Bealeswood Local Nature Reserve
June 2026

As reported by Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG)
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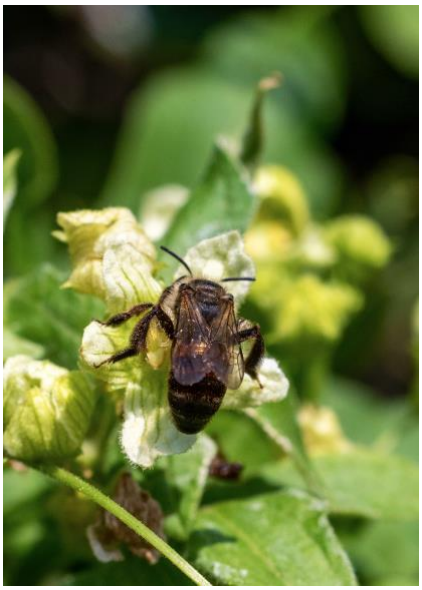
Rare Bee on Locally Rare Host Plant (AP, DB)

The Bryony Mining Bee (*Andrena florea*) is a solitary ground-nesting bee that has a very specialised ecological relationship with White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*), a native perennial climbing plant belonging to the cucumber/courgette family (Cucurbitaceae, see leaves in photo below). In the United Kingdom, female bees collect pollen almost exclusively from the flowers of *B. dioica* in hedgerows, woodland margins, and scrub, where it uses its tendrils to climb over and through the vegetation. A single male plant is known from a hedge nearby to Bealeswood. Its namesake Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) however, is frequently recorded on the Common, but is not related, and comes from the Yam family.

Female *Andena florea* feeding and collecting pollen from male plant of White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica).*



Male bee feeding on nectar.

White Bryony flowers between May and August with small greenish-white, five-petalled flowers born on separate male and female plants (dioecious) with the female plants bearing distinctive bright red berries in autumn. Although White Bryony itself is considered a common and stable native species in southern Britain, the Bryony Mining Bee has historically been regarded as nationally rare, with its distribution largely restricted to southern England where suitable populations of *B. dioica* occur. Recent surveys indicate that the bee has expanded its range locally in south-east England, although it remains highly vulnerable to the loss and fragmentation of species-rich hedgerows and other habitats supporting its sole pollen source.

This close ecological dependence makes *Andrena florea* an important example of pollinator specialisation and highlights the need to conserve native flowering plants and the interconnected habitats upon which specialist insects depend.

Guides and Rainbows enjoy wildlife on Bealeswood LNR (DB, AB)

Over two warm sunny evenings BWRG welcomed visiting groups of youngsters from Rowledge Guides Group accompanied by their leader and some parents. The girls learnt about different aspects of Bealeswood Common wildlife through QAs about specimens, guided walks, use of identification apps, and the release of previously trapped specimens.

Rainbows were fascinated by the growth of our large oaks from acorns and Guides showed an impressive understanding of the importance of trees for carbon storage, providing us with Oxygen, and food and shelter for wildlife etc.

Rowledge Rainbows learning about different trees and their leaf shapes (left) from Colin Hall, and, below, the release of moths from overnight moth trapping by Philippa Hall led to excitement and fascination.

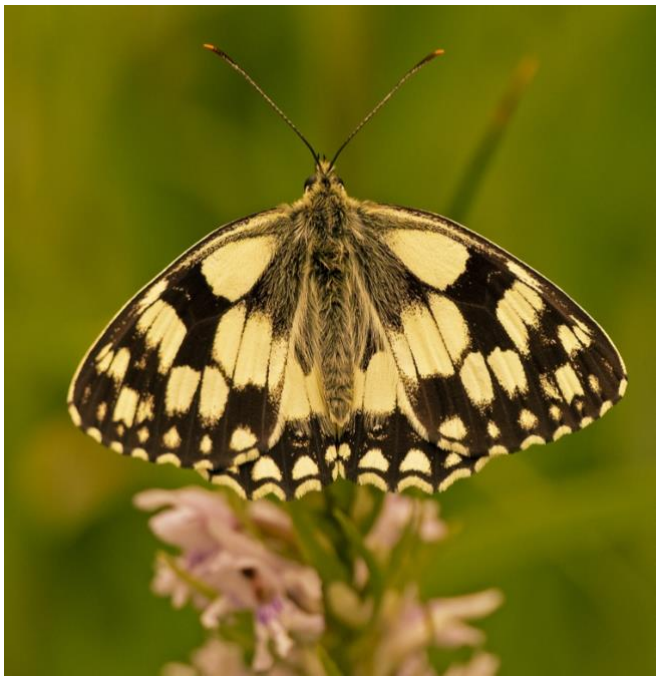
The Guides showed a good level of knowledge about wildflowers and how they attracted insects for pollination. Investigation of the Common led to finding specimens in the sward, together with some feeding butterflies.

The star event of the evening, however, for both groups was the release of moths trapped over the previous night. Many youngsters suffer from various degrees of mottephobia but all were eventually happy to have moths resting on their hands before they flew back to their bushes and trees. Star Lepidopterans included the twig-like Buff-tips and the huge Poplar- and Elephant Hawkmoths.

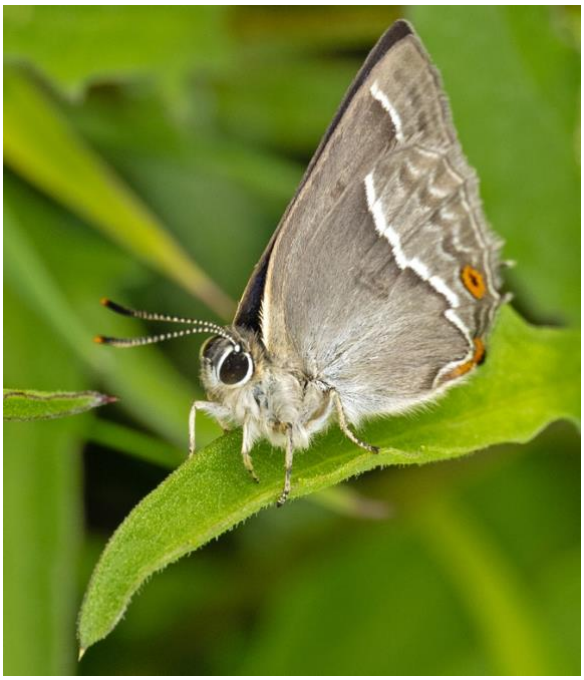
Bealeswood LNR photogallery (AC)

Labyrinth Spider in its funnel-shaped trap, here revealed with an early morning dew

Meadow Grasshopper. A pre-adult nymph with short, stubby wings



Marbled Whites first appeared on June 7th. Photographed here in warm evening light.



Purple Hairstreaks are usually seen high up in the Bealeswood oak trees

Left- Common Spotted Orchid- A majestic specimen of this abundant orchid that flowers from mid- May to mid July. This dry year the flowers were generally smaller and shorter lived.

Right- Wood Woundwort being entwined with Hedge Bindweed. Both common in woodland fringes in June and July.

Bombus vestalis (Southern Cuckoo) Bumblebee

B. hypnorum (worker Tree Bumblebee)

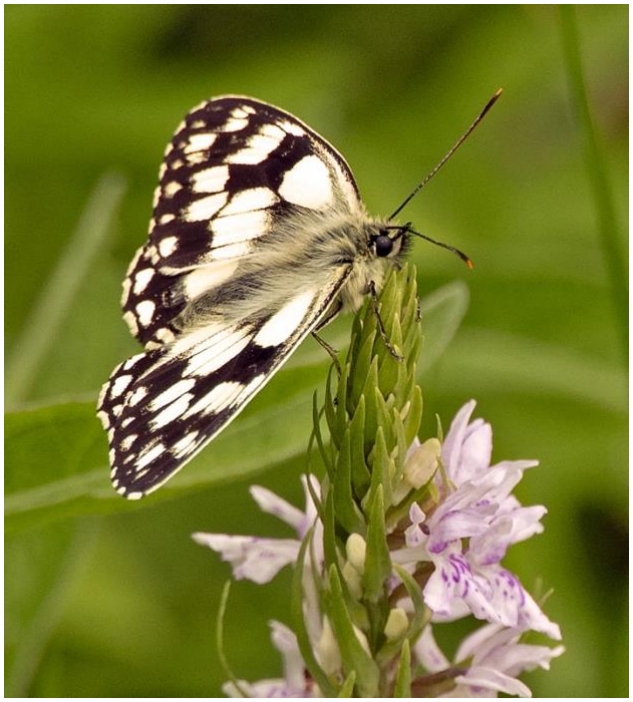
Pied Plumehorn Hoverfly on Bramble

Coleophora lixella
Downland Casebearer

Purple Hairstreak

Male large Skipper on Black Bryony

Painted Lady on Knapweed



Marbled White on Common Spotted Orchid

June 30th 2026 moth list from Bealeswood (PH) (Hot weather , small amount of rain over night)

Common name	**Scientific name**	**number**	New to Bealeswood
Macro-moths			
Limacodidae			
Festoon	*Apoda limacodes*	1	N
Drepanidae			
Chinese Character	*Cilex glaucata*	2	
Sphingadae			
Poplar Hawk-moth	*Laothoe populi*	4	
Privet Hawk-moth	*Sphinx ligustri*	1	N
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	*Macroglossum stellatarum*	1	Not in box!
Elephant Hawk-moth	*Deilephila elpenor*	5	
Geometridae			
Least Carpet	*Idaea rusticate*	2	
Small Fan-footed Wave	*Idaea biselata*	4	
Riband Wave	*Idaea aversata*	8	
Green Pug	*Pasiphila rectangulata*	3	
Clouded Border	*Lomaspilis marginata*	2	
Sharp-angled Peacock	*Macaria alternata*	1	
Scalloped Oak	*Crocallis elinguaria*	5	
Willow Beauty	*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*	4	
Engrailed/Small Engrailed	*Ectropis crespuscularia*	1	N
Common Wave	*Cabera exanthemata*	1	
Notodontidae			
Pale Prominent	*Pterostoma palpina*	1	
Buff-tip	*Phalera Bucephala*	6	
Erebidae			
Straw Dot	*Rivula sericealis*	1	
Black Arches	*Lymantria monachal*	9	
Yellow Tail	*Euproctis similis*	3	
Buff Ermine	*Spilisoma lutea*	1	
Rosy Footman	*Miltochrista miniata*	4	
Common Footman	*Eilemia lurideola*	27	
Scarce Footman	*Eilema complana*	8	
Noctuidae			
Marbled White-spot	*Deltote pygarga*	1	
Nut-tree Tussock	*Colocasia coryli*	1	
Small Mottled Willow	*Spodoptera exigua*	2	
Uncertain/Rustic	*Hoplodrina blanda/octogenaria*	27	
Ear Moth	*Amphipoeaoculea*	1	
Slender Brindle	*Apamea scolopacina*	2	N
Dun-bar	*Cosmia trapezina*	1	
Lunar-spotted Pinion	*Cosmia pyralina*	1	N
Minor Shoulder-knot	*Brachylomia viminalis*	2	
Grey Arches	*Polia nebulosa*	1	N
Smoky Wainscot	*Mythimna impure*	5	
Clay	*Mythimna ferrago*	1	
Heart & Dart	*Agrotis exclamationis*	1	
Heart & Club	*Agrotis clavis*	1	
Flame	*Axylia putris*	1	
Purple Clay	*Diarsia brunnea*	1	N
True Lover's Knot	*Lycophotia porphyrea*	1	N

Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua fimbriata*	1	
Micro-moths			
Rosy Tabby	*Endotricha flammealis*	6	
Long-legged Tabby	*Synaphe punctalis*	6	
Garden Grass-veneer	*Chrysoteucia culmella*	6	N
Bright Straw	*Agapeta zoegana*	1	
European Corn-borer	*Ostrinia nubilalis*	1	
Oak Knot-horn	*Phycita roborella*	2	
White-backed Tortrix	*Hedya salicella*	1	N
Diamond-back Marble	*Eudemis profundana*	1	N
Birch Marble	*Apotomis betuletana*	1	N