

Common Moths

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

The separation of moths from butterflies is a little arbitrary. There are many more species of moths, many are brightly coloured and can look like butterflies and some fly during the day. The species shown below are mainly day-flying, though even nocturnal species can be encountered if disturbed from their hiding places. See the Common Caterpillars guide for more species to find.

When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.



[Cinnabar – *Tyria jacobaeae*](#)

ID: Black with red stripes and spots on the forewings and all red hindwings. May-July.

Where: Meadows, verges. Caterpillars on Ragwort.

Similar: [6 Spot Burnet](#) (spots only).



[6 Spot Burnet – *Zygaena filipendulae*](#)

ID: Black forewings with six spots. Hindwings red with black border.

Where: Meadows, verges. June-August.

Similar: [Narrow bordered 5-Spot Burnet](#) (5 wing spots)



[Nettle Tap – *Anthophila fabriciana*](#)

ID: 10mm. Mottled brown/grey. Triangular shape.

Where: Abundant around Nettles. May-September.

Similar: None.



[Silver Y – *Autographa gamma*](#)

ID: 25mm. Brown/grey with a striking silver Y on the forewings. April-September.

Where: Anywhere. Numbers often boosted by migrants.

Similar: None.

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other common Leicestershire moths to check out:

[Yellow Shell](#), [Light Brown Apple Moth](#), [Middle-bar Minor](#), [Common Carpet](#), [Riband Wave](#)



Straw Dot – *Rivula sericealis*

ID: 15mm. Buff/pale yellow with paired dark spots.

Where: Meadows, verges. June-September.

Similar: None.



Elephant Hawkmoth – *Deilephila elpenor*

ID: 40mm. Spectacular pink and brown moth. May-July. Caterpillars to September.

Where: The adult is nocturnal but comes to light. Caterpillars feed on willowherb and fuschias.

Similar: None.

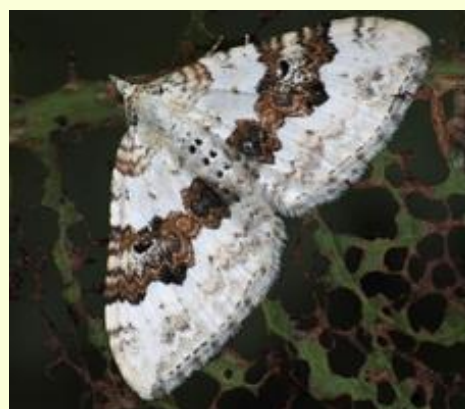


Garden Carpet – *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*

ID: 20mm. Pale grey with dark patches. Triangular shape.

Where: Resting during the day on walls around buildings. Apr-September.

Similar: None.



Silver-ground Carpet - *Xanthorhoe montanata*

ID: White background with brown cross-band.

Where: Woodland edges, hedges. Nocturnal but often disturbed by day. May-July.

Similar: Other Carpet Moths.



Chimney Sweeper – *Odezia atrata*

ID: 20mm. Black with white, rounded wing tips.

Where: Meadows where Pignut grows. June-July.

Similar: None.



Mint Moth – *Pyrausta aurata*

ID: 15mm. Red/purple with gold spots. May-August.

Where: Gardens, damp meadows with mint.

Similar: [*Pyrausta purpuralis*](#) (3 gold spots)

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Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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