

Separating Common, Scarce and Northern Footmen

Shane Farrell and Helen Bantock

This note is taken from an email sent out by Shane.

Separating Common Footman (right) from Scarce/Northern (left) is fairly straightforward. As can be seen from the picture, Scarce/Northern hold their wings around the body.



Given that we now see Scarce Footman relatively regularly in the county it is worth checking any Scarce Footman for the Northern Footman form *sericea* which has variable dark smudges on the hindwing. There is no need to retain a specimen but, as with any rare/unusual taxon it is normally a requirement to take a photo and if you could try and obtain a shot of the hindwing using Helen's described method this will be appreciated. Please feed any records of Northern through me and I will send on to Helen when they come in.

I expect all your keen moth-ers can recognise Scarce/Northern but need to look at the hindwing to determine which of the two species they have. This image is of 10 moths (NF) showing the hind wing. It is possible to view this in the living moth without harming it by using a small blunt pin to lift up the forewing. The grey smudging is quite variable. At the peak towards the end of July I had 200 NF this year, I sacrificed 10 moths at 5 day intervals throughout the flight period-they were all NF.



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