



Updated guidance for butterfly and moth recorders relating to Coronavirus Covid-19

14/05/2020

Following the Prime Minister's address on 10th May, and subsequent official guidance, there have been significant changes to the restrictions brought in to reduce the spread of coronavirus. However, there is also now divergence between the UK nations on restrictions relating to outdoor activities. In England, although the key message is to stay at home as much as possible, the revised measures now allow people to spend leisure time outdoors (rather than just exercising once a day) and to travel to outdoor locations within England, provided that social distancing rules are followed. People in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland must follow the specific rules in those parts of the UK.

As a result, **in England only**, it is now possible for butterfly and moth recording to resume for people who are not shielding or self-isolating. Recorders must, at all times, continue to observe social distancing guidelines, including that you cannot record in groups of more than two (excluding members of your own household) and ensuring that you remain at least 2 metres away from anyone outside your household. If you have coronavirus symptoms, or if you or any of your household are self-isolating, you should stay at home.

You should also be aware that nature reserves and other sites may not be open to the public or may be maintaining local restrictions that do not permit butterfly and moth recording. Further government advice is available on the [new restrictions in England](#) and on [staying safe outdoors](#).

In **Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** more stringent restrictions on outdoor activities remain in place. Under these conditions, Butterfly Conservation strongly advises that you do not leave home in order to record butterflies and moths. Recording of butterflies and moths seen at home, or when leaving home for permitted purposes (in line with current advice from the devolved administrations), can continue.

We will continue to monitor advice from the UK Government and the devolved administrations, and will produce revised guidance when the time is right. Please check for any updates at www.butterfly-conservation.org. If you have any queries regarding this advice, please contact the recording team at recording@butterfly-conservation.org

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Please continue to follow the latest guidance from your appropriate administration:

England: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>