

Butterfly Monitoring using transects: quick guide

Note: this guide is intended as a crib sheet for use in the field. For more detailed guidance please see the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme website: www.ukbms.org.



Butterfly transects can be walked under the following conditions:

- Temperature is above 17⁰C, not raining
- Temperature is 13 - 17⁰C, if weather is sunny 60% of the time or more
- Between 10:45 and 15:45 hours (10:00 to 17:00 is allowable, but later in the day should be avoided).
- From April 1st to October each year

Do not walk if the temperature is below 13 degrees or it is raining, and avoid windy days. Avoid walking later in the day if possible as butterfly activity declines later in the day.

If a shadow is cast, regard as sunny.

For a standard transect record species seen within 2.5 metres on each side of the transect only, and walk at a steady pace without stopping.

Wind speed is measured on the Beaufort scale (the scale goes up to 12 but above 5/6 is definitely unsuitable for butterfly surveying!):

- 0 = Smoke rises vertically
- 1 = Slight smoke drift
- 2 = Wind felt on face, leaves rustle
- 3 = Leaves and twigs in slight motion
- 4 = Dust raises, small branches move
- 5 = Small trees in leaf begin to sway
- 6 = large branches move

Useful contacts:

EWT transects/ setting up a transect: Lorna Shaw lornas@essexwt.org.uk

General transect / online recording queries: Ian Middlebrook, transect@butterfly-conservation.org

Essex County recorder for Butterflies: Rob Smith: recorder@cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk