APPENDIX (1)

WIDESPREAD BUT DECLINING SPECIES INCLUDED IN BAP

The revised Biodiversity Action Plan produced in 2007 included, for the first time, a list of some 71 widespread but nationally declining moth species 'for research purposes only'. The list is taken from the report published jointly by Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research in 2006 entitled 'The state of Britain's larger moths'. Rothamsted operate a nationwide moth recording system based upon static, constant effort light traps. The results of their long term research form the basis of the report. The report looks at the 35 year period between 1968 and 2002 and reveals that, in broad terms, about one-third of larger moth species have increased nationally during this period, whilst two-thirds have declined. More significantly, a good many macro moths which were once considered to be common and widespread have shown alarming levels of decline. The 71 species listed in the BAP are those which have suffered the greatest fall in numbers. Their declines are such that 15 species would meet the IUCN criterion of 'Endangered', whilst the rest would be classified as 'Vulnerable'.

The species listed below are those which have been recorded at Potteric Carr. They include the moth with the highest percentage collapse in numbers nationally, Dusky Thorn (an astonishing 98% decline). All the species listed have declined by at least 71% nationally over the 35 year period. As these are all included in the BAP in order to promote research into these species and into the causes of their declines, it is considered important that their presence and frequency at Potteric Carr is also kept under review.

The 46 Potteric Carr species are listed below in order of magnitude of national decline, from Dusky Thorn (98% decline) to Ear Moth (71%). Interestingly, 31 species have been recorded in the period since 2000, whilst 10 have not been observed since the 1970s and 1980s.

The List

Ennomos fuscantaria (Dusky Thorn)

Euxoa nigricans (Garden Dart)

Pelurga comitata (Dark Spinach)

Eugnorisma glareosa (Autumnal Rustic)

Euxoa tritici (White-line Dart)

Xanthorhoe ferrugata (Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet)

Ennomos erosaria (September Thorn)

Tholera decimalis (Feathered Gothic)

Agrochola lychnidis (Beaded Chestnut)

Arctia caja (Garden Tiger)

Melanchra persicariae (Dot Moth)

Chiasmia clathrata (Latticed Heath)

Rhizedra lutosa (Large Wainscot)

Hydraecia micacea (Rosy Rustic)

Diarsia rubi (Small Square-spot)

Xestia agathina (Heath Rustic)

Orthonama vittata (Oblique Carpet)

Tyria jacobaeae (Cinnabar)

Xanthia icteritia (Sallow)

Celaena leucostigma (Crescent)

Watsonalla binaria (Oak Hook-tip)

Mesoligia literosa (Rosy Minor)

Lycia hirtaria (Brindled Beauty)

Acronicta rumicis (Knot Grass)

Allophyes oxyacanthae (Green-brindled Crescent)

Timandra comae (Blood-vein)

Blepharita adusta (Dark Brocade)

Chesias legatella (Streak)

Ecliptopera silaceata (Small Phoenix)

Acronicta psi (Grey Dagger)

Melanchra pisi (Broom Moth)

Spilosoma lubricipeda (White Ermine)

Orthosia gracilis (Powdered Quaker)

Apamea remissa (Dusky Brocade)

Agrochola litura (Brown-spot Pinion)

Hoplodrina blanda (Rustic)

Atethmia centrago (Centre-barred Sallow)

Amphipyra tragopoginis (Mouse Moth)

Caradrina morpheus (Mottled Rustic)

Scotopteryx chenopodiata (Shaded Broad-bar)

Spilosoma luteum (Buff Ermine)

Brachylomia viminalis (Minor Shoulder-knot)

Hepialus humuli (Ghost Moth)

Mythimna comma (Shoulder-striped Wainscot)

Amphipoea oculea (Ear Moth)

Ian Heppenstall, Moth Recorder, January 23, 2012