

MOTHS and BUTTERFLIES

This is just a small sample of the farm's moths and butterflies, which were found during the survey. Surprisingly however, very few caterpillars were found – only a couple which were too small to be specifically identifiable.

Esperia Sulphurella (male)

Found on Alexander plants by Forge in April.

This is a day-flying woodland moth, and recognisable by the yellowy/gold mark on its wings and the whitish patch about two-thirds of the length along the antennae.



MINT MOTH

Pyrausta aurata

Found in the Herb Garden in June – appropriately so, as its caterpillars feed on mints and similar herb plants. It is a surprisingly colourful small moth (up to 2cm) and flies during the day as well as night.

This species is easily confused with *Pyrausta purpuralis*, which also has purplish wings with golden spots, but in a slightly different pattern.



YELLOW SHELL MOTH

Camptogramma bilineata

Found on door of shed in early June.

The wing colouring varies greatly – this one has much darker and thicker brown bands than most. Its caterpillars feed on a variety of low-growing plants including chickweed, which there is plenty of at the farm.



SMALL CHINA-MARK MOTH
Cataclysta lemnata

Several seen flying around pond, settling on duckweed and on pond plant leaves and stems in June – for good reason, as the caterpillars of this species are semi-aquatic, feeding on duckweed and building floating cases made from fragments of the plant.

This species is recognisable by its row of blue-centred black dots on the hindwings, though this is not really visible on any of these pictures. The specimens on the left are probably males, which are whiter. The bottom picture is a dead moth found on duckweed, its wings too tattered to show the pattern. The specimen on the right is probably a female, which has browner wings.



HOLLY BLUE BUTTERFLY
Celastrina argiolus (male)

On bark path around vegetable allotment plots in early June. Can be distinguished from most other small blue butterflies by the blue spotted (not brown) undersides to its wings. The eggs are laid on holly and ivy, and the adults feed on aphid honeydew and plant sap flows.



RED ADMIRAL
Vanessa atalanta

A few specimens seen by turkey enclosure as well as riverside gardens in June. They lay their eggs on nettles, and adults feed on nectar or the fermenting juice of windfall apples.

(Always moving too fast to be photographed – hence illustration used!)

