



- Find a horse chestnut tree (or more than one - you can record for many trees).
- Write down the nearest postcode or the tree's location.
- Take a careful look at the leaves near the bottom of the tree. Do they have pale, whitish or brownish patches made by leaf-mining moths?
- Look at a leaf which you think is **typical** of the leaves **near the bottom of the tree**. Give it a 'damage score' as follows:



0. The leaf is completely green. No evidence of moth attack



1. Just a couple of whitish/brown patches on the leaf



2. There is more green than white/brown on the leaf



3. You can't decide whether green or white/brown dominates. It's about half green leaf and half whitish/brown patches



4. The whitish/brown patches definitely cover more than half the leaf. They may cover all the leaf



?. The whitish/brown patches are definitely present, but you are unable to give it a damage score



Leaves damaged by the alien leaf-mining moths are distinctive:

- Mines start whitish with a brown spot and then turn brown.
- Mines usually start away from the edge of the leaf and spread between the veins, only rarely crossing the veins.
- Often, a caterpillar or a brownish pupa can be seen in each mine when the leaf is held up to the light.
- From mid July, adult moths emerge. Their mines turn brown but are identifiable by their shape and position. Fresh mines are often present.



What to look for: alien leaf-mining moth damage. Damage score = 2



Leaf blotch caused by fungal infection, **not** the moth (Photo: David Glaves)



It is **not** the alien leaf mining moth if:

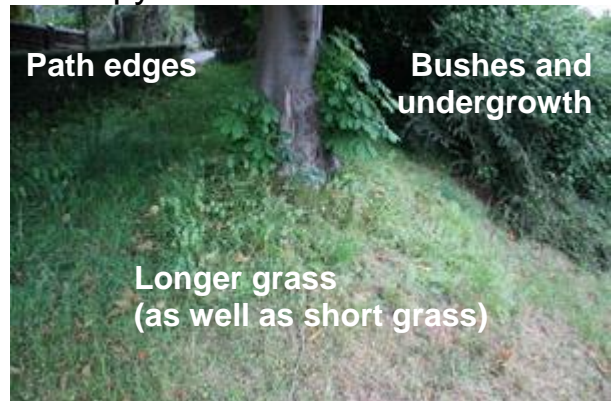
- Only the tips or edges of the leaf have shrivelled up and turned brown (this might be damage to vessels carrying sap).
- Patches are brown & edged with yellow (this might be fungal infection).

What is under the tree?

Look at all the ground under the tree's canopy.



Is there just mown grass?
(Nowhere for leaf litter to collect)



Or is there other vegetation?
(Where leaf litter will collect in the autumn)

The moths may overwinter in the leaf litter. By the summer there is no sign of leaf litter, so record the places where leaf litter could have collected. Does this explain difference in badly infested the trees are?

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