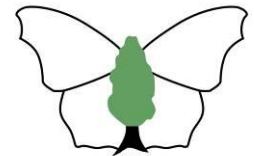


Butterflies for the New Millennium



**Butterfly
Conservation**
*in association with the
Biological Records Centre*

Winter Newsletter 2013/14

Butterflies for the New Millennium is the national recording scheme for butterflies in Britain and Ireland and is organised in the UK by Butterfly Conservation and the Biological Records Centre and in the Republic of Ireland by The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club. The initial survey work (1995-99) was used to assess the status of all native species in *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. New data from 2000-04 were incorporated in *The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* published in 2006. Recording continues so as to provide up-to-date information for nature conservation, public education and research.

Introduction

We are now starting the final year of the current 2010-2014 survey of the BNM project. All the records collated during this five-year period will provide the next 'snapshot' of butterfly distributions in Britain and Ireland for comparison with past and future data. As such, it is particularly important that there is lots of recording during 2014 to fill any gaps at local and national scales, both for butterflies generally and also for particular rare species. Comprehensive recording coverage in all parts of Britain and Ireland is essential to make accurate assessments of species' distribution change over time and to support effective conservation efforts on the ground. Let's hope for another good summer!

National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting 22 March 2014

The ever-popular national meeting takes place once again at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in central Birmingham, within easy walking distance of New Street station. Another strong line up of speakers has been assembled to provide feedback on butterfly recording and monitoring at national and county levels and on how the records that we generate are used to improve understanding and conservation of butterflies. The [full programme can be found online](#). The day will include a separate gathering of BNM Local Co-ordinators / County Butterfly Recorders as well as the first chance for all to hear the official UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme results for 2013 – was it as good as it seemed??

The national meeting is open to anyone interested in butterflies or involved in their recording, monitoring or conservation. If you're a regular then we look forward to welcoming you once again, but if you haven't attended in the past, why not give it a try this year – a whole day of butterflies in the company of fellow enthusiasts is a fantastic tonic to the miserable weather!



At just £5 per person (payable on the day), including lunch and refreshments, it is not to be missed so book your place today via info@butterfly-conservation.org or 01929 400209 providing your name, address, contact details and any specific dietary requirements.

Butterfly Conservation International Symposium (4-6 April 2014)

It's not too late to [book your place](#) for this meeting in Southampton with talks from around the world.

Butterfly Conservation

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Charity registered in England and Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SC039268)

Data deadline 31 March 2014

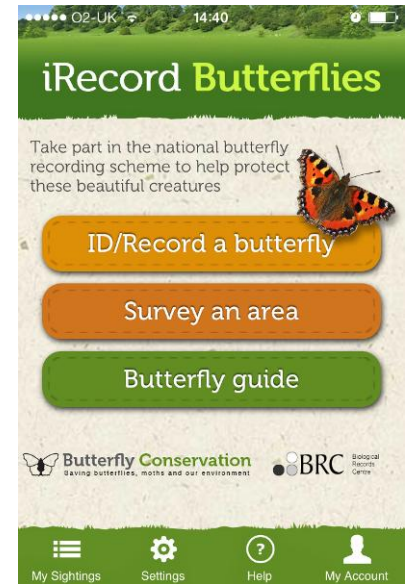
Please can BNM Local Co-ordinators / County Butterfly Recorders try to get datasets of new records (i.e. for 2013, plus any new records for earlier years) for their areas submitted to the national scheme by 31 March. Last year the response was fantastic, with almost all local datasets submitted by the deadline. Prompt submission and processing of the records is a very important part of the ongoing success of the BNM project and we are very grateful for all your hard work in meeting the deadline. Datasets should be submitted to rfox@butterfly-conservation.org

iRecord Butterflies

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been working with the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Bristol University to develop a free butterfly recording smartphone app for the BNM recording scheme.

Entitled *iRecord Butterflies*, the app will be available in both iOS (Apple) and Android versions in time for this year's butterfly season. The app provides an easy means for field recorders to submit single 'casual' sightings and more intensive survey records to the BNM scheme. Records are stored online in the iRecord system and will be provided to BNM Local Co-ordinators for verification and integration with county datasets. Records will not enter the national BNM database direct from the app, only via Local Co-ordinators' datasets.

In addition, we hope the app will encourage members of the public to learn more about butterflies, to identify the ones that they see and to start to submit sightings (with photos for confirmation).



Big Butterfly Count

Big Butterfly Count was a huge success in 2013, with almost 50,000 participants, generating over 500 articles in the media and a big increase in Butterfly Conservation's membership. It will return this summer (Saturday 19 July – Sunday 10 August), again with sponsorship from Marks & Spencer.

Although we certainly don't want to distract recorders from visiting under-recorded squares in this important year for the BNM project, or from structured monitoring programmes such as the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme or Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, there should still be plenty of scope for County Recorders, Butterfly Conservation Branches and others to help promote the Big Butterfly Count very strongly to the wider public during the spring and summer. Such promotion might include running events specifically to promote Big Butterfly Count, putting articles in newsletters and websites and distributing Count ID charts. Please let the BC publicity team news@butterfly-conservation.org know what you are planning – they may be able to provide assistance!

First sightings

Remember that you can keep up with butterfly species as they emerge via the [First Sightings page](#) of the Butterfly Conservation website, as well as via Twitter and Facebook. Please let us know when you hear of genuine sightings of species at the start of their flight periods so that we can keep the page, and other butterfly recorders, up to date.

Receiving this newsletter by E-mail

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would be happy to receive it by e-mail in the future, saving us time and money, please let us know at bnm@butterfly-conservation.org. Many thanks.

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We are very grateful to the Redwing Trust, Forest Services, Forestry Commission England, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage who are helping to fund the BNM project at present. Feel free to pass copies of this newsletter on to others, post it online or to incorporate the information into your own newsletters, so as to help promote butterfly recording. Please contact me if you want to be added to or taken off the mailing list.

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