



Big Butterfly Count 2022

What....

The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) you see.

Launched in 2010 and run by wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation, the Big Butterfly Count is the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 107,000 citizen scientists took part in 2021, submitting 152,039 counts of butterflies.

When....

The 2022 Big Butterfly Count runs from Friday 15th July until Sunday 7th August.

How....

Everyone can take part in the Big Butterfly Count. All you need to do is spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot outdoors and record the number and type of butterflies and some day-flying moths you see.

Download the free app for iOS and Android to identify and record the butterflies you spot. Or, visit bigbutterflycount.org for a downloadable butterfly ID chart and upload your results there.

Why....

Butterflies are a vital part of the ecosystem as both pollinators and as food for other wildlife. However, they are under threat – 76% of butterflies have declined since 1976 – and this is a warning that cannot be ignored.

Butterfly declines are a warning for other wildlife losses. Butterflies are key biodiversity indicators for scientists as they react very quickly to changes in their environment. Therefore, if numbers are falling, nature is in trouble. So tracking numbers of butterflies is crucial in the fight to conserve our natural world. That's why taking part in this massive citizen science project is of great importance not just for our butterflies but for the wider environment and biodiversity in general.

The results of the Big Butterfly Count, along with other butterfly and moth survey work, also helps Butterfly Conservation and other organisations to identify where conservation action is needed most. The data helps us to identify important trends in species that assists us in planning how to protect butterflies from extinction, as well as understand the effect of climate change on wildlife.

Sponsors..... The sponsors of the 2022 Big Butterfly Count are garden wildlife specialist Vivara and the DFN Foundation, a commissioning charity focused on influencing sustainable change in special needs education, supported employment, healthcare and conservation.