

## **Help needed to expand the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey**

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) is the main scheme for monitoring population changes of the UK's common and widespread butterflies. The survey is a partnership project run jointly by Butterfly Conservation, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). Last year around 700 squares were surveyed by Butterfly Conservation and BTO volunteers.

We are pleased to announce that funding has been secured to run the WCBS for at least another two years. This is a major boost to the project which has been run on minimal resources since launching in 2009. We really need your help to substantially increase coverage. The scheme is vital to help us assess whether nationwide conservation measures including agri-environment and woodland grant schemes are having a measureable impact in helping to conserve and restore butterflies across the countryside as a whole. The recently published State of the UK's Butterflies 2011 report shows that as a group the wider countryside butterfly species have declined by 24% over the past 10 years. However all is not doom and gloom, a small number of non-specialist, mobile butterflies have continued to thrive. These include Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood and Ringlet which have also continued to spread northwards.

All that is required is two core visits per year to an allocated 1km square (one in July and one in August) with an optional spring visit to count Orange-tips and other early flying species. Most Butterfly Conservation Branches have a WCBS Champion who can allocate you a square and provide help and support to get you started. For more information please contact Brian Denham, [brian.denham@ntlworld.com](mailto:brian.denham@ntlworld.com) - 01325 263449 - the Branch Champion for the North of England Branch, or look on Butterfly Conservation's web site ([www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)) for details of the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey.


If you would like to assist Butterfly Conservation by monitoring one or more of the 1km squares please select from the following and let Brian Denham know which one(s) you have chosen. NU9222, NT9935, NY6662, NY6859, NY6869, NY7189, NY7482, NY9085, NY9796, NY9971, NZ0825, NZ4234 & NZ2159 and he will let you know if it is still available. See following pages for locations of these squares.

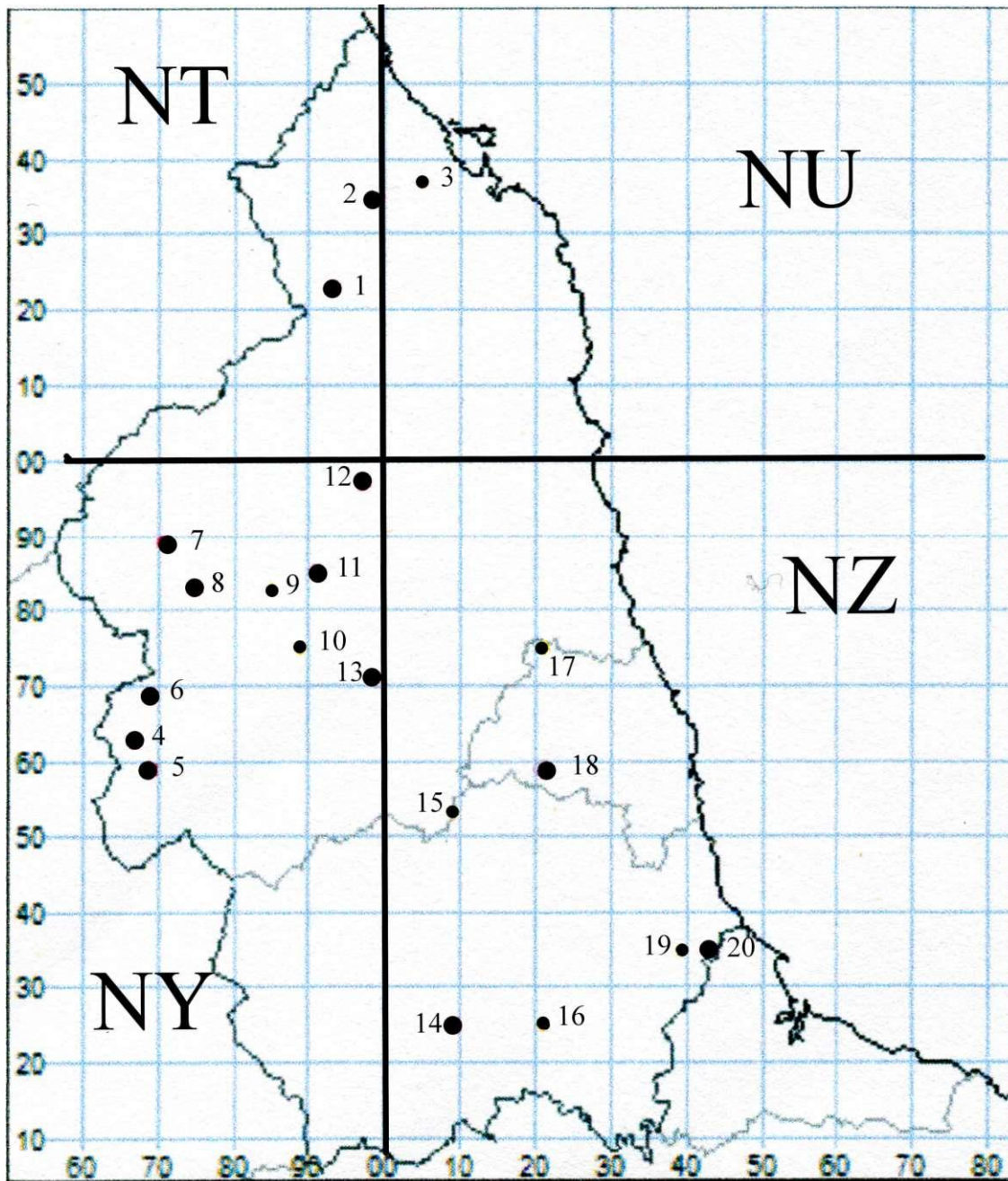
In 2011 we only recorded 3 of the 20 squares allocated to the North East Group. This poor compared with the good numbers we have for Transects – Please try and help. It is considerably less time consuming than recording a transect.

Brian Denham

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 1km Squares allocated to the North of England Group in 2012

I/D No.	Grid. Ref.	O.S Landranger Map No.	Approx. location
1	NT9222	74 & 75	8.5km. SW of Wooler
2	NT9935	75	7.0km. N of Wooler
3	NU0436	75	Nr. Holburn
4	NY6662	86	4.2km. SW of Haltwhistle
5	NY6859	86 & 87	5.5km. SSW of Haltwhistle
6	NY6869	86 & 87	6km. NNW of Haltwhistle
7	NY7189	80	Nr. Hawkope nr. Kielder Water
8	NY7482	80	5.8km. SW of Lanehead nr. Kielder Water
9	NY8583	80	Nr. Bellingham
10	NY8974	87	Nr. Chipchase Castle
11	NY9085	80	Nr. Ridsdale on A68
12	NY9796	81	4.5km NW of Elsdon on B6341
13	NY9971	87	Nr. Great Whittington off A68
14	NZ0825	92	Nr. Copley
15	NZ0953	88	Nr. Shottley Bridge
16	NZ2024	93	Nr. Bildershaw on A68 off A1
17	NZ2075	88	Nr. Dinnington off A1
18	NZ2159	88	Nr. Sunnyside on A692
19	NZ3934	93	Nr. Hurworth Burn
20	NZ4234	93	Nr. Hurworth Burn

 Indicates squares already allocated



• Large dot - un allocated square      • Small dot = allocated square

WCBS - North East - 1km squares

Numbers refer to identity number on list of allocated 1km. squares