

Opinions of citizen scientists on open access to UK butterfly and moth occurrence data
Biodiversity and Conservation

Richard Fox^{1,2,3}, Nigel A.D. Bourn, Emily B. Dennis, Richard Heafield, Ilya M.D. Maclean,
Robert J. Wilson

¹ Butterfly Conservation, Wareham, Dorset, UK

² Biosciences, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

³ Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, Penryn, UK

rf382@exeter.ac.uk

Online Resource 3 Questionnaire to UK butterfly and moth recorders contributing to the BNM and NMRS projects

Open public access to butterfly and moth records

You've been asked to complete this brief survey (which should take less than 5 minutes) because you regularly contribute butterfly and/or moth records via your County Recorder to Butterfly Conservation's UK recording schemes (Butterflies for the New Millennium and the National Moth Recording Scheme).

Your answers are anonymous and will help Butterfly Conservation to plan future access to the recording scheme datasets. County Recorders have already been consulted, but as a provider of the sightings on which the schemes rely, your opinions are also very important to us.

The records you provide are already used in many ways by Butterfly Conservation and partner organisations (e.g. statutory conservation agencies, local environmental record centres) including assessing species trends, targeting habitat management, informing planning decisions and in collaborative scientific research. However, the records are not currently openly available to the public, policy makers or scientists to view and use without restriction.

We would be very grateful if you would complete the following short survey by **9th June 2017**.

1) Do you contribute butterfly records, moth records or both to your County Recorders? *

- ☐ Butterfly records
- ☐ Moth records
- ☐ Both butterfly and moth records

2) Where is most of your UK butterfly/moth recording done? *

- ☐ England
- ☐ Northern Ireland
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales

3) What is your preference for the public accessibility of your butterfly and/or moth records via the national schemes? *

- ☐ All my records should be publicly accessible in full detail (i.e. the grid reference at which you originally submitted the record) to maximise their use
- ☐ My records of widespread species should be publicly accessible in full detail, but my records of scarce/threatened species to be publicly accessible only at a summary level (i.e. my original detailed grid reference is blurred to a coarser resolution such as tetrad 2km x 2km level) so that precise locations cannot be easily identified
- ☐ All my records should be publicly accessible at summary level (i.e. with the grid reference blurred) so that precise locations cannot be easily identified

4) If the UK datasets of butterfly/moth records were openly accessible in full detail to the public, would you be likely to: *

- ☐ Withhold your records from County Recorders and the UK recording schemes?
- ☐ Reduce the precision of the records that you currently provide (e.g. by blurring the grid references of your records before you submit them)?
- ☐ Continue to provide records in exactly the same way?
- ☐ Provide more records to County Recorders and the UK recording schemes?

If you have any other comments that you would like to make on this subject, please use the box below:

Many thanks for your help!

Richard Fox, Head of Recording, Butterfly Conservation