across a range of habitats.







## White-line dart

A scarce species away from the coast. This one was at Black Craig in late July 2022.





## Willow beauty

This species is typically most common in towns. This one was at Carphin in mid-July 2025.





## Wood tiger

An uncommon species in Fife. This one was at Black Craig in late June 2021.



## Wormwood pug

A fairly common species in a range of habitats.







## Yellow-line quaker

A common autumn species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





## Yellow shell

A common species with several sub-species.

