

# Butterflies of London Project

Update: 25 February 2016

Welcome!

## How to contribute butterfly records to the project

The project is based on the year 2016. While a few butterflies may be seen in any month of the year, most species are likely to be flying sometime between mid-March (if warm) to mid-September. Records can be sent to the project team at any time, or once you are happy with your records and list.

A record consists of the Species name, the Location (preferably with a six-figure Grid Reference - or with a postcode), the Date, and your Name as recorder. The number seen, the life stage (if not a flying adult butterfly), and the habitat are useful.

The project is aiming to collate records in whatever format you use. These include:

- If you already record butterflies for London Natural History Society (LNHS) surveys, Butterfly Conservation or for other organisations - please continue to record or to walk transects. Send the records through your existing channels.
- Word or Excel files.
- A hand-written list.
- Individual records can be made online on the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) website at <http://www.gigl.org.uk/online/submitrecord.aspx>
- For multiple records GiGL have an 'Excel recording spreadsheet' and a shorter 'Alternative spreadsheet' with fewer columns. See <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/recording-spreadsheet/>
- Email records to the project address at [londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com](mailto:londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com)
- iRecord; iRecord Butterflies (smartphone App); and iSpot

The London Natural History Society (LNHS) project aims to map the distribution of butterfly species in London, updating 'The Butterflies of the London Area' of 1980-86. Much has changed since to butterflies in London; much has changed on the recording scene; while London itself has changed and is continuing to change.

As this is a spatial ('dots-on-the-map') survey, records are needed from throughout London - that includes from suburban and urban areas, gardens, streets and as seen during commuting; plus those from green spaces and nature areas.

The project is primarily concerned with the Greater London area - the area covered by the 32 Boroughs and the City of London. The aim is to map to the 1 x 1km (monad) level - or at least at the scale of 2 x 2km (tetrad) squares.

Records from recent previous years are being used too - the cut-off year will be determined later. As an approximate guide to 2016 records, see the following box:

The first record in was a January record of a Small Tortoiseshell from Bexley. Second, is a Speckled Wood from Horsenden Hill, Ealing, on 11 February. And the third report is of a Red Admiral at Hounslow on 18 February. Obviously, numbers should rise as we approach the start of the spring!
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Number of 2016 London butterfly records to date	3
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While the recording is at the centre of project, there is also the value of learning to identify butterflies during the survey. And the survey information will improve knowledge to help the conservation of butterflies, habitats and other wildlife in London.

And it is not just recording. The project will need a range of skills from publicity, to managing records, to analysis, and preparation of outputs. Thank you to everyone and to organisations who have contributed records or are helping the project.

The project email address is: [londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com](mailto:londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com)

#### **Recording the butterflies of a garden, a park, - or a monad?**

The project is interested in records whether you make one record or whether you can record the butterflies of a garden, a park or elsewhere. If you can describe the location or provide a grid reference, the project will put the records on the map.

We would also like people to take on squares - you may have seen the word 'monad' above? These are simply the 1km x 1km squares on Ordnance Survey maps. Could you record the butterflies of your monad and perhaps also the butterflies of other monads that you may visit? We are particularly keen to cover the 'residential' areas of London - areas of housing, flats, the suburbs and town centres.

Leslie Williams

Recorder: Lepidoptera (butterflies), London Natural History Society

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