



Macro-moths of Cambo Gardens

S.T. Buckland

Macro-moths of Cambo Gardens

S.T. Buckland

I have included images of the species that I have been able to photograph in and around the East Neuk. My thanks go to Callum Halstead and Elise Methven for their help and enthusiastic support, and to Nigel Voaden for confirming the identity of the more difficult species.

Steve Buckland

steve@st-andrews.ac.uk

29/July/2026

Contents

Angle shades	5	Dark arches	41	Hebrew character	66
Barred red	6	Dark sword-grass	42	Heart and dart	67
Barred straw	7	December moth	43	Hummingbird hawk-moth	68
Barred yellow	8	Dotted clay	44		
Black rustic	9	Double square-spot	45	Ingrailed clay	69
Bordered sallow	10	Double-striped pug	46		
Brick	11	Dun-bar	47	July highflyer	70
Bright-line brown-eye	12	Early grey	48	Large wainscot	71
Brimstone moth	13	Elephant hawk-moth	49	Large yellow underwing	72
Brindled pug	14			Least black arches	73
Brown rustic	15	Feathered thorn	50	Least yellow underwing	74
Brown silver-line	16	Flame	51	Lempke's gold spot	75
Brown-spot pinion	17	Flame carpet	52	Lesser yellow underwing	76
Buff-tip	18	Flame shoulder	53	Light arches	77
Bulrush wainscot	19	Flounced rustic	54	Light emerald	78
Burnished brass	20	Foxglove pug	55	Lime-speck pug	79
				Lunar thorn	80
Canary-shouldered thorn	21	Garden carpet	56	Lunar underwing	81
Centre-barred sallow	22	Garden dart	57		
Chestnut	23	Ghost moth	58	Map-winged swift	82
Cinnabar	24	Golden-rod pug	59	Marbled beauty	83
Clay	25	Green carpet	60	Marbled minor	84
Clouded border	26	Green pug	61	March moth	85
Clouded-bordered brindle	27	Green silver-lines	62	Merveille du jour	86
Clouded drab	28	Grey chi	63	Middle-barred minor	87
Clouded silver	29	Grey pine carpet	64	Mottled beauty	88
Common carpet	30	Grey pug	65	Mottled pug	89
Common footman	31			Mottled rustic	90
Common lutestring	32			Mottled umber	91
Common marbled carpet	33			Mouse moth	92
Common pug	34				
Common quaker	35				
Common rustic	36				
Common swift	37				
Common wainscot	38				
Common white wave	39				
Copper underwing	40				

Contents

November moth	93	Sandy carpet	120	Svensson's copper	
Nut-tree tussock	94	Satellite	121	underwing	148
		Scalloped oak	122	Swallow prominent	149
Oak-tree pug	95	Scarce bordered straw	123	Swallow-tailed moth	150
Ochreous pug	96	Scarce umber	124		
Orange sallow	97	Seraphim	125	Tawny-speckled pug	151
Orange swift	98	Setaceous hebrew character	126	Twin-spot carpet	152
		Shaded broad-bar	127	Twin-spotted quaker	153
Pale brindled beauty	99	Shuttle-shaped dart	128		
Pale pinion	100	Silver-ground carpet	129	Uncertain	154
Pale-shouldered brocade	101	Silver Y	130		
Pearly underwing	102	Six-striped rustic	131	V-pug	155
Peppered moth	103	Slender brindle	132		
Phoenix	104	Small dotted buff	133	Water carpet	156
Pine beauty	105	Small fan-footed wave	134	White ermine	157
Pink-barred sallow	106	Small mottled willow	135	White-line dart	158
Plain golden Y	107	Small phoenix	136	White-spotted pug	159
Poplar hawk-moth	108	Small quaker	137	Willow beauty	160
Powdered quaker	109	Small rivulet	138	Winter moth	161
Pretty pinion	110	Small square-spot	139		
Purple clay	111	Small wainscot	140	Yellow-barred brindle	162
		Smoky wainscot	141	Yellow horned	163
Red chestnut	112	Snout	142	Yellow-line quaker	164
Red-green carpet	113	Southern wainscot	143	Yellow shell	165
Red-line quaker	114	Spruce carpet	144		
Riband wave	115	Square-spot rustic	145		
Rivulet	116	Streak	146		
Rosy minor	117	Streamer	147		
Rosy rustic	118				
Rustic	119				



Angle shades

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





Barred red

A common species in areas with conifers.





Barred straw

A common species where cleavers or other bedstraws grow.





Barred yellow

A relatively common species where wild or cultivated roses grow.





Black rustic

A common species in a range of open habitats.





Bordered sallow

A rare and largely coastal species in Scotland. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late June 2026.





Brick

A fairly common autumn species, mostly of broad-leaved woodland.





Bright-line brown-eye

A common species in a range of habitats.





Brimstone moth

A common woodland species.





Brindled pug

A common spring species where oaks grow.





Brown rustic

A common species, especially in broad-leaved woodland, but also in a range of other habitats.





Brown silver-line

A species that can be very abundant where bracken is plentiful.



Brown-spot pinion

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





Buff-tip

Mostly a species of open woodland which is fairly local in Fife.





Bulrush wainscot

A locally-distributed species, occurring where bulrushes grow. It also sometimes occurs well away from its food plant.





Burnished brass

Common, especially in areas where nettles grow.





Canary-shouldered thorn

A common woodland species in autumn.





Centre-barred sallow

A common autumn species where ashes grow.



Chestnut

A common species, especially in broad-leaved woodland. The adult appears in autumn, then again in spring, after hibernation.





Cinnabar

A distinctive moth. Its caterpillars have yellow and black hoops and are a familiar sight feeding on ragwort.





Clay

A common summer species in grassy habitats.





Clouded border

A common species where poplars or willows grow.





Clouded-bordered brindle

A common species in grasslands and gardens.





Clouded drab

A common spring species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





Clouded silver

A species that has increased its range in Scotland in recent years, and is now relatively common in Fife, especially in broadleaved woodland, scrub and gardens.





Common carpet

A common species from spring to autumn, occurring in a range of habitats.





Common footman

A species benefitting from climate change, which is now common in coastal Fife.





Common lutestring

A species of woodlands where birches grow.





Common marbled carpet

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





Common pug

Common across a range of habitats.





Common quaker

A very common spring species, especially in or near woodland.





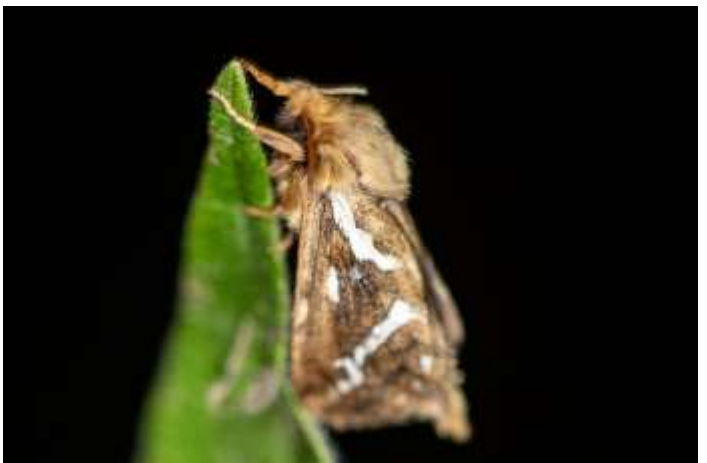
Common rustic /
lesser common rustic

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



Common swift

Common in open habitats, including gardens.





Common wainscot

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





Common white wave

A common species of broadleaved woodland.





Copper underwing

As with the very similar Svensson's copper underwing, this is a southern species that has spread into Scotland, and is now fairly common in Fife.





Dark arches

A common summer species of grassy habitats.





Dark sword-grass

A migrant species, usually recorded at coastal sites in small numbers.





December moth

A common species of late autumn and early winter, most numerous in broadleaved woodland.





Dotted clay

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Double-striped pug

A small pug that is common across a range of habitats.





Double square-spot

A common species in a range of habitats.





Dun-bar

A common species, especially in woodland.





Early grey

A spring species, occurring where honeysuckles grow.





Elephant hawk-moth

The second most common hawk-moth in Fife, most numerous in areas with willowherb.





Feathered thorn

A fairly common autumn species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Flame

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





Flame carpet

A common species across a range of habitats.





Flame shoulder

A common species across a range of habitats.





Flounced rustic

A fairly common grassland species in summer.



Foxglove pug

Common where foxgloves grow.





Garden carpet

A common species, especially in gardens.





Garden dart

This species is declining rapidly, and is now a scarce species in Fife.





Ghost moth

A species that occurs in grassy and weedy places. This is a female. Males are white, and perform a display at dusk, swinging like a pendulum.





Golden-rod pug

A fairly common species in Fife, occurring where ragwort grows.



Green carpet

Common across a range of habitats.





Green pug

A fairly common species whose larvae feed on a range of trees and shrubs, including apple, hawthorn and blackthorn.





Green silver-lines

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Grey chi

A declining species which is now quite scarce in Fife. This one was at Cambo Gardens in August 2025.





Grey pine carpet

A common species where conifers grow.





Grey pug

Common across a range of habitats.





Heart and dart

A species that is spreading northwards, and is now common, especially in lowland habitats.





Hebrew character

A very common spring species across a range of habitats.





Hummingbird hawk-moth

A migrant from southern Europe and northern Africa. This one was at Cambo Gardens in early July 2026.





Ingrailed clay

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





July highflyer

Common in a range of habitats.





Large wainscot

A locally-distributed species that occurs mostly in or near reedbeds. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-September 2025.





Large yellow underwing

A large, variable and very common grassland species.





Least black arches

A species that was scarce, but is becoming fairly common, mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Least yellow underwing

An uncommon moth in Fife. These were in the garden in late July 2025.





Lempke's gold spot

A locally-distributed species in Scotland that has increased in recent years. It occurs mostly in marshes and other damp habitats. This one was at Cambo in mid-June 2026.





Lesser yellow underwing

This variable species is common across a range of habitats.



Light arches

A common summer species in grasslands.





Light emerald

A common species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





Lime-speck pug

A sparsely-distributed species in Fife, occurring in a range of open habitats.





Lunar thorn

A locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in open woodland and scrub.



Lunar underwing

A common autumn species in grassland habitats.





Map-winged swift

A common species in Fife, especially in areas with bracken.





Marbled beauty

A species that tends to occur near old buildings or walls, as the caterpillars feed on lichens growing on stones.





Marbled minor

Although not certain, these are probably marbled minors. The two species that it cannot reliably be separated from using photos are both much less common.





March moth

A common species of early spring, especially in open woodland.





Merveille du jour

An autumn species that is sometimes common in broadleaved woodland with oaks.





Middle-barred minor

A very common species in grassland habitats that can often be seen on flowers in daylight.





Mottled beauty

A common woodland species.





Mottled pug

A fairly common species of woodland, scrub and hedgerows.





Mottled rustic

A locally-distributed summer species of lowland habitats.





Mottled umber

A fairly common species of broadleaved woodland that flies in late autumn and early winter.



Mouse moth

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





November moth

A common moth of broadleaved woodland in late autumn.





Nut-tree tussock

A common moth of broadleaved woodland.





Oak-tree pug

A rare moth in Fife. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late May 2026.



Ochreous pug

A patchily-distributed species that occurs where pines grow.



Orange sallow

This species has a patchy distribution in Scotland, occurring where lime trees grow.





Orange swift

Fairly scarce in Fife. It occurs in areas with rough grass.





Pale brindled beauty

A very common woodland species of late winter and early spring.





Pale pinion

A locally-distributed species of broadleaved woodland which is spreading northwards.





Pale-shouldered brocade

A common species, especially in woodland.





Pearly underwing

A scarce migrant, occurring mostly at the coast. These were at Cambo Gardens in September 2025.





Peppered moth

A fairly common species of woodland and other habitats with trees or shrubs.





Phoenix

Occurs in low numbers, mostly in gardens where currants or gooseberries grow.



Pine beauty

Occurs in small numbers where pine trees grow. These were in the gardens in late March and early April 2026.





Pink-barred swallow

Common where willows or poplars grow.





Plain golden Y

Fairly common across a range of habitats.



Poplar hawk-moth

A common species in areas where poplars grow.





Powdered quaker

A locally-distributed species in Fife, occurring mostly in damp habitats.





Pretty pinion

The UK distribution of this species is largely restricted to Scotland. It is locally-distributed in Fife, occurring where eyebrights grow. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late July 2026.





Purple clay

A summer species, common in broadleaved woodland.





Red chestnut

A fairly common spring species of broadleaved woodland.





Red-green carpet

A common species of broadleaved woodland in autumn, and again in spring after hibernation.





Red-line quaker

A fairly common autumn species where willows grow.





Riband wave

Common across a range of habitats.





Rivulet

A common species where red campion grows.





Rosy minor

In Fife, a scarce species occurring in grassland habitats, especially on or near the coast. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late July 2026.





Rosy rustic

A common species of lowland habitats.





Rustic

A common species of lowland habitats.





Sandy carpet

A common species in a range of habitats.





Satellite

A common species, especially in broadleaved woodland. It flies in autumn and again in spring. It can also be recorded on mild nights in winter.





Scalloped oak

A woodland species that is fairly common in summer.





Scarce bordered straw

A migrant from southern Europe and Africa. In most years, very few are recorded in the UK. The one above and below was at Cambo Gardens in early September 2025, while the one on the right was there in mid-September 2025.





Scarce umber

A fairly common species of broadleaved woodland that flies in late autumn and early winter.





Seraphim

A locally-distributed species, occurring where aspens or other poplars grow. This one was in the woodland just south of Cambo House in early May 2026.





Setaceous hebrew character

A common lowland species.





Shaded broad-bar

A common species of open grasslands where clovers or vetches grow. It can often be seen in daylight.



Shuttle-shaped dart

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





Silver-ground carpet

A common species, especially in damp habitats with tall vegetation. It can often be seen during daylight.





Silver Y

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





Six-striped rustic

A common species of wet and damp habitats.





Slender brindle

A fairly common woodland species.





Small dotted buff

A species of wet grassland. Not numerous in the east of Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss.



Small fan-footed wave

A common species, mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Small mottled willow

A moth that is a farm pest in some parts of the world, but an occasional migrant in Scotland. Records are becoming more frequent. These were at Cambo in June and July 2026.





Small phoenix

A common species where willowherbs grow, especially in woodland.





Small quaker

A fairly common spring species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Small rivulet

A common species in a range of lowland habitats.



Small square-spot

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Small wainscot

A species of damp habitats, as its caterpillars feed on sedges.





Smoky wainscot

A common grassland species.





Snout

A common species where nettles grow.





Southern wainscot

A species of marshes and other wet habitats. It has mostly a southern distribution, but has been spreading northwards. It is still very local in Fife. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-July 2026.





Spruce carpet

Common where conifers grow. Its caterpillars feed on a wide range of conifers, not just spruce.





Square-spot rustic

A common grassland species.





Streak

A fairly common autumn species where broom grows.





Streamer

A common species where wild roses grow.



Svensson's copper underwing

A southern species that has spread into Scotland, and is now fairly common in Fife.



Swallow prominent

Fairly common where poplars or willows grow.





Swallow-tailed moth

A fairly common woodland species, also occurring in parks and gardens.





Tawny speckled pug

A fairly common species of grasslands, open woodland and coastal habitats.



Twin-spot carpet

A fairly common species occurring in a variety of habitats.



Twin-spotted quaker

Previously rare in Fife, this species has spread north, and is now a fairly common species of broadleaved woodland.





Uncertain

A common species in lowland habitats, very difficult to separate from the rustic.





V-pug

A fairly common species of woodlands, hedgerows, parks and gardens.



Water carpet

Widespread and common in spring.





White ermine

Common across a range of habitats.





White-line dart

A variable species that is mostly coastal in Fife.



White-spotted pug

A scarce species in Fife which occurs in a range of lowland habitats.





Willow beauty

A relatively common species in gardens and urban parks, but scarce away from towns and villages.





Winter moth

Widespread and common, flying in late autumn and winter.



Yellow-barred brindle

A scarce species of broadleaved woodland.



Yellow horned

A fairly common spring species where birches grow.





Yellow-line quaker

A common autumn species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





Yellow shell

A common summer species across a range of habitats.

