



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



**National
Moth
Recording
Scheme**

National Moth Recording Scheme Data Policy

This policy concerns the collection and use of records in the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) administered by Butterfly Conservation. We believe that everyone involved in the transmission of a record, from the field observation to the end user, should understand and agree with terms and conditions that govern the collation and dissemination of NMRS data.

First principles

- The NMRS project partners aim to maximise the use of records and data to promote understanding, recording and conservation of moths and their habitats. NMRS records will be made available in a controlled and managed way to fulfil this aim.
- The NMRS needs to have clear authority to use records received from recorders.
- All recorders supplying records to NMRS, typically via a County Moth Recorder or local environmental records centre, will be taken to have granted authority for NMRS to use the records as outlined in this policy.
- Nevertheless, recorders retain intellectual property rights over their records.
- It is impractical to obtain authority from every recorder (especially for historical records) or to have different criteria governing access to records from different recorders.
- Butterfly Conservation and NMRS will promote this data policy widely so that recorders can make an informed choice about submitting records.

Some specifics

- *Uses of NMRS data.* Records will be used to provide feedback to moth recorders and to stimulate further recording, as well as to inform conservation decision-making, the planning system, research, education, policy development, increasing public awareness and other uses in line with the stated aims of the NMRS (Moths Count) project and Butterfly Conservation's charitable objectives. Data users are likely to include nature conservation charities, statutory/government agencies, local authorities, ecological consultants (see below) and academic researchers, both in the UK and internationally.
- *Making data available.* Basic distribution information will be made freely available at 2km x 2km grid square resolution through maps on the Moths Count web site and National Biodiversity Network Gateway (recorder names will not be freely available). This is to provide feedback and information to moth recorders and to support not-for-profit decision-making, education, research and other public-benefit purposes. Typically, data will be exchanged with County Moth Recorders, local environmental records centres and NMRS project partners. Detailed data (i.e. records at a spatial resolution finer than 2km square) may be available for use by third parties following application using a standard form. Requests for data from single sites or small geographical areas (e.g. typical requests from ecological consultants) will normally be passed onto the manager of the appropriate local data set e.g. County Moth Recorder or local environmental records centre.
- *Restrictions.* Butterfly Conservation and project partners reserve the right to refuse requests for NMRS data. Making data available should reduce the risk of damage to moth populations and habitats and should not undermine the collation of volunteered records through the NMRS. If the release of information is likely to have the opposite effect, then access to data will be restricted. Records of an agreed list of species (shown in Appendix 1) will be treated as sensitive and will not be widely available. Confidentiality of records other than these listed species cannot be assured. It is impractical for the NMRS to accept other restrictions on records imposed by recorders; any data held to be confidential by its originator should not be supplied to NMRS.
- *Charges.* Basic distribution information will be available without charge, but Butterfly Conservation may make a reasonable charge for the administration of data requests. Records will never be sold. Users such as the statutory agencies should expect to help sustain moth recording by contributing financially to the costs of data collection, collation and management.
- *Personal details.* Personal data (e.g. the recorder's name and address) will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and/or subsequent legal provisions. Recorder names may be provided to third parties as part of data requests, but contact details will not be passed on unless with the permission of the person concerned. Data users will be encouraged to acknowledge recorders where practical.

Appendix 1

Sensitive moth species

Records of the following species are currently considered sensitive, although the list is regularly reviewed by Butterfly Conservation in consultation with project partners and moth recorders:

Macro-moths

Barberry Carpet *Pareulype berberata*

Black-veined Moth *Siona lineata*

Essex Emerald *Thetidia smaragdaria maritima*

Fiery Clearwing *Pyropteron chrysidiformis*

Fisher's Estuarine Moth *Gortyna borelii lunata*

New Forest Burnet *Zygaena viciae ytenensis*

Reddish Buff *Acosmetia caliginosa*

Sussex Emerald *Thalera fimbrialis*

Dark Bordered Beauty *Epione vespertaria* (Scotland only)

Speckled Footman *Coscinia cribaria bivittata*

Micro-moths

Scythris siccella

Coleophora wockeella

Syncopacma vinella

Syncopacma albipalpella