

## National Moth Recording Scheme Data Policy

This policy concerns the collection, use and sharing of records by the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) administered by Butterfly Conservation as part of the Moths Count project. We believe that everyone involved in the transmission of a record, from the field observation to the end user, should be aware of, understand and agree with the following terms and conditions that govern the collation and dissemination of NMRS data. This data policy may be subject to revision at any time in the future after due consultation. Please review the latest version of this policy regularly.

### 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 permission 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 considered to have granted permission for NMRS to use the records as outlined in this policy.
- Nevertheless, recorders will retain ownership of their records and, of course, are free to use them as they wish. Butterfly Conservation will own the NMRS database and use it in accordance with this policy.
- It is impractical to obtain permission individually from every recorder (especially for historical records) or to have different criteria governing access to records from individual recorders.
- Butterfly Conservation and NMRS will promote this data policy widely so that recorders can make an informed choice about submitting records.

### Some specifics

- **Use 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 and academic researchers, both in the UK and internationally.
- **Sharing NMRS data.** Summary distribution information (at 2km x 2km grid square resolution) will be made openly and freely available to the public through maps on the internet, including the Moths Count web site and National Biodiversity Network Gateway. 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, detailed data will be exchanged directly with County Moth Recorders, local environmental records centres and NMRS project partners. Detailed data (i.e. records at full spatial resolution) 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. Access to data may be restricted if making data available increases the risk of damage to moth populations and habitats or undermines in any way the collation of volunteered records through the NMRS. Records of an agreed list of species (shown in Appendix 1) are considered to be sensitive and will not be made openly available at 2km square resolution. 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.** Summary distribution information will be available without charge, but Butterfly Conservation may make a reasonable charge for the administration of requests for more detailed data. Records will never be sold. Institutional users should expect to help sustain moth recording by contributing financially to the ongoing costs of data collection, collation and management in return for data access.
- **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 will not be available to the general public, but may be provided to third parties as part of data requests. Contact details will not be passed on without the permission of the person concerned. Data users will be encouraged to acknowledge recorders.

## Appendix 1

### **Sensitive moth species**

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

Barberry Carpet *Pareulype berberata*  
Black-veined Moth *Siona lineata*  
Fiery Clearwing *Pyropteron chrysidiformis*  
Fisher's Estuarine Moth *Gortyna borelii lunata*  
New Forest Burnet *Zygaena viciae argyllensis*  
Reddish Buff *Acosmetia caliginosa*  
Sussex Emerald *Thalera fimbrialis*  
Dark Bordered Beauty *Epione vespertaria* (Scotland only)  
Speckled Footman *Coscinia cribaria bivittata*