



Bee orchid © Buglife

Scunthorpe Moths Surveys

In 2011 four moth surveys were carried out at a number of areas at Tata including habitats such as heathland, woodland, wetland, open sandy areas and grassland. Over 200 different species of moth were recorded as part of this survey including numerous rare and scarce species.

The study provided many interesting results such as Kent black arches (*Meganola albula*) and Cream bordered green pea (*Earias chlorana*), both nationally notable species. Kent black arches is typically a southern and eastern coastal species, with its most northerly location at Spurn Point. The presence of this species in Scunthorpe demonstrates the importance of brownfield stepping stones throughout the landscape, aiding species movement.



Cream-bordered Green Pea © P. Clement



Kent Black Arches © Linanjon

Cream bordered green pea requires willow, often in damp areas and has a generally southern distribution. Few records of this moth are known in Lincolnshire, and only a single moth was recorded at Tata during the surveys, however given the amount of suitable habitat on site it is likely that this species is breeding there.

Habitat Management

A variety of different habitat management techniques are being used at the project sites including:

- Thinning of woodland
- Scrub removal
- Creation of scrapes and bare ground
- Bracken control
- Bee banks
- Wildflower meadow creation
- Re-facing sandy cliffs

Ashbyville LNR

Ashbyville is a former mineral workings site which has since filled in with water. The site is frequently use by walkers, fishermen and for water sports. Habitats present on site include secondary woodland, scrub, grassland, open sandy areas and sandy cliffs. Over the autumn/ winter of 2011/2012 scattered patches of dense hawthorn understory was cleared by TCV volunteers in order to improve the ground flora.



In September of last year Buglife and North Lincolnshire Council volunteers plug planted an area of 1 hectare with a variety of native wildflowers including Selfheal, Yarrow and Bird'sfoot trefoil to provide pollen and nectar sources for pollinators.



Common Bird's foot trefoil © C. Gibson



Yarrow © Buglife

Buglife and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust held a moth trapping evening at Ashbyville LNR which was attended by local moth recorders and members of the public. The evening was a great success and the total moth count was an impressive 124, including 11 UKBAP species.

Tata Steel

Crosby Warren – Prior to extensive development, large areas of Scunthorpe used to be covered in heath habitat. These days, only small remnant patches of heath remain, and are scattered in small patches at Tata Steel. BTCV work parties have been carried out to protect one of these remnant patches of heath by felling some of the adjacent scrub and birch woodland, which is dominant across the site. Contractors were also brought in to manage the bracken which is encroaching on the heath.

Sand Martin Wetland area

This part of the site is where sand is extracted for industrial processes. Part of this section is no longer worked and an ephemeral wetland and calcareous flora has developed supporting species such as yellow-wort, common centaury and blue fleabane. In the spring of 2011 a group of Tata Steel staff volunteered their time to re-face some of the sandy cliffs, making the cliff face almost vertical, benefitting nesting sand martins and solitary bees and wasps. Using a digger, small areas of bare ground were also created and the arising's used to make two bee banks. Silver birch and Willow are beginning to encroach on the wetland and will need to be managed if the ephemeral wetland habitat is to remain.