



REDUCED METHOD SITE MONITORING

Background

When butterfly monitoring is carried out using one of the standard scientific methods, the data gathered can be used:-

- to give a very quick indication of how biodiversity rich a particular environment is
- to demonstrate if a particular type of conservation management regime is having the desired effect e.g. grazing or woodland coppicing
- to give an early warning if management or conservation methods are not working
- to prove that conservation or management methods are successful

The reduced method of monitoring will not achieve the accuracy of a full or species transect when undertaken in isolation because the number of surveys are less and are carried out weeks apart. However, because Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire already has data from over 60 transects, this data can be used in conjunction with the reduced method of monitoring to enable accurate assessments to be made.

Standard Monitoring Rules

Similar to all other butterfly monitoring schemes such as Full Transect, Species Transect and Wider Countryside Recording, the basic methodology is as follows: -

- identify a fixed, easily repeatable route that can be split into sections of equal length that represent the main habitats of the site
- walk should ideally last between 30 to 45 minutes
- walks should be carried out between 10.45 am and 15.45 pm
- walk should be carried out in warm dry weather with a minimum temperature of 13°C to 17°C with at least 60% sun or if no sun temperature must be 17°C or above
- walk should not be done in wind speeds greater than 5 on the Beaufort scale
- walk at a slow steady pace
- count every butterfly you see (and can identify) in a 5 metre box around you (2.5m either side and 5m ahead)

Reduced Method Additional Rules

In addition to the standard monitoring methodology the following rules apply: -

- design a route so that the start and finish points are near to each other but ensuring that no part of the route is walked twice to avoid double counting
- divide the route into a maximum of four different sections of approximately 100 metres in length e.g. if you walk around a rectangular meadow then each side could be an individual section. If you walk woodland paths then not only select an area that is currently under management but also areas where management is planned for future years
- it is important that the route selected can be walked year after year therefore don't select a scrub or coppice area that will grow up and prevent access - stick to recognisable paths
- 4 walks should be undertaken - one each in May, June, July and August. If possible try to keep at least 3 weeks between visits

Tip

Check flower heads such as knapweeds for resting or nectaring butterflies.

When you have completed your final 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

Results

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

The following will be calculated: -

- a comparable abundance per 100 metres
- a comparable diversity score per 100 metres
- a comparable biodiversity score based on indicator species per 100 metres
- an annual change in abundance, diversity and biodiversity for the site

**SITE COUNT RECORD SHEET
BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
WARWICKSHIRE**

Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Tel:



YEAR:

Grid Ref. (OS Map 6 Figure)	Site Name															
Month	May				June				July				August			
Day																
Start Time																
Finish Time																
Duration																
Average Temperature																
% Sun (see Note)																
Average Wind Speed																
Wind Direction																
Section No.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Small Skipper																
Essex Skipper																
Large Skipper																
Dingy Skipper*																
Grizzled Skipper*																
Wood White*																
Clouded Yellow																
Brimstone																
Large White																
Small White																
Green-veined White																
Orange Tip																
Green Hairstreak*																
Brown Hairstreak*																
Purple Hairstreak																
White-letter Hairstreak*																
Small Copper																
Small Blue*																
Brown Argus																
Common Blue																
Holly Blue																
White Admiral*																
Purple Emperor*																
Red Admiral																
Painted Lady																
Small Tortoiseshell																
Peacock																
Comma																
Dark Green Fritillary*																
Silver-washed Fritillary*																
Speckled Wood																
Wall*																
Marbled White																
Gatekeeper																
Meadow Brown																
Ringlet																
Small Heath																
Six-spot Burnet																
Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet																
Chimney Sweeper																
Latticed Heath																
Vapourer																
Cinnabar																
Silver Y																
Mother Shipton																
Burnet Companion																
Humming-bird Hawkmoth																
Small Yellow Underwing																

SITE COUNT RECORD SHEET - ROUTE AND NOTES



Site Name

Year

Map of Route

Attach map of route with path taken or draw map here.

Divide route into a maximum of 4 sections each being approximately 100 metres in length

The Beaufort Scale for Average Wind Speed

0	Calm	Smoke rises vertically
1	Light air	Slight smoke drift
2	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face & leaves rustle
3	Gentle Breeze	Leaves & twigs in constant motion
4	Moderate Breeze	Raises dust and small branches move
5	Fresh Breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway
6	Strong Breeze	Large branches sway

Notes: *Estimate to nearest 10% the time it was sunny whilst walking route.*

*Key Species are marked with * and the presence of these species require verification. Pay particular attention and take photographs if possible.*

Record any butterflies or moths seen on the site but outside of the designated route on a separate sheet.