Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Guidelines for Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Species Champions

Listed below are Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's (CBC) guidelines for volunteer Species Champions (SC) but please note an SC should only take on those elements that are practicable in their own particular circumstances. Any of the actions below will be of great help in conserving our targeted butterfly species.

1. Be a point of contact for the CBC committee for matters and events concerning your target species.
2. Attend and promote volunteer work parties held by CBC/BC (Butterfly Conservation) and other partner organisations to benefit your target species.
3. Work with the CBC/BC staff to train new volunteers in search methods and identification skills.
4. Find new habitats and sites for your target species using old records and habitat assessments.
5. Learn to monitor all the life cycle stages of your target species and help others learn how to do this too.
6. Gather records of your target species and send to the County Butterfly Recorder. Encourage others to send records to the County Butterfly Recorder. Build up your own personal network of colleagues and ask them to send records to the County Butterfly Recorder, copying you in so you are aware of new records. If time allows you can check the site out.
7. Carry out annual checks of the main known locations of your target species (if not monitored) so any declines can be highlighted early. If relevant, undertake timed counts or encourage others to do so. Timed counts may only be appropriate for certain species.
8. When all the years records have been entered by the County Butterfly Recorder, arrange to update your copy of the ERICA database.
9. Produce an annual summary/report for the CBC committee. At times reports of particular interest may be included in the CBC member's magazine the 'Butterfly Observer' and also sent to BC Head Office.
10. Investigate the national BC Species Champion Network for your species and share and exchange information. Care must be taken to whom you share data with and ensure you are not exporting any data of a sensitive or confidential nature. Permission must be sought from the CBC Committee before sharing data with other organisations.
11. Meet other SC's at least annually to exchange notes and give each other support, ideally before the CBC AGM in April every year.
12. Comply with Butterfly Conservation's Codes of Practice and Risk Assessment, in line with their insurance and the requirements of the Health & Safety Executive.

Please note that an SC is not required to give management advice to landowners or other organisations. Management advice is given by BC staff who are covered by professional indemnity insurance. SC's can provide information on the preferred ecological requirements of their target species, for instance S/SW facing bracken slopes with an abundance of Common Dog-violet for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary etc. If you are asked for advice from a site manager, please refer this back to the CBC committee.

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