



Dear All

Welcome to the August edition of Butterfly Conservation Wales' Newsletter. We hope you're enjoying the summer.

We bring you a bumper edition of Frits About, with Fritillary butterfly sightings from May to 1st August.

If you've enjoyed doing the Big Butterfly Count, find out how to help our threatened species by sending in records of your sightings all year-round.

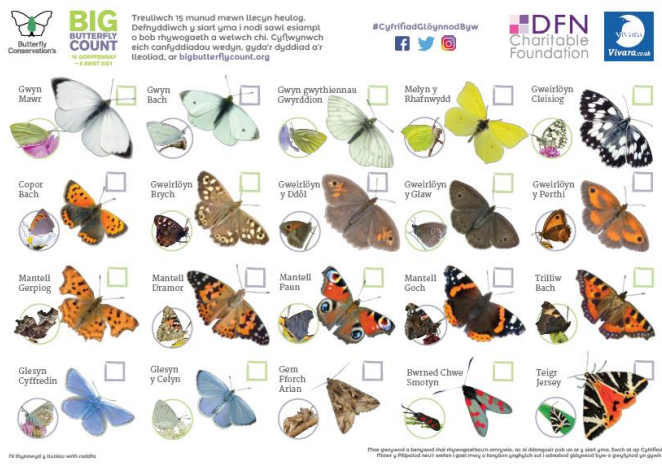
We could not do what we do without the generous help of enthusiastic volunteers, thank you all. Coming up soon is the Marsh Fritillary larval web survey season. Let us know if you'd like to be involved!

Best regards,

Andrea, Clare, Dai and Judy, *The Wales Team*



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The Final Countdown!

There are five days left to take part in the **Big Butterfly Count**. You can either use the free online app or download ID charts in Welsh and English. The Count ends on Sunday 8th - but you can still submit sightings for a short time after that.

Seen something that isn't on the ID sheet or App? Find out how to record it [here](#)

Thank you !

Carry on Recording!

We hope that people doing the Big Butterfly Count will find they enjoy recording the wildlife they see and want to carry on year-round.

Read on below to find out how



Butterfly and Moth Recording

We need to know where, when and how many of each species are seen, in order to understand how they are faring and what needs to be done to help them thrive. These records are essential for successful conservation work.

Choose how to send in your sightings: [Visit the webpage](#) for details.

For **butterflies** you can use **one of** these routes (to avoid duplication).

- our free [irecord butterflies app](#)

OR

- Enter your records directly online via BC's [Butterflies for the New Millennium \(BNM\)](#)

OR for **both butterflies and moths**:

- Send them directly to the County Recorder for [butterflies](#) or [moths](#). Scroll down the list to find the Wales Counties. Submissions can be by email (ideally) but paper or phone are options. You can collect records and submit a few times a year. Find handy ready-made [spreadsheets here](#) (bottom of page).

Wales Green Recovery Project

This has been completed successfully; we've all been very busy! Thanks to the Lottery Heritage Fund we've been able to look into the inter-related themes of how we can:

- work even more effectively for threatened species,
- provide more opportunities for our volunteers in Wales and
- involve more people from **all** communities across Wales.

Among many things, this includes more bilingual communications – and we're delighted to present five new leaflets – follow the links below!

A huge *thank you* to all who responded to questionnaires and interviews with the Consultants we engaged. The findings will inform our work in the months and years ahead. You'll hear more soon.

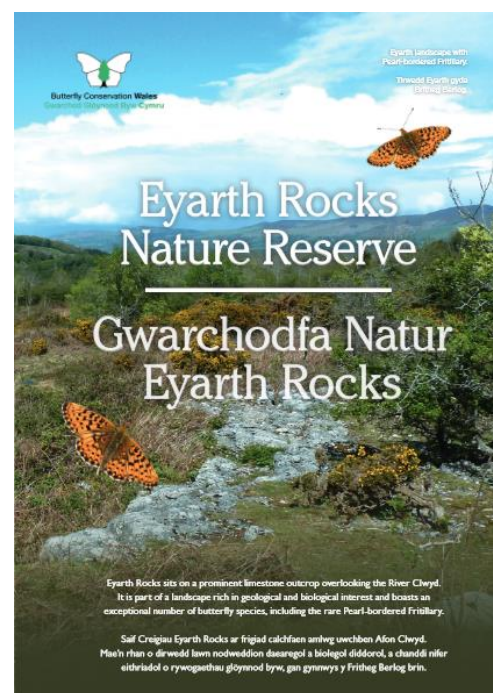


New leaflets in Welsh and English

Thanks to this Lottery funded Project, the Wales team have produced five more bilingual leaflets, downloadable from our updated [Wales webpages](#). There are three new guides to managing important habitats in Wales.

- [Bracken for Butterflies](#) - [Rhodyn i Löynnod Byw](#)
- [Bare Ground for Butterflies and Moths](#) - [Daear Noeth i Löynnod Byw a Löynnod Byw a Gwyfynod](#)
- [Marsh Fritillary – Rhos Pasture](#) – [Britheg y Gors](#)
- The bilingual guides to our Reserves are now freshly designed and written – [Caeau Ffos Fach](#) and [Eyarth Rocks](#)

These join our rich list of existing publications in [Welsh](#) and [English](#) about moths, butterflies and habitats in Wales – click through to explore!



Volunteers needed for Marsh Fritillary Surveys

Although summer is still very much upon us, it won't be long until we start our annual round of monitoring of Marsh Fritillary larval webs. Andrea Rowe photographed these early-stage larvae at Caeau Ffos Fach yesterday!



Each year we monitor a set network of sites and this data helps us understand how the Marsh Fritillary butterfly is doing nationally. We also try to visit all other Marsh Fritillary sites every five years to monitor them. These monitoring visits are often only made possible with the help of volunteers.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Wales@butterfly-conservation.org with the subject line 'Marsh Fritillary surveys'.



Dear Frits About Volunteers – a plea!

This amazing, long running and probably unique newsletter is a collaboration between you, dozens of committed volunteers, sending your sightings to the Editor. We can't thank you all enough for gathering this valuable data.

Please ensure that you also send your Records in via one of the routes (as set out above).

Sadly, it's just not possible for Richard or the Wales staff to extract all the records to send to County Recorders – it's a huge task for one person!

Thank you very much



FRITS ABOUT, 2021 – No.2

Richard Smith Writes:

Welcome, Apologies that this second issue of 2021 has been very late emerging – even more-so than some of Wales's fritillaries this year! We've had an impressive number of reports (177) Notably in 2021 so far, there are few if any new sites found, in contrast to 2018 & 2019 in particular.

Of the three earliest flying species (Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and Marsh Fritillaries), apart from late starts, in some ways a very average year. That said, numbers were modest at best, Dark Green, High Brown & Silver-washed Fritillaries also emerged later generally in 2021 DGF haven't been reported in big numbers on sites but there have been reports from many coastal sites as usual. HBF has shown much lower sightings than 2020 SWF is expected to be reported for a few weeks yet.

Our next mission in South Wales at least will be **Marsh Fritillary larval web searches**. We may not make up for all time lost in 2020 but we'll be doing our best at branch, BC staff and working with partners and volunteers. The task annually becomes larger as MF occupied sites increase – a measure of success?

Please click here to read Frits About 2021 No. 2 in full

Thanks to the following for supplying their photos:

Title bar - High Brown Fritillary on Thistle: Ben Williams; Dark Green Fritillary: Anna Griffiths; Peacock: George Tordoff
Marsh Fritillary larvae, CFF: Andrea Rowe; Marsh Fritillary web survey, Caeau Ffos Fach: George Tordoff;
Pearl-bordered Fritillary: Steve Andrews

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