



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Big Butterfly Count 2021 Starts tomorrow!

Friday 16 July to Sunday 8 August.

We count butterflies because not only are they beautiful creatures to be around but they are also extremely important. They are vital parts of the ecosystem as both pollinators and components of the food chain. However, they are under threat. Numbers of butterflies and moths in the UK have decreased significantly since the 1970s. This is a warning that cannot be ignored.

Butterfly declines are also an early warning for other wildlife losses. Butterflies are key biodiversity indicators for scientists as they react very quickly to changes in their environment. Therefore, if their numbers are falling, then 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 enterprise is of great importance not just for our butterflies but for the wider environment and biodiversity in general.

Go to the Butterfly Conservation website

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

You will find a downloadable ID chart of the most common butterflies as well as details of how to send your records in.

There is also an app to download onto your phone, to make your life easier.

Go on - get your family involved. It's a great thing to do on a nice sunny weekend and your records will be invaluable.

