

May 2026:

Palmers Lane sees a lot of traffic on an almost daily basis - bikes, pedestrians, dogs and even cars so it was a great surprise one afternoon to share the tarmac with a furry and fast moving caterpillar. which I videoed with my phone.

Sometime later, and with technical support, it turned out to be the nationally scarce (Category A) Grass Eggar moth Caterpillar; once abundant it scarcity is the result of hedgerow trimming and intensive roadside mowing.

Host plants include blackthorn, hawthorn and birch. Their presence suggests high-quality undisturbed habitats. The Grass Eggar moth (*Lasiocampa trifolii*) is reddish brown in colour with a central white spot. The wingspan is between 42-60mm.

Acid heathland, coastal shingle and sand dunes are preferred habitats.

Should be well at home round here then! So, mind where you step and enjoy sharing favourite views with some not-so-easy-to-spot company!

