

The Moths of Lancashire

A 3-year project to produce a definitive and full account of all moths in VC59 and VC60



Belted Beauty

Starting in Spring 2021, this project will culminate in a full colour hardback providing detailed information about every single moth species recorded in Lancashire from the mid-1800s to the modern day.

To help us improve upon and fine-tune the information we already have, 2021 and 2022 will be our final opportunity to carry out as much recording and fieldwork as possible.

During this time, we hope to fill in as many coverage gaps as we can and try to re-find some of the species not seen for the past 20 years or more – have they really been lost or are they waiting out there for some lucky person to rediscover?

What can you do to help?

- 1) Record as many species as possible at your home trap site (or elsewhere, if at all possible) during the 2021 - 2022 seasons and submit the records to your County Moth Recorders.
- 2) Visit at least one under-recorded tetrad in your area during different parts of the 2021 season. Pick a different one to blitz in 2022. Details of where these are will be made available soon.
- 3) Using the on-line 10km Matrix and Tanyptera tetrad maps (see links below) see if it is possible to update any species not recorded since 1999 (blue squares) anywhere in the county.
- 4) Record any moths (small or large) wherever you are - on your daytime walks, shopping trips etc. Try rearing larvae or collecting leaf-mines.

- 5) Perhaps enlist family members and friends to look out for, and photograph, any moths they see. Ask any Lancashire based family or friends if you can run a light trap in their garden for a few times each year.

And it doesn't matter if the moths can't immediately be identified - photos can be posted on the Lancashire Moths Facebook group, passed on to your County Moth Recorder for help or submitted (with a guess at the identity) on iRecord (see below).

The most important thing is to **MAKE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR RECORDS**.

Perhaps you run a moth trap on a few occasions a year or just enjoy recording daytime moths; each and every record really does matter and will be of great value to this project. So please send your records in – even if they are from many years ago. See information on the Lancashire Moths website <https://www.lancshireremths.co.uk/> on how to submit records and what extra proof might be needed for some of the more difficult to identify species.

One method of submitting records that some moth recorders find useful, particularly if you aren't recording large numbers, is to use iRecord <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>. These records are checked and verified on an occasional basis by Lancashire's team of County Moth Recorders. By using this website it helps you through the process of making sure you include all of the important information (the 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'who'). To really help the CMR team, do please attach a good photo of each new species whenever possible.

There will be lots more about this project in a biannual **Moths of Lancashire** project newsletter which will be made widely available. It will include details on the geographical area covered by the project, particular targets which will cover habitats, seasonal species, under-recorded areas and much more. The first of these will be sent out within the next fortnight.

Some useful Links

10km Matrix

Moth species per 10km square (*gives a good feel for where very under-recorded areas are*)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2FEedTOVOz2M3IHTTFMTVZmRFE/view>

Tanyptera Tetrad Maps

The Tanyptera project Lancashire Moths tetrad maps (*enables distribution to be checked for all species*). Download from - <https://www.northwestinvertebrates.org.uk/publications/atlasses/>

Newsletter

A first 'Moths of Lancashire' newsletter will be made widely available on this site during April. This will give more details about under-recorded areas, things to look for, species we need photographs of, and much more.

Ben and I are planning on having this work finished by mid-2024 and we are really looking forward to hearing from all you keen moth recorders, to help make this a County Fauna which will be of

great Conservation value, will be of interest and great use to many moth recorders both in and outside the county, and one of which we can be really proud.

Steve Palmer and Ben Smart 27/3/2021