

Some hints on recording. Revised 12 November 2014

The following are some hints on recording that I have developed over the past few years and which I hope you may find useful. It is not an official Butterfly Conservation document.

a) Calculating the percentage sun.

This is a figure which causes some confusion.

The best way of calculating percentage sun is note whether a section is sunny or not sunny as you walk through your transect.

Note a section as “sunny” if at any time you are walking through a section your body casts a shadow even if it is only briefly.

Note a section as “not sunny” if no shadow is cast whilst you are walking through a section.

At the end of recording your transect. Divide the number of “ Sunny “ sections by the total number of sections and multiply 100. Note the result to the nearest 10% above, as the percentage sun for the whole transect for that weeks results.

b) Wind speed numbers for butterfly transect recording,

Please use the following numbers to indicate wind speed on weekly transect record sheets.

- 0 – Smoke rising vertically
- 1 – Slight smoke drift,
- 2 – Wind felt on face. Leaves rustle.
- 3 – Leaves and twigs in slight motion.
- 4 – Dust raised and small branches move.
- 5 – Small trees in leaf begin to sway.
- 6 – Large branches move and trees sway.

c) Week numbers.

Week number one of each year starts in the first of April. Subsequent weeks start on the same day of the week that week one started on.

Week number one for 2014 starts on Tuesday the 1st of April. Throughout 2014 weeks start on a Tuesday

If the correct week start dates are not kept too, then this can result in two sets of data for one week and none for the subsequent or previous week.

c) Recording.

You should endeavour to record your transect once per week when weather conditions are suitable between the hours of 10am and 4pm. If there two or more of you recording the transect you must either record a complete one weeks transect record in one continuous walk or if two or more of you wish to record separate parts of the transect, the recording must take place in the same time period. You cannot record a

part of a transect early in the day and the other parts later in the day. Similarly you cannot record part of a transect on one day and the other parts on other days in the week

d) Continuity

For your results to have maximum value you should endeavour to have a set of data for each week between 1st April and last week in September (26 weeks). Weeks when there are no butterflies should also be recorded by simply entering date, time, temp wind etc. If for any reason you know that will be unable to record your transect please ask a colleague or friend to do it for you if possible

e) Entering results

When you start to enter your data, at the top of the page there are the words "Use species list". Open box to right of this and select "Species known at this site". Scroll down to the box at bottom and enter name of butterfly you wish to record. This will add that butterfly to the transect list. From now on each time you come to enter you weekly data your transect list will only show the list of butterflies you have previously recorded. New species can be added as above.

The advantage of doing this is, one you have shorter list to scroll down when entering data and two there is less likelihood of entering data against the wrong butterfly as can happen when using the full UK list of butterflies.

e) Sending in your results.

1) The most efficient way to send in your results is "On line" .

1) If you do not have a computer and wish me to enter your result, please send a copy of your weekly report sheets to me by mail as and when you wish providing I get all of them all by the middle of October. Always keep a copy of your results.

If you do send me your record sheets will you indicate the number of butterflies seen in a section by putting either a number or **a small vertical line for each butterfly seen. Every fifth butterfly to be indicated by a horizontal line through the four previous one. I have received sheets with just rows of vertical lines which have to counted and can lead to errors.**

Thank you for volunteering.

Regards

Brian Denham
Transect Co.ordinator North East Branch

