# Recording Butterflies and Moths: A very brief overview

## Jacky Adams







# Why Record?

## **Personal Interest**



First butterfly recorded in Hampshire: Brimstone Gilbert White 8 March 1766

## **Supporting Conservation**



Pearl-bordered Fritillary monitoring in New Forest, supports Forestry England

## **Influencing Others**



Scientific analysis and reports provide national statistics used by Government

# What to Record: What you've seen

### Name that Butterfly

- 61(ish) species of butterfly seen in UK
   46 seen in Hampshire & Isle of Wight
- Fly by day, in pleasant weather
- Limited equipment needed
- Most can be identified 'on the wing'; it helps if they settle







Flight periods and habitat can help

### Name that Moth

- 2,500(ish) species of moths seen in UK
- 900(ish) macro





- 1,600(ish) micro
- Most fly by night, some by day, some both
- Equipment helps especially light traps
- A few can be identified 'on the wing', most it helps if they settle, some need further investigation
- Flight periods and habitat help

# Help with identification

- Walks see Branch 'events' webpage for details of butterfly walks
- Written Guides many to choose from
- Websites
  - Butterfly Conservation
  - UK Butterflies
  - Hantsmoths
- Social Media use trusted sites eg
  - Facebook: Butterfly Conservation Hampshire & Isle of Wight
  - Facebook: Hantsmoths
- Identification Apps???



# Happy to share? Other information required

### **Basics**

- When?
  - date: day, month, year.
- Where?
  - grid reference
  - place name found on a map
- Who?
  - named human please!
- What stage of development
  - especially if it's not an adult





## How to make a record count

#### Be Aware

Data from all schemes mentioned on this slide flow into a single butterfly or moth database

Please only record each sighting ONCE

### **Recording Schemes**

- Big Butterfly Count
- Garden Butterfly Survey
- Butterfly Transects
- Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey



### 'Casual' Records

- iRecord
  - iRecord Butterfly App
  - iRecord App
  - on-line
- Excel spreadsheets (see Branch website)
- MapMate (moths)
- Living Record (butterflies)
- iNaturalist UK (butterflies)

# **Behind the Scenes**

#### **Butterflies**

- County Butterfly Recorder (Hampshire & Isle of Wight) - Bob Annell
- Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator Andy Barker
  - supported by local Co-ordinators in some Districts
- Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey Champion - Jacky Adams

#### **Moths**

- Hampshire Moth Recorder Mike Wall
- Isle of Wight Moth Recorder Jim Baldwin

# What happens to your records?

### **Feedback Through**

- Annual feedback from Big Butterfly Count
- Results summary for Garden Butterfly Survey
- National trends on UKBMS website
- Annual report on Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey
- Annual UK Moth Recorders Meeting
- Annual UK Butterfly Recorders Meeting
- Annual Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Report

### Records provide information used to:

- Support conservation work by understanding what is around and monitoring the impact of change
- Support scientific research
- Assess how well UK butterflies and moths are faring
- Provide indicators designed to influence Government