

THE MOTHS OF CAITHNESS

**THE MOTHS OF
HEATHSFIELD WOOD CAITHNESS**

A REVIEW OF THE MOTH SPECIES
RECORDED IN
HEATHSFIELD WOOD CAITHNESS
AS AT
31ST DECEMBER 2019

**NEIL MONEY
COUNTY MOTH RECORDER
(MACRO MOTHS)
CAITHNESS**

PURPOSE OF THIS REVIEW

The purpose of this report is to detail the species of moth recorded in Heathsfield Wood, Caithness as at the 31st December 2019.

This will:

- detail moth species recorded up to 31st December 2018
- provide a base line against which future change can be monitored

BACKGROUND

The woodland was established in 1993 on land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Heath who at that time were living in Brough. It is now managed by the Dunnet Forestry Trust.

It is situated at the south-east corner of Dunnet Head on the single track road leading from Brough to the viewing areas at the northern tip of the Head. The wood has a small car park off this road.

Rectangular in shape the wood runs north to south with a length of ca 250 metres and a width of ca 100 metres. It is divided roughly into two equal halves by a fire break dominated by Rosebay Willowherb. The northern half is planted with native broadleaved trees with 100% canopy cover. The northern part of the southern half also has broadleaved trees, including birches, the canopy is fragmented; the remainder is largely an open remnant of heather moorland with mature conifers on the west and south sides. There is a small pond on the southern end fed by drainage ditches. The wood is protected by deer fencing and there is no evidence that deer have ever accessed it. A public footpath passes completely round the wood close to the perimeters.

The surrounding habitat is rough grass covered bog and heather moorland.

THE CHANGED HABITAT AND MOTHS SPECIES

There are no records of moth species recorded on the original site of the wood nor the immediate vicinity, but it is safe to assume that these would have been restricted to species normally found on heather moorland and wet boggy grassland. Woodland species and those dependent for larval food plants on plants found in that habitat would have been absent.

As the wood has matured woodland species, such as Common Wave, Common White Wave and Small Fan-footed Wave, have now become well established in the wood. Clouded Border first appeared in 2015 and is now recorded annually.

MOTH RECORDING IN THE WOOD

Moth recording in Heathsfield Wood started in 2011 and surveys have been carried out annually until 2019.

Records have been sourced through light trapping, daytime visits for day flying species and pheromone lures for Emperor Moth. Light traps used have been mainly: Heath 8W & 40W actinic traps, Robinson MV250W traps and Robinson 20W actinic black light.

THE MOTHS

145 species have been identified in the wood up to 31st December 2019 plus 1 form (Common/Lesser Common Rustic) that has not been identified to species level.

A classified list¹ of recorded species appears below giving the number of records and the number of individual moths recorded over the period. Species with flight periods early or late in the year are probably under recorded as Spring and Autumn weather often inhibits surveying and in particular the use of light traps running off 240V sources in wet weather.

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals
	HEPIALIDEA			
3.003	<i>Hepialus fusconebulosa</i>	Map-winged Swift	2	12
3.005	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Ghost Moth	6	8
	INCURVARIIDAE			
8.003	<i>Incurvaria oehlmanniella</i>		1	1
	TINEINAE			
12.032	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>		1	1
12.037	<i>Monopis weaverella</i>		1	1
	GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE			
19.007	<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	Cocksfoot Moth	3	36
	ARGYRESTHIIDAE			
20.012	<i>Argyresthia goedartella</i>		2	3
	OECOPHORIDAE			
28.009	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	White-shouldered House Moth	1	1
28.025	<i>Pleurota bicostella</i>		1	1
	DEPRESSARIIDAE			
32.030	<i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>		1	1

¹ Reference: Agassiz D.J.L., Beavan S.D. & Heckford R.J. 2013: A Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles

32.036	<i>Depressaria heraclei</i>	Parsnip Moth	2	2
	MOMPHIDAE			
40.015	<i>Mompha raschkiella</i>		1	1
	BLASTOBASIDAE			
41.002	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>		3	7
41.003	<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>		13	46
	TORTRICIDAE			
49.063	<i>Acleris bergmanniana</i>		1	1
49.069	<i>Acleris sparsana</i>		1	1
49.077	<i>Acleris variegana</i>	Garden Rose Tortrix	1	1
49.082	<i>Acleris hyemana</i>		1	1
49.127	<i>Aethes cnicana</i>		6	14
49.166	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>		4	4
	<i>Endothenia</i>			
49.193	<i>quadrimaculana</i>		1	1
49.207	<i>Ancylis geminana</i>		1	1
49.208	<i>Ancylis subarcuana</i>		1	1
49.214	<i>Ancylis badiana</i>		1	1
49.230	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>		2	36
49.248	<i>Epinotia tenerana</i>	Nut Bud Moth	2	2
	CRAMBIDAE			
63.016	<i>Anania fuscalis</i>		1	1
63.033	<i>Udea lutealis</i>		3	12
63.037	<i>Udea olivalis</i>		5	11
63.062	<i>Scoparia subfusca</i>		1	2
63.064	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>		1	1
63.073	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>		1	1
63.084	<i>Crambus ericella</i>		1	1
63.086	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>		5	6
63.088	<i>Crambus perlella</i>		1	1
63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		3	16
	DREPANIDAE			
65.013	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	Common Lutestring	2	2
	LASIOCAMPIDEA			
66.010	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	1	3
	SATURNIDAE			
68.001	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	1	2
	SPHINGIDAE			
69.003	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	2	6
	GEOMETRIDAE			
70.013	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	4	17
	<i>Scotopteryx</i>			
70.045	<i>chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-bar	2	4
70.049	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	2	2
70.053	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	13	45

70.054	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	Silver-ground Carpet	14	224
	<i>Camptogramma</i>			
70.059	<i>bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell	4	4
70.061	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	4	4
70.072	<i>Entephria caesiata</i>	Grey Mountain Carpet	1	1
70.074	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	7	56
70.075	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>	May Highflyer	1	2
70.081	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet	1	2
70.087	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple Bar	4	4
70.090	<i>Eulithis testata</i>	Chevron	4	6
70.091	<i>Eulithis populata</i>	Northern Spinach	1	1
70.093	<i>Eulithis pyraliata</i>	Barred Straw	1	1
70.094	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	4	9
70.095	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	Red-green Carpet	1	1
70.097	<i>Dysstrpma truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	6	14
70.098	<i>Dysstroma citrata</i>	Dark Marbled Carpet	4	29
70.100	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	7	20
70.101	<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	Mottled Grey	4	51
70.103	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	Water Carpet	2	2
70.107	<i>Epirrita dilutata</i>	November Moth	1	2
70.131	<i>Perizoma didymata</i>	Twin-spot Carpet	1	3
70.133	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>	Small Rivulet	6	9
70.138	<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>	Sandy Carpet	2	2
70.141	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	1	1
70.151	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>	Foxglove Pug	2	2
70.161	<i>Eupithecia virgaureata</i>	Golden-rod Pug	3	10
70.168	<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	Narrow-winged Pug	3	3
70.177	<i>Eupithecia satyrata</i>	Satyr Pug	2	4
70.183	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug	2	10
70.190	<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>	Grey Pug	1	1
70.205	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie Moth	3	13
70.207	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	13	23
70.226	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	12	65
70.237	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	1	1
70.240	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	Scalloped Hazel	4	17
70.276	<i>Bupalus piniaria</i>	Bordered White	1	2
70.277	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	Common White Wave	16	266
70.278	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	7	11
70.283	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald	3	13
70.284	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>	Barred Red	1	1
	NOTODONTIDAE			
71.012	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	Iron Prominent	2	2
71.013	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	4	4
71.021	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	Coxcomb Prominent	2	4
	EREBIDAE			

72.001	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	Herald	1	1
72.003	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	2	23
72.020	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i> Schrankia	White Ermine	5	18
72.061	<i>costaestrigalis</i>	Pinion-streaked Snout	1	3
NOCTUIDAE				
73.001	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	3	6
73.012	<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	4	6
73.015	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	2	2
73.016	<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Beautiful Golden Y	10	36
73.018	<i>Autographa bractea</i>	Gold Spangle	1	1
73.022	<i>Plusia festucae</i>	Gold Spot	2	3
73.042	<i>Acronicta menyanthidis</i>	Light Knot Grass	1	1
73.045	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	3	3
73.113	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Angle Shades	1	1
73.114	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	4	12
73.118	<i>Celaena haworthii</i>	Haworth's Minor	5	12
73.119	<i>Helotropha leucostigma</i>	Crescent	1	1
73.123	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	3	3
73.128	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Ear Moth	2	8
73.131	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	1	1
73.144	<i>Dentcucullus pygmina</i>	Small Wainscot	3	7
73.147	<i>Photodes minima</i>	Small Dotted Buff	1	1
73.154	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	1	1
73.156	<i>Apamea crenata</i>	Clouded-bordered Brindle	5	16
73.162	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	5	12
73.163	<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	Light Arches	2	2
73.165	<i>Apamea furva</i>	Confused	1	2
73.171	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor	3	3
73.176	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	4	15
73.181	<i>Xanthia togata</i>	Pink-barred Sallow	3	7
73.182	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	Sallow	1	1
73.189	<i>Agrochola lota</i>	Red-line Quaker	1	3
73.192	<i>Agrochola circellaris</i>	Brick	2	3
73.209	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	Red Sword-grass	2	3
73.234	<i>Dasypolia templi</i>	Brindled Ochre	3	6
73.238	<i>Mniotype adusta</i>	Dark Brocade	1	1
73.241	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	Pine Beauty	1	1
73.244	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	Common Quaker	6	54
73.244	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	Clouded Drab	5	22
73.249	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	8	31
73.254	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	2	2
73.264	<i>Lacanobia thalassina</i>	Pale-shouldered Brocade	4	4
73.267	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	1	1
73.271	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Broom Moth	2	2

73.276	<i>Hadena rivularis</i>	Campion	3	3
73.283	<i>Hadena confusa</i>	Marbled Coronet	1	1
73.291	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	1	8
73.293	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	3	33
73.329	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	7	35
73.332	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	Purple Clay	2	3
73.334	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	7	84
73.338	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	6	12
73.342	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	5	33
73.345	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	5	9
		Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow		
73.348	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Underwing	4	17
73.353	<i>Xestia baja</i>	Dotted Clay	2	9
73.356	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	Heath Rustic	2	5
73.357	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	6	70
73.358	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	Six-striped Rustic	1	1
73.361	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot	1	1
	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	Common/Lesser Common Rustic	6	55