

# What is happening to our conker trees?



They are under attack by alien moths! Help scientists find out more by taking part in two missions.

**[www.ourweboflife.org.uk](http://www.ourweboflife.org.uk)**



**Conker  
Tree  
Science**

## Mission 1: alien moth survey



Photo: Rich Andrews

An adult horse chestnut leaf-mining moth, 5mm long. The caterpillars live in 'mines' inside leaves and so damage conker trees.

**When?** Anytime after 15 June.

**What?** Check conker tree leaves for damage by the alien moth. Record the presence and amount of damage.

**Why?** The 'alien' invader is a leaf-mining moth that has spread across Britain since 2002. You can help scientists discover how far it has spread and how much damage it is causing to our conker trees.

## Mission 2: pest controllers



Photo: Brian Valentine

A parasitic wasp, just 2mm long. Their larvae eat the moth caterpillars and so act as natural pest controllers – one way that we rely on nature.

**When?** Between 3 and 7 July.

**What?** Pick a conker tree leaf with alien moth damage, seal it in a plastic bag and after two weeks record what insects have appeared: alien moths or pest controllers?

**Why?** Some of the moth caterpillars may have been attacked by pest controllers. Help scientists discover how effective the wasps are at controlling the 'alien' moths.

Find full instructions and enter results at:

[www.ourweboflife.org.uk](http://www.ourweboflife.org.uk)

