



ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET

1 October 2013

Stonebridge Wild River Reserve attracting more new species

ARK's latest moth nights have continued to record new species.

In August 106 moths were caught, with at least ten new species for the site, including *Palpita vitrealis*, an immigrant typically found in southern coastal counties, rarely elsewhere.

In September 62 moths of fifteen different species were caught. ARK's Moth Group has logged 135 species, including the Grass Rivulet which is classified by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as endangered. This is a moth that has shown a decline of 96% over the last 35 years and is associated with grassland of the type found in the meadow. Currently the areas of highest value to moths and their caterpillars are the scrub area and areas of grasses, reeds and trees.

As the current habitat restoration project continues to restore what was for many years a neglected patch of land the number and diversity of moths should increase with the addition of a wildflower meadow creating a new habitat.

Moths, like butterflies are highly sensitive indicators of the health of the environment. They play a vital role in pollinating plants and are crucial to the food chain.

Monthly moth trapping evenings run from April to November, are open to the public, and free. The next one will be on Friday 4 October. For more information contact: anna@riverkennet.org 01672 511028.

The valuable data collected is shared with Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre.

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Note to Editors: Stonebridge Lane Wild River Reserve is a joint project between Action for the River Kennet, Marlborough Town Council and the St John's Foundation Trust. The river and

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Director

adjacent meadows are managed by ARK and Marlborough Town Council with the following objectives:

- To sustainably maintain and develop the stretch of the river and associated land to be an exemplar for the River Kennet as a whole
- To recognise the conservation and environment value of the site and maintain the land in accordance with the best conservation and environmental practices
- To preserve and enhance the rich biodiversity qualities of the meadow as an important natural breathing space
- To preserve and enhance the place where people have the opportunity to be inspired by the natural environment and recognise the needs of people to have places to access and enjoy a high quality natural environment.

For more details contact Charlotte Hitchmough on 07880 515859

Photo Captions: *Palpita vitrealis*

