



# Charnwood

## **BROWN-TAILED MOTH** (*EUPROCTIS CHRYSORRHOEA*)

### **OCCURRENCE**

The Brown-tailed moth was first reported as a pest in the year 1720 with outbreaks occurring irregularly, often missing several years. The moths until recently were normally confined to south eastern England and the last epidemic was in 1993.

### **APPEARANCE**

#### **Moths**

The adult moths of both sexes have paper white wings and a large brown body. The female differs slightly from the male by having a mass of brown hairs on the extremity of her abdomen.

#### **Caterpillars**

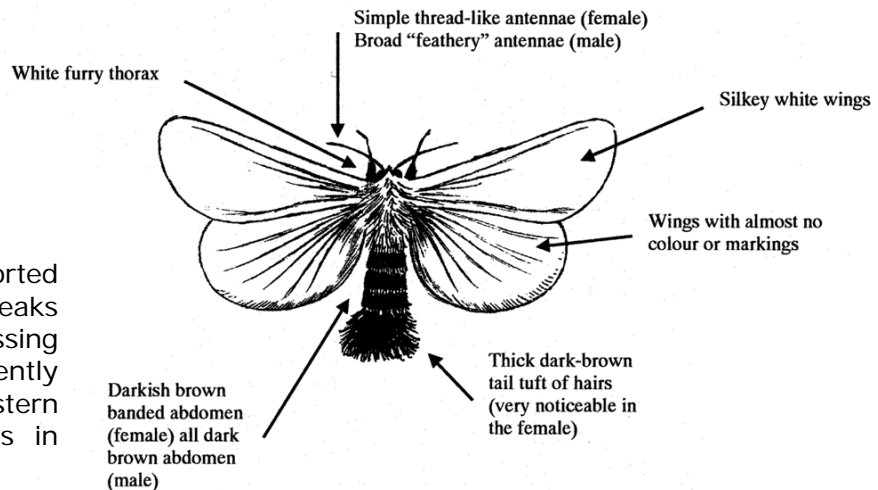
The caterpillars are black with white side markings and orange spots near the tail and are covered in thousands of tiny hairs giving them a bristly appearance.

#### **Pupae**

During the month of June the pupae are formed when the caterpillar ceases to be mobile. This dormant pupal case is covered in a large mass of brown silk, resembling a tent.

#### **Life cycle**

Stage 1 - Eggs. Dormant stage, laid in groups on leaves by female caterpillar.



*Brown-tail Moth*

Stage 2 - Caterpillars. Mobile stage, feed on leaves and undergo several skin changes, very damaging.

Stage 3 - Chrysalis/Pupae. Dormant stage, only capable of a slight jerking movement of the abdomen. Whilst in this stage various organic changes occur turning eventually into the imago.

Stage 4 - Imago. Perfect flying insect.

### **DAMAGE**

The caterpillars, which emerge in late spring to early summer have voracious appetites and consume vast quantities of young leaves on trees and shrubs causing serious defoliation in a few days.

### **CONTROL**

When the caterpillar stage is noticed on trees and shrubs insecticides specially formulated for moth control can be sprayed, using them as directed on the product label. Charnwood Borough Council offers a comprehensive Pest Control service through its Environmental Health Services Division, however the

Brown-tailed moth is purely a garden pest and is best treated with proprietary horticultural insecticides by the householder.

However if an infestation is noted in a public park or playing field, it would be appreciated if the Council's Leisure Services Manager could be informed so that remedial action can be taken. (Tel: 01509 634701)

If you would like an explanation of this fact sheet in your language or to obtain copies in Braille, on audio tape or large print please contact 01509 634560.

For further information contact:

Pest Control Service  
Environmental Health Services  
Southfields  
Southfield Road  
Loughborough  
Leics LE11 2TX  
Tel: 01509 634628