### Species commonly confused with oak processionary moth (OPM) *(Thaumetopoea processionea)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Hosts</th>
<th>Larva</th>
<th>Nest/webbing</th>
<th>Adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak processionary moth <em>(Thaumetopoea processionea)</em></td>
<td><em>Almost exclusively on oak. Can be found on other broadleaves during very heavy outbreaks only.</em></td>
<td><em>White silken nests on trunks or branches. Nests darken with age and accumulation of shed skins and hairs; tennis ball sized or much larger.</em></td>
<td><em>White silken nests on trunks or branches.</em></td>
<td><em>February &amp; March</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lackey moth <em>(Malacscosa neustria)</em></td>
<td><em>A wide range of broadleaf trees &amp; shrubs including oak.</em></td>
<td><em>Up to 45mm. Grey body and dark head- older larvae have a central dark stripe with white line either side. Clumps of long white hairs arise from orange warts along the length of the larva.</em></td>
<td><em>Almost exclusively on oak.</em></td>
<td><em>April - June</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown-tail moth <em>(Euproctis chrysochroae)</em></td>
<td><em>A wide range of hedgerow trees and in scrub, notably bramble-can utilise oak.</em></td>
<td><em>Up to 55mm. Distinguishable from OPM by their distinct orange and blue longitudinal stripes.</em></td>
<td><em>Larvae feed gregariously in a communal web or 'tent'. These are conspicuous and may exceed 30cm in length. Defoliation is often severe.</em></td>
<td><em>July &amp; August</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buff-tip moth <em>(Phalera bucephala)</em></td>
<td><em>A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs including oak.</em></td>
<td><em>Up to 45mm. Dark brown and hairy with white marks down the side and two characteristic orangey-red warts at the rear.</em></td>
<td><em>Larvae do not produce webbing material. Larvae cause noticeable defoliation.</em></td>
<td><em>July - October</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Eggar moth <em>(Enigaster lanestris)</em></td>
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<td><em>Up to 80mm. Can resemble OPM because of abundant fine grey hairs but occur later in the season. Easily identified by their distinctly patterned yellow and black body.</em></td>
<td><em>Larvae live and feed gregariously in silken webs. A rare species and localised across England as far as N. Yorkshire. Species is of conservation value.</em></td>
<td><em>May &amp; early August</em></td>
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<td>Vapourer moth <em>(Orgyia antiqua)</em></td>
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<td><em>Up to 45mm. Velvety-black body with red-brown marks bordered with white. Completely covered with fine brown hairs; some quite long.</em></td>
<td><em>Larvae do not produce webbing material. Can cause noticeable defoliation and also damage to buds and flowers but infestations are rarely significant.</em></td>
<td><em>May - July</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Ermine moth <em>(Yponomeuta species)</em></td>
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<td><em>Up to 40mm. Bluish grey body with red spots and a row of four distinctive pale yellow single brown tufts.</em></td>
<td><em>Larvae produce webbing in spring and early summer that can be extensive draping over entire trees and hedgerows- defoliation can be severe.</em></td>
<td><em>May - August</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *Human health risk! Irritating/toxic hairs!*

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