



Micro-moths of the Howe of Fife

S.T. Buckland

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I have included those species that I have been able to photograph in and around the Howe of Fife, including the high ground that largely surrounds the Howe. (I have taken the 'high ground' to extend as far east as Lucklawhill.) My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species — and some of the less difficult species!

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Water veneer *Acentria ephemerella*

A locally-distributed species of ponds and lochs. The caterpillars feed on pondweed underwater, and the adult females often stay in the water.





Lesser wax moth *Achroia grisella*

A scarce species in Scotland. The larvae usually occur in bee hives. This one was at Birnie Loch in mid-August 2024. It has only previously been recorded at one other site in Fife.





Fir tortrix *Acleris abietana*

The first British record of this species was in Perthshire in 1964. Although spreading, it remains a rare moth. This one was at Kedlock Feus in late October 2022. This is only the third site in Fife where the species has been recorded. Its foodplants are noble and grand firs.





Small rufous tortrix *Acleris aspersana*

A fairly scarce species in Fife. The ones below were on Lucklawhill in early September 2025, while the one above was at Carphin in mid-August 2026.





Yellow rose tortrix *Acleris bergmanniana*

This species is very local in Scotland. Its foodplant is roses. This one was at Kedlock Feus in mid-July 2022.



Scalloped tortrix

Acleris emargana

A common woodland and hedgerow species.





Netted tortrix *Acleris forsskaleana*

A locally-distributed species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Heath tortrix *Acleris hyemana*

A scarce species of heathland and moorland, recorded as an adult mostly in autumn and spring. This one was on Black Craig, Carphin, in late October 2025.



Dark-marked tortrix *Acleris laterana*

A common species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Lichen tortrix *Acleris literana*

Seldom recorded in Fife, the one shown above and below right was at Kedlock Feus on 1 May 2022, while the one below left was there in mid-April 2021.





Tawny birch tortrix *Acleris notana*

These were at Lucklawhill in mid-July 2024. Given the habitat there, they are likely to be of this species, but tawny oak tortrix *Acleris ferrugana* cannot be ruled out from these images.





Rhomboid tortrix

Acleris rhombana

A common hedgerow species.





Lead-coloured tortrix *Acleris sparsana*

A common species of woodland and gardens.





Garden rose tortrix *Acleris variegana*

A common species of gardens, hedgerows and woodland edge.



The cinereous *Acompsia cinerella*

This species has only very rarely been recorded in Fife. This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in late June 2022.





Hawthorn knot-horn *Acrobasis advenella*

In Fife, a locally-distributed species of hedgerows, woodland and gardens, where hawthorn is available.





Green longhorn *Adela reaumurella*

A scarce 'longhorn' moth. The males (above and below right) were at Carphin in mid_may 2025, while the female (below left) was at Gaddon in late May 2022.





Thistle straw *Aethes cnicana*

A common species where thistles grow.





Burdock straw *Aethes rubigana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, dependent on its foodplant, burdock. This one was at Kedlock Feus in mid-July 2022.



Garden straw

Agapeta hamana

A common species where thistles grow.





Hemlock moth *Agonopterix alstromeriana*

A scarce species in Fife occurring mostly at or near the coast. Its foodplant is hemlock. This one was on Lucklawhill in early May 2024.





Brindled buff *Agonopterix arenella*

A widespread species that can occur throughout the year.





Speckled broom buff *Agonopterix assimilella*

This species occurs in areas where broom grows. The one above was on East Lomond while the one below was on Lucklawhill.





Banded brindled brown *Agonopterix ciliella*

A widespread species that is very similar to *Agonopterix heracliata*, but larger.



Common brindled brown

Agonopterix heracliana

A common species that can occur throughout the year.





Burnt-tip buff *Agonopterix nervosa*

A common species of woodland, heathland and hedgerows.





Red-eyed buff *Agonopterix ocellana*

Fairly common in locations with willows. This one was at Gaddon Loch.



Broom buff *Agonopterix scopariella*

A locally-distributed species that occurs where broom is common.





Gorse buff *Agonopterix umbellana*

A scarce species, seldom recorded in Fife. Most Scottish records are from coastal areas. These were recorded at Carphin by Luthrie in late February 2025.





Barred grass-moth *Agriphila inquinatella*

A locally-distributed species in Fife, occurring mostly at or near the coast. The one below was the first record from the Howe of Fife and surrounding area, and was at Kedlock Feus in late July 2022. The one above was at Black Craig in mid-August 2022.





Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

An abundant species of grasslands.





Common grass-moth

Agriphila tristella

Another common grassland species.





Beautiful plume *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*

A common species, occurring in a range of habitats.





Rattle pearl *Anania fuscalis*

A widespread species, common in suitable habitat. The ones above and below left were at Auchtermuchty Common, and the one below right at Carphin.





Small magpie *Anania hortulata*

A fairly common species, occurring in a range of habitats.





Meadow hook-wing

Ancyliis badiana

A common species of grasslands.





Bilberry hook-wing *Ancyliis myrtillana*

A locally-distributed species, occurring where bilberry grows. This one was on East Lomond.





Heath hook-wing *Ancylys unguicella*

A locally-distributed species of heathland and moorland. These were at Black Craig near Norman's Law.





Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana*

A very common species.





Bilberry tortrix *Aphelia viburnana*

This tortrix was one of three seen amongst bilberry on Lucklaw Hill in mid-June 2024. It is a rare moth in Fife, with a few old records from the Lomond Hills.





Bee moth *Aphomia sociella*

A common moth, whose caterpillars live in bees' or wasps' nests.





Birch marble *Apotomis betuletana*

A fairly common species where birches grow.





Least marble *Apotomis sauciana*

A rare species in Fife. This one was in a patch of bilberry on Black Craig, which is only the second location in Fife at which it has been recorded.





Lesser birch marble *Apotomis sororculana*

A scarce species of birch woods, rarely recorded in Fife. This one was on Lucklawhill in late June 2024.





White-shouldered marble *Apotomis turbidana*

A common moth where birch or alder trees grow.



Rose tortrix *Archips rosana*

A species that is declining rapidly in the UK, and a rarity in Fife. The male below right was at Kedlock Feus on 17 Aug 2021, while the female was there on 15 Aug 2023.





Dark blackthorn tip moth *Argyresthia albistria*

A fairly common species where blackthorn grows, although it has only been recorded from two locations in Fife previously. These were at Elmwood Golf Course in August 2022.





Hawthorn tip moth *Argyresthia bonnetella*

A common species where hawthorns grow.





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.





Brassy Y *Argyresthia goedartella*

A common species where birches or alders occur.





Cherry fruit moth

Argyresthia pruniella

A scarce species in Scotland.





Sallow tip moth *Argyrethsia pygmaeella*

A scarce species in Fife, occurring in woodland with willows or poplars.





Purple-washed tip moth *Argyresthia semifusca*

A locally-distributed species that has only been recorded from one location in Fife previously. This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in mid-August 2022.





Triple-barred tip moth *Argyresthia trifasciata*

A locally-distributed species that is increasing its range. Caterpillars are leaf miners of cypress or juniper.





Marsh lance *Bactra furfurana*

Seldom recorded in Fife, this species usually occurs in marshes and bogs. The one above was recorded near the clubhouse of Elmwood Golf Course in mid-June 2022, while the one below was at Carphin in late June 2025.





Common lance *Bactra lancealana*

A common species of wet habitats.





Poplar needle-moth *Batrachedra praeangusta*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland. This one was at Lucklawhill in late July 2024.





Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

A common species of woodland, heathland and gardens.





Large pale masoner
Blastobasis lacticolella

A common species that is increasing its range.





Dotted masoner *Blastobasis vittata*

First recorded in the UK in 2008, and in Scotland in 2018. It has spread along the coast of Fife, and is starting to be recorded inland. These were at Lucklawhill in early September 2024. However, they are too worn for the identification to be certain.





Hawthorn berry moth *Blastodacna hellerella*

A locally-distributed species, occurring in habitats with hawthorn. This one was at Kedlock Feus.



Dingy concealer *Borkhausenia fuscescens*

The tiny moth above was at Kedlock Feus in mid-August 2021. This was the first record of the species in the area covered here, probably because it has been overlooked. The one below was at Elmwood Golf Course in early August 2022.





Dark moss-moth *Bryotropa affinis*

A locally-distributed species associated with moss on buildings.





House moss-moth *Bryotropa domestica*

A locally-distributed species that mostly occurs in gardens where moss grows on walls.





Satin moss-moth *Bryotropha politella*

A species of dry grassland that has seldom been recorded in Fife. This one was on Lucklawhill in late June 2024.





Grizzled moss-moth *Bryotropa senectella*

A locally-distributed species that mostly occurs in gardens where moss grows on walls.





Brown moss-moth

Bryotropha terrella

A common species in a range of habitats.





Daisy tuft *Bucculatrix nigricomella*

A scarce species in Fife. These were by Gaddon Loch in late May 2022.





Birch stilt *Caloptilia betulicola*

This is a scarce species that occurs where birches grow. This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in early August 2022.





Alder stilt *Caloptilia elongella*

An uncommon species that occurs where alders grow. This well-marked individual was at Gaddon Loch in mid-October 2022.





Rufous stilt *Caloptilia rufipennella*

A scarce species in east Fife. It is associated with sycamores and other maples. The one above and below left was at Kedlock Feus in early September, and the one below right at Carphin, also in early September.





Willow stilt *Caloptilia stigmatella*

This species is associated with aspen and poplars as well as willow. This one was at Birnie Loch in mid-September 2026.



Wood sage plume *Capperia britanniodactylus*

An uncommon moth in Fife. This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in late June 2022.



Pale-shouldered tortrix *Capua vulgana*

A scarce species in Fife. This one was at Clatto Reservoir in late May 2026.





Spotted birch grey *Carpatolechia proximella*

This species occurs where birches or alders grow. It is not often recorded in Fife, except at Tentsmuir. This one was on Lucklawhill in mid-June 2024.





Stitchwort groundling *Caryocolum fraternella*

A rare species in Scotland. These were at Carphin in early August 2026.





Chequered grass-moth

Catoptria falsella

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, associated with moss on roofs.





Pearl-banded grass-moth *Catoptria margaritella*

A locally-distributed species, mostly in upland areas.





Pearl grass-moth *Catoptria pinella*

A fairly common species, occurring in wet grassland, moorland and open areas in woodland.





Speedwell longhorn *Cauchas fibulella*

Seldom recorded in Fife, this moth can be found at patches of speedwell. These three were at Heggie's Muir Wood by the Wilderness in June 2022.





Double-barred needle-miner *Cedestis gysseleniella*

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





Thyme marble *Celypha cespitana*

A locally-distributed species that is mostly coastal in Fife. These were at Carphin.





Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

A common species, often seen in daylight.





Silver-striped marble *Celypha rivulana*

Not common, but occurs in a wide range of habitats. The one above was at Lucklawhill, the one below left at Carphin, and the one below right at Auchtermuchty Common.





Reed veneer *Chilo phragmitella*

Seldom recorded in Scotland. This one was at Carphin in mid-June 2026, and was surprisingly far from suitable habitat.





Garden grass-moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

A common grassland species.





Rufous tortrix *Clepsis consimilana*

In Fife, this is a locally-distributed species of hedgerows and gardens.





Flax tortrix *Cnephasia asseclana*

A common species, very similar to the next species, but less clearly marked.





Light grey tortrix *Cnephasia incertana*

A common species. Identification not certain!





Buff grey tortrix

Cnephasia longana

A locally-distributed species occurring mostly at or near the coast. These were all recorded at Kedlock Feus.





Common grey tortrix *Cnephasia stephensiana*

A fairly common species in Fife.





Black-fronted straw *Cochylichroa atricapitana*

A scarce species in Fife. Its food plant is ragwort. These were at Carphin.





Gorse case-bearer *Coleophora albicosta*

Common wherever gorse, its food plant, is plentiful.





Clothed case-bearer
Coleophora mayrella

Common where white clover is plentiful.





Common case-bearer *Coleophora serratella*

A common species of broadleaf woodland. While this image probably shows this species, its identity is not certain.



Meadow grass-moth *Crambus lathoniellus*

A common grassland species.





White-banded grass-moth *Crambus pascuella*

A widely-distributed grass moth, but not recorded from many sites in Fife.





Beech mast piercer *Cydia fagiglandana*

A rare species in Scotland. It occurs where beeches grow. This one was at Gaddon Loch in mid-August 2024.



Pea moth *Cydia nigricana*

A scarce grassland species in Scotland. These were at Auchtermuchty Common in late June and early July.





Marbled piercer *Cydia splendens*

This species is not often recorded in Scotland. The main foodplants of the caterpillars are oaks and sweet chestnuts. This was one of two recorded at Carphin in late July 2026.





Common gorse moth

Cydia ulicetana

Common wherever gorse is abundant.





Pignut brown *Depressaria pulcherrimella*

A grassland species that is seldom recorded in Fife. This one was at Gaddon Loch.





Parsnip moth *Depressaria radiella*

A common species where its foodplants occur, common hogweed and wild parsnip.





Chervil brown *Depressaria sordidatella*

This moth was at Elmwood Golf Course on 7 July 2022, only the second location in Fife for this rare grassland species to be recorded.



Dingy daisy / northern yarrow / mugwort moth

Dichrorampha aeratana / *alpestrana* / *simpliciana*

Three species that are very difficult to separate. *D alpestrana* is the more common species and is widespread in Scotland.





Pine knot-horn *Dioryctria abietella*

Locally-distributed in Fife, this one was at Craigmead in late July.





Red-barred tortrix *Ditula angustiorana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring in woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Early reveller *Diurnea fagella*

A common species of deciduous woodland.





Dotted cloak *Eana osseana*

A common species of rough grassland and moorland.





White-headed grass-miner *Elachista albifrontella*

A common grassland species, although seldom recorded in Fife.





Silver grass-miner *Elachista argentella*

A fairly common grassland species.





Cock's-foot miner *Elachista atricomella*

A common grassland species.





Common grass-miner *Elachista canapennella*

A common species of grassy habitats.



Yellow-headed grass-miner *Elachista luticomella*

A fairly common species in grassy habitats.





Canary-grass miner *Elachista maculicerasella*

A tiny moth that is seldom recorded in Fife. These were at Clatto Reservoir in May and June 2026.





Triple-spotted grass-miner *Elachista triatomea*

This species has only rarely been recorded in Fife. These two were by the pools at Elmwood Golf Course in late June 2022.





Brown china-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

A fairly local species in Scotland. The ones above and below left were at Clatto Reservoir, while the dark form below right was at Elmwood Golf Course.





Common plume *Emmelina monodactyla*

Despite its name, it is not especially common in Fife, or elsewhere in Scotland.





Cherry bark tortrix *Enarmonia formosana*

A very local species in Scotland, occurring in gardens, parkland and hedgerows.



Marsh marble *Endothenia quadrimaculana*

A locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in wet habitats.





White-shouldered house-moth *Endrosis sarcitrella*

Common and the most easily recognised species of 'clothes moth', with its familiar white head and shoulders.





Common ridge-back *Epermenia chaerophyllella*

A tiny moth that occurs in a wide range of habitats. In Fife, it has seldom been recorded away from the Firth of Forth coast. The one above and below left was at Gaddon Loch in mid-October 2023, while the one below right was at Elmwood golf course in early May 2022.





Knapweed root-borer *Epiblema cirsiiana*

A common species. Identity not certain!



Ragwort root-borer *Epiblema costipunctana*

A common species. Identity not certain!



Thistle root-borer *Epiblema scutulana*

A common species of wet, rough grassland. Identity not certain!



Brown elm tortrix *Epinotia abbreviana*

A locally-distributed species of woodland and hedgerows.



Large birch roller *Epinotia brunnichana*

A locally-distributed species in Fife, usually occurring in birch woods. This one was at Lucklawhill in late July 2024.



Birch tortrix *Epinotia immundana*

A common species of open woodland and heathland with birch or alder.





Small spruce tortrix *Epinotia nanana*

A tiny tortrix, about 4mm long. This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in July 2022.



Brindled poplar tortrix

Epinotia nisella

A species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens, locally distributed in Fife.





Black-marked tortrix

Epinotia ramella

A common species of woodland and heathland.





Brown alder roller *Epinotia sordidana*

These were by Birnie Loch in mid-September 2026. It is only the third time that the species has been recorded in Fife. As its common name suggests, it is associated with alders.





Nut bud moth *Epinotia tenerana*

A common woodland and garden species.





Light brown apple moth *Epiphyas postvittana*

A naturalised species from Australia that has become fairly widespread in the UK. This one was at Kedlock Feus in late September 2022.



Sulphur bark moth *Esperia sulphurella*

A common species, although less common in Scotland than further south.





Pied tortrix *Eucosma campoliliana*

Locally-distributed in Fife, this species occurs where ragwort grows.





Hoary tortrix

Eucosma cana

A common grassland species.





Common knapweed tortrix *Eucosma hohenwartiana*

Not widely recorded in Fife, the one above was at Auchtermuchty Common and the one below at Carphin. Its food plant is common knapweed.





Narrow-winged grey

Eudonia angustea

A locally-distributed species of shingle, woodland and gardens.





Tawny grey *Eudonia lacustrata*

A common species of open habitats and woodland.





Garden grey *Eudonia mercurella*

A fairly common species of woodland, moorland and grassland.





Peppered grey *Eudonia truncicolella*

A fairly common species in habitats with moss.





Dark-barred straw *Eupoecilia angustana*

A fairly common species of open woodland, meadows and heathland.





Yellow-dotted stilt *Euspilapteryx auroguttella*

A fairly common species of rough grassland.





Chequered pearl *Evergestis pallidata*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring in damp woodland.





Yarrow plume *Gillmeria pallidactyla*

A common species of dry grassland.





Cocksfoot moth *Glyphopterix simpliciella*

A tiny, very abundant species.





Garden stilt

Gracillaria syringella

A tiny, common species of woodland and gardens.





White-underwing piercer *Grapholita internana*

A locally-distributed species associated with gorse. These were at Carphin.





Hawthorn piercer *Grapholita janthinana*

A rare species in Scotland. This one is worn, making it difficult to be certain of the identification. It was at Elmwood Golf Course in July 2022.



Beautiful crescent *Grapholita jungiella*

A locally-distributed species associated with gorse. This one was at Rossie Bog.





Rose piercer *Grapholita tenebrosana*

A scarce species. This one was on Lucklaw Hill in mid-June 2024. This is only the second site in Fife that the species has been recorded. Its food plants are roses and rowan, and this one was in a rowan. It is playing dead in the photo below, and promptly flew away as soon as the photo was taken!





Marbled orchard tortrix *Hedya nubiferana*

A locally-distributed species mostly of woodland and gardens in Fife.





Plum tortrix *Hedya pruniana*

Rarely recorded in Fife, this species was probably attracted to Gaddon Loch by the large area of blackthorn. This is one of several recorded there in summer 2022.



Brown house-moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

A common species, often occurring in houses and buildings.





Black rhomboid grey *Hypatima rhomboidella*

Not often recorded in Fife, this one was at Lucklawhill in early September 2024.





Slender rufous tortrix *Lathronympha strigana*

A local species of grassland in Scotland. The one above at Auchtermuchty Common and the ones below at Carphin.





Broom stem-miner *Leucoptera spartifoliella*

A tiny moth that is common where brooms grow.





Bulrush down moth *Limnaecia phragmitella*

A local species in Scotland, occurring where bulrushes grow.





Apple leaf-miner *Lyonetia clerkella*

Many of the Scottish records for this tiny moth are from Fife. This one was in the hawthorn hedge that is above Carphin Farmhouse.





Burdock seedhead moth *Metzneria lappella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland.





Knapweed seedhead moth *Metzneria metzneriella*

A local species in Fife. It occurs where its foodplant, common knapweed, grows, such as grassland and road verges.





White-line pollen-moth *Micropterix aruncella*

A tiny species that can be common in grassland and woodland. Can appear anything from black to golden depending on the light. The male (above) has two white stripes.





Yellow-barred pollen-moth *Micropterix aureatella*

Common on heathland and moorland.





Plain pollen-moth *Micropterix calthella*

A tiny species that can be abundant.





Gorse streak *Mirificarma mulinella*

Common on heathland and moorland.





Great mompha *Mompha conturbatella*

A common species where willowherb occurs.





Amber mompha *Mompha ochraceella*

This one was at Elmwood Golf Course in July 2022 — only the third location in Fife where this species has been recorded. Its foodplant is great willowherb.



Fireweed mompha *Mompha raschkiella*

This tiny moth was at Clatto Reservoir. The foodplant of the larvae is rosebay willowherb (fireweed).





Burnished sorrel moth *Monochroa tenebrella*

A locally-distributed species. These males were at Auchtermuchty Common.





Carrion moth *Monopis weaverella*

A common species of woods and gardens.





Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

A common species of woodland and gardens.





Sandy longhorn *Nematopogon schwarziellus*

This species of longhorn moth is not often recorded in Fife. Its caterpillars feed on dead leaves. This one was at Gaddon Loch in late May 2023.





Heather grey *Neofaculta ericetella*

A common species of heather moorland. The one above was at Black Craig by Norman's Law, while the one below was on Lucklaw Hill.





Rush veneer *Nomophila noctuella*

A scarce, mostly coastal species in Fife. The one below left was at Kedlock Feus in late September 2022, and is the first record from the area covered here. The one above and below right was at Carphin in mid-August 2026.





Black cloak *Notocelia cynosbatella*

A common species.





Large rose shoot moth *Notocelia roborana*

A scarce species in Fife. The foodplant of the caterpillars are roses. This one was at Kedlock Feus in late July 2023.





Hawthorn shoot moth *Notocelia trimaculana*

A locally-distributed species of open woodland in Fife.





Bramble shoot moth *Notocelia uddmanniana*

A distinctive species that is scarce in Fife.





Beautiful china mark *Nymphula nitidulata*

A locally-distributed species. This one was at Carphin.



Bull's-horn stem moth *Ochsenheimeria urella*

Not often recorded, these were on Black Craig by Carphin in early August 2024.





Dusky marble

Orthotaenia undulana

Many of these were flying amongst the bilberry on Lucklawhill in mid-June 2024. A locally-distributed moth in Fife.





Oak gall moth *Pammene argyrana*

A locally-distributed species closely associated with oak. This one was at oaks on the north-east slope of Berry Brae.





Double orange-spot *Pammene aurana*

Generally local in Scotland, but can be common in the Howe of Fife. Often seen on flower-heads, especially of its foodplant, common hogweed.





Barred fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis cerasana*

A common species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





White-faced tortrix *Pandemis cinnamomeana*

A scarce species of woodland in Fife. These were at Craigmead in late July 2024.





Dark fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis heparana*

A common species of woodland and gardens.





Hawthorn drab *Paraswammerdamia nebulella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring in areas with hawthorn or rowan.





Rowan parornix *Parornix scoticella*

This tiny species is not often recorded in Fife. This one was at Gaddon Loch in early June 2022.





Mother of pearl *Patania ruralis*

A common species of woodland and gardens.





Phycitodes sp.

A group of three species that cannot be reliably separated from images. There are a few records from Fife, mostly at or near the coast. These were inland, at Carphin, in early September 2023 and mid-June 2025.





Firethorn leaf-miner *Phyllonorycter leucographella*

This is a species that has spread into Fife from the south. Its caterpillars live within leaves of *Pyracantha*.





Beech leaf-miner *Phyllonorycter maestingella*

Seldom recorded as an adult, this one was at Rankeilour in late April 2025.





Common oak leaf-miner *Phyllonorycter quercifoliella*

A tiny species that is common where oaks grow, but which is not often recorded. This one was at Carphin in mid-July 2025.





Triangle plume *Platyptilia gonodactyla*

A common species of wasteland and rough grassland.





Heath streak *Pleurota bicostella*

These moths were at Black Craig by Norman's Law. Although common where heather occurs in parts of the country, this is only the second location in Fife where this species has been recorded.





Diamond-back moth *Plutella xylostella*

A common species in a wide range of habitats.





Ash bud moth *Prays fraxinella*

A species rarely recorded in Fife. It can occur in woodland, hedgerows and gardens with mature ash trees. The one above and below right was at Kedlock Feus in early September 2021, and the one below left was there in mid-August 2022. These are both the dark form of the species, or might possibly be *Prays ruficeps*.





Yellow-spotted tortrix *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana*

A common species of woodland and gardens.





White plume *Pterophorus pentadactyla*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where bindweeds grow. This one was at Carphin.





Northern diamond-back *Rhigognostis incarnatella*

Previously rare, this species is becoming more common in Fife.





Small bilberry marble *Rhopobota myrtillana*

A rarely-recorded species that is associated with bilberry. Between 2016 and 2024, the only Scottish records were from the Lomond Hills. This one was on Black Craig in late May 2025.





Holly tortrix *Rhopobota naevana*

Not restricted to holly, this tiny moth can occur in a wide range of habitats. The one above was high up on Black Craig, by Norman's Law, while the one below was one of several also high up, at Craigmead.





Spotted shoot moth *Rhyacionia pinivorana*

The moth below left was at Kedlock Feus in mid-July 2021. It was the sixth record of the species from Fife, and just the second record away from Tentsmuir. The moth above and bottom right was at Elmwood Golf Course in late June 2022.





Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

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





Brown-spot grey *Scoparia pyralella*

A locally-distributed species of open habitats, where ribwort plantain grows.





Large grey *Scoparia subfusca*

Locally distributed away from the coast in Fife.





Common thistle miner *Scrobipalpa acuminatella*

A common moth in habitats where thistles grow.





Larch bud moth *Spilonota laricana*

A species recorded from just a handful of sites in Fife. This one was at Craigmead in late July 2024.





Twin-spot plume *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla*

A locally-distributed species of grassland, where field scabious or devil's bit scabious grows. This one was at Kedlock Feus in early September 2021.





Brown plume *Stenoptilia pterodactyla*

A locally-distributed species of woodland margins and dry grassland.





Dark-barred tortrix *Syndemis musculana*

A common species occurring in a variety of habitats.





Common groundling *Teleiopsis diffinis*

Except at Tentsmuir, this is a rare species in Fife. These were at Carphin.





Orange-tipped nest moth *Tinea semifulvella*

The caterpillars of this species feed on the debris in bird nests.





Triple-spotted nest moth *Tinea trinotella*

This species is seldom recorded in Fife. This one was on Elmwood Golf Course in mid-May 2022. The caterpillars of this species feed on the detritus in bird nests.





Oak blotch-miner *Tischeria ekebladella*

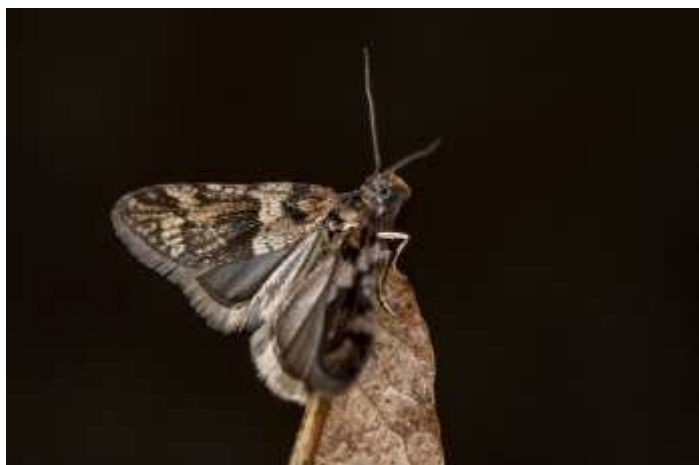
A rare moth in Fife, with just two or three previous records. This one was in the area above Carphin Farmhouse where several oak trees grow, in mid-June 2026.





Spring harbinger *Tortricodes alternella*

Fife is on the edge of the range of this species. It is an early-season species that occurs mostly on or near oak trees, and these were at Gaddon Loch (right) and Auchtermuchty Common.





Green oak tortrix *Tortrix viridana*

A rare species in Fife. This one was recorded at Carphin in late June 2025.





Pale straw pearl *Udea lutealis*

A common species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Garden pearl *Udea olivalis*

A common species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Dusky pearl *Udea prunalis*

A locally-distributed species of woodland, hedgerows and gardens.





Bird-cherry ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*

A common species, even away from where bird-cherry occurs. Its caterpillars make communal webs on bird-cherry.





Orchard, apple and spindle ermines

Yponomeuta padella / *malinellus* / *cagnagella*

These three species cannot be separated from images, but these are most likely to be orchard ermines.





Honeysuckle moth *Ypsolopha dentella*

A common species of woods and gardens.





White-shouldered ochre *Ypsolopha parenthesesella*

A fairly common woodland species that is associated with several tree species, including alders and birches. The ones above and below right were at Birnie Loch in mid-September 2026, while the one below left was at Carphin in late September 2026.





Pied rabbit moth *Ypsolopha sequella*

A scarce species in Scotland that occurs where field maples or sycamores grow. This one was at Carphin in early September 2026.





Varied ochre *Ypsolopha ustella*

A highly-variable species of oak woodland. This one was at Auchtermuchty Common in late February 2022.





Larch tortrix *Zeiraphera griseana*

Only rarely recorded in Fife, this one was at Craigmead in late July 2024.



Spruce bud moth *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana*

A fairly common species of conifer plantations, mixed woodland and gardens.





Ash spinner *Zelleria hepariella*

A scarce species of woodland. This one was at Kedlock Feus in late April 2023, and was the first record for east Fife.





Timothy tortrix *Zelothereses paleana*

A fairly common species of damp, rough ground.

