

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey. 2010

In 2009 a number of people in the Northeast took part in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey. This survey was very successful and Butterfly Conservation Last year we were a little late in advertising for volunteers (not our fault) and therefore this year we are jumping the gun slightly in asking for volunteers before it as been agreed to do the survey. It is highly probable that the survey will go ahead and I am asking anyone interested to let me know and I will then be able to forward their details to headquarters as soon as they make the request.

The basic survey procedure is as follows:-

The requirement is to make a minimum of two visits July – August with optional visits from May until August.

North East England Branch will probably be allocated 20 - 1km. squares which will have been chosen randomly to gain a representative sample of the branch regions and their habitats.

The survey is NOT designed to replace transects, but to compliment them by collecting different data on common and widespread species that we suspect are fairing differently outside nature reserves and SSSI's and therefore the survey has to be random to get a representative picture of the countryside.

The basic requirement for surveying a 1km square is to create two survey lines approx. 1 km long, 500m apart and approx. 250m in from the edge of the square. Pairs of survey lines to run N-S or E-W.

It is appreciated that this is the ideal situation and most sets of survey lines will be an approximation of this requirement.

The two survey lines are to be divided into 5 – 200 m. long sections and the butterflies seen, identified with the 200 section in which they were seen.

It is important not to reject squares on the grounds that they appear uninteresting. Squares containing few species are just as valuable as squares with many species.

It is intended that the recorded data will be sent electronically to Butterfly Conservation via the website. However if you do not have access to a computer the data can be recorded on paper record sheets, which will be supplied. At the end of the recording period the completed paper record sheets are to be forwarded to Brian Denham (See below for address) who will enter the data.

The above is a very broad outline of the survey method. If you decide that you would like to help in this survey then please provisionally select a suitable 1 km. square from the following list and inform or Brian Denham of your decision and choice. We will then arrange for more detailed instructions to be sent to you.

Only when you have studied the detailed instructions and confirmed that you wish to carry on with the survey will we finally allocate the 1 km square you have selected

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