



PRESS RELEASE

ARE THERE TIGERS IN YOUR GARDEN?

Butterfly Conservation Scotland is urging people to venture into their gardens after dark this Bank Holiday Weekend, to search for tigers.

The Garden Tiger moth is one of our most stunning insects with orange, black, brown and white wings, a furry orange and black body and white antennae.

But this large moth is in trouble with the species undergoing a decline in numbers.

By counting these moths as part of the garden tiger survey, the public can play a vitally important role in providing Butterfly Conservation scientists with data that could help safeguard these moths for the future.

The garden tiger flies at night and is readily attracted to outdoor lights.

Once a very common visitor to gardens throughout the UK, sightings of the Garden Tiger are now not often reported in the Central Belt, southern Scotland and most of England and Wales, although it's still widespread over large parts of the Highlands.

Alex Hogg, Community Engagement Officer said: "The Garden Tiger is a magnificent beast, which was once a very common visitor to gardens throughout the UK.

"Sadly it seems that the loss of local wildlife habitats and perhaps changes in gardening practice means that it is now an uncommon sight in the Central Belt, southern Scotland and most of England and Wales.

Tom Prescott, Species Conservation Officer said: "Fortunately the Garden Tiger is still widespread over large parts of the Highlands. Perhaps it should be renamed the Highland Tiger?"

The Garden Tiger's colours serve both as camouflage and as a warning to predators such as birds that it is poisonous – although it is perfectly safe to carefully pick up.

Those successful in their tiger safari can send us sightings via a 'quick link' at www.butterfly-conservation.org/scottishtigersurvey

The Bank Holiday weekend also provides a last chance to take part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count.

Butterflies are key indicators of the health of our environment and taking part in the Count, backed by Butterfly Conservation President Sir David Attenborough, will

provide crucial information which could help secure the long-term future of these threatened insects. www.bigbutterflycount.org
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Images

Garden Tiger by Shane Farrell. More images are available from ahogg@butterfly-conservation.org

Notes for Editors

- Butterfly Conservation is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with 15,000 members in the UK, and over 1,000 in Scotland. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. Further information www.butterfly-conservation.org
- In Scotland Butterfly Conservation receives grant-aid from Scottish Natural Heritage to support volunteers who collect data, provide advice to landowners and others, and promote the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats
www.butterflyconservation.org/scotland
- Although still found over most of the UK, the Garden Tiger is much less common than it used to be, and it is now listed on the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan. More information can be found at http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/uploads/garden_tiger.pdf
- Scottish Natural Heritage is the government's adviser on all aspects of nature and landscape across Scotland. Our role is to help everyone understand, value and enjoy Scotland's nature now and in the future. For more information, visit our website at www.snh.gov.uk. SNH media is also now on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SNHPress#>

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