



## ALLOTMENT BUTTERFLY MONITORING

### Background

Butterflies can be used as scientific indicators to demonstrate how valuable a particular environment is. Allotments can be very valuable for wildlife and particularly butterflies and moths. By undertaking monitoring following a standard scientific method we can find out how valuable individual allotments are.

### Monitoring Technique

1. Select a route through the allotment where you see the majority of the butterflies. Measure your route in metres (approximately 1 stride = 1 metre). Try to make sure that the length of the route can be divided as near as possible by 100. It should be a route that can be repeated in future years - preferably following an existing pathway.



2. Two walks should be carried out each year. The first walk should be undertaken on a warm sunny day (above 13 degrees centigrade) in May. The second walk should be on a warm sunny day

(above 13 degrees centigrade) between 14th July and 14th August. For best results, these walks should be carried out after 11am in the morning and before 4pm in the afternoon. Try to choose a day when the wind is not too strong (only a slight breeze should be felt on your face) as butterflies seek shelter in gusty winds and are more difficult to spot.

3. Count all the butterflies you see within 2 to 3 meters either side of you. At the end of the walk add up the number of species you have seen and how many of each species you have seen.

**Tip**

Check flower heads for resting or nectaring butterflies.

When you have completed your second walk send your completed form to: -

Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation  
 30 New Street  
 Baddesley Ensor  
 Atherstone  
 Warwickshire  
 CV9 2DW

or e-mail to: - [keith.warmington@warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:keith.warmington@warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk)

**Results**

As butterfly numbers vary each year a detailed analysis will be carried out to determine how valuable your allotment is for wildlife.

The following values will be calculated: -

- A comparable abundance per 100 meters
- A comparable diversity score per 100 meters
- A comparable biodiversity score based on indicator species per 100 meters

If you wish you can also undertake a quick assessment of your allotment yourself, based on your 2 walks.

	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
No of butterflies per 100 meters	Less than 3 Score 1	3 to 9 Score 2	10 to 20 Score 3	More than 20 Score 4
No of species seen per 100 meters	Less than 3 Score 1	3 to 9 Score 2	9 to 14 Score 3	More than 15 Score 4
Number of Key species per 100 meters			1 to 2 Score 3	More than 2 Score 4

Poor allotments - overall score less than 4  
 Average allotments - score between 5 and 8  
 Good allotments - score between 9 and 11  
 Very good allotments - score above 11










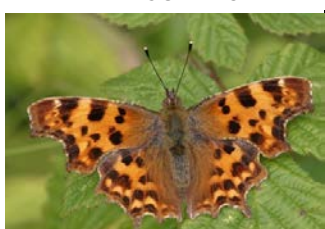
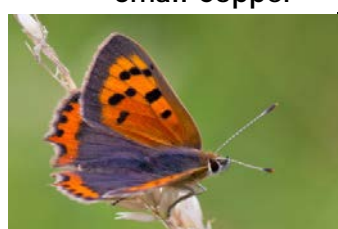


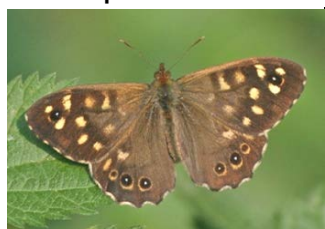


Site Name:   
 Recorder:  Grid Ref:




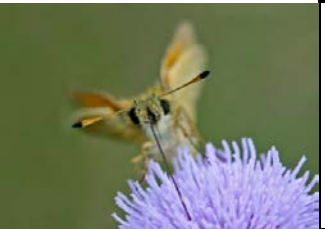














Date of May Visit:   
 Date of July/August Visit:



Butterflies seen in May

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brimstone	<input type="text"/>	Common Blue	<input type="text"/>
			
Large White	<input type="text"/>	Holly Blue	<input type="text"/>
			
Small White	<input type="text"/>	Small Tortoiseshell	<input type="text"/>
			
Green-veined White	<input type="text"/>	Peacock	<input type="text"/>
			
Orange-tip	<input type="text"/>	Comma	<input type="text"/>
			
Small Copper	<input type="text"/>	Painted Lady	<input type="text"/>
			
Brown Argus	<input type="text"/>	Speckled Wood	<input type="text"/>
			

Butterflies seen in July/August

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Small Skipper	<input type="text"/>	Small Copper	<input type="text"/>	Peacock	<input type="text"/>
					
Essex Skipper	<input type="text"/>	Brown Argus	<input type="text"/>	Speckled Wood	<input type="text"/>
					
Large Skipper	<input type="text"/>	Common Blue	<input type="text"/>	Marbled White	<input type="text"/>
					
Brimstone	<input type="text"/>	Holly Blue	<input type="text"/>	Gatekeeper	<input type="text"/>
					
Large White	<input type="text"/>	Red Admiral	<input type="text"/>	Meadow Brown	<input type="text"/>
					
Small White	<input type="text"/>	Painted Lady	<input type="text"/>	Ringlet	<input type="text"/>
					
Green-veined White	<input type="text"/>	Small Tortoiseshell	<input type="text"/>		
