

Moths of Shortfield Common

Philippa Hall

Moth trap put out on 2025 June 1st & September 6th on the Gorse Cottages side of Shortfield Common

Around 59 butterfly species in the United Kingdom
(22 species recorded at Shortfield)

Around 2,500 species of moth of which 800 are macro-moths
(77 species recorded at Shortfield in 2025)

Importance of moths

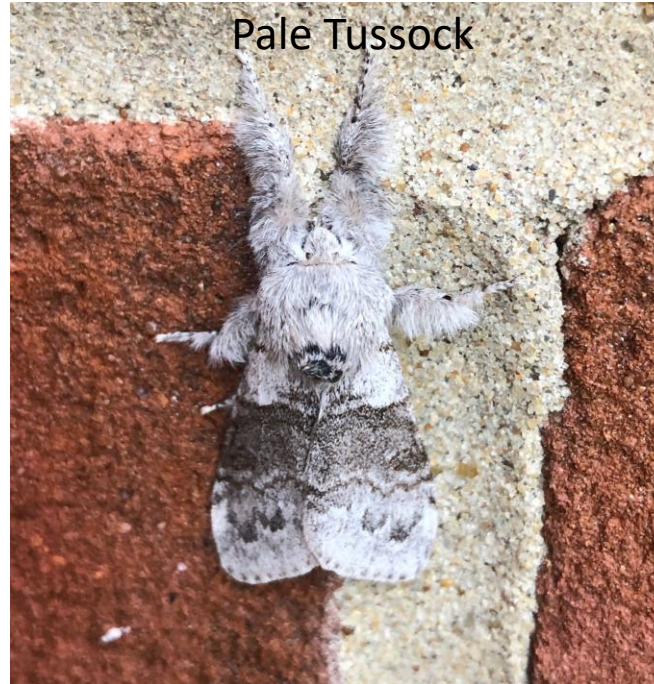
- Pollinators – 1/3 of all pollinators are moths
- Part of the food chain for bats and birds
- Valuable in themselves as part of the natural world

Importance of larval food

All lay on oaks, but not exclusively



Green Silver-lines



Pale Tussock



Blotched Emerald



September Thorn



Peppered Moth

Larval food

A range of trees including sallows, willows, birch, blackthorn and hawthorn



Lesser Swallow Prominent



Treble Brown-spot



Lobster Moth



Buff-tip



Brimstone

Larval food

Native grasses or wild flowers



Large Yellow Underwing



L-album Wainscot



Flounced Rustic



Green Carpet



Small Blood-vein

Larval food

Nettles and other wild plants including dock, sheep's sorrel and plantain



Larval Food

Uses exclusively one plant



Marbled Brown
Oak



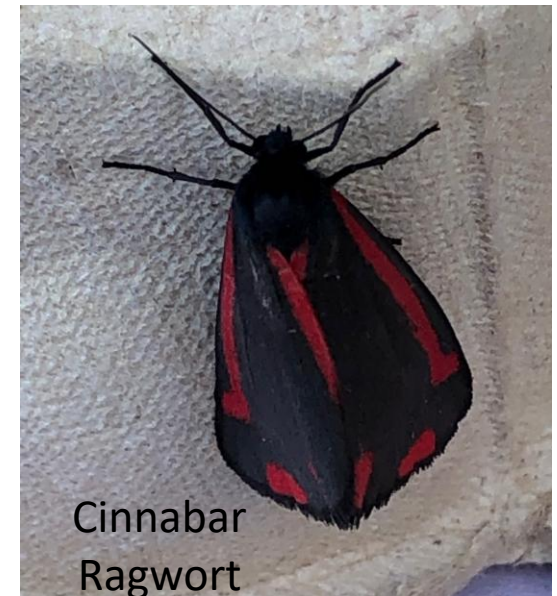
Heath Rustic
Heather



Four spotted footman
Lichen



Orange Sallow
Limes



Cinnabar
Ragwort

Moths are valuable

Pollinators & food for other species

Diverse shapes & colours

Some nocturnal, some diurnal

Some cannot feed at all

Some have only rudimentary mouth parts

For both moths and butterflies the importance is larval food

They're mainly harmless

Only clothes' moth larvae chew clothes and carpets

If you find anything interesting in your garden, please send me a picture

