

## **The Role of the County Moth Recorder within the NMRS**

The role of the County Moth Recorder is a voluntary one and we will help you as much as we possibly can. The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) will support the County Moth Recorders, providing training as appropriate, and encourage other volunteers to assist them with elements of the work. For example, whilst the quality control role requires the high-level of skill and experience that the County Moth Recorder will possess, computer input of moth records does not require these skills and could be carried out by other volunteers as part of a local team. County Moth Recorders act as the focal point for recording in their areas, which will normally be individual counties, but may sometimes be larger areas. Within the NMRS, County Moth Recorders occupy a vital position as intermediaries between the many thousand recorders and the central scheme. County Moth Recorders already perform many different tasks to promote moth recording and conservation in their areas. Some of these tasks are fundamental to making the NMRS a success and others less vital, although very important at the local level.

To function effectively as part of the NMRS, County Moth Recorders (together with other volunteers who may work to assist them) should:

- Collate all of the moth records for their area
- Undertake quality control of records (verification) to identify and correct errors (with assistance from other moth experts if necessary)
- Computerise all of the moth records for their area
- Maintain a computer database of moth records for their area
- Forward copies of their datasets to the NMRS team at convenient intervals to be incorporated into the national database
- Respond to queries about records from the NMRS team

Many County Moth Recorders also undertake some or all of the following tasks, which are all important components of local moth recording and conservation:

- Be an identifiable and approachable local moth expert and advocate of moths, moth recording, the NMRS project, biodiversity conservation etc.
- Provide encouragement, information, support and feedback to local moth recorders (e.g. through direct communication, writing newsletters, reports and articles, web pages, meetings etc.)
- Liaise with relevant local groups such as moth groups, natural history societies, biological records centres and organisations involved in biodiversity conservation
- Run public events to promote moth recording and engage with local communities, landowners and the wider public
- Raise awareness of moths, moth recording and conservation by providing local, expert comment for the media
- Provide moth data and/or interpretation of data to users such as local and regional biodiversity partnerships, biological records centres, wildlife trusts, ecological consultants, planning enquiries etc.

**It is not reasonable to expect each County Moth Recorder to fulfil all of these roles to an equal extent, but they are listed here to give an indication of the potential scope of the role.** Recruiting other volunteers to share the workload is an excellent idea!