

Micro-moths of the Howe of Fife

S.T. Buckland

Micro-moths of the Howe of Fife

S.T. Buckland

I have included those species that I have been able to photo-graph 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 those species that I struggled with.

Steve Buckland

steve@st-andrews.ac.uk

12/November/2026

Contents—micro-moths

Acentria ephemerella.....6
Achroia grisella.....7
Acleris abietana.....8
Acleris aspersana.....9
Acleris bergmanniana.....10
Acleris emargana.....11
Acleris forsskaleana.....12
Acleris hyemana.....13
Acleris laterana.....14
Acleris literana.....15
Acleris notana.....16
Acleris rhombana.....17
Acleris sparsana.....18
Acleris variegana.....19
Acompsia cinerella.....20
Acrobasis advenella.....21
Adela reaumurella.....22
Aethes cnicana.....23
Aethes rubigana.....24
Agapeta hamana.....25
Agonopterix alstromeriana.....26
Agonopterix arenella.....27
Agonopterix assimilella.....28
Agonopterix ciliella.....29
Agonopterix heracliana.....30
Agonopterix nervosa.....31
Agonopterix ocellana.....32
Agonopterix scopariella.....33
Agonopterix umbellana.....34
Agriphila inquinatella.....35
Agriphila straminella.....36
Agriphila tristella.....37
Alder stilt.....76
Amber mompha.....176
Amblyptilia acanthadactyla.....38
Anania fuscalis.....39
Anania hortulata.....40
Ancylis badiana.....41
Ancylis myrtillana.....42
Ancylis unguicella.....43
Anthophila fabriciana.....44
Aphelia viburnana.....45
Aphomia sociella.....46
Apotomis betuletana.....47
Apotomis sauciana.....48
Apotomis sororculana.....49
Apotomis turbidana.....50
Apple ermine.....233
Apple fruit moth.....55
Apple leaf-miner.....168
Archips rosana.....51
Argyresthia albistria.....52
Argyresthia bonnetella.....53
Argyresthia brockeella.....54
Argyresthia conjugella.....55
Argyresthia goedartella.....56
Argyresthia pruniella.....57
Argyresthia pygmaeella.....58
Argyresthia semifusca.....59
Argyresthia trifasciata.....60
Ash bud moth.....207
Ash spinner.....240
Aspen dot.....117
Bactra furfurana.....61
Bactra lancealana.....62
Banded brindled brown.....29
Barred fruit-tree tortrix.....194
Barred grass-moth.....35
Barred needle-miner.....88
Batrachedra praeangusta.....63
Beautiful china mark.....189
Beautiful crescent.....159
Beautiful plume.....38
Bee moth.....46
Beech leaf-miner.....202
Beech mast piercer.....105
Bilberry hook-wing.....42
Bilberry tortrix.....45
Birch marble.....47
Birch stilt.....75
Birch tortrix.....136
Bird-cherry ermine.....232
Black cloak.....185
Black rhomboid grey.....164
Black-fronted straw.....99
Black-marked tortrix.....139
Blastobasis adustella.....64
Blastobasis lacticolella.....65
Blastobasis vittata.....66
Blastodacna hellerella.....67
Borkhausenia fuscescens.....68
Bramble shoot moth.....188
Brassy Y.....56
Brindled buff.....27
Brindled poplar tortrix.....138
Broom buff.....33
Broom stem-miner.....166
Brown alder roller.....140
Brown china-mark.....125
Brown elm tortrix.....134
Brown house-moth.....163
Brown moss-moth.....73
Brown plume.....220
Brown-spot grey.....215
Bryotropha affinis.....69
Bryotropha domestica.....70
Bryotropha politella.....71
Bryotropha senectella.....72
Bryotropha terrella.....73
Bucculatrix nigricomella.....74
Buff grey tortrix.....97
Bull's-horn stem moth.....190
Bulrush down moth.....167
Burdock seedhead moth.....169
Burdock straw.....24
Burnished sorrel moth.....178
Burnt-tip buff.....31
Caloptilia betulicola.....75
Caloptilia elongella.....76
Caloptilia rufipennella.....77
Caloptilia stigmatella.....78
Canary-grass miner.....123
Capperia britanniodactylus.....79
Capua vulgana.....80
Carpatolechia proximella.....81
Carrion moth.....180
Caryocolum fraternella.....82
Catoptria falsella.....83
Catoptria margaritella.....84
Catoptria pinella.....85
Cauchas fibulella.....86
Cedestis gysseleniella.....87
Cedestis subfasciella.....88
Celypha cespitana.....89
Celypha lacunana.....90
Celypha rivulana.....91
Chequered grass-moth.....83
Chequered pearl.....153
Cherry bark tortrix.....127
Cherry fruit moth.....57
Chervil brown.....111
Chilo phragmitella.....92
Chrysoteuchia culmella.....93
Cinereous.....20
Clepsis consimilana.....94
Clothed case-bearer.....101
Cnephasia asseclana.....95
Cnephasia incertana.....96
Cnephasia longana.....97
Cnephasia stephensiana.....98
Cochylichroa atricapitana.....99
Cock's-foot miner.....120
Cocksfoot moth.....155
Coleophora albicosta.....100
Coleophora mayrella.....101
Coleophora serratella.....102

Common brindled brown 30
Common case-bearer 102
Common gorse moth 108
Common grass-miner 121
Common grass-moth 37
Common grey 214
Common grey tortrix 98
Common groundling 222
Common knapweed tortrix 146
Common lance 62
Common marble 90
Common masoner 64
Common oak leaf-miner 203
Common plume 126
Common ridge-back 130
Common thistle miner 217
Cork moth 181
Crambus lathoniellus 103
Crambus pascuella 104
Cydia fagiglandana 105
Cydia nigricana 106
Cydia splendens 107
Cydia ulicetana 108
Daisy tuft 74
Dark blackthorn tip moth 52
Dark fruit-tree tortrix 196
Dark moss-moth 69
Dark-barred straw 151
Dark-barred tortrix 221
Dark-marked tortrix 14
Depressaria pulcherrimella 109
Depressaria radiella 110
Depressaria sordidatella 111
Diamond-back moth 206
Dichrorampha aeratana 112
Dichrorampha alpestrana 112
Dichrorampha simpliciana 112
Dingy concealer 68
Dingy daisy 112
Dioryctria abietella 113
Ditula angustiorana 114
Diurnea fagella 115
Dotted cloak 116
Dotted masoner 66
Double orange-spot 193
Double-barred needle-miner 87
Dusky marble 191
Dusky pearl 231
Eana osseana 116
Early reveller 115
Ectoedemia argyropeza 117
Elachista albifrontella 118
Elachista argentella 119
Elachista atricomella 120
Elachista canapennella 121
Elachista luticomella 122
Elachista maculicerasella 123
Elachista triatomea 124
Elophila nymphaeata 125
Emmelina monodactyla 126
Enarmonia formosana 127
Endothenia quadrimaculana ... 128
Endrosis sarcitrella 129
Epermenia chaerophyllella 130
Epiblema cirsiana 131
Epiblema costipunctana 132
Epiblema scutulana 133
Epinotia abbreviana 134
Epinotia brunnichana 135
Epinotia immundana 136
Epinotia nanana 137
Epinotia nisella 138
Epinotia ramella 139
Epinotia sordidana 140
Epinotia tenerana 141
Epiphyas postvittana 142
Esperia sulphurella 143
Eucosma campoliliana 144
Eucosma cana 145
Eucosma hohenwartiana 146
Eudonia angustea 147
Eudonia lacustrata 148
Eudonia mercurella 149
Eudonia truncicolella 150
Eupoecilia angustana 151
Euspilapteryx auroguttella 152
Evergestis pallidata 153
Fir tortrix 8
Firethorn leaf-miner 201
Fireweed mompha 177
Flax tortrix 95
Garden grass-moth 93
Garden grey 149
Garden pearl 230
Garden rose tortrix 19
Garden stilt 156
Garden straw 25
Gillmeria pallidactyla 154
Glyphopterix simpliciella 155
Gold W 54
Gorse buff 34
Gorse case-bearer 100
Gorse streak 174
Gracillaria syringella 156
Grapholita internana 157
Grapholita janthinana 158
Grapholita jungiella 159
Grapholita tenebrosana 160
Great mompha 175
Green longhorn 22
Green oak tortrix 227
Grizzled moss-moth 72
Hawthorn berry moth 67
Hawthorn drab 197
Hawthorn knot-horn 21
Hawthorn piercer 158
Hawthorn shoot moth 187
Hawthorn tip moth 53
Heath hook-wing 43
Heath streak 205
Heath tortrix 13
Heather grey 183
Hedya nubiferana 161
Hedya pruniana 162
Hemlock moth 26
Hoary tortrix 145
Hofmannophila pseudospretella 163
Holly tortrix 212
Honeysuckle moth 234
House moss-moth 70
Hypatima rhomboidella 164
Knapweed root-borer 131
Knapweed seedhead moth 170
Larch bud moth 218
Larch tortrix 238
Large birch roller 135
Large grey 216
Large pale masoner 65
Large rose shoot moth 186
Lathronympha strigana 165
Lead-coloured tortrix 18
Least marble 48
Lesser birch marble 49
Lesser wax moth 7
Leucoptera spartifoliella 166
Lichen tortrix 15
Light brown apple moth 142
Light grey tortrix 96
Limnaecia phragmitella 167
Lyonetia clerkella 168
Marbled orchard tortrix 161
Marbled piercer 107
Marsh lance 61
Marsh marble 128
Meadow grass-moth 103
Meadow hook-wing 41
Metzneria lappella 169
Metzneria metzneriella 170
Micropterix aruncella 171
Micropterix aureatella 172
Micropterix calthella 173
Mirificarma mulinella 174
Mompha conturbatella 175
Mompha ochraceella 176
Mompha raschkiella 177
Monochroa tenebrella 178
Monopis laevigella 179
Monopis weaverella 180
Mother of pearl 199
Mugwort moth 112
Narrow-winged grey 147
Nemapogon cloacella 181
Nematopogon schwarziellus 182
Neofaculta ericetella 183
Netted tortrix 12
Nettle-tap 44

Nomophila noctuella.....184
Northern diamond-back.....210
Northern yarrow 112
Notocelia cynosbatella.....185
Notocelia roborana.....186
Notocelia trimaculana 187
Notocelia uddmanniana 188
Nut bud moth 141
Nymphula nitidulata.....189
Oak blotch-miner 225
Oak gall moth 192
Ochsenheimeria urella.....190
Orange-tipped nest moth.....223
Orchard ermine 233
Orthotaenia undulana 191
Pale straw pearl.....229
Pale-shouldered tortrix 80
Pammene argyrana 192
Pammene aurana 193
Pandemis cerasana.....194
Pandemis cinnamomeana.....195
Pandemis heparana.....196
Paraswammerdamia nebulella 197
Parornix scoticella.....198
Parsnip moth 110
Patania ruralis 199
Pea moth 106
Pearl grass-moth 85
Pearl-banded grass-moth 84
Peppered grey 150
Phycitodes sp. 200
Phyllonorycter leucographella .201
Phyllonorycter maestingella 202
Phyllonorycter quercifoliella 203
Pied rabbit moth.....236
Pied tortrix.....144
Pignut brown 109
Pine knot-horn.....113
Plain pollen-moth 173
Platyptilia gonodactyla 204
Pleurota bicostella 205
Plum tortrix 162
Plutella xylostella 206
Poplar needle-moth 63
Prays fraxinella 207
Pseudargyrotoza conwagana ..208
Pterophorus pentadactyla 209
Purple-washed tip moth.....59
Ragwort root-borer 132
Rattle pearl 39
Red-barred tortrix..... 114
Red-eyed buff..... 32
Reed veneer..... 92
Rhigognostis incarnatella..... 210
Rhomboid tortrix..... 17
Rhopobota myrtillana 211
Rhopobota naevana..... 212
Rhyacionia pinivorana..... 213
Rose piercer 160
Rose tortrix 51
Rowan parornix..... 198
Rufous stilt 77
Rufous tortrix..... 94
Rush veneer 184
Rusty-dot pearl 228
Sallow tip moth..... 58
Sandy longhorn..... 182
Satin moss-moth..... 71
Scalloped tortrix..... 11
Scoparia ambigualis 214
Scoparia pyralella..... 215
Scoparia subfusca..... 216
Scrobipalpa acuminatella..... 217
Silver grass-miner 119
Silver-striped marble 91
Skin moth..... 179
Slender rufous tortrix..... 165
Small bilberry marble..... 211
Small magpie..... 40
Small rufous tortrix 9
Small spruce tortrix..... 137
Speckled broom buff..... 28
Speedwell longhorn..... 86
Spilonota laricana 218
Spindle ermine 233
Spotted birch grey..... 81
Spotted shoot moth 213
Spring harbinger..... 226
Spruce bud moth 239
Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla..... 219
Stenoptilia pterodactyla 220
Stitchwort groundling 82
Straw grass-moth..... 36
Sulphur bark moth..... 143
Syndemis musculana 221
Tawny birch tortrix..... 16
Tawny grey..... 148
Teleiopsis diffinis 222
Thistle root-borer..... 133
Thistle straw..... 23
Thyme marble 89
Timothy tortrix 241
Tinea semifulvella 223
Tinea trinotella.....224
Tischeria ekebladella 225
Tortricodes alternella.....226
Tortrix viridana 227
Triangle plume 204
Triple-barred tip moth.....60
Triple-spotted grass-miner 124
Triple-spotted nest moth.....224
Twin-spot plume.....219
Udea ferrugalis.....228
Udea lutealis.....229
Udea olivalis 230
Udea prunalis 231
Varied ochre 237
Water veneer 6
White plume.....209
White-banded grass-moth 104
White-faced tortrix.....195
White-headed grass-miner.....118
White-line pollen-moth.....171
White-shouldered house-moth 129
White-shouldered marble.....50
White-shouldered ochre 235
White-underwing piercer.....157
Willow stilt 78
Wood sage plume.....79
Yarrow plume 154
Yellow rose tortrix 10
Yellow-barred pollen-moth 172
Yellow-dotted stilt 152
Yellow-headed grass-miner.....122
Yellow-spotted tortrix.....208
Yponomeuta cagnagella.....233
Yponomeuta evonymella 232
Yponomeuta malinellus 233
Yponomeuta padella 233
Ypsolopha dentella 234
Ypsolopha parenthesella.....235
Ypsolopha sequella 236
Ypsolopha ustella.....237
Zeiraphera griseana.....238
Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana.....239
Zelleria hepariella 240
Zelotherses paleana.....241



Water veneer *Acentria ephemerella*

A locally-distributed species of ponds and lochs. The caterpillars feed on pondweed under-water, 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 in Scotland, occurring in areas with sycamores.







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 locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland. The males above and below right were on Berry Brae at Carphin in mid-May 2025, and the female was there in late May 2026.







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 heracliana*, but usually larger.



Common brindled brown *Agonopterix heracliana*

A common species that occurs 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 and early March 2026.







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, first appearing later in summer than *Agriphila straminella*.





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 one above was at Auchtermuchty Common, the one below left at Gaddon Loch, and the one below right at Carphin.







Small magpie *Anania hortulata*

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





Meadow hook-wing *Ancylis badiana*

A common species of grasslands.







Bilberry hook-wing *Ancylis myrtillana*

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





Heath hook-wing *Ancylis 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 where nettles grow, active in daylight.





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 *Argyresthia 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. Although probably this species, 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*

This tiny moth 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.



Dark moss-moth *Bryotropha affinis*

A locally-distributed species associated with moss on buildings.





House moss-moth *Bryotropha 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 *Bryotropha 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 wood-land.





Speedwell longhorn *Cauchas fibulella*

Seldom recorded in Fife, this moth can be found at patches of speedwell. The above was one of three recorded at Heggie's Muir Wood by the Wilderness in June 2022. Those below were at Carphin in June 2026.







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 ones above and below left were at Carphin, and the one below right at Lucklawhill.







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 usually 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.





Aspen dot *Ectoedemia argyropeza*

These images show the tell-tale green patches on aspen leaves in autumn. The larvae initially mine the leaf stem, resulting in this effect on the leaf. Although this species is not considered common, it can be numerous when it occurs, and in November 2026, a few of the aspen at Gaddon and Birnie showed the characteristic green patches on most of their leaves.







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.



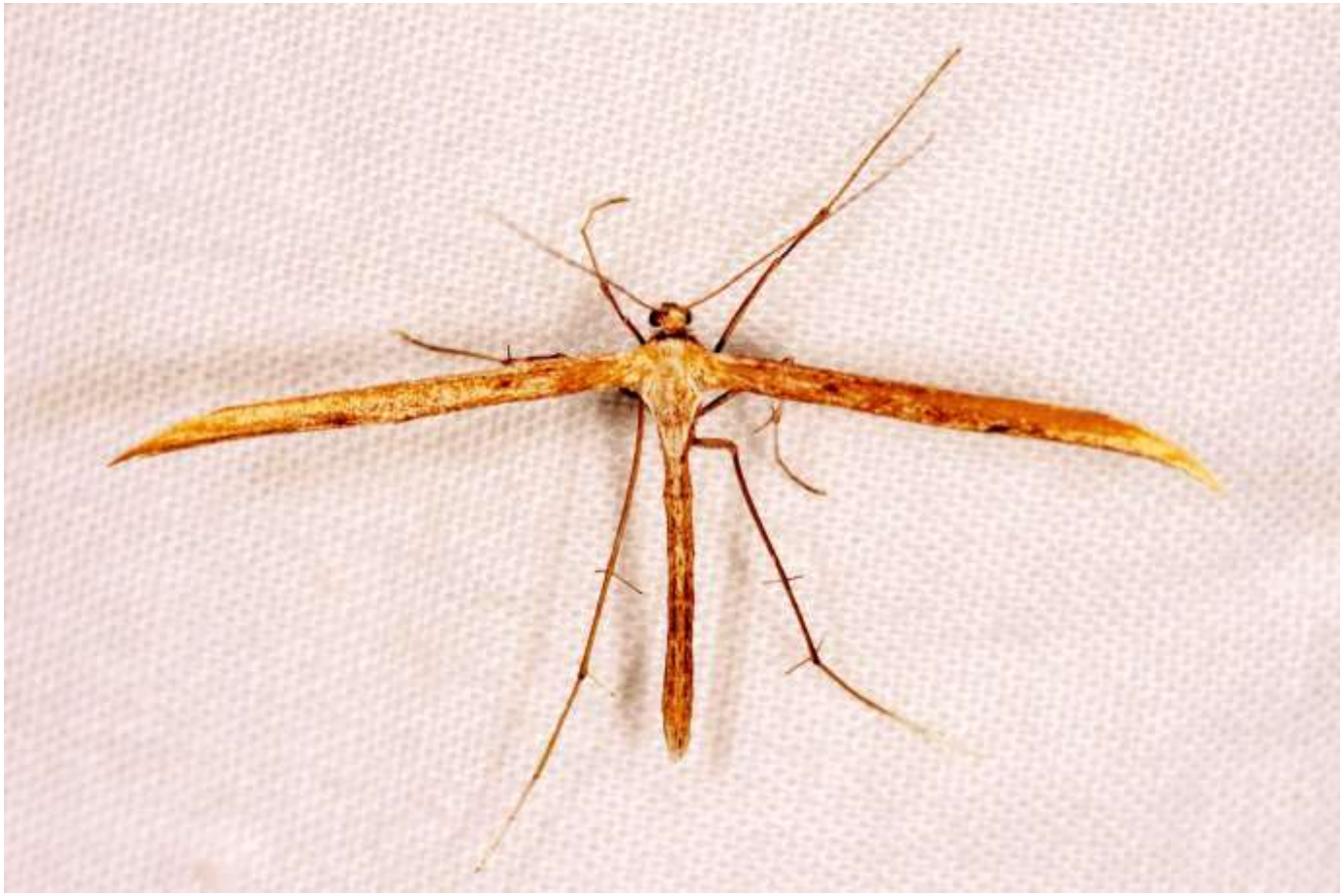


Brown china-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

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 cirsiana*

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 below was at Auchtermuchty Common and the one above 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 East Lomond.







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. It 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.





Skin moth *Monopis laevigella*

A common species, Its larvae feed on animal products in bird nests, owl pellets, wool, etc.





Carrion moth *Monopis weaverella*

A common species of woods and gardens.







Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

A common species of woodland and gardens.

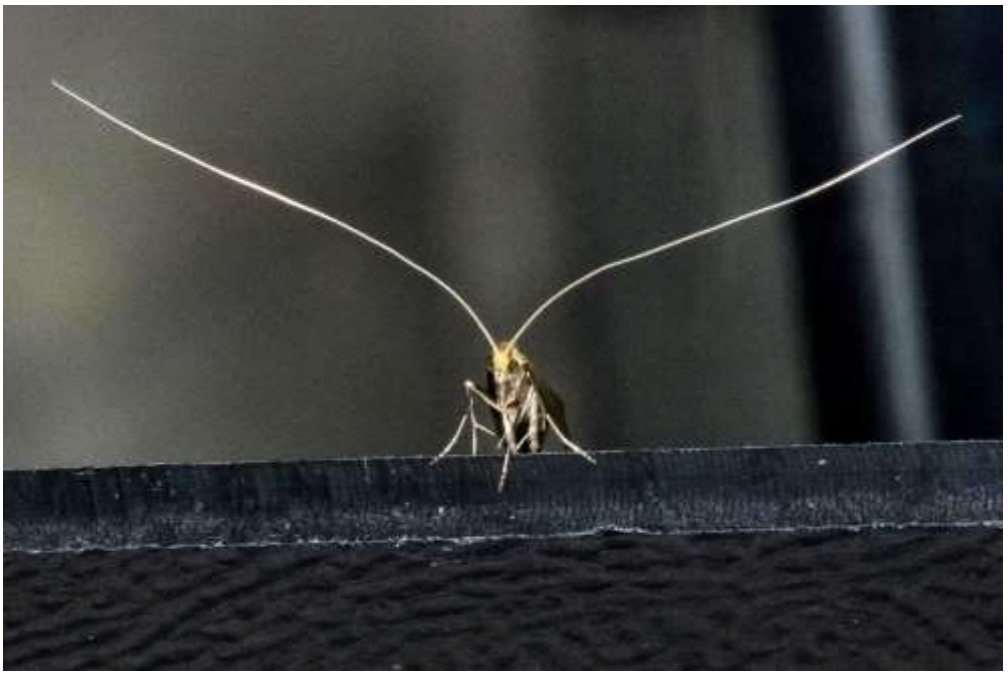






Sandy longhorn *Nematopogon schwarziellus*

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. These were at Black Craig by Norman's Law.





Rush veneer *Nomophila noctuella*

A scarce, mostly coastal species in Fife. The one below left was at Kedlock Feus in late October 2022. 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 at Carphin.





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. Migrants often boost numbers.







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 at Carphin 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. These were at Auchtermuchty Common.







Green oak tortrix *Tortrix viridana*

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





Rusty-dot pearl *Udea ferrugalis*

A migrant species, seldom recorded away from the coast in Fife. These two were at Carphin in late October 2026, feeding at a strip of corn marigold.





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 parenthesella*

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 *Zelotherses paleana*

A fairly common species of damp, rough ground.



