

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

Butterfly Conservation are after volunteers to survey 1km grid squares within Dartmoor National Park. They are:

- SX5563 (Shaugh Moor area)
- SX7682 (Hunters Tor, Lustleigh)
- SX7681 (Ravens Tor, Lustleigh Cleave)
- SX7386 (Moretonhampstead area)

What is the commitment?

The survey does not involve a huge commitment, all that is required is two core visits per year to an allocated 1km square (one in July and one in August) with optional spring visits to count Orange-tips and other early flying species. Depending upon the terrain one visit takes approximately an hour. If a square has not been surveyed previously you will need to obtain the landowners permission (we provide you with a letter) and establish a transect route (guidance available), this will increase the length of your first visit. Both your local WCBS Champion Jenny Evans (jennifer.evans@lineone.net) and the National Co-ordinator, Zoe Randle (survey@butterfly-conservation.org) can provide help and support to get you started.

Below are further details about the WCBS and the importance of the scheme and the 2018 WCBS newsletter is attached for more information.

What is the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey?

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) forms part of an integrated approach to monitoring butterflies through the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). The sampling design of the WCBS involves volunteers counting butterflies along a fixed route within a randomly generated 1km square. Butterflies are widely regarded as indicators of the health of environment. The WCBS complements conventional transect recording and generates high quality data on the population status of wider countryside butterflies (species not restricted to special semi-natural habitats). The UKBMS is organised and funded by Butterfly Conservation, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, British Trust for Ornithology, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

The scheme is vital to help us assess whether nationwide conservation measures including agri-environment and woodland grant schemes are having a measureable impact in helping to conserve and restore butterflies across the countryside as a whole. In the UK, the total abundance of wider countryside butterflies has declined by 25% since 1976.

Further details

Further details can be found on the WCBS website www.ukbms.org/wcbs.aspx

How do I take part?

Simply contact Jenny Evans or Zoe Randle and let them know which square(s) you are interested in surveying.

Butterfly training events

For details about butterfly monitoring and training events visit the Devon Branch of Butterfly Conservation website: https://butterfly-conservation.org/events?field_branches_target_id=109