

Endpiece: Hornet Moths in Bewdley

ROSEMARY WINNALL

Hornet moth pupal case from Riverside Park North
5 July 2017
Rosemary Winnall



The Wyre Forest Study Group Wednesday Group visited Riverside North Park in Bewdley on 5th July 2017 to record wildlife. As well as dipping the lake and checking the banks of the River Severn, we examined the tall poplars at the south east side of the Park. At the base of one of these trees we found holes and a pupal case of the Hornet Clearwing Moth *Sesia apiformis* although pheromones failed to attract an adult male between 12.45 and 13.00. Poplar Kitten moth cocoons were also found on one of the trees and the Masked Hunter *Reduvius personatus* discovered at the base of a trunk.

John Cox went back the following year on 26th June 2018 when it was warm and sunny, and suspended the HOR pheromone between 08.45 and 09.15. The male Hornet Moth that flew in took him by surprise, as it didn't come straight to the lure but flew around the plastic box in which the lure had been stored, that was down on the grass.

John went back on 1st July 2018, again in good weather. This time he put the pheromone on the low trunk that had been cut into a seat and he was pleased to record



Male Hornet Moth to pheromone, Riverside Park North
1 July 2018
John Cox



Hornet moths in cop.
Rosemary Winnall

two Hornet Moth males that arrived from 08.45. He also recorded a Grey Dagger moth and a Poplar Hawk-moth on the trunk.

All these mature poplars were pollarded during the winter of 2018/19 after a branch fell and damaged a garden fence. We shall wait to see if the trees are still alive and if these attractive moths are still present at this site.



Riverside Park North poplar trees 11 Jan 2018
R. Winnall



The cut poplar trees on 15 March 2019
John Cox