Addendum: New Lancashire records for 2024

The main text of *The Moths of Lancashire* included 1,559 species, including six new species from 2020, ten from 2021 and 14 from 2022. 2023 was devoted to writing the book, and so the eleven moths added to the county list during that year were included in a separate addendum. To continue documenting the new species being found in the county, we have produced a 2024 addendum containing the eight moths recorded for the first time this year, as well as a 12th from 2023 (*Glyphipterix forsterella*) that only came to our attention this year. Maps are included to show the recorded locations.

As in previous years, the new macro-moths have typically been migratory species, possibly venturing ever further north in an era of global warming. Some of the new micro-moths have also been extending their range, usually in a northerly direction, with others, such as *Pammene ignorata*, likely present but undetected for some time.

NEPTICULIDAE

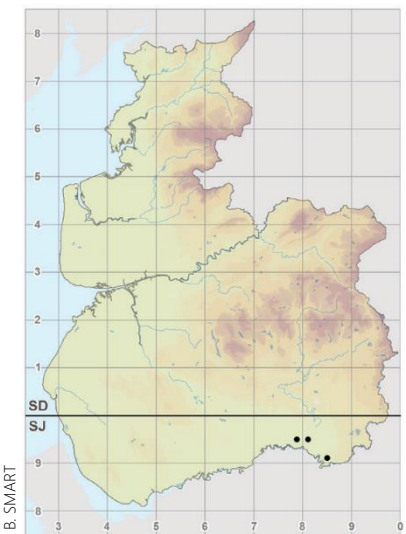
4.012 *Stigmella aceris*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Occasional / very local resident 2024

This species has been slowly heading north since the first UK record in 1949. Added to the Cheshire list in 2023, it was no great surprise to find it in Lancashire this year. 83 mines, approx. 20% of which were still tenanted, were recorded by B. Smart on two Norway Maple trees growing by Bridgewater Canal, Stretford on 24 September 2024. Early emergence of the moths on 15 October from retained mines, was presumably triggered by having been kept indoors. A further leaf-mine, this time vacated, was found on Field Maple in Didsbury on 11 October.

The mines are quite distinctive with green, coiled frass filling the gallery until a short terminal section usually containing a narrow frass-line. The larva is green.

B. SMART



B. SMART

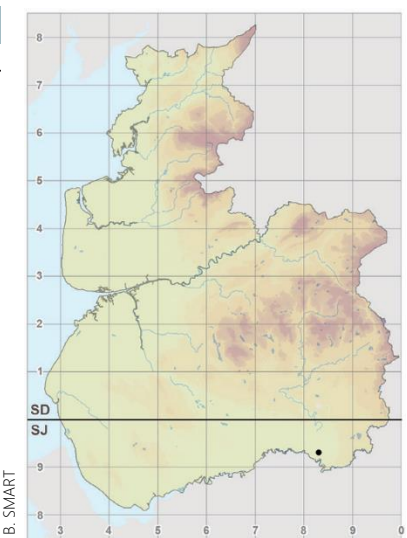
NEPTICULIDAE

4.018 *Stigmella ulmivora*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Rare / very local resident 2024

Amongst a number of small elms on Mauldeth Road, Chorlton, likely 'suckers' arising from a victim of Dutch elm disease, were a great many vacated nepticulid mines, and a few tenanted by the yellow larva of *S. lemniscella*. A single vacated mine noted on 2 September 2024 had the slit, used by the larva to exit the mine, cut on the underside of the leaf, a typical sign of *S. ulmivora*. In *lemniscella*, this slit is cut on the upperside of the leaf. However, this didn't seem quite enough to prove the presence of a new county species. First recorded in Yorkshire in 1975 and in Cheshire in 1990, the presence of *S. ulmivora* in Lancashire was confirmed when a mine, tenanted with a green larva, was found at the same site by B. Smart on 9 September 2024.

B. SMART



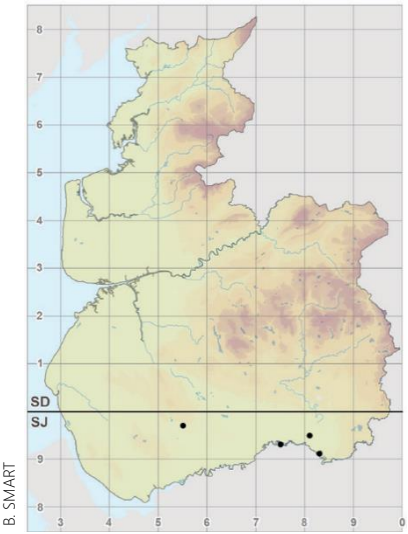
B. SMART

15.011 *Caloptilia falconipennella*

LANCS STATUS Scarce / very local resident 2024

Added to the county list when a female was caught at light in Flixton by K. McCabe on 9 April 2024. Identity confirmed by dissection (S. Palmer). A second moth was trapped at Haydock on 9 August 2024 (R. Banks). Early stages were found on Alder at Chorlton from 12 August 2024 and on Alder seedlings by the Bridgewater Canal, Stretford on 24 September 2024. The photos below, of a leaf-fold and a white pupal cocoon formed beneath the leaf-edge, as well as the resultant adult, emerged on 28 September 2024, are taken from the latter site. The presence of this double brooded and formerly southern species at these four sites suggest it has reached Lancashire from Cheshire colonies and it may be quite widespread in the south of the county.

B. SMART



B. SMART

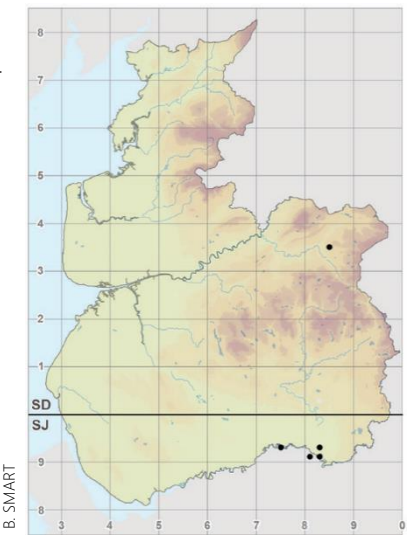
GRACILLARIIDAE

15.0131 *Caloptilia honoratella*

LANCS STATUS Scarce / very local resident 2024

First noted in the UK in Surrey 2017, this species has spread rapidly northwards, reaching VC59 this year. The moth was recorded in Chorlton on 8 July 2024 inside a Yellow-legged Clearwing pheromone trap by B. Smart. As the moth was female, the pheromone was unlikely to have attracted it, more just a result of the trap's position beneath Sycamore. Two others were found in the light-trap at the same site later the same month. The moth was also noted at Flixton in late July and Burnley in October. The distinctive early mine occurs on upperside of Sycamore leaves and was first noted in Chorlton on 9 August 2024, with the example below, right, occurring along the north bank of the River Mersey in Chorlton on 13 August 2024.

B. SMART



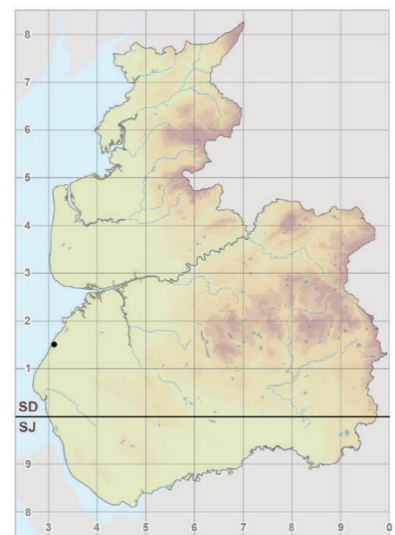
B. SMART

GRACILLARIIDAE

19.006 *Glyphipterix forsterella*

LANCS STATUS Rare / very local resident 2023

Although this species was only added to the county list in 2024, it was actually collected on 23 May 2023, via sweeping of grasses at Birkdale Dunes by G. Broad. The specimen was noted by C.A. Palmer when checking the Natural History Museum website (https://data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/collection-specimens/ resource/05ff2255-c38a-40c9-b657-4ccb55ab2feb/record/10365206/1732492800000; accessed 25.11.24). The moth is identifiable to species by virtue of the silvery apical spot that can be seen below, right, in close-up. The specimen also underwent DNA barcoding which confirmed the identity as *G. forsterella*.
Photos: © Trustees of the Natural History Museum.



GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE

TORTRICIDAE

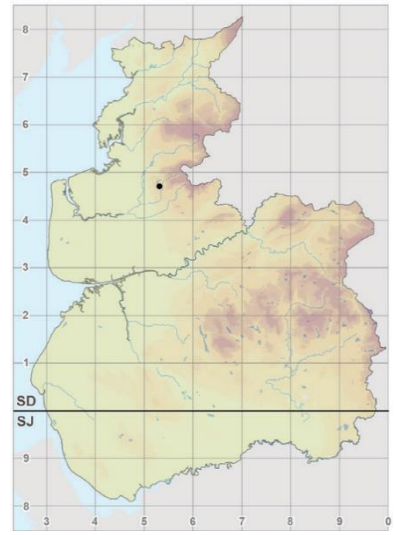
49.361 *Pammene ignorata*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Rare / very local resident 2024

Recording in ideal conditions at Grizedale Wood, an old and interesting area of oak and alder woodland in a narrow stream valley on the edge of the moors, this small dark *Pammene* sp. with a prominent white spot was netted by S. Palmer on 21 May 2024. He took it home and set it, noting the dark, fuscous hindwings. The moth was subsequently dissected and it was confirmed as a male *P. ignorata*. Elm was present, although not where the moth was netted. The finding was considered rather unexpected and it seems likely that this is a hitherto unnoticed resident species.

Regarding neighbouring counties, the moth was first noted in Cheshire in 2008, Cumbria 2013 and Yorkshire 2015, with just a single record in the first two of these.

S. PALMER



S. PALMER

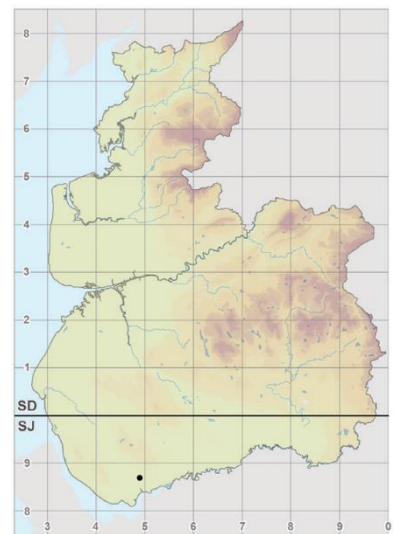
EREBIDAE

72.006 **Bloxworth Snout** *Hypena obsitalis*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Rare / migrant, possible vagrant 2024

Noted by R. Kinsella on 7 September 2024 in his Widnes light-trap, the find of this moth was probably the most surprising record of the year. The species is unknown from Cheshire and Yorkshire with the previous northernmost record (to end of 2023) occurring in East Gloucestershire (Butterfly Conservation National Database). This first Lancashire record occurred shortly after a huge influx of Convolvulus Hawk-moths on the east coast, suggesting the possibility of a migratory origin for this individual. The moth was subsequently set and will form a permanent part of the Lepidoptera collection at The World Museum, Liverpool.

R. KINSELLA



R. WALKER

NOCTUIDAE

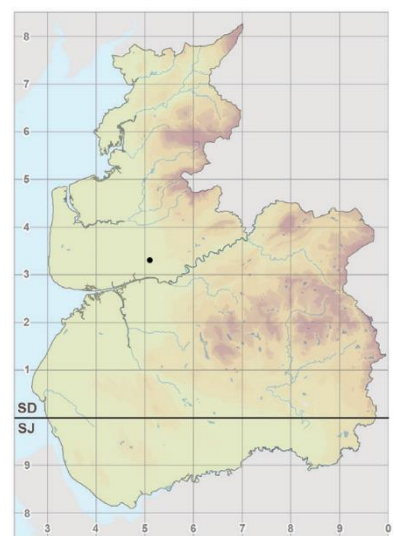
73.300 **L-album Wainscot** *Mythimna l-album*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Rare / migrant, possible vagrant 2024

The first Lancashire record of this predominantly coastal species was noted by C. & S. Palmer in their Robinson MV light trap at Lightfoot Green, Preston on the night of 24 October 2024, accompanied by a number of migrants (*Udea ferrugalis*, *Plutella xylostella* and several Silver Y). It is possible that this was also a migrant, or alternatively may have been a wanderer from colonies in southern England. The moth was part of the second generation of this bivoltine species.

First recorded in the UK in 1901, distribution initially spread along the south coast and into most southern counties. It now appears to be moving northwards, with firsts for Cheshire and Cumbria also recorded this year, both on 8 October 2024.

S. PALMER



S. PALMER

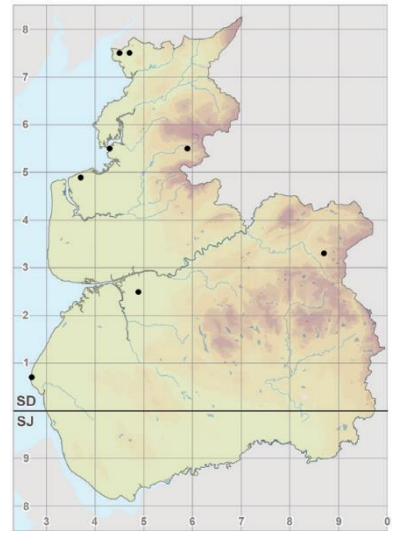
73.330 Radford's Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura leucogaster*

■ **LANCS STATUS** Scarce / migrant 2024

First recorded in UK at Sussex in 1983. Differs from Flame Shoulder by its longer forewings, more extensive pale costal edging, and smaller stigmata. A remarkable year for this migrant with 14 Lancs records, including five records at Sunderland Point by P. Marsh; the first on 5 October 2024 was a first for NW England. The species was later recorded at Silverdale on 9 October (J. Patton), Preesall 25 October (P. Ellis), Formby 29 October (R. Walker) and Leighton Moss 30 October (I. Mower); with two on higher ground inland, at Worsthorne on 22 October (G. Gavaghan) and Tarnbrook on 2 November (R. Foster). Four wings were all that remained of this moth at Longton on 5 November but it allowed J. Girdley to record the species.

J. PATTON

P. MARSH



G. GAVAGHAN

R. FOSTER

P. ELLIS

New moth and larval photos from 2024

These species are not new to the county and were all included in *The Moths of Lancashire*. However, in each case we lacked a photograph of the early stages or the live adult.
Ongoing recording in 2024 has allowed us to fill some of these gaps, and also resulted in surprise reappearances for two species we had suggested were likely extinct in the county.

PRODOXIDAE

9.003 **Raspberry Moth** *Lampronia corticella*

The last record of this species documented in *The Moths of Lancashire* was of a moth trapped at Claughton in 1993 by M. Broomfield. Concern was expressed in the text about the absence of any further records in the subsequent thirty years.
Pleasingly, the moth was reported and photographed this year by M. Memory at Jackhouse, Oswaldtwistle. Two moths were noted flying around Raspberry plants at 6.30 am in warm, early morning sunshine on 6 June 2024. The finder also reported that he had previously seen the species just 200 yards from the same location on 18 June 2016.

M. MEMORY

GRACILLARIIDAE

15.012 *Caloptilia semifascia*

Added to the Lancashire list in 2020, with a moth trapped at light in Woolton, Liverpool by S. McWilliam. This, and all subsequent records, were of adults. Occasionally, cones had been found on maples, but as vacated, they were considered unverifiable.
Six tenanted cones were found this year on Field Maple at Chorlton Ees, Manchester by B. Smart on 29 August 2024. Five of these led to the larva forming a cocoon, although two of these were parasitised. The other three gave rise to typical adults of the autumn generation, the first emerging on 19 September 2024.

B. SMART

YPONOMEUTIDAE

16.010 *Zelleria hepariella*

Eight spinnings amongst lightly spun leaves and shoots, each containing a single larva, were found on an Ash sapling at Hardy Farm, Chorlton, Manchester on 14 May 2024 by B. Smart. A few were retained and bred through, with emergence of the first adult on 18 June 2024 confirming the identity.
This was the second record of the larvae within the county, with a previous record from Warton Crag on Ash on 25 May 2018 by C. A. Palmer. The adult emerged on 18 June 2018.

B. SMART

ARGYRESTHIIDAE

20.019 **Apple Fruit Moth** *Argyresthia conjugella*

Rowan berries were collected at Turton and Entwistle Reservoir, Darwen on 25 July 2024, a site where this species is extremely numerous. Initial inspection of the berries showed signs of larval activity with holes and frass evident. However, the only larvae seen at this point were sawflies of an unknown species (probably *Hoplocampa* sp.).
The berries were kept in a container, and on 10 August 2024, the first of 38 bright pink larvae of *A. conjugella*, each having emerged from a separate berry, appeared at the bottom of the container. Each larva promptly spun itself a mesh-like cocoon within which to overwinter.

B. SMART

DEPRESSARIIDAE

32.009 *Agonopterix purpurea*

Searches of Wild Carrot for larvae around Preston and the Wyre estuary in 2022 were unproductive, and the lack of any Lancashire records since the late 1800s, led us to suggest that this species was likely extinct within the county.
Surprisingly, and pleasingly, it turned out that this assumption was incorrect. A larval spinning on Upright Hedge-parsley, found at Warton Crag on 18 July 2024 by S. Palmer, M. Young and J. Young, resulted in the emergence of *Agonopterix purpurea* on 17 August 2024.


S. PALMER

GELECHIIDAE

35.133 *Caryocolum blandella*

This is another species considered extinct in the county in *The Moths of Lancashire* (2024), by virtue of the lack of any records since the late 1800s. However, a few months after publication, this gelechiid was trapped at Southlands, Longton by J. Girdley on 2 August 2024, just the fifth confirmed Lancashire record.
As mentioned in the book, searches in old lanes for larval feeding signs in spun shoots and discoloured seeds of Greater Stitchwort may be productive in spring. Adults may be found in similar habitats during summer, flying in late afternoons.


J. GIRDLEY

COLEOPHORIDAE

37.098 *Coleophora inulae*

Three large cases, up to 14mm in length, with larvae feeding on Common Fleabane, were found at Rixton Clay Pits on 13 May 2024 by B. Smart, with an adult emerging on 30 July 2024. The presence of large feeding windows on the leaves was the initial indication that larval cases could be present beneath the leaves. The species has a two-year life-cycle, with the larva occasionally continuing to feed after its second winter (Langmaid, Palmer & Young, 2018), which was presumably the case here.
The only previous record in the county was of a moth trapped at Mere Sands Wood by J. Girdley on 9 July 2021, and subsequently dissected.


B. SMART


B. SMART

ELACHISTIDAE

38.033 *Elachista subnigrella*

Two *E. subnigrella* were swept in early evening near scrub on the edge of short limestone grassland at Worsaw Hill, nr. Clitheroe by C. & S. Palmer on 5 August 2024. One of the moths, a male, was subsequently dissected to confirm identity, with the specimen subsequently passed on to the World Museum, Liverpool.
This was the first record from east Lancashire, with the previous five records, from 1919 to 2017, all from western sites: Warton Crag, Liverpool, Formby and Sales Wood, nr. Prescot. The early stages remain unrecorded in the county.


S. PALMER

TORTRICIDAE

49.059 **Green Oak Tortrix** *Tortrix viridana*

Despite nine previous larval records of this species in the county, from 1948 to 2019, we were unable to obtain a photograph of the larva to accompany the species account in the book. That was rectified this year, with this larva found in a rolled oak leaf at Rixton Clay Pits on 13 May 2024 by B. Smart. A second *T. viridana* larva was found in a rolled Beech leaf on the same visit, a foodplant previously unrecorded in the county.
Of the previous larval and pupal records in Lancashire, the foodplant was listed on nine occasions. Eight of these were on oak, with the exception being a larva recorded on elm at Tun Brook Wood, Grimsargh by S. Palmer, with the moth emerging on 9 July 1996.

B. SMART

TORTRICIDAE

49.225 *Spilonota laricana*

The moth pictured was trapped at light in Chorlton, Manchester on 19 July 2024 by B. Smart. Subsequent dissection by S. Palmer confirmed the moth's identity. A further specimen, possibly representing a small second generation, was recorded in Chorlton on 24 October 2024.
The species is rarely noted in the county, only 27 records prior to this year, although probably under-recorded due to the difficulty in separating from the widespread and frequently recorded *S. ocellana*.
The early stages have not been found in the county, but elsewhere the larvae have been noted on European Larch, mining spun needles in autumn, then feeding on developing buds the following spring.

B. SMART

PYRALIDAE

62.076 *Hypsopygia glaucinalis*

N. Garnham found a few larvae of this species amongst deciduous woodland leaf litter (e.g., Sycamore, Ash, oak, lime) at Trowbarrow, close to the Cumbrian border, on 26 November 2024, each about 15-20mm long. The larva photographed here was confirmed as this species following discussion with R.J. Heckford.
First recorded in the county in the mid-1800s (Gregson, 1857), the moth has become increasingly widespread and frequent in VC59 during this century. In VC60, where this larva was found, the first in the county, the species is slowly spreading, but as yet, remains locally distributed.

N. GARNHAM

SPHINGIDAE

69.011 **Oleander Hawk-moth** *Daphnis nerii*

Found in one of the polytunnels at Hulme Community Garden Centre, Manchester, by a staff member on 22 October 2024, this was the 18th Lancashire record and the first since 1954. Present for at least five days, its origins remain a mystery, although it is worth mentioning that the site is more of a community plant nursery rather than a large importer of continental plants. Incredibly, seven days later, another Oleander Hawk-moth turned up in the county at the Salt Ayre track, Lancaster, recorded by G. Dowthwaite on 29 October 2024, perhaps increasing the possibility that the two moths arrived in the county as part of the large-scale migration that simultaneously brought large numbers of *Palpita vitrealis* and Radford's Flame Shoulder into the north of the country.

B. SMART

SPHINGIDAE

69.018 **Silver-striped Hawk-moth** *Hippotion celerio*

Recorded sixteen times in the 19th century, this moth was only noted twice in the 20th century with reports from Burnley in 1940 by J. C. Lavin and Blackpool in 1963 by D. Cowie. As with the previous species, it was something of a surprise for this hawk-moth to be found once more in the county, 61 years since the last record. The moth was recorded and photographed at a lit window at Read, nr. Great Harwood by S. Brown on 2 November 2024.
Elsewhere in the UK, others were noted further south, with records during autumn from Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset, and at Capel Bangor, Ceredigion in mid-Wales.

S. BROWN

GEOMETRIDAE

70.162 **Dwarf Pug** *Eupithecia tantillaria*

A single larva, 17mm in length, was beaten from spruce at Turton and Entwistle Reservoir, Darwen on 23 August 2024 by B. Smart.
This was the first larval record of the species in the county as the previous 80 records were all of the adult moths. The larva was identified on the basis of the pale anal plate, concolorous thoracic legs, the chocolate-brown underside, and of course, the foodplant. Ochreous Pug and Larch Pug may occasionally feed on spruce also, although their main foodplants are pine and larch respectively. However, they differ with regard to these features listed. The identity was confirmed by Jeroen Voogd and Kjeld Brem Sorenson, two European lepidopterists with a special interest in larval stages.

B. SMART

GEOMETRIDAE

70.254 **Scarce Umber** *Agriopis aurantiaria*

A larva found on Hawthorn at Barlow Eye Tip in Chorlton, Manchester by B. Smart on 30 April 2024 revealed itself as this species when the adult, a male, emerged on 1 December 2024.
The larvae, which are virtually indistinguishable from those of Dotted Border, have been reported in the county on ten previous occasions, although only two of the records confirm that the moth subsequently emerged. Hawthorn is new to the county list of this species' known foodplants.

B. SMART

EREBIDAE

72.007 **Beautiful Snout** *Hypena crassalis*

Three larvae were beaten from a patch of Bilberry growing near Rivington Arboretum, the first county record of the early stages of this moth. As with other members of the genus, larvae can be distinguished from most other species by the number of prolegs, just three pairs, on the 4th to 6th abdominal segments. The larva of the far more widespread Snout is similar, but has white subdorsal and spiracular lines. In any case, 'foodplant differences (Snout larvae feed on Common Nettle) should suffice to separate these species' (Henwood & Sterling, 2020).
Previously recorded 77 times in Lancashire (to the end of 2023), with 19 of these records in VC59 including one nearby in Horwich in 2015.

B. SMART

EREBIDAE

72.029 **Scarlet Tiger** *Callimorpha dominula*

A single larva was found at Wick's Path, Formby Point on 22 April 2024 by P. Smith. It was feeding on Green Alkanet.
The larva of this species was first found in the county on 4 May 2023 at Ormskirk, with the record uploaded to iNaturalist by 'james3670'. The foodplant was unrecorded in this case.
Multiple searches in the Mersey Valley in south Manchester failed to locate any sign of the larva, but given the rate of their spread through Cheshire and into Lancashire, the species seems likely to reach most parts of the county in forthcoming years. Other foodplants favoured elsewhere include Comfrey and Borage.

P. SMITH

NOCTUIDAE

73.121 **Frosted Orange** *Gortyna flavago*

This distinctive larva was recorded on 25 June 2024 at Wellbrook, a private site near Marshaw in the Forest of Bowland, VC60 (at SD579539) by N. Garnham. The larva was noted mining a stem of Marsh Thistle, during a search for hoverfly larvae. The site consists of restored wildflower meadow and rush pasture and was visited as part of the Dipterist Forum summer meeting.
The only previous Lancashire record of this larva was in 1915 by Cottam *et al.* in the Oldham area, although the foodplant was not documented. The first county record of the species, by Gregson (1857), was of pupae in stems of thistle and ragwort in the Liverpool district.

N. GARNHAM

NOCTUIDAE

73.136 **Bulrush Wainscot** *Nonagria typhae*

Many tenanted leaf-mines were noted on Bulrush at Rixton Claypits on 13 May 2024. The causer was one of the few leaf-mining macro-moths, Bulrush Wainscot, feeding in this way for its first few instars before moving into a stem where it pupates once feeding is complete. Larvae and leaf-mines were also found on Bulrush at Healey Dell, Rochdale on 20 May 2024.

There are 15 previous county records of larvae, from c.1940 to 2002, and another nine of pupae and pupal exuviae in the stems. Mansbridge (1940) considered it 'difficult to locate a patch of the plant without the larva'.

B. SMART

NOCTUIDAE

73.194 **Chestnut** *Conistra vaccinii*

A small noctuid larva was beaten from Raspberry at Lower Hardy Farm, Chorlton, on 6 May 2024. This was reared on Raspberry leaves in captivity, completing feeding around the start of June. The adult emerged on 9 August 2024, confirming identity. Henwood & Sterling (2020) state that larvae of this species and Dark Chestnut are indistinguishable and thus can only be determined through breeding.

The only previous Lancs records of this species in the larval form were by S. Warrington at Deepdale Wood, Yealand Conyers (1983; feeding on Sycamore) and by S. McWilliam at Nob End, Bolton (1994). In each case, the adult was reared.

B. SMART

NOCTUIDAE

73.206 **Blair's Shoulder-knot** *Lithophane leautieri*

J. Holt noted the larva of this species in Bury on 30 June 2021. The larva shown here was found crawling on a house wall at Darwen on 6 July 2023 by H. Giles. These two records were uploaded to iNaturalist this year and, surprisingly, they are the first two Lancashire records of the larva, although the circumstances of the records mean we still have no foodplant details. Elsewhere, the larvae are known to feed on the cones and leaves of various cypresses and occasionally juniper (Henwood and Sterling, 2020). Beating cypress branches over a tray or upturned umbrella in June and early July may be a productive method of looking for the larvae of this species.

H. GILES

NOLIDAE

74.003 **Short-cloaked Moth** *Nola cucullatella*

The larva of this species has never been found in the wild in the county. However, on 24 June 2024, a female trapped in Chorlton, Manchester by B. Smart oviposited in a container holding the moth prior to release. The larvae hatched on 4 July, and fed on various *Prunus* species up till around 24 July, by which point they were in their third instar. The larvae then spun individual light brown cocoons on twigs and leaves of the foodplant within which they overwinter. The larvae have been kept in a netted container outside and hopefully they will be able to complete their development in spring 2025.

B. SMART

Corrigenda and comments

Our grateful thanks to those who have been in touch with constructive comments on various aspects of *The Moths of Lancashire* (2024). The following material is designed to clarify/correct a few issues and/or provide a brief summary of additional information relevant to the published text.

Page 259

Acleris schalleriana - The right-hand photo should show the feeding signs, as per the photo details on p.608. This photo, from 21 July 2019 on Guelder Rose at Hawes Water, Gait Barrows, is shown below, along with two views of a larva at the same site from 12 June 2016 (photos: B. Smart).

Page 392

Smoky Wave – additional information. Noted at a lowland location, by Fletcher's Canal, in the Irwell Valley (VC59) on 7th July 1964 (R. Leverton). The blue square relating to this is present on the map.

Page 409

Barred Straw – information on lines 4 and 5 of the text relating to distribution is changed, following advice, to: Primarily a moth of limestone and fell areas in northern VC60.

Page 411

Dark Marbled Carpet – distribution map: remove blue triangle from 10km sq. SD70 and add a blue tetrad square based on one km grid SD7704 (SD70S – see tetrad decoder below*).

Page 554

Portland Moth – distribution map: a record of a single vagrant in Billinge on 25th August 1998 (C. Darbyshire) was inadvertently omitted from the list of sites at the end of paragraph 2 and from the distribution map. Add a yellow square based on one km grid SD5202 (SD50G).

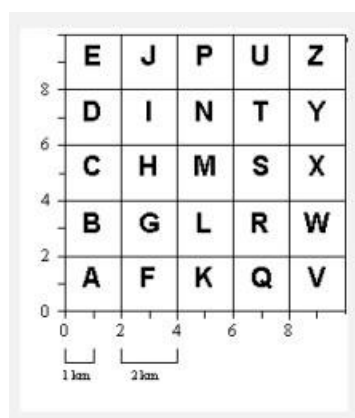
Page 571

Green Silver-lines – text: line 7, remove whole sentence beginning 'An early individual….'

Page 591

Column three – lines 38 and 39: the two references to 'Dyson' should read A. Dyson and B. Dyson.

Stephen Palmer and Ben Smart



***The tetrad decoder is shown here (right) to clarify locations using the format SD70S (for example).**