

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey needs you!

The **Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS)** is run jointly by **Butterfly Conservation (BC)**, **British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)** and **Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)**. It is the main scheme for monitoring population changes of the UK's common and widespread butterflies. Conservation efforts in recent decades have focused on rare or declining habitat specialist species, but the latest State of UK Butterflies Report shows that many wider countryside species are now in trouble.



Photo by Iain Leach

We urgently need your help to gather more information on the status of these species to inform future conservation efforts.

All BBS volunteers are invited to take part in the WCBS either by making additional visits to their BBS square to count the butterflies or by contacting BC for listings of available non BBS squares. The main survey period runs through July and August, with counts lasting a similar length to a BBS visit.

To take part in your existing BBS square please contact the BBS National Organiser:

Sarah Harris

 bbs@bto.org

 01842 750050

To survey a Butterfly Conservation WCBS square please contact the WCBS Co-ordinator:

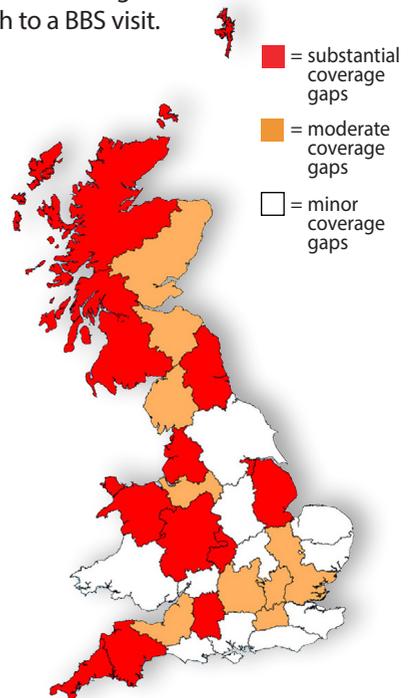
Zoë Randle

 survey@butterfly-conservation.org

 01929 406006

Recording forms, guidance documents and the latest newsletter can be found on the UKBMS website **www.ukbms.org**.

Follow the WCBS on Twitter  **@WCBSLive**



Regions where additional BBS squares are most required

The WCBS in numbers...

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Around a third of wider countryside species are **now in long-term decline**, including garden favourites such as the Small Tortoiseshell.



92%

23 of the 25 wider countryside butterfly species are well monitored through the WCBS.



25%

As a group, wider countryside species have **declined in abundance by 25%** since 1976.



288,056

The number of **butterflies counted** by BBS recorders since 2009.



87%

Wall has now vanished from much of the countryside, with **numbers plummeting by 87%** since 1976.



308

The number of BBS **squares surveyed** for butterflies in 2015.



381%

One of the winners; the long-term population trend for the Ringlet is **up by 381%**.



192

The number of additional **squares required** to meet our BBS square coverage target.



55%

Silver-washed Fritillary, is now more widespread than several wider countryside species, experiencing a **55% increase in occurrence** over the past 10 years.



866

866 **BBS recorders** have taken part in the WCBS since 2009.



Acknowledgement The WCBS forms part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). The UKBMS is run by Butterfly Conservation, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, and the British Trust for Ornithology, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and supported and steered by Forestry Commission, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and Scottish Natural Heritage. Butterfly images, back page: bottom left David Newland, others Henk Bosma/Dutch Butterfly Conservation.