

Chequered Skipper Survey 2012 – The Results

Despite the poor weather we have been very pleased with the interest in, and the results from, this year's survey. The aim of the survey was to target recording at 100 1km squares that were predicted, through computer modeling, to be the most suitable 1km squares for the butterfly in Scotland, but where it had not previously been recorded. Details of the survey, including survey forms, methodology and maps, showing the location of each of the one hundred 1km squares were all available on line at www.butterfly-conservation.org/chequeredskipper

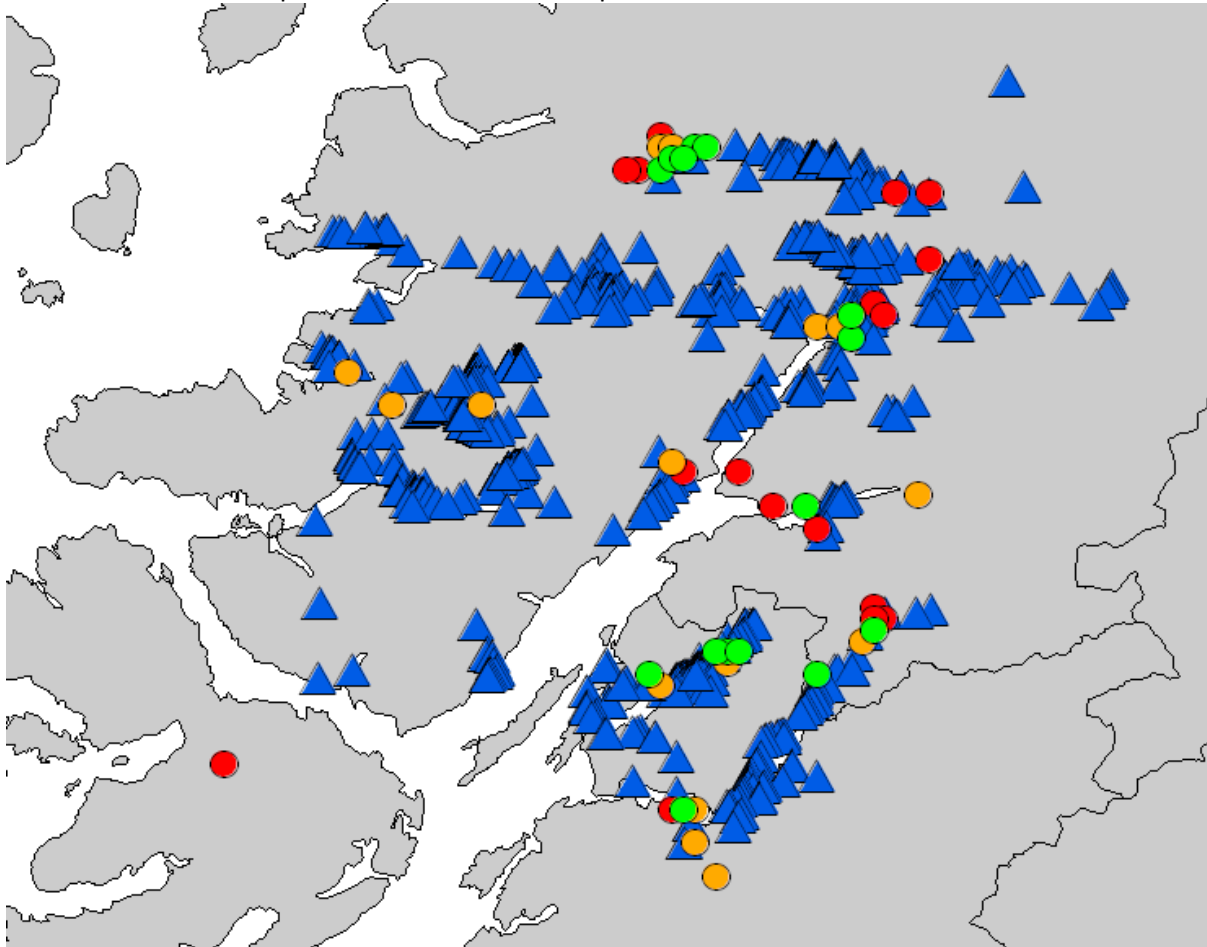
The survey sparked a good deal of interest with over 50 volunteers signing up to take part. This resulted in 49 survey visits to squares although this includes repeat visits by different surveyors to some squares. 36 different squares, out of the 100 targeted, were surveyed with Chequered Skippers being found in 15 of these, but not found in 21. The main reason for the butterfly not being recorded in these squares was due to them being surveyed in marginal weather, rather than the butterfly being absent. Chequered Skipper was also recorded in an additional 15 new 1km squares, where it had not previously been recorded, although these squares were not part of the targeted 100 squares.

The table below lists the 1km squares in the three categories;

- Targeted 1km squares where CS was found – 15 squares.
- Targeted 1km squares surveyed but CS was not found – 21 squares.
- Other new 1km squares – 15 squares.

1km squares where CS was found		1km squares surveyed but CS was not found		Other new 1km squares
Rank	Square	Rank	Square	Square
3	NN0247	1	NM5737	NM9644
4	NN1045	9	NM9863	NM6872
5	NN0960	11	NN1551	NM9692
6	NN0147	14	NS0079	NM9792
20	NM9690	18	NM9733	NM9930
25	NM9992	23	NN1578	NM9933
31	NN1375	29	NN1058	NN0127
34	NM9833	32	NN1788	NN0246
39	NM9791	38	NM9490	NN1076
45	NN0092	43	NN2082	NN1276
58	NN0347	44	NN0660	NN1448
69	NM9891	46	NN1650	NN1961
76	NN1377	59	NS0080	NM7269
81	NM9545	61	NM9693	NM8069
84	NN1549	63	NN2088	NM9764
		74	NN1550	
		76	NN1377	
		94	NS1296	
		95	NN0363	
		96	NN1677	
		97	NM9390	
Total	15		21	15

The location of these squares is plotted on the map below



Key

Blue Triangles = CS records 1980-2011.

Green Dots = Targeted 1km squares where CS was found.

Red Dots = Targeted 1km squares surveyed but CS was not found.

Orange Dots = Other new 1km squares where CS was recorded.

NB: Three 1km squares in Cowal, all red dots, which lie c30km to the south of the map are not shown.

As the map clearly shows all the records are from within, or adjacent to, the current known range of the butterfly with the most significant records of Chequered Skipper being:

- The most southerly Scottish sighting, in Glen Nant.
- A record immediately to the east of Kinlochleven which is around 7km to the east of the closest previous record.
- The discovery of a good population in seven 1km squares at the western end of Loch Arkaig, on the north-western edge of the butterfly's range.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey. Due to the success of and interest in the survey we are thinking of repeating it again next year, with our fingers very strongly crossed for some better weather and hopefully with an improved and more interactive web page. So please keep an eye on the web page www.butterfly-conservation.org/chequeredskipper and/or contact Tom for more info. Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org. Tel 01540 661469