

## Targeting Under-recorded Squares for the NMRS Atlas – Audrey Turner

The National Moth Recording Scheme was launched in 2007 and aims to bring together records of all macro-moths across the UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands. The scheme covers around 900 species and has the potential to generate a huge dataset of distribution records which will benefit nature conservation, ecological research and public understanding.

A Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths has already been published and the dataset is also available online for the public to view. This project is to enable records from under-recorded 10km squares to contribute to this scheme and also to the forth-coming Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland (anticipated for publication in 2018).

An under-recorded 10km square is defined as one which has less than 50 species of macro moth recorded from it. 12 10km squares were visited this year by volunteers and light traps set up.

NS95 – Auchengray (east)

There were only 8 recorded species from this square, a further 31 species were added bringing the total to 39.

NT05 – Auchengray (west)

Again there were only 8 recorded species in this square, 50 species were added bringing the total to 58.

NT45 – Linn Dean

This was only just within the project having had 42 species previously recorded, a further 72 species were trapped making the total 114.

NN27 – South of Spean Bridge

There were 22 species recorded here previously, 13 were added making the total 35.

NW96 – Cairnbrock

Originally had 48 species, a further 53 species were trapped taking the total 101, highlights were Northern Rustic, Barred Rivulet, Annulet and Treble Bar. 18 species of micro moth were also recorded.

NX54 – Barlocco

13 species were added to the original 43 bringing the total to 56, highlights here were Archer's Dart and August Thorn. 11 species of micro moth were recorded.

#### NN77 – Gaick

There were 4 species recorded previously and a trapping session on a fairly cold night brought that up to 25 with the beautiful Sallow Kitten being a highlight for the recorder as well as The Saxon(nb). 1 species of micro moth was also recorded.

#### NJ00 – Glenmore

A tricky area to trap in as there are no roads and equipment has to be carried in over steep, tricky terrain. Despite this, 11 species had been previously recorded which has improved now to 23 macro and 4 micro species. An impressive 210 True Lover's Knots were trapped.

#### NH40 – Glen Doe

Unfortunately the recorder's generator broke down so the only moths trapped were from a battery actinic. 6 species of macro and 2 species of micro were trapped, 8 species of macro had been previously recorded.

#### NN26 – Leven Valley

Only 2 species of macro moth had been recorded from this square, this total has risen to 13 with 3 species of micro moth also recorded.

#### NT68 – Lochhouses

18 species of macro moth had previously been recorded from this square, 73 species were added bringing the total to 91.

#### NN11 – Glen Shira

This square also had just 18 species of macro moth previously recorded, 52 species were added bringing the total to 70. 22 species of micro moths were also recorded. Old Lady, Slender Brindle, Slender Pug, Blue-bordered Carpet and Brindled Ochre were notable records.

I can't give exact numbers of how many 10km squares still have fewer than 50 recorded species of macro moth recorded, as well as those covered in this project, others will have been visited by people who are outside this scheme, so this figure will only be available once all records for 2014 have been submitted to VC recorders.

However, in the 3 years that this project has run, a total of 32 different 10km squares have been targeted. 15 of these squares now have 50 or more species of macro moth recorded whilst the total has been raised to over 20 species in 10 squares. The remaining 7 squares have all also had additional species recorded in them. All records from this project have been submitted to the appropriate VC recorders.