

PNHS Moth Evening at Jenny's Well LNR

Friday 17th July 2026



We had a magical evening of mothing led by Gordon Phillips and hosted by Friends of Jenny's Well. At 9:30pm Gordon and other local moth experts, Paul Tatner and Paul Mapplebeck, set up their moth traps at various locations around the ponds area of the reserve. It was a warm, balmy evening, perfect conditions for humans and moths. Thankfully there were few midges about. Whilst Gordon and the two Pauls were busy setting up the traps, Friends of Jenny's Well were setting up a gazebo with chairs and table with refreshments, including delicious shortbread baked by Anne Philips.



Once the light faded we were kept very busy checking for moths flying around the traps, catching them, identifying them and logging them. All those identified were noted down and others which needed to be studied in more detail were set aside for later identification.

A white sheet was placed under one of the traps and it was easy to capture moths landing on that with the sample tubs, for others we used nets and then transferred them to the tubs. Some moths were more attracted to Judy's hat and we had a good try at catching

them with the net, trying not to knock Judy out in the process! Another method we used was torching. We walked around areas of the reserve with bright torches and capturing any moths that flew into the beam with a net. That enabled us to get moths from a range of different habitats.



Hawthorn Knot-horn



Brimstone



Oak Longhorn



Dotted Carpet



Mother-of-Pearl



Dun-bar



Bramble Shoot



Scalloped Oak



Yellow-barred Brindle

At 1am we stopped and started packing up. We released the moths which had been identified and the rest, the ones that needed more careful consideration, were taken home by Gordon to identify. Altogether, we managed to capture 140 moths of 44 species. The most common moths captured were the Dun-bar, closely followed by the Shaded Broad Bar and Small Fan-footed Wave.

Report by Kirsty Menzies

Photographs by Gordon Phillips, Mike Wigg and Kirsty Menzies

Many thanks to Gordon and Friends of Jenny's Well for organizing equipment, providing refreshments and delivering a fabulous evening which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Species List (46 different species, 143 moths)

10	Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>
10	Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
2	Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>
1	Pallid Grey	<i>Eudonia pallida</i>
7	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>
2	Antler Moth	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>
5	Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
2	Mother of Pearl	<i>Patania ruralis</i>
9	Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>
7	Oak Longhorn	<i>Carcina quercana</i>
1	White-line Pollen-moth	<i>Micropterix aruncella</i>
1	Bird-cherry Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>
4	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>
1	Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>
13	Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>
1	Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>
4	Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata</i>
8	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>
7	Buff Footman	<i>Eilema depressa</i>
2	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>
2	Slender Brindle	<i>Apamea scolopacina</i>
1	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>
1	Magpie Moth	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>
2	July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>
1	Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>
1	Burnished Brass	<i>Diachrysia chrysis</i>
1	Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>
1	Dotted Carpet	<i>Alcis jubata</i>
1	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>
2	Pale Straw Pearl	<i>Udea lutealis</i>
1	V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>
2	Small Dotted Buff	<i>Photedes minima</i>
2	Dotted Clay	<i>Xestia baja</i>
1	Yellow-barred Brindle	<i>Acasis viretata</i>
1	Triple-spotted Clay	<i>Xestia ditrapezium</i>
4	Double Square-spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>
1	Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>
4	Common Grey	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>
1	Tawny Grey	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>
1	Hawthorn Knot-horn	<i>Acrobasis advenella</i>
5	Common Knapweed Tortrix	<i>Eucosma hohenwartiana</i>
1	Bramble Shoot Moth	<i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i>
3	Hoary Tortrix	<i>Eucosma cana</i>
4	Straw Grass-moth	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>
1	Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>
1	Double Lobed	<i>Lateroligia ophiogramma</i>