

# The current status and distribution of Psychidae moths in Nottinghamshire

Third edition 2026



Trevor and Dilys Pendleton  
[www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com)

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## Contents

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.01 Aims and objectives of this publication
- 1.02 Sources of information and references

### 2.0 UK Psychidae

- 2.01 UK Psychidae species list
- 2.02 Changes/confusion within Psychidae nomenclature
- 2.03 Psychidae in Nottinghamshire
- 2.04 Psychidae in Derbyshire and Leicestershire
- 2.05 2026 Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire species' lists

### 3.0 Survey sites

### 4.0 Species accounts and distribution maps

- 4.01 *Diplodoma laichartingella*
- 4.02 *Narycia duplicella*
- 4.03 *Dahlica triquetrella*
- 4.04 *Dahlica inconspicella*
- 4.05 *Dahlica lichenella*
- 4.06 *Taleporia tubulosa*
- 4.07 *Bankesia conspurcatella*
- 4.08 *Luffia lapidella*
- 4.09 *Psyche casta*

### 5.0 Species photographs

## 1.0 Introduction

The past 20 years or so, has continued to see a growth in interest in the UK's Psychidae moth fauna, and in Nottinghamshire at least, I like to think that much of this interest, has come as a direct result of the recording efforts and publicity, which Dilys and myself gave to this fascinating family of micro moths.

Unfortunately, of course, Dilys is no longer with us, but the huge amount of invertebrate recording work she did while she was alive, is partly represented here and without the combination of both our time and effort, this publication would probably never have happened in the first place. Since Dilys's death in 2019, I have continued to record the larval cases of Psychidae moths wherever I visit and after the last edition of this atlas back in 2015, I believe that there's a real need for an update.

It was back in 2008, when we published the results of many hours survey work, sometimes in what might seem some unusual, or at least surprising locations. But that's partly what we found so attractive about Psychidae moths, because you can find them in all habitats, from nature reserves, ancient woodland, lowland heathland, to street trees in suburbia, industrial estate fences, to cemeteries. Most sites can contain at least one species and, in this report, there is an updated list of sites and the Psychidae moths known from those sites. In effect, you may be far closer to a Psychidae larva than you think.

Whilst some of this greater interest may be due to the fact that their larval cases can be looked for during the Winter months, the life history of many Psychidae also means they make interesting study and recorders have continued to record them, including some for the first time in the last couple of years.

Some Psychidae are parthenogenetic, meaning that males are unknown in some species, with females both self-fertile and wingless. Psychidae larvae also construct mobile silken cases, often adorned with lichen, grains of sand, insect fragments and a range of small pieces of vegetation. The larvae live within their case throughout the larval stage, often enlarging the case or even constructing new ones as they mature.

As it's now some 18 years since the first publication of this Atlas of Nottinghamshire Psychidae and the interest in this family of moths it originally generated (and still does to some extent) this third edition, marks a thorough update of the family locally to VC56 Nottinghamshire.

That's not to say that the neighbouring counties of Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, haven't been left out. I think that all three counties have increased the number of species on their respective lists and a more accurate distribution of the UK's Psychidae in all four local counties, has been achieved. However, at the beginning of 2006, Nottinghamshire was not one of those counties, originally having a much smaller Psychidae list than the neighbouring counties of Leicestershire or Derbyshire. This report is an update to the original report Dilys and I produced back in 2008 and then updated in 2015 and much of it has been re-written to include records up to and including 2025.

### 1.01 Aims and objectives of this publication

Dilys's and my own interest in Psychidae moths, began back in 2005 and we looked for them pretty much constantly throughout the next 13 or 14 years, until Dilys lost her battle with cancer in 2019. I have continued to record Psychidae moths since and they still have a huge fascination for me. Living in the heart of the Sherwood Forest area certainly helped with our early searches and subsequent mapping. But we also found that some species inhabited the trees and walls, deep within the city of Nottingham and in the towns of Mansfield, Newark and Worksop.

Further searching since the last edition of this atlas, produced many new records from 1Km grid squares showed on the accompanying distribution maps and helped fill in many of the blank areas which existed back in 2015. These are produced further on in this atlas and have been completely revised and updated.

Like most micro-moths, there seemed to have been little effort to record Psychidae moths in Nottinghamshire, before Dilys and I took a specific interest and a good percentage of the then known county records, were often the result of casual sightings/records, rather than a deliberate attempt to properly look for them. There is still a great deal to learn about the distribution of Psychidae moths within Nottinghamshire and this report, again serves to try and increase greater interest and to continue to show their current status within the county for the third time.

## 1.02 Sources of information and references

Our thanks go to the following people who provided their assistance, in coming forward with information relating to county records for the original publication of the atlas in 2008.

Mark Skevington for information relating to the status of Leicestershire records and species, Dave Budworth (Derbyshire records) Sheila Wright (Nottinghamshire records) and to Henk ten Holt for his invaluable ID help in the past and for his suggestions/corrections and assistance in writing the Psychidae nomenclature section.

## 2.0 UK Psychidae

The Psychidae certainly represent some of the strangest of moths and are sometimes more commonly known as "Bagworms". The term 'Bagworm' is of American origin and derived from the case which the larva constructs around itself as it grows. The case is based on a silk tube which can be circular in cross-section or distinctly triangular. The larvae of some species attach various items of plant, lichens, algae, sand, insects and debris to the outside of the case, which can be extreme, especially with regards to the case of *Diplodoma laichartingella*.

Although many species produce cases which are readily identifiable in the field through a combination of shape, size and material used, this cannot always be guaranteed with 100% certainty between those species constructing very similar cases of around the same size. The commonest of the three *Dahlica* species are examples of this, but then these can be further confused with the similar looking case of *Narycia duplicella*. However, I'm firmly of the opinion that these cases can be determined safely, if the recorder has some years of experience of these species.

Entomologists have found that correct identification of the *Dahlicas* can come from the discarded pupal head-plate after emergence, rather than genitalia dissection. Examination under a microscope is quite easy to determine the species, by carefully checking the antennal length on the head-plate. The head-plate usually remains attached to the pupa after emergence. *Dahlica* larvae are difficult to separate on physical characteristics.

### Pupal head-plates

Comparison of the pupal headplates of *Dahlica inconspicuella* and *Dahlica lichenella* (far right) The images are not to scale, with both pupal head-plates measuring about 1mm in length.

The pictures do however, show the differences in the antennal lengths between the two species.

The third Nottinghamshire *Dahlica* - *Dahlica triquetrella*, was found new to the county in 2012 and is not illustrated here.



When in the field, a fairly accurate practice that we used to help separate *Narycia duplicella* cases from either *Dahlica lichenella* or *Dahlica inconspicuella*, was by counting the number of larval cases on a single particular tree or wall. As the *Dahlicas* are apterous (wingless) then large numbers of cases found within relatively small areas, or per tree trunk, often turned out to be one of these species. *Narycia duplicella* cases were often found singly, or in very low numbers, but cases found on some trees in Sherwood Forest, could contain two or even three species. To make certain of some identifications for which we had doubts, larval cases were brought home and reared in captivity to adult to confirm the identification.

Of all the UK's Psychidae, only *Narycia duplicella* and *Diplodoma laichartingella* have fully winged females, with all other species having apterous females. These tend to be sluggish, rarely move far after emergence and have a short life-span. One female *Dahlica lichenella* we reared in 2006, successfully emerged during the morning, but died within 6-8 hours of emergence. Eggs were laid directly into the old larval case and the case was later returned to the site of collection.

## 2.01 UK Psychidae species list

The current UK Psychidae species list totals 17 species, following the classification of *Luffia ferchaultella* as being a form of *Luffia lapidella*. The first numbers preceding each species refers to the numbering system and order of species, as used in the Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles (D. Agassiz, S. Beavan, R. Heckford. 2013). The old Bradley and Fletcher (B&F) numbers are also still provided.

### Family PSYCHIDAE

#### subfamily NARYCIINAE

- 11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella* (Goeze, 1783)
- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella* (Goeze, 1783)
- 11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hübner, [1813])
- 11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella* (Stainton, 1849)
- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761)

#### subfamily TALEPORIINAE

- 11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa* (Retzius, 1783)
- 11.007 B&F 0182 *Bankesia conspurcatella* (Zeller, 1850)

#### subfamily PSYCHIINAE

- 11.009 B&F 0184 *Luffia lapidella* (Goeze, 1783)
- 11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia ferchaultella* (Goeze, 1783) No longer regarded as a separate species, but as a form of *L. lapidella*
- 11.010 B&F 0183 *Bacotia claustrilla* (Bruand, 1845)
- 11.011 B&F 0188 *Proutia betulina* (Zeller, 1839)
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta* (Pallas, 1767)
- 11.013 B&F 0187 *Psyche crassiorella* (Bruand, 1850)
- 11.014 B&F 0189 *Epichnopteryx plumella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)
- 11.015 B&F 0190 *Whittleia retiella* (Newman, 1847)
- 11.016 B&F 0191 *Acanthopsyche atra* (Linnaeus, 1767)
- 11.017 B&F 0192 *Pachythelia villosella* (Ochsenheimer, 1810)
- 11.018 B&F 0195 *Sterrhopteryx fusca* (Haworth, 1809)

## 2.02 Changes/confusion within Psychidae nomenclature

Until only recently, it was thought that two *Luffia* species occurred in the UK, but the former *Luffia ferchaultella* (Stephens, 1850), is now regarded as a form of *Luffia lapidella*. Larvae and cases of these two species are identical and DNA tests showed that the two could not be separated. In effect, we now have just the one species of *Luffia lapidella*, including the form *Luffia lapidella f.ferchaultella*.

## 2.03 Psychidae in Nottinghamshire

Ken Cooper's 1993 listing for the county showed just five species recorded from Nottinghamshire, which consisted of *Diplodoma laichartingella*, *Narycia duplicella*, *Dahlica inconspicuella*, *Taleporia tubulosa* and *Psyche casta*. When Dilys and myself started our survey work back in 2006, the status and distribution of all Psychidae in Nottinghamshire was still almost completely unknown, with little interest and a great deal of under-recording showed at the time by the county's lepidopterists.

The most recent published Nottinghamshire moth list (Version 14.0/January 2026), lists a total of nine species of Psychidae moths as being found in the county, following the addition of *Bankesia conspurcatella* in 2021.

## 2.04 Psychidae in neighbouring counties

In 2006, Derbyshire and Leicestershire figured much better for their number of recorded Psychidae than Nottinghamshire, but both these counties had people who were willing to look for them. The three counties all listed *Narycia duplicella*, *Taleporia tubulosa*, *Diplodoma laichartingella* and *Psyche casta*.

Many of Leicestershire's records have come from Swithland Reservoir, which has *Luffia lapidella*, and not too recently, produced first county records of *Dahlica triquetrella*, *Dahlica lichenella* (both in 2005) and *Narycia duplicella* (2004).

Lincolnshire fares pretty well too, in its recorded species. It remains to be seen how long it takes before someone finally finds both *Dahlica triquetrella* and *Dahlica lichenella*, but at the envy of all three of its near neighbours, Lincolnshire is one of few counties in the UK to have *Psyche crassiorella* on its list and also has records of *Sterrhopteryx fusca*.

Psychidae in Derbyshire are presently represented by most of the more expected species and has just recorded its first *Dahlica triquetrella* and *Luffia lapidella* in early 2026. As far as I am aware, the Derbyshire records of both *Epichnopterix plumella* (Repton Shrubs 1920's) and *Acanthopsyche atra* were at one time considered somewhat doubtful, although *Acanthopsyche atra* has been found again since.

## 2.05 2026 Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire species' lists

Some 18 years since we first published 'The current status and distribution of Psychidae Moths in Nottinghamshire' back in 2008, Nottinghamshire has gained four new species in that time, putting it on a par with the neighbouring counties of Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

The following lists are believed to be correct at the end of January 2026.

Nottinghamshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Derbyshire
<i>Diplodoma laichartingella</i>	<i>Diplodoma laichartingella</i>	<i>Diplodoma laichartingella</i>	<i>Diplodoma laichartingella</i>
<i>Narycia duplicella</i>	<i>Narycia duplicella</i>	<i>Narycia duplicella</i>	<i>Narycia duplicella</i>
<i>Dahlica triquetrella</i>	<i>Dahlica triquetrella</i>		<i>Dahlica triquetrella</i>
<i>Dahlica inconspicuella</i>	<i>Dahlica inconspicuella</i>	<i>Dahlica inconspicuella</i>	<i>Dahlica inconspicuella</i>
<i>Dahlica lichenella</i>	<i>Dahlica lichenella</i>		
<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i>	<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i>	<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i>	<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i>
<i>Banksia conspurcatella</i>			
<i>Luffia lapidella</i>	<i>Luffia lapidella</i>	<i>Luffia lapidella</i>	<i>Luffia lapidella</i>
		<i>Proutia betulina</i>	
<i>Psyche casta</i>	<i>Psyche casta</i>	<i>Psyche casta</i>	<i>Psyche casta</i>
		<i>Psyche crassiorella</i>	
			<i>Epichnopterix plumella</i> *
			<i>Acanthopsyche atra</i>
		<i>Sterrhopteryx fusca</i>	

\* *Epichnopterix plumella* is on the Derbyshire list but record(s) considered to be doubtful.

### 3.0 Survey sites

The following is a list of all the sites surveyed to date (January 2026) with the Psychidae recorded present at each site.

#### **SK507334 Attenborough NR**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*

#### **SK816651 Besthorpe NR Former gravel pit**

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

#### **SK728766 Bevercotes Wood Former Pit Top adjacent to mixed woodland**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK703391 Bingham Linear Park**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

#### **SK637610 Bilsthorpe, Lime's Café Car Park Car park with mature trees**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

#### **SK650614 Bilsthorpe Former colliery site/woodland**

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK665718 Blackcliffe Hill Plantation Deciduous and coniferous woodland, adjacent to open heathland**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK669695 Boughton Brake Mixed woodland and coniferous plantation with partial Bramble undergrowth**

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK586663 Bradmer Hill Mixed woodland, areas of coniferous plantation with light Bramble undergrowth**

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK875740 Broadholme Rural/agricultural area**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK610715 Budby Carr Heathland and scrub**

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

#### **SK604704 Budby Pumping Station Deciduous woodland**

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

#### **SK620695 Budby South Forest Heathland**

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlia inconspicua*  
11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlia lichenella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK571684 Burns Lane, Market Warsop** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK645675 Burstheart Hill** Deciduous woodland with Bracken undergrowth

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK587524 Calverton, Longdale Lane** Mixed woodland

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK606727 Carburton** Roadside verge

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK626636 Centre Parcs** Woodland and heathland

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK567688 Church Warsop, Bishop's Walk** Urban area with street tree planting

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK590630 Clipstone** Urban area with street tree planting

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK605670 Clipstone Old Quarter** Coniferous plantation, with areas of heathland

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK615746 Clumber Park** Heathland

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK618718 Clumber Park** Deciduous woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK626746 Clumber Park** Parkland, heathland, mixed woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK628738 Clumber Park, Thorney Hill** Heathland, mixed woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK635756 Clumber Park** Parkland, heathland, mixed woodland

11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*

**SK636742 Clumber Park, South Lawns** Heathland

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK637749 Clumber Park, Tank Wood** Deciduous woodland with Bramble undergrowth

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK638776 Clumber Park** Roadside woodland on A57

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK642744 Clumber Park** Woodland/parkland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK642772 Clumber Park** Woodland/parkland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK643774 Clumber Park, Apleyhead Lodge area** Mixed woodland adjacent to grassland

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlia inconspicuella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK645779 Clumber Park**

11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlia inconspicuella*

**SK648752 Clumber Park** Roadside woodland on A614

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK642674 Cockglode Wood** Deciduous woodland/former colliery site

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK535741 Creswell Crags** Inland stone cliffs and woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK670751 Crookford** Mixed woodland/riverside habitat

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK559708 Cuckney** Woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK567699 Cuckney Hay Wood** Mixed woodland with coniferous plantation

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK648621 Cutt's Wood** Mixed woodland with coniferous plantation

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK613716 Duncan Wood** Mixed woodland with coniferous plantation with light Bramble undergrowth

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK665608 Eakring Brail Wood** Mixed woodland with coniferous plantation

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK678624 Eakring, Church Hill** Small copse within agricultural land

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK701620 Eakring Meadows NR** Grass/meadowland and marsh

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK728775 Eaton Wood** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK610709 Fanny's Grove** Mixed woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK727768 Gamston Wood** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK605723 Gibraltar Plantation** Largely coniferous plantation

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK595708 Gleadthorpe Breck Plantation** Deciduous woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK591658 Gorsethorpe** Agricultural farmland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK681437 Gunthorpe** Riverside village habitat

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlica triquetrella*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK559690 Hanger Hill Plantation** Deciduous Beech woodland with thin ground-cover

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK591773 Hannah Park** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK575706 Hatfield Plantation** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK607545 Haywood Oaks** Mixed woodland with coniferous plantation

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK603708 Hazel Gap** Deciduous woodland bordering arable farmland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK556680 Hills and Holes SSSI** Scrub/grassland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

**SK600698 Holborn Hill Plantation** Deciduous Beech woodland with thin ground-cover

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK875740 Hollyside** Rural garden

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

**SK612825 Hundred Acre Wood** Deciduous woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK699838 Idle Valley NR, Broom Wood** Deciduous woodland

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK713619 Kersall** Hedgerows with trees bordering meadowland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK516596 King's Mill Reservoir** Urban reservoir with surrounding scrub and mature trees

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK586622 King's Wood**

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK631452 Lambley** Rural village

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK811611 Langford Lowfields**

11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

**SK537691 Lord Stubbins Wood**

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK677636 Lound Wood** Mixed woodland

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*  
11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicua*  
11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*  
11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**Lowdham Churchyard** Village churchyard

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK670462 Lowdham, Cricket Ground** Village amenity area

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK539607 Mansfield** Urban area

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlica triquetrella*

**SK546595 Mansfield, Berry Hill** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*  
11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK540589 Mansfield Cemetery** Old cemetery in urban area

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK540632 Mansfield Woodhouse** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK563675 Market Warsop Mansfield Road** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK569691 Market Warsop Cemetery** Maintained cemetery/semi-urban

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*  
11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlia lichenella*

**SK5571684 Market Warsop Burns Lane** Urban/rural area

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK585689 Market Warsop STW** Agricultural land with hedgerows and occasional trees

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK586697 Meden Vale** Riverside/woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK711971 Misson Carr NR** Former MOD training area, with deciduous carr/woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK636401 Netherfield Lagoons** Riverside habitat/workings, in industrial area

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK550657 Nettleworth Manor** Parkland/agricultural

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK795543 Newark Railway Station** Urban area

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*

**SK575632 Newlands** Mixed woodland edging urban area

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK607658 New Lodge Plantation** Deciduous woodland

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK526645 North Lodge Farm** Farmland with some stone, boundary walls

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK591434 Nottingham, Gretton Road** Suburban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK557428 Nottingham, Perry Road** Suburban area with street tree planting

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK593433 Nottingham, Sandford Road** Suburban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK565440 Nottingham City Hospital** Suburban hospital with some mature trees/parkland

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*

11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlia lichenella*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK581382 Nottingham, Trent Bridge/Victoria Embankment** Urban area

11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella*

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK586375 Nottingham, West Bridgford** Urban area

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK562687 Ollerton** Roadside woodland

11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK 678673 Ollerton Pit Woods** Reclaimed former colliery/brownfield site

- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK591590 Rainworth Heath** Heathland

- 11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*
- 11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*
- 11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*
- 11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK569613 Ratcher Way, Mansfield** Industrial Estate/brownfield site

- 11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*

**SK565655 Redbrick House** Deciduous woodland

- 11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK695814 Retford Cemetery** Old cemetery in urban area

- 11.003 B&F 0176 *Dahlica triquetrella*
- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*
- 11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK642646 Rufford CP** Parkland/deciduous woodland

- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK613716 Scotland Farm** Coniferous plantation

- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK627678 Sherwood Forest CP** Ancient deciduous woodland

- 11.001 B&F 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*
- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*
- 11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*
- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*
- 11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*
- 11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK628686 Sherwood Forest, Thoresby Colliery**

- 11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK647675 Sherwood Heath SSSI** Heathland

- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK615635 Sherwood Pines/Centre Parcs** Largely coniferous woodland/plantation

- 11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*
- 11.004 B&F 0177 *Dahlica inconspicuella*
- 11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*
- 11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK550663 Sookholme** Roadside bridge in rural area

- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

**SK637416 Stoke Bardolph** Urban, industrialised area

- 11.005 B&F 0179 *Dahlica lichenella*

**SK576603 Strawberry Hill Heath** Restored heathland

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK539572 Thieves Wood** Mixed Woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK637691 Thoresby Estate, Buck Gates** Ancient woodland

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

**SK638710 Thoresby Estate, Thoresby Hall** Parkland

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK736710 Tuxford Churchyard** Village churchyard

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK762793 Treswell Wood** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK664710 Walesby Forest** Mixed woodland and heathland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK545685 Warsop Main Pit Top** Young woodland on former Colliery spoil heap

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK554694 Warsop Wood** Broadleaved woodland with Bracken undergrowth

11.006 B&F 0181 *Taleporia tubulosa*

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK588504 Watchwood/Calverton Colliery** Coniferous woodland bordering former colliery site

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK682671 Wellow Park** Deciduous woodland

11.012 B&F 0186 *Psyche casta*

**SK669662 Wellow School** Parkland/large garden

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

**SK585501 Worksop, Anston Avenue** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

11.007 B&F 0182 *Banksia conspurcatella* (Zeller, 1850)

11.009 B&F 0185 *Luffia lapidella*

**SK595799 Worksop, Kilton Road** Urban area with street tree planting

11.002 B&F 0175 *Narycia duplicella*

## 4.0 Species accounts

The species accounts have been brought up to date, to provide a general account of each species, detail the criteria given below and provide notes of preferred habitat, details on notable sites and numbers (including where populations are fragile and worthy of greater awareness and protection) and available notes on success when reared in captivity.

**Nottinghamshire status:** Is given as either common, rare or very rare etc. This is only a guide based solely on our findings and records at the end of January 2026. Many sites have yet to be surveyed, so species status is subject to future change.

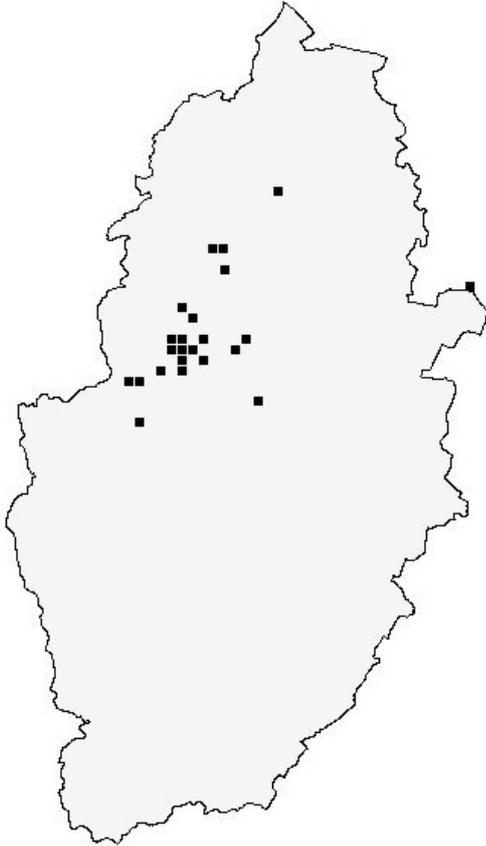
**Number of locations:** For example, 34/120 means that the moth (in any stage) has been recorded from 34 locations out of a total of 120 sites surveyed, or records received from, as at the end of January 2026.

#### 4.01 *Diplodoma laichartingella* (Goeze, 1783)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Largely confined to the Sherwood Forest area, but extends north through Clumber Park.

**Number of locations:** Was 6/80 in 2015. Now 19/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** Mature cases 9.0mm - 11.5mm, being much smaller during the first year. Cases covered with particles of sand, bark and insect fragments etc.



Appears to be a fairly widespread moth although mostly restricted to the Sherwood Forest area, but always in small numbers at any one site. *Diplodoma laichartingella* has a current range extending away from its stronghold of Sherwood Forest, through and including Clumber Park, to isolated records as far north as the Idle Valley NR and east to Broadholme.

The larval cases remained difficult to find during the Winter months, but once the usual choice of over-wintering site was discovered, finding cases became considerably easier. Over-wintering cases were usually located deep in hollows formed at the base of Beech trees, but usually tucked well inside and difficult to spot.

This species was easiest to find during the Winter in Beech woodland such as Holborn Hill and Hanger Hill Plantations where the underlying vegetation is sparse, a key factor in most habitats where *Diplodoma laichartingella* occurred. Although this habitat produced the largest numbers of larval cases, it was by no means entirely restricted to this habitat, but larvae did seem to prefer smooth-barked trees. Other Sherwood Forest sites containing areas of Beech (and from where the moth was recorded) were Gibraltar Plantation and Duncan Wood, whilst there were records away from the traditional Sherwood Forest area, at both Boughton Brake near Walesby and Lound Wood at Eakring.

Records away from Beech woodland came from Clipstone Old Quarter, Bradmer Hill, Sherwood Forest CP and Budby South Forest, from where there was just one case found.

In April 2006, the larval cases of seven *Diplodoma laichartingella* were found climbing the trunk of one ancient Oak, deep in woodland at Bradmer Hill, indicating that *Diplodoma laichartingella* was probably selective in its choice of egg laying site and takes full advantage of any suitable location and we never recorded similar numbers on a single tree again. Cases were even found on some old Oaks that were situated deep within coniferous plantations, where all these Oaks had long since lost their bark and the groundcover in the immediate area was sparse.

In 2014, our belief that *D. laichartingella* was restricted to woodland and heathland was proved very wrong, when numerous young larval cases were found on metal railings at an industrial estate off Crown Farm Way in Mansfield. The site is relatively near to the Sherwood Golf Club and built on part of the former Crown Farm Colliery.

Few first-year larval cases have ever found during the survey and the range of material that some mature larvae incorporated into their cases was considerable. Of all the examples we found, the one shown in the photographs which follow, was by far the most extreme. It measured approximately 11.5mm in length and on close examination, the case was found to contain at least one spider moult, pieces of bark and sand, a lepidopterous larval head moult (probably one of its own) numerous sections of different beetles including the elytra of a Weevil species and one complete Earwig moult.

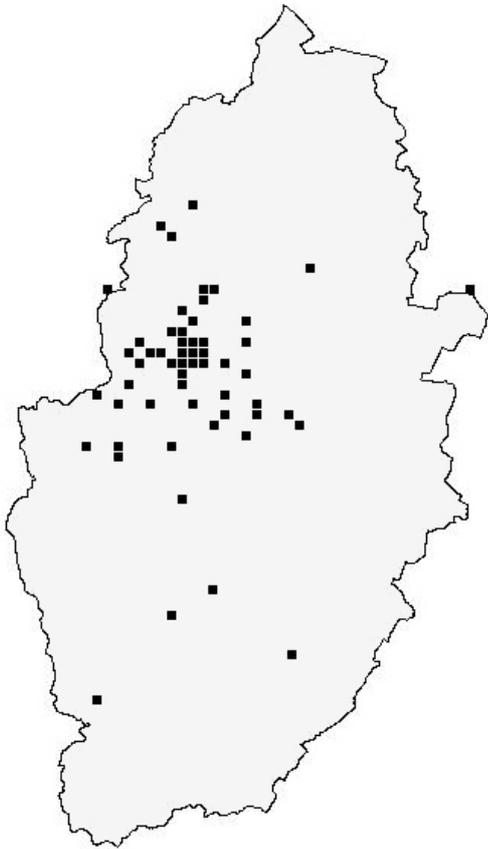
Mature larvae and their extraordinary cases, are often recorded climbing the trunks of trees in May and June.

#### 4.02 *Narycia duplicella* (Goeze, 1783)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Common and widespread. Occurs in suburban locations.

**Number of locations:** Was 42/80 in 2015. Now 55/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 5.0mm - 7.5mm, covered with algae and lichen particles and sometimes with a distinctive lateral and dorsal flange, not seen on the cases of *Dahlica lichenella* or *Dahlica inconspicua*.



*Narycia duplicella* represents the most widespread species of all Nottinghamshire Psychidae, occurring at most of the locations visited and surveyed. Although the larval cases of this moth were found commonly in the Sherwood Forest area, there were suitable looking locations where it was found to be absent.

Active larval cases were generally found in small numbers (usually less than five per tree) but cases can remain in place for several years where they are protected from the elements. Old cases are often the most easily found during the Winter months, generally remaining higher off the ground at the pupation site. Active cases tended to be much lower at this time, occasionally being found in bark crevices at ground-level, although finding these was often completely by chance.

During March and sometimes even in February if the weather was mild, larvae became more active and could be found moving up trees and (more rarely) stone walls to begin feeding prior to pupation. Trees and walls covered in the lichen *Lepraria incana* were particularly favoured larval feeding sites, but cases were also found regularly on trees with virtually no lichen on them at all.

Although *Narycia duplicella* was most frequently found in wooded areas, there were several urban locations where cases were found. Odd larval cases were found on roadside trees at King's Mill Reservoir, Mansfield Woodhouse, Newlands and Berry Hill areas of Mansfield, at Mapperley in Nottingham and along Kilton Road in central Worksop. Larval cases were also found alongside those of other species, including *Dahlica lichenella* and *Luffia lapidella*.

Rearing larvae of *Narycia duplicella* was relatively easy in captivity. Active cases were collected early in the year and then transferred to an algae or lichen covered piece of wood or bark, which was then placed into a large clear plastic container and kept indoors.



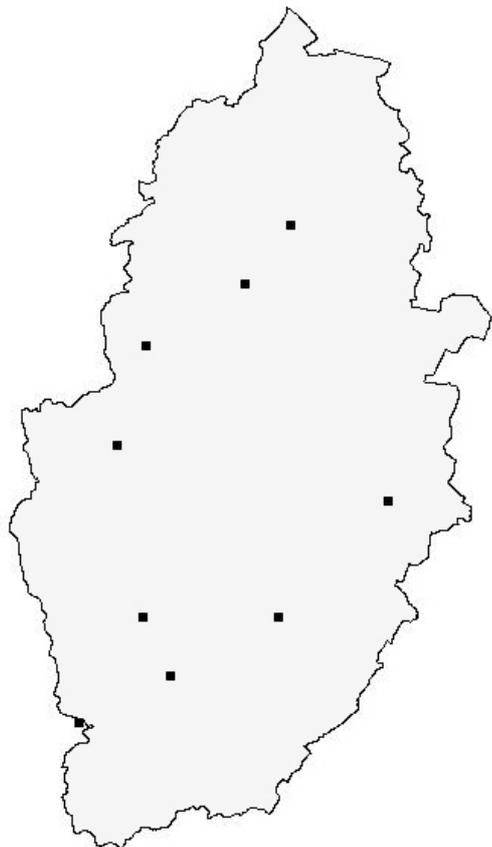
The wood or bark was very occasionally, lightly sprayed with water and kept as free from mould as possible. Continued feeding took place over the following few weeks, until the larva attached the case securely and pupated. Adults hatched within about three weeks, were photographed and then released.

#### 4.03 *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hübner, [1813])

**Nottinghamshire status:** Formerly very rare, when restricted to a single Nottinghamshire site. Records increasing.

**Number of locations:** Was 1/80 in 2015. Now 8/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 8.5mm - 10.5mm. Three-sided case and similar to the cases of our other two *Dahlicas*, but noticeably longer and usually with insect fragments etc near the mouth of the case.



Only added to the Nottinghamshire list, when a number of *Dahlica triquetrella* cases were found on the Nottinghamshire side of the flood wall at Attenborough NR by Richard Rogers and on the Derbyshire side (also new to Derbyshire) by Eddie Nurcome in March 2012. Further occupied cases were later found on both sides of the flood wall by Jerry Clough.

The cases are virtually identical to both other *Dahlicas*, but are slightly larger, covered particles of soil/sand and with fragments of insects (often a key feature towards identification) and generally much cleaner looking, free from algal growth and in larger numbers than either of the other two *Dahlicas*.

This is one moth, which has benefitted from the increased awareness in Psychidae by greater publicity in the family. When the last edition of this atlas was published just over ten years ago, *Dahlica triquetrella* was known only from the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border at Attenborough NR. But it has proved to be found at a number of scattered sites, several of which are along the River Trent, where there are records from Gunthorpe, Trent Bridge and Newark. But larval cases can often be found in the older parts of a number of cemeteries and churchyards in the county.

Retford Cemetery holds numbers of *Dahlica triquetrella* cases, as does the one at Market Warsop, where it only seemed to appear a few years ago, despite much coverage from Dilys and myself over a number of years. In late October 2015, we found several active larval cases at Newark Railway Station, but it is not known if they remain on site, as there was some redevelopment work carried out a few years ago.



Elsewhere in Nottinghamshire and away from the Trent Valley, there are records from woodland at Clumber Park alongside the A614, from Nottingham City Hospital, especially from the road bridge on Hucknall Road, and from the centre of Mansfield, where it was found in 2025.

Interestingly, some specifically targeted searches for Psychidae larval cases in early 2026, have just confirmed *Dahlica triquetrella* as new for Derbyshire, when it was recorded from several churchyards just over the border from Nottinghamshire. Such sites across Nottinghamshire (if checked) should reveal *Dahlica triquetrella* to be even more widespread than it currently is.

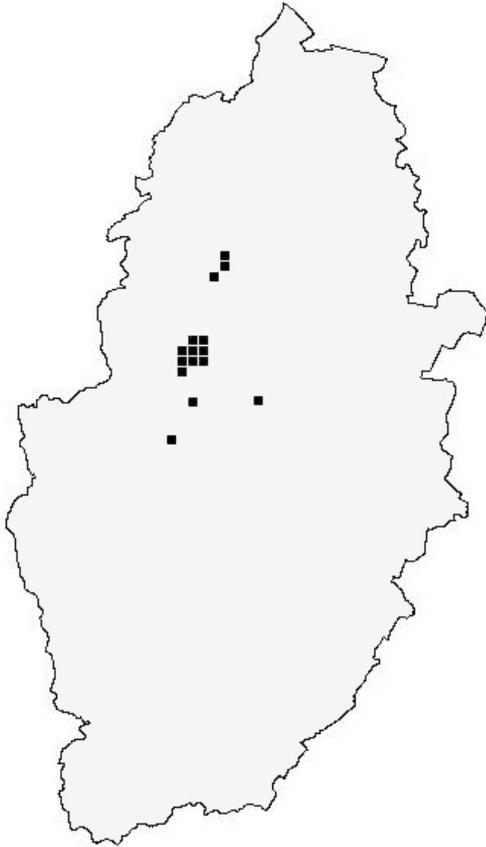
Cemeteries, bridges and long-standing walls are all suitable places to check. Sometimes larval cases are restricted to just one or two headstones, but they're often found in good numbers with several cases tucked up together.

#### 4.04 *Dahlica inconspicuella* (Stainton, 1849)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Uncommon and largely restricted to the Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park areas.

**Number of locations:** Was 6/80 in 2015. Now in 9/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 5.0mm - 6.5mm and obviously triangular in cross-section. Cases less covered with algae and lichen particles than those of *Dahlica lichenella* and *Narycia duplicella*.



From the evidence of this survey over the years, *Dahlica inconspicuella* is an uncommon moth in Nottinghamshire and largely confined to the Sherwood Forest area of the county, with several records north into Clumber Park. The furthest south in the county, *Dahlica inconspicuella* has been recorded, is from Rainworth Heath NR in 2024.

The moth was found to be present at just six sites back in the original atlas from 2008. These were at Clipstone Old Quarter, Budby South Forest and Sherwood Forest CP. A single old case was found at Lound Wood, Eakring in 2006, from where the moth is now believed no to occur, as neither adults, or larval cases have been recorded since.

The larval cases of *Dahlica inconspicuella* very difficult to find, often being well concealed within bark crevices, or underneath loose bark, where they've been found a number of times. Such locations were often drier and less prone to lichen growth and most of the cases we found, were often quite bare, with little or no lichen growth or particles on the case. This was by no means a guarantee of identification though and almost all of the cases we found like this, appeared to be old cases from previous years.

Case lengths were always around 5.0mm-6.6mm in length and triangular in cross-section.

The first warm days of early Spring, has proved to be the best time of the year in which to find full-grown larvae. Active larvae and their cases, can occasionally be seen climbing tree trunks, but often appear on the sides of fallen logs and only noticed when the log is turned over. This tends to suggest that *Dahlica inconspicuella* larvae (like several other species) spend most of their time in the ground layer, climbing out of that in order to pupate on a suitable surface.

The apterous females were never found during surveying and only seen when the case was taken into captivity for emergence. However, we did have some chance success in finding the fully-winged males on two occasions, resting on the trunks of Oaks at Clipstone Old Quarter and Sherwood Forest at the end of April 2006. Males have also been attracted to MV light on several occasions within Sherwood Forest CP and can sometimes be seen flying in the morning.

#### **Determining the males of *Dahlica inconspicuella* and *Bankesia conspurcatella***

The determination of these two moths is difficult and many will say that the two species cannot be separated by sight alone and for 100% confirmation, I would perhaps tend to agree. The forewings of the male *Dahlica inconspicuella* are a light grey overall, beautifully marked with various sized patches of darker grey and is similar to *Bankesia conspurcatella*, which is the latest Psychid to be added to the county list. The two are said to require examination of the genitalia to determine their ID, but there is a difference, although this may require some previous experience with male *Dahlica inconspicuella*.

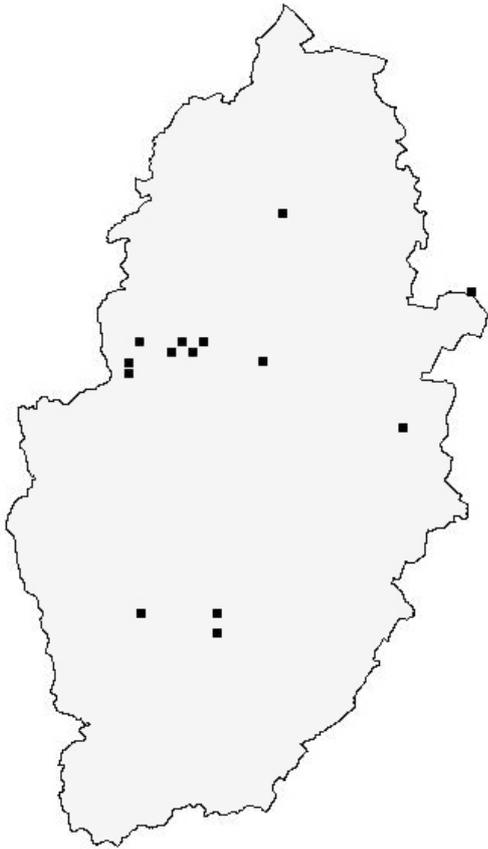
While the actual forewing markings are extremely similar, the difference comes in the overall tone of colouration, as *D. inconspicuella* is obviously grey overall, while *B. conspurcatella* has a distinct brownish tone to the wings. In my experience, this is usually obvious from photographs alone, which should be taken as suggesting the need to check that you may have *B. conspurcatella*.

#### 4.05 *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Formerly rare, but being found more widely now, though still somewhat uncommon.

**Number of locations:** Was 3/80 in 2015. Now 13/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 6.5mm - 7.5mm, generally covered with particles of sand, algae and lichen. Mature larval cases often larger than those of *Dahlica inconspicuellla* and *Narycia duplicella*.



The first Nottinghamshire record of *Dahlica lichenella* surprisingly came from the roadside wall of Market Warsop Cemetery in 2006, where a total of 40 cases were found. This total contained both active cases and older ones from previous years. All the cases were on the more shaded, east-facing side of the wall and facing away from the road.

Although there were odd larval cases of *Narycia duplicella* in with those of *Dahlica lichenella*, only the cases of *Narycia duplicella* were found on nearby trees at this site and despite much continued searching of the many stone walls in the general area over the next few weeks, no further sites, or colonies of *Dahlica lichenella* could be located. Further surveys in 2013 and 2014 failed to find any larval cases.

The only other locations where this moth was recorded, were Holborn Hill Plantation (between Meden Vale and Budby) in 2008 and more recently at Sherwood Forest CP in 2014. We found several occupied larval cases at Holborn Hill Plantation, but rarely more than one case per tree.

However, despite being found more widely since the last edition of this atlas came out in 2015, *Dahlica lichenella* seems to have suffered a decline.

While a number of new, wide-ranging, sites for the moth have come in the last decade or so, the number of larval cases at Market Warsop Cemetery have dropped considerably and a similar decline has been noticed at Holborn Hill Plantation. Larval cases are rarely recorded from both sites now and the decline, even allowing for annual population fluctuations, may have been weather related. It's likely that recent periods of very hot, dry weather over the last few years could have taken their toll on numbers and it remains to be seen if this is a long-term effect.

Recent records away from the Sherwood Forest area, have come from Langford Lowfields, Broadholme and Retford Cemetery, while the moth has recently been recorded from Stoke Bardolph, Lambley and Nottingham City Hospital.

*Dahlica lichenella* is one of three parthenogenetic Psychidae moths found in Nottinghamshire with apterous, short-lived and self-fertile females. The two that we hatched in captivity, both died within about eight hours post-emergence, after laying their eggs inside the larval cases. Neither of the females were seen to move off the larval case at all during the time they were alive.

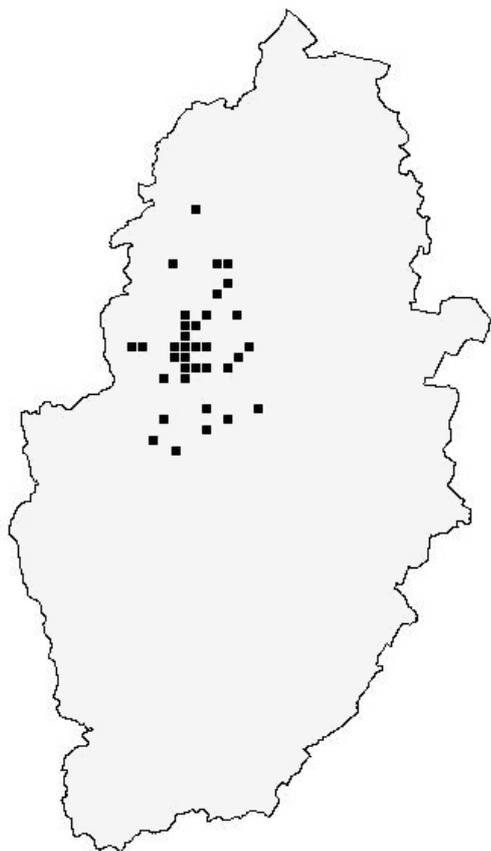


#### 4.06 *Taleporia tubulosa* (Retzius, 1783)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Largely restricted to the Sherwood Forest area, but widespread and often common.

**Number of locations:** Was 13/80 in 2015. Now 27/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 15mm - 20mm, often with some amount of invertebrate fragments around the mouth of the case.



Apart from two isolated occurrences of a single old larval case at Lound Wood near Eakring (believed extinct there now) and of a healthy population just north of Worksop at Hundred Acre Wood, *Taleporia tubulosa* was most regularly found in (and restricted to) the Sherwood Forest area.

In its favoured habitat of Beech woodland, this moth was often found to be locally abundant. Most frequently found as either old cases during the Winter months, or ascending the trunks of trees in the Spring prior to pupation, *Taleporia tubulosa* was found to be commonest at Holborn Hill and Hanger Hill Plantations, both of which held extremely good numbers of this species.

The larval cases are perhaps the most distinctive of all the Psychidae presently found in the county, being up to 20mm in length and tube-like in appearance. Old cases from previous years were often covered in algae through age, as active larval cases have a clean looking appearance. Only in the latter weeks of the larval stage, is the case covered with some particles of sand and insect, but it is never to the degree of that achieved by *Diplodoma laichartingella*.

*Taleporia tubulosa* larvae live on the ground and only ascend trees to pupate in the Spring. At Holborn Hill Plantation on one day in the second week of May 2006, we counted well over 100 larvae searching for pupation sites.

Odd cases were found at a number of sites. On the heathland of Budby South Forest, *Taleporia tubulosa* seemed limited to two small areas and wooden fence posts were often utilised as pupation sites. Other sites where small numbers of cases were found included Burstheart Hill, Gibraltar Plantation, Clipstone Old Quarter and Cuckney Hay Wood and it was found at Strawberry Hill Heath in 2014.

#### 4.07 *Bankesia conspurcatella* (Zeller, 1850)

**Nottinghamshire status:**

**Number of locations:** Was 0/80 in 2015. Now 1/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** Thought to be around 5.0mm - 6.5mm

There are relatively few confirmed UK records of *Bankesia conspurcatella* and indeed this one has yet to see the light of day on the NBN Atlas. Discovered new to Nottinghamshire on February 27th 2021, when found by Phil Cadman in his Worksop kitchen, the initial identification was *Dahlica inconspicuella*.

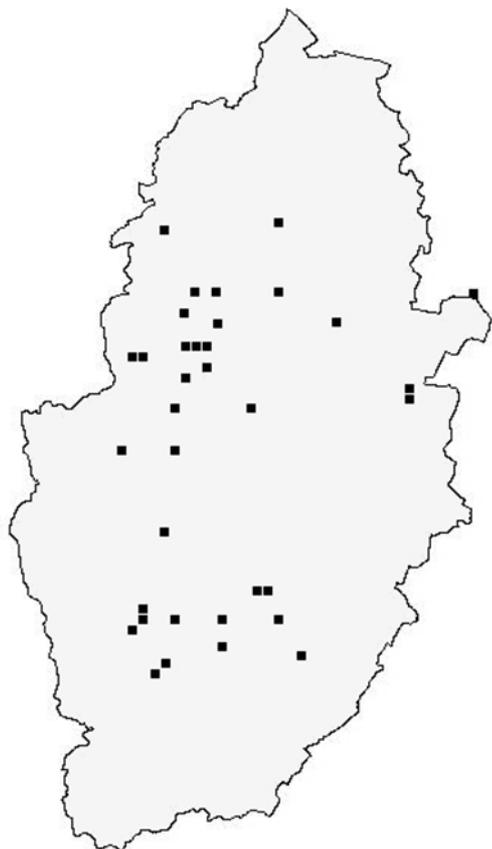
But in view of the suburban location of this record, and *Dahlica inconspicuella*'s restricted Nottinghamshire range, I considered it worth checking to be certain of the ID, as I suspected *Bankesia conspurcatella*, as this moth looked 'different'. And thanks to later genitalia dissection of the moth by county recorder Martin Gray, the moth was confirmed as being Nottinghamshire's first record of *Bankesia conspurcatella*.

#### 4.08 *Luffia lapidella* (Stephens, 1850)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Common and increasing. Often a strongly urban occurring species.

**Number of locations:** Was 5/80 in 2015. Now 31/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** 6.0mm – 8.0mm. Curved (horn-like) case, covered in lichen, is diagnostic.



A decade or so ago, the opening line to the species summary for what was then *Luffia ferchaultella* (now regarded as a sub-species of *Luffia lapidella*) was the following “*the present status of Luffia ferchaultella in Nottinghamshire, is probably misleading, as it is likely to prove to be a common species in urban areas with further surveying*”. That has certainly proved to be correct, as the moth now known as *Luffia lapidella*, has proved to be somewhat widespread.

The number of known locations for *Luffia lapidella*, has increased from five sites out of 80, to 31 sites out of 120 and it continues to be found at new sites each year. Consequently, this moth has showed the greater increase in the number of records, of all the nine Psychidae moths we currently have in Nottinghamshire.

Much of this increase is without doubt, down to the recording work of Dilys and myself over the years and (more importantly) the publicity we gave Psychidae moths over the past 20 years. That publicity came through the website [www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com), which still continues to generate the same publicity and awareness towards invertebrates. What's more, an increasing number of entomologists now realise that many species are often more easily accessible to them, than they imagine, even to those with limited access to transport.

Although it was consistently looked for at every site we visited between 2006 and 2007, especially within the heart of Sherwood Forest, it was never found for a number of years. In the end, the first Nottinghamshire record of this moth, came from the grounds of Nottingham City Hospital in July 2008.

In Europe, this moth is common in many towns and cities and so it has been proved to be the case here in Nottinghamshire, where it is still a greatly under-recorded species, and one which many people must walk past on a daily basis, without ever realising it. On discovery at Nottingham City Hospital, Dilys and myself immediately conducted searches of other trees on site, which proved that most held at least one larval case of this moth.

As is so often the case (no pun intended) once a species is found in a county for the first time, second and third records soon follow. This was certainly true in Nottinghamshire, with larval cases soon found on street trees at Mapperley, before more were discovered on roadside trees at Clipstone. With today's cleaner air allowing lichens to grow on walls, trees etc, even in the middle of our towns and cities, this lichen growth is certainly helping *Luffia lapidella* and it is worth looking for absolutely anywhere.

Additional new sites for *Luffia lapidella* came quickly and in 2011, larval cases were found on trees in the former visitor centre car park at Sherwood Forest CP, representing the first record away from urban areas. With further surveying and now other people starting to actively look for and record Psychidae in the county, the moth has been found widely, with records from sites including Besthorpe NR, Clumber Park, Warsop Main Pit Top, Tuxford, Worksop, Netherfield, Lowdham, Rainworth Heath, Gunthorpe, Broadholme, Calverton and Bingham Linear Park.

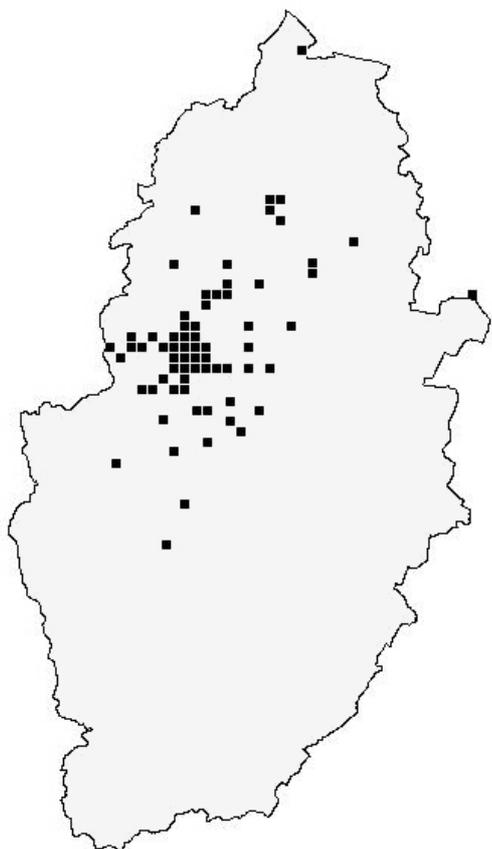
*Luffia lapidella* is apterous (wingless) and the females are self-fertile (parthenogenetic) and so it's been quite astonishing to monitor just how one record can suddenly stimulate so many others within a single county.

#### 4.09 *Psyche casta* (Pallas, 1767)

**Nottinghamshire status:** Common.

**Number of locations:** Was 35/80 in 2015. Now 61/120 in 2026.

**Case length:** Mature cases range from 10mm - 15mm. Larvae producing males make slightly smaller cases.



A common species, especially around the Sherwood Forest area and found at many woodland sites, even unexpectedly turning up within areas of commercial forestry and former colliery sites. *Psyche casta* was noted from a total of 35 survey sites by 2015, but that has increased over the past decade to 61 sites. The most northerly Nottinghamshire site is Misson Carr, but the moth doesn't occur as far south as Nottingham, and the most southerly known record is from Watchwood at Calverton.

The larval case is one of the most conspicuous and frequently encountered. It is often found on tree trunks, fence posts, gates and virtually any upright surface for pupation. Full grown larvae are regularly found during the Spring and Summer months, on young Bramble growth and long grass, found along pathways throughout Sherwood Forest, feeding up before pupating. The male is fully-winged, but the female is apterous and grub-like.

With the females being wingless, the moth's range, is largely the same as it's been for decades, even centuries and it's really through recorder effort, that it has showed some expansion in its Nottinghamshire range. *Psyche casta* may seem to have the ability to quickly move into new areas, such as the former colliery sites it can now be found at, but like other Psychidae, it has only walked there, or somehow arrived via mechanical transportation.

Although Sherwood Forest has by far, the highest concentration of *Psyche casta* in Nottinghamshire, the moth is now known to occur more widely, although there is a distinct north-westerly bias to the records. Yet populations, seemingly rather isolated from the Sherwood Forest area, do occur elsewhere. It generally favours a woodland habitat and it seems likely to assume that these isolated populations are the result of woodland loss over the years. Woodland sites on the edge of the moth's range include Hundred Acre Wood near Worksop, Eaton, Gamston and Treswell Woods to the east of Retford, Lound Wood at Eakring and Haywood Oaks all produced records.

The number of cases found in open Beech woodland was lower than expected and we found that *Psyche casta* is generally suited to woodland with a greater understorey than most other species, although well shaded sections tended to produce fewer cases. But larval cases do occur in other well-vegetated sites, including amongst scrub, field edges, along grassy ditches and former colliery sites. There have been no records from true urban areas, but as the urban sprawl continues apace, that could possibly be a thing of the future?

Larval cases vary in size, depending on the resulting sex of the adult moth. All cases are adorned with dead plant material, including sections of grass stem, umbellifers and partial sections of Pine, or Larch needles, all positioned lengthways along the case facing away from the front of the case. Male larval cases are noticeably smaller and with much finer fragments stuck to them, than those found on cases of would-be females. In Nottinghamshire at least, no other cases can be confused with those of *Psyche casta*.

The adults are very rarely encountered, but mature larvae collected in the Spring and reared in captivity, produce moths fairly quickly. Like all wingless females of this family, females are extremely short-lived, but will attract males very quickly, if placed in suitable habitat.

## 5.00 Species photographs



*Diplodoma laichartingella* (adult)



*Diplodoma laichartingella* (adult)



*Diplodoma laichartingella* (larva and larval case)



*Diplodoma laichartingella* (larva and larval case)



*Narycia duplicella* (adult male)



*Narycia duplicella* (adult female)



*Narycia duplicella* (larval case)



*Narycia duplicella* (larval case)



*Dahlica triquetrella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica triquetrella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica triquetrella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica triquetrella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica inconspicuella* (male)



*Dahlica inconspicuella* (female)



*Dahlica inconspicuella* (larva and larval case)



*Dahlica inconspicuella* (larva and larval case)



*Dahlica lichenella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica lichenella* (self-fertile female)



*Dahlica lichenella* (larva and larval case)



*Dahlica lichenella* (larval case)



*Taleporia tubulosa* (winged adult male)



*Taleporia tubulosa* (wingless adult female)



*Taleporia tubulosa* (larval case)



*Taleporia tubulosa* (larva)



*Bankesia conspurcatella* (adult)



*Bankesia conspurcatella* (adult)



*Luffia ferchaultella* (larval case)



*Luffia ferchaultella* (larva and larval case)



*Luffia ferchaultella* (larval case)



*Luffia ferchaultella* (larval case)



*Psyche casta* (adult female)



*Psyche casta* (adult male)



*Psyche casta* (larval case)



*Psyche casta* (larval case)

