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Editorial

This represents the sixth issue of the electronic Vasculum. This is intended to replace the paper-based journal that was published up to December 2005 by the Northern Naturalists' Union which ceased to exist in that month. The purpose of the Vasculum remains the same i.e. recording and celebrating aspects of the natural history of Northumberland and Durham.

NORTHUMBERLAND LEPIDOPTERA REVIEW OF 2011

T. J. TAMS

Abstract

Lepidoptera records of note collected during 2011 are summarised, including ten species new for Northumberland and numerous new vice-county records.

Introduction

Unusually warm, dry weather early in the year resulted in the perfect conditions for the emergence of many moths outside of their normal flight time, two to three weeks for many species was not an uncommon occurrence, early dates were recorded for an impressive 251 species. This trend also continued into the autumn with many later than usual records.

Many recorders sent their monthly catch totals for inclusion onto the database, and with the new distribution maps up and running on the www.northumberlandmoths.org.uk website we can now view the status of each moth.

Ten species were recorded for the first time in Northumberland in 2011

0563 *Coleophora argentula* – Low Hauxley (**67**) 23.xii.2011, cases on Yarrow – AJF

0565 *Coleophora saxicolella* – Alnmouth (**68**) 27.vii.2011, genitalia det. – SMP



0565 *Coleophora saxicolella*



0581 *Coleophora taeniipennella*

0581 *Coleophora taeniipennella* – Druridge Pools (**67**) 22.xi.2011, cases on Jointed Rush – AJF

0815 *Scrobipalpa nitentella* – Cresswell (67) 4.viii.2011, larvae and tenanted mines – AJF



0815 *Scrobipalpa nitentella*



1247 *Grapholita funebrana*

1247 **Plum Fruit Moth** *Grapholita funebrana* – Whitley Bay (67) 3.viii.2011 – TCS

1452 *Phycita roborella* – Tynemouth (67) 21.vii.2011 – TJT



1452 *Phycita roborella*



1660 **Frosted Green** *Polyploca ridens*

1660 **Frosted Green** *Polyploca ridens* – Lambley (67) 22.iv.2011 – DF

1859 **Sloe Pug** *Pasiphila chloerata* – Swarland (67) 21.vi.2011 – AJF



1859 **Sloe Pug** *Pasiphila chloerata*



2377 **Fen Wainscot** *Arenostola phragmitidis*

2377 **Fen Wainscot** *Arenostola phragmitidis* – Tynemouth (67) 3.viii.2011 – TJT

2421 **Scarce Silver-lines** *Bena bicolorana* – Tynemouth (67) 17.vii.2011 – TJT



2421 **Scarce Silver-lines** *Bena bicolorana*

New Records for vc67 & vc68

The first number in brackets, are the total records for Northumberland, and the second number, are either new vice-county records with the VC number both underlined and in bold type, or only species with five records or less, not highlighted

0149 *Adela cuprella* – Longhorsley Moor (3, **67**) 18.iv.2011 – TJT & TCS



0149 *Adela cuprella*



0153 *Adela fibulella*

0153 *Adela fibulella* – Druridge Bay (4, **67**) 6.vi.2011 – AJF

0154 *Heliozela sericiella* – Gosforth Park (3, **67**) 19.iv.2011 – TJT & TCS



0154 *Heliozela sericiella*



0332a *Phyllonorycter leucographella*

0332a *Phyllonorycter leucographella* – Swarland (38, **68**) 18.x.2011 – AJF

0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* – Swarland (5, **68**) 18.iii.2011 – AJF



0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella*



0366a *Cameraria ohridella*

0366a *Cameraria ohridella* – Morpeth (2, 67) 24.viii.2011 – AJF

0389 **Apple Leaf Skeletoniser** *Choreutis pariana* – Whitley Bay (4, 67) 31.x.2011 – N & MT



0389 **Apple Leaf Skeletoniser** *Choreutis pariana*



0435 *Zelleria hepariella*

0435 *Zelleria hepariella* – Monkseaton (3, 67) 31.vii.2011 – MSH

0455 *Ypsolopha scabrella* – Swarland (141, **68**) 17.viii.2011 – AJF



0455 *Ypsolopha scabrella*



0467 *Rhigognostis annulatella*

0467 *Rhigognostis annulatella* – Cullernose Point (4, 68) 11.vii.2011 – AJF

0522 *Coleophora lineolea* – Acklington (3, 67) 17.ix.2011 – AJF



0522 *Coleophora lineolea*

0559 *Coleophora peribenanderi* – East Chevington (4, 67) 4.x.2011 – AJF

0565 *Coleophora saxicolella* – Cresswell (3, 67) 4.viii.2011 – AJF



0565 *Coleophora saxicolella*

0636 *Denisia similella*

0636 *Denisia similella* – Swarland (3, 68) 8.viii.2011 – AJF

0704 *Agonopterix scopariella* – Tynemouth (4, 67) 5.iv.2011 – TJT



0704 *Agonopterix scopariella*

0724 *Metzneria lappella*

0724 *Metzneria lappella* – Howick (17, 68) 29.v.2011 – SS

0729 *Isophrictis striatella* – Whitley Bay (3, 67) 2.viii.2011 – N & MT



0729 *Isophrictis striatella*



0747 *Chrysoesthia sexguttella*

0747 *Chrysoesthia sexguttella* – Cresswell (4, 67) 4.viii.2011 –AJF

0802a *Gelechia sororculella* – Gosforth Park (2, 67) 25.vii.2011 – TJT



0802a *Gelechia sororculella*

0812 *Scrobipalpa instabilella* – Alnmouth (5, 68) 28.vii.2011 – SMP

0820 Thyme Moth *Scrobipalpa artemisiella* – Alnmouth (4, 68) 28.vii.2011 – SMP



0870 *Oegoconia quadripuncta*

0870 *Oegoconia quadripuncta* – Monkseaton (3, 67) 3.viii.2011 – MSH

0893 *Mompha epilobiella* – Whitley Bay (4, 67) 29.v.2011 – TCS



0893 *Mompha epilobiella*

0959 *Cochylidia rupicola*

0959 *Cochylidia rupicola* – Cullernose Point (2, 68) 11.vii.2011 – AJF

1054 *Acleris cristana* – Eshott (4, 67) 15.iv.2011 – MSH



1054 *Acleris cristana*



1067 *Celypha cespitana*

1067 *Celypha cespitana* – Howick (4, 68) 1.viii.2011 – SS

1075 *Olethreutes micana* – Newham Bog (5, 68) 13.vii.2011 – AJF



1075 *Olethreutes micana*



1153 *Epinotia sordidana*

1153 *Epinotia sordidana* – Tynemouth (5, 67) 4.x.2011 – TJT

1184a *Epiblema cirsiiana* – Tynemouth (5, 67) 20.v.2011 – TJT



1184a *Epiblema cirsiiana*



1241 *Grapholita compositella*

1241 *Grapholita compositella* – Tynemouth (2, 67) 6.vi.2011 – TJT

1274 *Dichrorampha alpinana* – Whitley Bay (5, 67) 2.vii.2011 – TCS



1274 *Dichrorampha alpinana*



1275 *Dichrorampha flavidorsana*

1275 *Dichrorampha flavidorsana* – Alnmouth (3, **68**) 27.vii.2011 – SMP

1335 *Scoparia ancipitella* – Kielder (5, 67) 14.viii.2011 – TJT & KD



1335 *Scoparia ancipitella*



1433 *Cryptoblabes bistriga*

433 *Cryptoblabes bistriga* – Gosforth Park (2, 67) 4.vii.2011 – TJT

1507 *Stenoptilia zophodactylus* – Bamburgh (2, **68**) 25.vii.2011 – SMP

1517 *Adaina microdactyla* – Cullernose Point (3, 68) 29.xi.2011 – AJF



1517 *Adaina microdactyla*



1518 *Ovendenia lienigianus*

1518 *Ovendenia lienigianus* – Tynemouth (3, 67) 27.vi.2011 – TJT

1853 **Oak-tree Pug** *Eupithecia dodoneata* – Howick (65, **68**) 16.iv.2011 – SS



1853 **Oak-tree Pug** *Eupithecia dodoneata*



1868 **Lesser Treble-bar** *Aplocera efformata*

1868 **Lesser Treble-bar** *Aplocera efformata* – Howick (36, **68**) 26.viii.2011 – SS

1904 **Scorched Wing** *Plagodis dolabraria* – Swarland (33, **68**) 25.v.2011 – AJF



1904 **Scorched Wing** *Plagodis dolabraria*



2197 **Southern Wainscot** *Mythimna straminea*

2197 **Southern Wainscot** *Mythimna straminea* – Tynemouth (3, 67) 3.vii.2011 – TJT

2221 **Mullein** *Shargacucullia verbasci* – Howick (4, 68) 26.vi.2011 – SS



2221 **Mullein** *Shargacucullia verbasci*



2227 **Sprawler** *Asteroscopus sphinx*

2227 **Sprawler** *Asteroscopus sphinx* – Swarland (37, **68**) 10.x.2011 – AJF

2377 **Fen Wainscot** *Arenostola phragmitidis* – Howick (2, **68**) 12.viii.2011 – SS



2377 **Fen Wainscot** *Arenostola phragmitidis*



2384 **Vine's Rustic** *Hoplodrina ambigua*

2384 **Vine's Rustic** *Hoplodrina ambigua* – Tynemouth (5, 67) 6.ix.2011 – TJT

Migrant Records

Apart from the regular migrants that grace our counties we did manage to encounter a few of the rarer specimens

1408 *Palpita vitrealis* – Tynemouth (67) 27.ix.2011 – TJT, the 2nd vc67 record, the last being on 24.ix.1956 at Riding Mill (67)



1408 *Palpita vitrealis* 1452



1716 **Vestal** *Rhodometra sacraria*

1716 **Vestal** *Rhodometra sacraria* – Kielder IV: RIS Site 637 (67) singles on 2 & 3.x.2011 – DK, Brownsman, Farne Islands (68) 3.x.2011 – DS

1972 **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** *Agrius convolvuli* – Lambley (67) 9.ix.2011 – DF



1972 **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** *Agrius convolvuli*



1984 **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** *Macroglossum stellatarum*

1984 **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* – An impressive 46 sightings between the 1.v.2011 to 26.ix.2011 breaking all previous records

1987 **Bedstraw Hawkmoth** *Hyles gallii* – Tynemouth (67) 15.vii.2011 – TJT



1987 **Bedstraw Hawkmoth** *Hyles gallii*



2137 **Great Brocade** *Eurois occulta*

2137 **Great Brocade** *Eurois occulta* – Tynemouth (67) 22.vii.2011 – TJT, Howick (68) 24.vii.2011 – SS

The 2011 records in this report, and contributors to the database, have come from the following recorders, each indicated by his or her initials.

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Apologies for any accidental omissions

Some Aculeate Records from Durham (VC66)

Stuart Priestley

Species	Grid ref	Site	♂	♀	Date
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 263 412	9 Elvet moor	♂		12/06/2011
<i>Andrena fulva</i>	NZ 217 305	Auckland Castle Park - Hazel Bank		1♀	16/04/2011
<i>Andrena chrysoseles</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Andrena fulva</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Andrena semilaevis</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Andrena subopaca</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Arachnospila spissa</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	2♂		03/06/2011
<i>Chelostoma florissomne</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus annulipes</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		2♀	26/07/2011
<i>Crossocerus cetratus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus cetratus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/08/2011
<i>Crossocerus megacephalus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus podagricus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Dipogon subintermedius</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Dipogon subintermedius</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		2♀	26/07/2011
<i>Ectimnius cavifrons</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	2♂	1♀	30/08/2011
<i>Ectimnius cephalotes</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	26/07/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	16/04/2011
<i>Lasioglossum rufitarse</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		2♀	16/04/2011
<i>Nomada flavoguttata</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Nomada flava / panzeri</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		2♀	16/04/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		2♀	03/06/2011
<i>Nomada striata</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Pemphredon inornata</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Pemphredon lugubris</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	26/07/2011
<i>Psen dahlbomi</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park	1♂		03/06/2011
<i>Sphecodes hyalinatus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Sphecodes monilicornis</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	30/08/2011
<i>Stigmus pendulus</i>	NZ 222 307	Auckland Castle Park - High Park		1♀	03/06/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 215 299	Auckland Castle Park (adjacent)	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Osmia rufa</i>	NZ 215 299	Auckland Castle Park (adjacent)	1♂		16/04/2011
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i>	NZ 134 449	Black Plantation		1♀	01/05/2011
<i>Andrena cineraria</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)	2♂		23/03/2011
<i>Andrena clarkella</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	23/03/2011
<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011
<i>Andrena ruficrus</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	23/03/2011
<i>Andrena tarsata</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)	2♂		02/06/2011
<i>Anoplius nigerrimus</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)	2♂		02/06/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	07/09/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011
<i>Halticus tumulorum</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011
<i>Lasioglossum cupromicans</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011

<i>Lasioglossum cupromicans</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	07/10/2011
<i>Lasioglossum cupromicans</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)	1♂		07/10/2011
<i>Lasioglossum fratellum</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i>	NZ 174 506	Chapmans's Well (brownfield)		1♀	02/06/2011
<i>Nomada panzeri</i>	NZ 255 510	Cong Burn		1♀	12/05/2011
<i>Ancistrocerus gazella</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds	1♂		20/05/2011
<i>Ancistrocerus parietinus</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds	1♂		22/05/2011
<i>Andrena fulva</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds		2♀	05/04/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 267 435	County Hall Grounds	1♂		27/05/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 269 434	County Hall Grounds	2♂		31/05/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 269 433	County Hall Grounds	1♂		01/06/2011
<i>Bombus vestalis</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds		1♀	18/05/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds		1♀	18/05/2011
<i>Melinus arvensis</i>	NZ 27 43	County Hall Grounds		1♀	12/09/2011
<i>Osmia rufa</i>	NZ 480 375	Crimdon Caravan Park		1♀	30/04/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	1♂		30/03/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes		1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	1♂		30/03/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	1♂		30/03/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes		1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Coelioxys elongata</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	1♂		28/05/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes		1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Megachile circumcincta</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	1♂		28/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava / panzeri</i>	NZ 482 372	Crimdon Dunes	2♂		30/03/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 264 421	Gourmet Spot Restaurant	1♂		24/06/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 494 278	Greatham	1♂		25/06/2011
<i>Andrena cineraria</i>	NZ 164 510	Greencroft Heath	1♂		24/03/2011
<i>Andrena clarkella</i>	NZ 164 510	Greencroft Heath		1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Andrena clarkella</i>	NZ 164 510	Greencroft Heath	2♂		29/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava / panzeri</i>	NZ 164 510	Greencroft Heath		1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Ectimnius cavifrons</i>	NZ 350 290	Hardwick Park (East Park)		1♀	30/07/2011
<i>Pemphredon lugubris</i>	NZ 350 290	Hardwick Park (East Park)		2♀	30/07/2011
<i>Andrena marginata</i>	NZ 439 460	Hawthorn Meadows		2♀	30/07/2011
<i>Crossocerus podagricus</i>	NZ 439 460	Hawthorn Meadows		1♀	30/07/2011
<i>Pemphredon inornata</i>	NZ 439 460	Hawthorn Meadows		1♀	30/07/2011
<i>Evagetes crassicornis</i>	NZ 438 464	Hawthorn Quarry		1♀	31/07/2011
<i>Melinus arvensis</i>	NZ 438 464	Hawthorn Quarry		1♀	31/07/2011
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i>	NZ 438 464	Hawthorn Quarry	1♂		31/07/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♂		24/03/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		2♀	24/03/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Anophilus concinnus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus elongatulus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus quadrimaculatus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Crossocerus quadrimaculatus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♂		26/06/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries		2♀	24/03/2011

<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	2♀	24/03/2011
<i>Nomada panzeri</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Nysson dimidiatus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Oxybelus uniglumis</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♂	26/06/2011
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	26/06/2011
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	22/04/2011
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	14/03/2011
<i>Sphecodes monilicornis</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	1♀	24/03/2011
<i>Sphecodes pellucidus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	2♀	24/03/2011
<i>Sphecodes pellucidus</i>	NY 990 229	Hayberries	2♀	26/06/2011
<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	NZ 476 381	Lime Kiln Gill	2♂	30/03/2011
<i>Chrysis rutiliventris</i>	NZ 476 381	Lime Kiln Gill	1♂	30/03/2011
<i>Lasioglossum cupromicans</i>	NZ 476 381	Lime Kiln Gill	1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>	NZ 476 381	Lime Kiln Gill	1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Halticus tumulorum</i>	NZ 283 450	Low Newton Junction	1♀	28/08/2011
<i>Melinus arvensis</i>	NZ 283 450	Low Newton Junction	1♀	21/08/2011
<i>Melinus arvensis</i>	NZ 283 450	Low Newton Junction	1♂	21/08/2011
<i>Crossocerus elongatulus</i>	NZ 179 461	Malton - Garden	1♂	01/05/2011
<i>Osmia rufa</i>	NZ 179 461	Malton - Garden	1♀	01/05/2011
<i>Bombus vestalis</i>	NZ 182 458	Malton Nature Reserve	1♀	01/05/2011
<i>Andrena fucata</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	21/05/2011
<i>Andrena fucata</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhhoa</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Andrena hevola</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	02/05/2011
<i>Andrena lapponica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Andrena lapponica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	02/05/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's wood	1♂	02/05/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	02/05/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	21/05/2011
<i>Bombus sylvestris</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	29/05/2011
<i>Chrysis impressa</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Crossocerus annulipes</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	2♀	30/07/2011
<i>Crossocerus megacephalus</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/06/2011
<i>Ectimnius ruficornis</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	30/07/2011
<i>Hylaeus communis</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Nomada fabriciana</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	02/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	2♀	02/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	21/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Nomada flava / panzeri</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	21/05/2011
<i>Nomada flavoguttata</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	3♂	21/05/2011
<i>Nomada flavoguttata</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	02/05/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	3♀	21/05/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Nomada panzeri</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	3♀	21/05/2011
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Pemphredon lugubris</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♀	30/05/2011
<i>Pemphredon lugubris</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	29/05/2011

<i>Rhopalum coaretatum</i>	NZ 227 345	Nancy's Wood	1♂	1♀	29/06/2011
<i>Ancistrocerus trifasciatus</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	22/08/2011
<i>Andrena chrysoseles</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		28/04/2011
<i>Andrena fulva</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	19/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		19/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		28/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		19/04/2011
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		28/04/2011
<i>Andrena scotica</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		17/05/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		17/05/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		02/06/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		03/06/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	15/09/2011
<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	07/04/2011
<i>Bombus vestalis</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	29/04/2011
<i>Chrysis angustula</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		27/05/2011
<i>Chrysis angustula</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		18/05/2011
<i>Chrysis ignita</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		03/06/2011
<i>Colletes daviesanus</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Crossocerus megacephalus</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	25/07/2011
<i>Dipogon subintermedius</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Hylaeus communis</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		17/05/2011
<i>Hylaeus communis</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		29/05/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	29/05/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		02/08/2011
<i>Megachile centuncularis</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	1♂		25/07/2011
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace		1♀	19/04/2011
<i>Osmia rufa</i>	NZ 231 333	Old Park Terrace	4♂		19/04/2011
<i>Andrena fulva</i>	NZ 276 540	Red House Farm		3♀	05/04/2011
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	NZ 267 435	Rivergreen Centre	1♂		25/05/2011
<i>Andrena chrysoseles</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry	1♂		30/03/2011
<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	22/04/2011
<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry	2♂		09/03/2011
<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	23/04/2011
<i>Halticus rubicundus</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	09/03/2011
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	31/07/2011
<i>Lasioglossum fratellum</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		2♀	09/03/2011
<i>Lasioglossum fratellum</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	22/04/2011
<i>Nomada flava</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	22/04/2011
<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	30/03/2011
<i>Nomada marshamella</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		1♀	22/04/2011
<i>Sphecodes hyalinatus</i>	NZ 273 375	Wingate Quarry		2♀	22/04/2011

Leptoglossus occidentalis Western Conifer Seed Bug

66

NZ 267 435, SP/TC/TMH, County Hall Durham City, 1, 28/10/2011, on window, a first record of this alien spp in VC66

Stuart Priestley

A Benchmark Review of Internet Sources available in 2011 containing Information on the Natural History of Durham and Northumberland.

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Over the last few years there has been a revolution in the acquisition, management, and presentation of biological and ecological information. Internet and world wide web technology have made information readily available. The role of journals is changing rapidly as new, and different means of publishing have become available, such as web sites, forums, blogs, electronic journals etc.. Some of these information sources are relatively permanent. Others are somewhat ephemeral. Maintaining and sustaining publication over time incurs cost and requires effort.

The information sources of interest here are those that have the natural history of Durham and Northumberland as their main concern. The intention is to provide a benchmark of electronic information provision at this point in time (2011).

The sources of information are various countryside, wildlife, conservation and government organisations and individual naturalists. Much of the information is delivered using web sites produced by organisations and individuals. Web sites often have common content that includes news, contact information, events, image galleries, forums and links to allied sites. How many organisations will survive the current 'austerity', with the information sources they currently provide? Some of the information sources originate from conservation projects that have taken place in recent years. When these projects come to an end will the information produced by the projects still be available in the future? In the 'years of austerity' predicted for the future will there be the same number of conservation and research projects producing and making information available?

Individual naturalists tend to produce blogs rather than web sites. These are much like diaries and notebooks kept by naturalists in the past. Blogs contain much that is interesting, but there seems to be no systematic acquisition and archiving of data in them. No doubt much of the important information finds its way into national recording databases but interesting local contextual information is not recorded. For instance, blogs can contain some very high

quality images associated with information. These images are not recorded in national databases and so may not survive over time. Observations related to behaviour, landscape features, weather and temporal relationships between observations are also not recorded in databases. There is some automatic archiving of content in blogs but there does not appear to be any systematic approach.

It will be interesting to see how all these information sources change over the coming years. An interesting development is the increasing availability of all these information sources in the field. All the sources can be accessed using mobile devices. The same devices can be used to capture data to update sources in the field.

National Data Records

NBN Gateway (<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>)

The NBN Gateway acquires and stores biological records in a central repository. It provides summaries and distribution maps based on reports from the repository. Much of the data is sourced from regional biological record centres. The database includes Non-sensitive and Sensitive species records covering the North East of England which integrates records from many separate surveys. Much of the data is not available except by request from the records centre. Summary data is available such as 10km distributions. Data can be requested from the Environmental Records Information Centre (North East Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums).

National Organisations with Local Projects

River Restoration Centre-River-Skerne Project

(http://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc_river_projects1.php?csid=38)

The aim of the organisation is to promote best practice in river management. Their web site includes information on the River Skerne restoration project. This includes a brochure on the project.

Woodland Trust (<http://visitwoods.org.uk/en/visit-woods/Pages/get-involved.aspx>)

The Woodland Trusts' web site has information on woods and projects in Northumberland and Durham. The information covers access, and general features of sites.

National Trust (<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/north-east/>)

The site contains general information on sites owned by the Trust.

Natural England (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/north_east/)

This is a regional section of the national web site for the government conservation organisation. It contains information on funded research and monitoring projects. There are a significant number of documents available containing information on projects, site management, conservation policies, environmental schemes and financing. Much of the information is on a national scale, but there some is on a regional or local scale. This includes an interactive map that acts as a portal for documents describing nature reserves, SSSI's, country parks and similar-

<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/map.aspx?map=nreserves>

Forestry Commission (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6VZDGC>)

This site, as might be expected, contains general information on the various forests in the region. There does not seem to be any detailed or scientific information on natural history.

BSBI Flora of North-east England

(<http://www.botanicalkeys.co.uk/northumbria/index.asp>)

This is part of the regional coverage provided by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. It contains information from the county recorders based on the national database. Distribution maps are drawn from the records database. There is information on the North-east Common Plants Survey and Rare plants Register which includes Bryophytes. There are many links to BSBI resources e.g. identification support.

BSBI Durham (http://www.bsbi.org.uk/co__durham.html)

This is the regional section of the Botanical Society of the British Isles web site. It includes site floras and checklists.

Wildflower Society

(http://www.thewildflowersociety.com/wfs_new_pages/1h_reports_and_species.htm)

The site contains field reports which include Teesdale and Lindisfarne.

Organisations and Recorders in Northumberland and Durham

The Eye Project (<http://www.eyeproject.org.uk/>)

The Eye project acts as a public face of the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC). It provides access to some ERIC data which can be searched by species or place. This includes distribution maps. The site also receives and provides information concerning north east wildlife.

Environmental Records Information Centre
(<http://www.ericnortheast.org.uk/home.html>)

This is the actual web site for the centre owned by Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Service.

Northumberland Natural Park (<http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/>)

The site contains general information about the Park and the services on offer but no detailed information on natural history.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership
(<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>)

This organisation is based in Stanhope and is a partnership of local authorities, statutory organisations, volunteers etc.. It organises some very interesting projects which publish accessible documents.

Hay Time - North Pennines- “aims to enhance and restore upland hay meadows at carefully selected sites within the North Pennines AONB by harvesting seed from species-rich meadows and spreading it on sites that have lost their special species.....We also aim to increase public awareness, enjoyment and understanding of this internationally important habitat.” The project was launched in May 2006 and will run until October 2012. Survey and other reports, walk leaflets and an identification guide to hayfield plants are available.

During the spring and summer of 2010 a survey of Teesdale was carried out with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. 53 different hay meadow, moorland, road verge, riverbank and garden sites were surveyed in May, June, July and August. The species found were-

Buff-tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
White-tailed bumblebee	<i>B. lucorum</i>
Common carder-bee	<i>B.pascuorum</i>
Red-tailed bumblebee	<i>B. lapidarius</i>
Early bumblebee	<i>B. pratorum</i>
Garden bumblebee	<i>B.hortorum</i>
Moss carder-bee	<i>B. muscorum</i>
Heath bumblebee	<i>B. jonellus</i>
Bilberry bumblebee	<i>B. monticola</i>

PeatScape Project-aims to restore the habitat and promote research. It provides a number of documents relevant to the project.

Living North Pennines-Project comprising many sub-projects. This includes work on watersides, collecting stories, horse riding routes, education, building conservation, and tree planting.

Geodiversity-encourages the conservation of important geological sites, interpretation and educational resources. The project provides documents covering the geodiversity audit, action plan, geology of the north Pennines, the Stanhope fossil tree, Frosterley marble, Whin Sill, landscapes around Blanchland, Allenheads, Low Force/Holwick, Cow Green , Knock, Dufton, Tynehead, Ashes Quarry Stanhope, Slitt Wood and West Rigg

Altogether Archaeology-There does not seem to be any documented results from this project at this date.

CELL –working with schools in collaboration with field scientists. No reports.

WildWatch-aims to encourage biological recording. This includes a 2012 Reptile survey information with an identification guide. The site includes a mapping system to view records of reptiles and other groups including mammals, bats, birds, invasive plants, invertebrates and amphibians. Records can be submitted on-line. The site also has links to web based identification guides. A series of training sessions are being organised for 2012. There are leaflets on finding reptiles in Pennines, water voles, protection of upland nesting birds, Spring Gentian, walking routes including ancient woodland upland, bird identification and a moorland plants identification guide.

The site contains an invertebrate literature review.

The North East England Branch of Butterfly Conservation (<http://www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk/>)

The site contains local annual Butterfly Reports, newsletters, identification guides, site and habitat information. It also contains information on the Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths. This is an outcome of the Moths Count project and the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS).

Northumberland Moths (<http://www.northumberlandmoths.org.uk/>)

This site contains the county Moth Recorders' Reports and access to the records database. Online submission of records is possible.

North East Moth Forum (<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/northeastmoths/>)

This is a membership forum for discussion and current sightings. It includes a photo library and downloads covering identification, naming and literature, national newsletters, and species accounts. It currently contains mostly Northumberland reports. There does not seem to be a Durham moth report available.

Durham Wildlife Trust (<http://www.durhamwt.co.uk/>)

The site includes information on reserves and volunteering for various conservation projects. There is information on larger scale projects-

Living Landscapes

This project has two sub-projects-

Heart of Durham- this is a partnership project with Northumbrian Water Limited. - stretching from Derwent Reservoir to Hamsterley Forest , the aim of the project is to restore and recreate habitat. There is a focus on the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly, which is threatened with extinction in Durham. There are two stages in the project-

1. to expand existing small pearl-bordered fritillary populations.
2. to reintroduce the species in locations where habitats have been restored or recreated

There does not seem to be any documented results from this project at this date.

Limestone Landscapes (<http://www.limestonelandscapes.info/Pages/HomePage.aspx>)-

This project has its own web site with a series of documents available for download.

Durham County Council is the lead partner of organisations involved. The area involved includes-

- Three European Special Areas for Conservation,
- the coast designated as Special Protection Areas,
- 4 National Nature Reserves
- 50 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Living Seas-

Living Seas is a national marine conservation campaign run by the Wildlife Trusts. The North East Wildlife Trusts are involved in the process to identify and designate Marine Protected Areas in North East waters as part of the Net Gain project. There does not seem to be any documentation from this project.

Living Waterways- The Living Waterways project is an Environment Agency initiative delivered through the Durham, Northumberland and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts to develop solutions to reduce flood risk in urban areas integrating improvements to wildlife habitats. There does not seem to be any documentation from this project.

Wild Woods Project- The aim of the project is to care for Milkwellburn Wood, Witton Dene, Flass Vale, Pelaw Wood, Blaid's Wood, Great High Wood and Hollinside Wood, which all contain areas of ancient woodland. There are some Newsletters to download.

Hylton Dene Project- Aims to manage Hylton Dene, a Local Nature Reserve. It includes Hylton Castle, the Main Dene, Tiledsheds, Bunny Hill and Colliery Pond. There does not seem to be any documentation from this project.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust (<http://www.nwt.org.uk/>)

The site is focussed on campaigning and fund raising. There seems to be no documented conservation projects and consequently no document downloads.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (<http://teeswildlife.org/new/>)

The site contains some information on Boro Becks and Hardwick Dene projects. There does not seem to be any documentation from these projects.

Tees River Trust (<http://teesriverstrust.org/>)

The site is a recent development and contains little content at present. There is information on objectives and emerging projects.

Durham Biodiversity Partnership (<http://www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk/index.html>)

The site contains information on the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan. This includes Newsletters.

There are a number of current sub projects-

Barn Owls-The Action Plan is available.

Durham Veteran trees-the sub project has a web site (<http://www.durhamveterantrees.org.uk/>) that contains recording data downloads and Veteran Tree Management guides, newsletters, and Trees of County Durham by John McBain

River Derwent Grass Snakes Survey and Habitat conservation and restoration.-The Action Plan is available.

Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary – The Action Plan is available.

There is some information from past projects-

Chester-le-Street Biodiversity Project-Final project report and reports from local conservation groups are available.

Coalfields and Lowlands-reports including some site based descriptions and invertebrate survey data.

Coastal Soft Cliff Invertebrates-the Action Plan and Report are available.

Hedgerow Survey-a Report and survey results are available.

Juniper Regeneration-the Action plan is available.

Magical Meadows-Sedgefield species inventories, a roadside verge report, sites review, fen and woodland survey, project leaflets and Fen classification are available.

Road Verge Reserves-reports on surveys in Derwentside, Upper Teesdale, Teesdale, and Weardale are available.

Tees Valley BAP (<http://teesvalleybiodiversity.org.uk/>)

The site contains a priority habitat and species document, newsletter and conference presentations. It also includes action plans.

Local Authorities

Local Authority web sites normally have downloadable leaflets describing the various nature reserves and other countryside sites that they manage.

Gateshead Council

(<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/countryside/sites/home.aspx>)

Durham County Council (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=6326>)

Northumberland (<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=645>)

Darlington

(<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Environment/Countryside+and+Rights+of+Way/RoW/selfguidedwalks.htm>)

Stockton-on-Tees

(<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/citizenservices/environment/parksandopen/parksopenspace/>)

Sunderland (<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=766>)

Durham Heritage Coast

(<http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org/DHC/usp.nsf/pws/Durham+Heritage+Coast+-+Durham+Heritage+Coast+-+Welcome>)

This is part of the Durham County Council web site. There are leaflets, steering group minutes, newsletters, development and management plans and wildlife guide leaflets covering birds, invertebrates, marine mammals, plants, sand dunes, seashore

North East Biodiversity Forum (<http://www.nebiodiversity.org.uk/>)

This is a site that brings together all the organisations working for nature conservation in Durham and Northumberland. The site contains the Biodiversity Audit, sources of funding,

market research, policy, planning, and management documents, justifications and awareness raising documents.

Tees Valley RIGS (<http://www.tvrigns.org.uk/>)

This site provides information on the geology of the Tees Valley and promotes conservation of important geological sites. The documents available are the Geo-diversity Action plan, and site based descriptions.

Industry and Nature Conservation Association (<http://www.inca.uk.com/>)

This is a membership site for industrial organisation. The content includes the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme, species management and review reports.

Field Clubs

All the club sites have details of membership, meetings and events.

Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club (<http://www.clevelandnats.org.uk/>)

The site includes a complete series of Cleveland Naturalists' Record of Proceedings available. There is also information on Cleveland Flora, Bird Watching, Seals and Entomology.

Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club (<http://www.dtnfc.org/>)

Annual reports produced by the Club and reports on field excursions are available.

The Natural History Society of Northumbria (<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/>)

The journal Northumbrian Naturalist and Bulletin is available to members; these documents are successors to the Transactions.

Alnwick Wildlife Group (<http://www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk/>)

The groups' web site contains newsletters and sightings documents.

Annfield Plain and District Naturalist Club (<http://apdnc.co.uk/>)

The web site contains some material on the history of the club with images, and records from field excursions.

**Consett and Vale of Derwent Naturalist Field Club
(<http://www.rambler.derwentside.org.uk/welcome/welcome.htm>)**

The web site contains some material on the history of the club with images, and information on current and past activities.

Berwick Wildlife Group (<http://www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk/>)

The group provides extensive reports and data on the Lepidoptera of Berwickshire, bats, small mammals, butterfly transect reports, Tommy-the-Millers Field Berwick, Butterfly survey Cocklawburn, Whin Sill grasslands, lichens and mosses, rockpools, Creeping Buttercup, Squirrels, road verges, and birds. There are also extensive newsletters and proceedings. This must be one of the most active natural history groups as far as electronic publishing is concerned.

North east Geological Society (<http://www.northeast-geolsoc.50megs.com/>)

The society runs this web site and publishes a Newsletter.

Bird Clubs

All the club sites include information on membership, events, links, and sightings.

Teesmouth Bird Club (<http://www.teesmouthbc.com/main.aspx>)

This site includes checklist downloads and also includes reports of non-bird species in the forum.

Durham Bird Club (<http://www.durhambirdclub.org/dbc.pl>)

The site includes notes and papers for members. The club is promoting a Birds of Durham Heritage Project which includes papers and information including slideshows, and an interactive map.

Gateshead Birders (<http://www.gatesheadbirders.co.uk/>)

The clubs' site includes many records in various groups apart from birds. The records are compiled into web pages.

RSPB Cleveland Group (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/cleveland>)

The site includes trip reports.

North Northumberland Bird Group (<http://www.northnorthumberlandbirdclub.co.uk/>)

The club compiles sightings on their web site.

Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club (<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>)

The site has a number of publications for sale, and issues a monthly Bulletin for members.

Birdwatch Northumbria (<http://www.birdwatchnorthumbria.co.uk/>)

This site is owned by a bird tour company. The site includes trip reports.

Mammals

Durham County Badger Group

(<http://www.durhamcountybadgers.co.uk/page.php?pageid=1>)

All the information on this site is in the form of web pages focussed mainly on details of the species and its' protection and conservation.

Durham Bat Group (<http://www.durhambats.org.uk/findex.htm>)

The groups' web site contains extensive and detailed information on bats in Durham. There is also detailed information on study equipment. There is also a facility for submitting records. There are 10 km distribution maps based on roost and observations.

Mycology

North East Fungi Study Group (<http://www.nefsg.co.uk/>)

This is a membership based club for local field mycologists. The web site includes newsletters for members.

British Mycological Society (<http://www.fieldmycology.net/>)

The society provides full and open access to the records database to which the North East Fungi Study Group actively contribute.

Reptiles and Amphibians

John Durkin Ecology (<http://www.durhamnature.co.uk/amphibiansreptilesandfish.html>)

Contains atlases and identification guides.

Blogs and Personal Websites covering Durham and Northumberland.

UK and Eire Natural History Bloggers (<http://uknhb.blogspot.com/p/map.html>)

This is a blog directory.

The Vasculum (www.the-vasculum.com)

This is a website being developed to provide an electronic archive of previous paper based and future electronic issues of the *The Vasculum*.

Bird watching diaries (most also cover other groups)

Dusty Bins (<http://dustybins.blogspot.com/>)

Bedlington Wanderer (<http://northumbrianbirding.blogspot.com/>)

Northumbrian Birding (<http://northumbrianbirding.blogspot.com/>)

PC Wandering (<http://wwwpcfblogcom.blogspot.com/>)

This blog has some focus on Prestwick Carr and environs.

Liverbirder (<http://liverbirder.blogspot.com/>)

Richard Dunn (<http://richarddunn.blogspot.com/>)

Beadnall Birding (<http://beadnell-birding.blogspot.com/>)

Wild Up North (<http://wildupnorth.blogspot.com/>)

This blog has some focus on Whitley Bay and environs.

Boulmer Birds (<http://www.boulmerbirder.blogspot.com/>)

Crammy Birder (<http://crammybirding.blogspot.com/>)

Howden Blogger (<http://howdonblogger.blogspot.com/>)

Segedunum Warbler (<http://sedgedunumwarbler.blogspot.com/>)

Holywell Birding (<http://holywellbirding.blogspot.com/>)

Ipins Wildlife (<http://ipinswildlifeblog.blogspot.com/>)

Blyth Birding (<http://blythbirding.blogspot.com/>)

Stephen Keightley's Cleveland Birds (<http://www.aviabird.net/birding/index.htm>)

Budget Birder (<http://birdingstmarys.blogspot.com/>)

Has a focus on St Marys Island

Botany Blogs

Ptyxis Botany Blog (<http://ptyxis.blogspot.com/>)

A Digital Botanic Eye (<http://digitalbotanicgarden.blogspot.com/>)

A Botanical Notebook-Teesdale(<http://www.davygoat.com/botany/teesdale/index.html>)

Lepidoptera

VC66 Moths (<http://www.vc66.co.uk/mothweb/main.htm>)

VC 66 Moths is a mothing diary based on years and VC66 sites. It contains images of the moths found.

General Naturalist Blogs

Cabinet of Curiosities (<http://cabinetofcuriosities-greenfingers.blogspot.com/>)

Beyond the Human Eye (<http://beyondthehumaneye.blogspot.com/>)

These blogs are compiled by Phil Gates who also produces a Guardian Country Diary, Elegies from a Suburban Garden and A Digital Botanic Eye.

Abbey Meadows-Wansbeck and beyond (<http://www.abbeymeadows.blogspot.com/>)

This blog is focussed on the Wansbeck Valley and environs.

Waldridge Naturalist (<http://waldridgenaturalist.blogspot.com/>)

Dave Barlow (<http://davebarlow.co.uk/>)

ST (<http://st---st.blogspot.com/>)

Northumberland Naturalist (<http://northumberlandnaturalist.blogspot.com/>)

SERENITY (<http://www.thefarneislands.blogspot.com/>)

Has a focus on the Farne Islands

The Orthosia Enthusiast (<http://theorthosiaenthusiast.blogspot.com/>)

Durham University Biodiversity Survey (<http://dunelmbiodiversity.blogspot.com/>)

Elegies from a Suburban Garden (<http://elegiesfromasuburbangarden.blogspot.com/>)

Newspaper Column

Phil Gates Country Diary (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/philgates>)

This contains many reflections mainly on the natural history of Durham and Northumberland.

Some Interesting Residents of Tees Valley Brownfield Sites

Robert Woods, Industry and Nature Conservation Association

Some industrial sites in the Tees Valley, formerly the old county of Cleveland in North East England, have a very special assemblage of flora and fauna. This is often a factor of the habitat type and because some larger sites have areas that do not have public access and have remained undisturbed for many years, this allows nature to flourish.

One such site in the North Tees area of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is an operating brinefield. Habitat on this site consists of a rich mosaic, including relic saltmarsh and areas which now have saltmarsh vegetation as a result of deliberate application of brine as a nature conservation measure to encourage habitat rich in saltmarsh plants. Saltmarsh is a rare habitat in the Tees Valley and is also a UKBAP priority habitat.



Habitat at North Tees including relic saltmarsh

Many specialised saltmarsh plants occur on this site, including various species of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). In surveys of the moths of this site during 2010 a number of scarce species were found that specialise as larvae in feeding on saltmarsh plants. Of the species found at least 5 were regionally significant, but even more exciting is just how abundant some of the scarcer species were. This includes the Dog's Tooth (*Lacanobia suasa*), recorded on 17th June 2010 and the Saltern Ear (*Amphipoea fucosa*) recorded on the 4th August 2010. At least 40 individuals of the former species and 20 of the latter were found in surveys during summer 2010, indicating that both are well established on the site. This finding is important, especially in view of the fact that both

species were previously known only from a very few records in North East England. The record of Saltern Ear is particularly noteworthy as it is the first for County Durham (VC66) and is some 100 miles north of the nearest known established colony at Spurn Point in Yorkshire.



Dog's Tooth



Saltern Ear

In addition to the Dog's Tooth and Saltern Ear other significant records of moths from the same site include specialised saltmarsh species such as the Crescent Striped (*Apamea oblonga*), which is associated with various species of Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia* spp.). Four examples of this species were recorded on 4th August 2010 and the site is one of only two currently known locations for this species in North East England.

Several interesting microlepidopteran species were also found on the same site. Of these, *Coleophora salicorniae* was represented by six moths which were recorded on 4th August

2010. This is the first record for VC66 and currently appears to be the most northerly record for this species in the UK, the nearest again being Spurn Point.

The Gelechiid *Scrobipalpa salinella*, of which three were recorded on 17th June 2010, is the first record for VC66 since at least 1912. Both species are known to use various species of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.) as larval foodplant. These plants abound in parts of the brinefield site.

Industrial sites across the Tees estuary are also home to a significant amount of reedbed, which is part of the habitat mosaic found on such sites. This is in itself a scarce habitat, being listed as a UKBAP priority habitat.



Phragmites reedbed on a North Tees brownfield site

Many of the reedbeds in the northern part of the Tees estuary and in Billingham have become important for wainscot species which are at the northern edge of their range. As more of the larger reedbeds are investigated it is increasingly being found to be the case that those which are dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) support established populations of Brown-veined Wainscot (*Archanara dissoluta*), Obscure Wainscot (*Mythimna obsoleta*) and Southern Wainscot (*Mythimna straminea*). These species were first reported in the Teesmouth area during 2004 and 2005 from a reedbed at Dorman's Pool (Jamie Duffie, pers.comm.).

In addition the Fen Wainscot (*Arenostola phragmitidis*) is the most recent to have been found to have become established. Apart from one record originating from 1976 during survey of a reedbed at Haverton Hill in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees (Russell McAndrew, pers.comm.) it was hitherto unknown. Studies at four sites in the North Tees and Billingham areas over the 2009 and 2010 seasons have shown the species to be resident at a low density on all of these sites, with records spanning the period mid July to mid August.



Fen Wainscot



Obscure Wainscot

These results are from baseline studies carried out by Robert Woods of the Tees Industry Nature Conservation Association (INCA). Some of the results derive from a brownfield invertebrate habitat creation project which is being conducted in partnership with Buglife, the Invertebrate Conservation Trust and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The data illustrate how important brownfield sites are for sensitive environmental indicators such as moths. Thankfully many industrial organisations also show a great deal of support in conserving areas on their sites which are recognised as being important for wildlife

Acknowledgement

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