

Moth Trapping – Manor Vale Wood, Kirkbymoorside

Manor Vale Wood was trapped on seven occasions across 2025, with the aim to record different species active at different times of the year. The trapping dates were; 21st Feb, 27th April, 11th June, 25th June, 9th July, 10th Aug, and 23rd Sept.

All traps were LED-based, though additional MV (Mercury Vapour) traps were used on the 21st Feb and the 25th June. On most occasions two traps were used and set approx. 50m apart near the confluence of two paths near to a bench, at approx. SE69368711. All moths were recorded at the trap and then liberated the same evening, other than a few which were brought to the Manor Vale Management Committee meeting on the morning of 10th July and then released within the wood.

I trapped on each visit. Allan Rodda and Jackie Holder joined on 21st Feb, and Jared Whitehouse (resident of Kirkbymoorside) joined on a couple of occasions.

The first visit in Feb was never going to produce many species due to the early time of year, though we did record species typical of that season. The weather on subsequent visits was variable. The best night was 25th June with 51 species, which was also the warmest and at a peak time of year.

A total of 449 moths of 126 species were recorded. This is not exceptionally high but does include some scarcer species (see below) and some typical of ancient woodland. The species recorded reflect the diversity of habitat on offer, for example Hoary Bell (*Eucosma cana*) feeds on Knapweed, which is frequent in the meadow area, Burdock Conch (*Aethes rubigana*) on Burdock which can be found along the woodland edge, and Coronet (*Craniophora ligustri*) on Ash. More examples are given below.

The most significant records, in terms of Yorkshire distribution, were:

Beautiful Carpet (*Mesoleuca albicillata*) - an uncommon moth of lowland wooded areas where the larvae feed on bramble and raspberry. Photographs and information about its occurrence in Yorkshire can be seen on the Yorkshire Moth Website [here](#).

Blotched Marble (*Endothenia quadrimaculana*) – local resident of damp habitats with marsh woundwort (I haven't seen this plant in the woodland, but it might possibly also feed on hedge woundwort). See [here](#).

Blue Bordered Carpet (*Plemyria rubiginata*) – a local moth associated with damp woodland with alder and blackthorn. See [here](#).

Buff-tipped Marble (*Hedya ochroleucana*) - a local moth, whose larvae feed on rose, or occasionally apple. See [here](#).

Crescent Plume (*Marasmarcha lunaedactyla*) - a local moth of whose larvae feed on the leaves, buds and young stems of restharrow. See [here](#).

Grey Arches (*Polia nebulosa*) - patchy Yorkshire distribution in woodland. See [here](#).

The habitat would repay further investigation, and the number of species will rise with more visits, and with recording of day flying species and leafminers. I hope to make further visits next year, including holding a moth trapping evening and/or morning with the Ryedale Natural History Society where we would have more traps out and hopefully record a high number of species.

Moth diversity will benefit from habitat diversity being maintained. Continued management of the meadow to promote species richness, and coppicing to create variety of structure and therefore plants in the woodland, will help. Management of shade tolerant trees (Sycamore and Beech) to prevent them outcompeting other tree and shrub species and shading out woodland ground flora, would also be beneficial.

I am grateful to Kirkbymoorside Town Council for permission to trap at Manor Vale Wood. All the records will be submitted via the Yorkshire Moth Recorder to the National Moth Recording Scheme database.

Samuel Newton (Ryedale Natural History Society)



Crescent Plume (*Marasmarcha lunaedactyla*)



Burdock Conch (*Aethes rubigana*)



Beautiful Carpet (*Mesoleuca albicillata*)



Blue-bordered Carpet (*Plemyria rubiginata*)