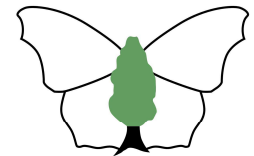


# Butterflies for the New Millennium



**Butterfly  
Conservation**  
*in association with the  
Biological Records Centre*

## Winter Newsletter 2010/11

*Butterflies for the New Millennium* is the national recording scheme for butterflies in Britain and Ireland and is organised in the UK by Butterfly Conservation and the Biological Records Centre and in the Republic of Ireland by The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club. The initial survey work (1995-99) was used to assess the status of all native species in *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. New data from 2000-04 were incorporated in *The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* published in 2006. Recording continues so as to provide up-to-date information for nature conservation, public education and research.

### Introduction

Welcome to the winter newsletter! It is that time of year when County Recorders/BNM Local Co-ordinators are frantically busy with data verification and input, while recorders dream of the butterfly season to come, especially if they've been lucky enough to see one of our hibernating species on the wing during the occasional spells of mild weather this winter. County datasets for 2010 have started to arrive at the BNM central database and we hope to have received data from right across Britain and Ireland by the end of March. Many thanks in advance for these.

Meanwhile, work has been continuing on the data gathered in the last five-year BNM survey (2005-09). A set of updated maps was produced in the form of a report, the *2010 Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*, during the autumn. This was circulated to Local Co-ordinators, with remaining copies being sold on a first come first served basis. All copies of this report have now gone, but we plan to make it available on the Butterfly Conservation website in due course.

In addition, the 2005-09 data have been placed on the National Biodiversity Network Gateway ([www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net)). This dataset is publicly available only at 10km square resolution for now, though we hope to increase public access (in line with earlier BNM data) in the future. Government conservation agencies that support the BNM recording scheme will be able to access detailed records and use them to promote the conservation of butterflies.

The main analyses of the 2005-09 data have been undertaken and work has started on drafting the new *State of the UK's Butterflies 2011* report. This will be available later in the year, but the results will be presented at the National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting. I hope to see you there.

### National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting: Saturday 12 March 2011

Our annual gathering of recorders, transect walkers, research scientists, conservationists and butterfly enthusiasts is one of the most enjoyable and interesting events in the whole Butterfly Conservation calendar. Those who have attended before will need no convincing and will have already booked their places no doubt. For those who've not come along in the past, why not give it a go this year? As well as talks from senior Butterfly Conservation staff about the progress of recording and monitoring projects, there will be guest speakers, discussion sessions and plenty of time to relax and chat over a buffet lunch with fellow enthusiasts from across Britain and Ireland.

This year we are very fortunate to have a talk from Patrick Barkham, author of last year's critically acclaimed book *The Butterfly Isles*. In addition, there will be talks about habitat management for the High Brown Fritillary, the impacts of disease and parasites on populations of chalk grassland butterflies, volunteer recording projects at the local scale and how butterfly habitat use varies with temperature in different part of Britain. Also, as usual, the meeting will provide the first exciting sneak previews of the UKBMS transect results for 2010. How did butterflies get on last year – was it really a substantial

#### Butterfly Conservation

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improvement on recent dismal years or have the declines continued? Come along and be among the first to find out. The programme for the meeting is available at [www.ukbms.org](http://www.ukbms.org).

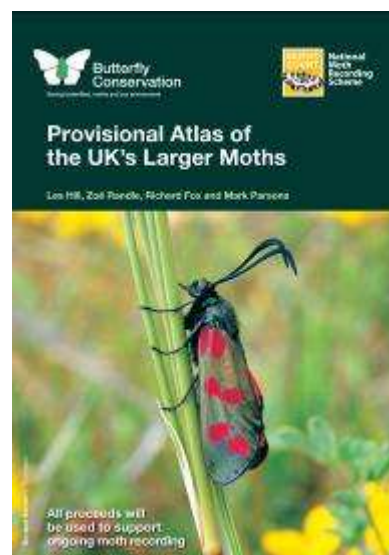
The meeting takes place at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, a short walk from New Street Station in central Birmingham, on Saturday 12th March 2011 (10.30 for 11.00 start). Anyone interested in butterflies is welcome; you don't have to be an active recorder. However, we do require advanced booking and there is a (heavily subsidised) registration fee of £5 per person, made on the day, to help cover the costs of venue hire, tea/coffee and buffet lunch. If you would like to book a place please contact Ian Middlebrook at Butterfly Conservation (01929 406032 or [imiddlebrook@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:imiddlebrook@butterfly-conservation.org)) providing your name, address and contact details.

## More Gateway news

As reported in the last newsletter, Butterfly Conservation has been updating its datasets on the National Biodiversity Network Gateway. The recent addition of some 2.3 million BNM records for the 2005-09 period caused some excitement as it took the Gateway past the 60 million records barrier. Butterfly Conservation was already the largest provider of biological records to public and professional audiences via the NBN Gateway, but with this new upload joining existing BNM and National Moth Recording Scheme datasets, 31% of all NBN Gateway records are now provided by Butterfly Conservation (some 19 million records in all)!

## Moths get in on the act

After several full atlases of the butterflies in Britain and Ireland, the moths are finally catching up. The *Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths* is hot off the press and comprises over 430 pages of up-to-date distribution maps for 868 resident and immigrant larger (macro-) moth species. This is the first atlas to cover all the UK's larger moths and it includes the first distribution maps for the c.300 Geometrid species ever published, as well as the first new maps for over 20 years for other species. As such, it is a major step forward in our knowledge of moth distributions and a 'must have' for recorders. The maps include historical records (pre 2000) and current records (2000 onwards). The Provisional Atlas can be ordered for £20 (plus £5.00 P&P) by cheque to Butterfly Conservation Head Office or via [www.butterfly-conservation.org/shop](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/shop). Copies will be available for sale at the National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting too, if you want to save the postage costs. All proceeds will be used to support ongoing recording.



## BNM Local Co-ordinators honoured

Two of the BNM project's hard working and highly skilled volunteers won prestigious Outstanding Volunteer of the Year awards from Butterfly Conservation in 2010. Duncan Davidson and Mike Ridge, BNM co-ordinators for Eastern Scotland and Somerset respectively, were among only six winners of the accolade last year. Well done to both of them for these much-deserved awards.

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We are very grateful to Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales who helped to fund this newsletter and the BNM project during the year. However, funding is becoming more and more difficult and you can help by donating to Butterfly Conservation's *Putting Butterflies on the Map* appeal to raise funds to maintain our recording projects ([www.justgiving.com/putting-butterflies-on-the-map](http://www.justgiving.com/putting-butterflies-on-the-map)). Thank you to everyone who has already contributed!

Feel free to pass copies of this newsletter on to others or to incorporate the information into your own newsletters, so as to help promote butterfly recording. I can provide an electronic copy if that helps. Please contact me if you want to be added to or taken off the mailing list.

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