

To whom it may concern

The bearer of this letter is a volunteer fieldworker taking part in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey organised by Butterfly Conservation and The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).


The aim of the survey is to assess the status of butterflies in the general countryside outside of nature reserves and protected habitats. The survey method involves counting butterflies along two parallel 1-km long survey lines, located within randomly selected 1-km squares. You are receiving this letter as you own/manage land that covers all or part of the survey square that has been randomly selected. The bearer of this letter has volunteered to take part in the survey with the request that he/she seeks permission to cross private land in order for fieldwork to be carried out.

The survey will involve at least two and a maximum of five visits to each square over the late spring and summer months - setting up a route, then counting butterflies and potentially other insects along it. For the 1-km long survey lines, the most practical route will be chosen following paths or field edges to avoid damaging crops. The survey work should take place over a short period (less than two hours) during the day (generally between 9.30 and 4.30) and only in warm weather when butterflies are active.

The data generated from the survey will be used by Butterfly Conservation and its partners to inform national species trends and biodiversity conservation. The data will also be entered into local biodiversity group databases for use at the local and regional scales. The data will be made available to the public at 1km x 1km grid square resolution via the National Biodiversity Network Gateway (<https://data.nbn.org.uk/>), apart from in exceptional cases where the data are sensitive. Please get in touch with Butterfly Conservation if you have any concerns.

Any help you can give the bearer in gaining permission to access privately owned land would be very much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to telephone or write to us at the address below if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tom Brereton
Head of Monitoring
Butterfly Conservation



Dr Zoë Randle
Wider Countryside Co-ordinator
Butterfly Conservation

**Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP.
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