

Report on Moth Night in Brook Meadow Saturday 9 July 2005

To celebrate National Moth Night on 9 July, we were very fortunate to have 3 moth experts do a moth survey in Brook Meadow. John Langmaid and Ian Thirlwell both from Portsmouth and Mark Young from Aberdeen (Wildlife Trust) arrived at 9pm on Saturday 9 July and set up their mercury vapour light powered by a generator on the eastern path through the central meadow. Members of BMCG present were Frances and Richard Jannaway, Pat and Graham Walsgrove and David Search.

The sky was clear which meant that the temperature would fall. It would have been better for the moth survey if there had been more cloud because low lying water meadows get quite cool at night.

Even so, more than 60 species of both micromoths and the larger moths were recorded. The micromoths were the first to appear with the larger moths appearing a bit later. Especially interesting were the very colourful Elephant Hawk moths which for some reason rested on the white sheet upside down with their legs in the air. Other common moths recorded included Rosy Footman, Small Fanfoot, Buff Ermine, Common Emerald, Mottled Beauty. The rarest moth was seen by Mark just as we were packing up at 11.30pm: this was the nationally notable Festoon. If it had been a warmer night, it was expected that at least 100 species would have been recorded.