

SHERWOOD FOREST SHEET 1

THE MOTHS OF

Nearly 2,500 species of moth are found across the country, with well over 800 being found at Sherwood Forest. Even though a large number of species occur here, smaller woods with a wider range of trees and plants, can have even more. The species range at Sherwood Forest is limited, as the forest is dominated by Oak and Silver Birch and lacks the nectar bearing flowers that other sites in the county have. But Sherwood Forest is unique in habitat.



Ancient Oak and Birch woodland and lowland heath, both have moths specific to them and rely on the availability of this habitat to survive. The Small Elephant Hawk-moth, is something of a heathland specialist. At Sherwood Forest, it is found in the more open areas, where Bedstraw grows. Like most moths, the adults fly after dark, but Sherwood now has one moth that is active only during the day.

The Welsh Clearwing was only discovered here in 2008, by Sherwood Forest Ranger Gary Joynt. Gary's discovery meant that over the past few years, people from other parts of the country, have come to see this moth. But despite flying during the day, a special scent lure has to be used to attract it.



Sherwood's other moths are easier to see, and special moth nights are held each year and are increasing in popularity. These public moth trapping events, go a long way to changing how many people view moths. Very soon, the common belief that all moths are brown has gone. Moths come in a huge variety of colours and sizes. Though most moths are not as brightly coloured as butterflies, their beauty comes in their intricate markings and wing patterns.

Moths such as the Scorched Wing and Brimstone, both occur commonly on Sherwood Forest moth nights. So come along to one, you never know just what will turn up!



Moths illustrated

- 1 Small Elephant Hawk-moth
- 2 Welsh Clearwing
- 3 Brimstone Moth
- 4 Scorched Wing
- 5 Red Underwing
- 6 Merveille du Jour
- 7 Sallow

