

INTRODUCTION:

Transect Walker is a software program that allows butterfly transect recorders to enter and view data themselves, and send it in electronic format to Transect Co-ordinators. The program can be downloaded free of charge from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme website (www.ukbms.org) or the Butterfly Conservation website (www.butterfly-conservation.org). This guide briefly summarises how to use the basic functions of Transect Walker 2, and explains some important changes that have been made since the last version. More detailed information on each topic is provided in guidance notes G6 to G9 (available from the above websites) and in the Transect Walker 'Help' files, accessible from within the program itself.

View the Readme file downloaded with the software (or on the installation CD) for a summary of the important changes made to latest version, including a new method of calculating annual abundance indices.

CONVERSION OF TRANSECT WALKER VERSION 1.3 FILES (EXISTING USERS ONLY):

If you have been using Transect Walker 1.3 to store your transect data, you can convert your existing files to Transect Walker 2 format using a 'Translator' program. As long as you choose a different file location for the converted files when using Translator, your original 1.3 files will not be lost and can be kept as an archive.

1. To open the Translator program, first open Transect Walker 2 and click on FILE, then CONVERT OLD TRANSECT WALKER FILES.
2. Select the folder where the converted files will be placed. The default location is C:\Program Files\Transect Walker 2. If you choose a different location, make sure it is not the folder containing your 1.3 files otherwise you will over-write your old files.
3. Choose to convert one file or many files by clicking on the appropriate button. **You will receive a warning message suggesting you should have your paper records available. This is highly recommended, as the Translator program may find errors in the data, such as incorrect dates and missing recorder names, and you have to correct these before you can proceed.**
4. A pop-up box will notify you that the translation is complete. You can now close Translator and begin work in Transect Walker 2 with your new data files.

TO CREATE A NEW FILE WITH BASIC SITE DATA:

1. Open Transect Walker 2 and click FILE, then NEW.
2. Enter the name of your site.
3. Enter the number of sections (this cannot be changed once saved so make sure it is correct at the outset).
4. You will receive warnings about section number and Lowland/Upland classification. Read these then click OK.

Then describe your site as a whole and section by section:

1. From bottom of page click RECORDERS AND CONTACT DETAILS, click ADD NEW RECORDER, enter all the details and then click OK. Repeat as necessary for other recorders, landowners or transect contacts.
2. Click SITE DETAILS 1 and fill the boxes.
3. Click SITE DETAILS 2 and fill the boxes. Use drop down boxes to select habitat types.
4. Click SECTION DETAILS, click in the "GRID REFERENCE" box for the section you want to edit, then click EDIT SECTION. Complete for each section using drop down habitat lists.

If you want to stop working at any stage, be sure to click FILE, then SAVE before closing the program.

USING A CUSTOM SPECIES LIST:

Creating a custom species list for your site can make entering data a lot faster by limiting the list to only the species you see on your transect. Several custom lists are supplied with the program.

1. Click PREFERENCES, then CUSTOM SPECIES LIST
2. Click on the species you would like in the list, and click on the arrow to put them on your list (in your preferred order)
3. Enter a title for the list in CUSTOM LIST TITLE, then click SAVE, then LOAD LIST, then OK.
4. This will take you back into the main window, and you can start entering or looking at data. To change the selected list at any time, click on LOADED LIST (at the top of the screen) and choose a different one from the drop down list.

ADDING SPECIES TO THE MASTER LIST:

An additional facility is available in Transect Walker 2 allows you to add species names not currently in the Full list. This is useful if you are interested in recording additional moths or other insects for example.

1. Click PREFERENCES, then ADD SPECIES.
2. Type the name of the species in the box provided (be sure to check the spelling).
3. Click ADD SPECIES, then OK.
4. You can then add the new species to your custom site list if you so wish, following the steps described above.

ENTERING WEEKLY DATA:


1. Open Transect Walker, then click FILE and open your site data file.
2. Click CREATE YEAR, then NEW YEAR – FULL WEEKLY VISIT DATA
3. Type the year, then click OK twice to return to the main screen.
4. Click DATA INPUT, then FULL WEEKLY VISIT DATA.
5. From left hand column click the week you want to enter data for.
6. Click on the exact day using the SELECT DAY calendar box.
7. Enter START TIME, and FINISH TIME
8. Enter the weather data then click OK. You will now enter another window.
9. Enter butterflies seen for each section. Click NEW WALK to enter more data, or FINISH to exit data entry.
10. Click FILE, then SAVE.

Note: You can now add data for more than one visit per recording week. For the week in question, click on an additional day in the SELECT DAY box and repeat steps 7-9 above. When calculating annual abundance indices, the program takes an average of the counts and weather values for multiple visits within a week.

IDENTIFICATION OF DATA PROBLEMS/ISSUES:

Transect Walker 2 automatically detects missing site information and other missing data in your site files. If any basic site or section details are missing, or if essential weather data are missing (this only applies to converted files), on opening the file you will receive a warning message. Click FILE, DATA ISSUES to see a list of missing data. All of these must be resolved in order to prevent the warning message from appearing each time you open the site file.

PACKAGING DATA FOR SECURE STORAGE AND TRANSFER BY EMAIL:

1. Open Transect Walker, then click FILE and open your site data file.
2. Click FILE, then PACKAGE
3. A message will appear saying that a zip file has been created for your site.
4. **The zip file will be placed in the same folder as your original site files** (default location is C:\Program Files\Transect Walker 2). It will be named with your site name and have a icon looking something like this: 
5. You can move or copy this to a disk or different folder using 'My Computer' or 'Windows Explorer' or locate this file from within your email program to attach it to an email to your local Transect Co-ordinator.

Note: Transect Walker 2 has the facility to create a zip file and automatically attach a copy to an email message ready for sending to the BC HQ transect mailbox. To use this, first open your email program, then in Transect Walker open your site data file and click FILE, then SAVE AS PACKAGE AND EMAIL. An automated message will be created and the packed data attached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Visit the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme website (www.ukbms.org) or the Butterfly Conservation website (www.butterfly-conservation.org).

Contact:

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transect@butterfly-conservation.org

☎ 0870 7744309

Join the transect walking e-group by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UKTransect>