

LARGE HEATH TRANSECTS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SURVEYORS

The standard method for surveying and monitoring Large Heath is described below. As much as possible, please record any data on the enclosed form and habitat assessment form as data recorded in this way will be of most use for conservation purposes.

How to survey/monitor:

1. **Never survey alone.** Large Heath is almost exclusively found on bog habitats and many of these sites are unsafe to survey or monitor alone. When surveying with a companion, ensure you remain within sight of each other at all times and always have a mobile phone on you.
2. The best period to survey is when the adults are most conspicuous from June until mid-July on days with suitable weather conditions for the adults to fly (>13C, <40% cloud cover, wind speed < Beaufort 5).
3. Prepare a large scale map of your target site (1:5,000 or enlarged 1:20,000) to take with you.
4. If you are looking for adults on a new site first identify the extent of habitat which looks suitable for the butterfly, the best indicator being the presence of dense tussocks of Hare's tail cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*; the larval food plant) and Cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*; the favoured adult nectar plant).
5. Using the form below, record the start and end time of your survey. Walk at an even pace through patches of suitable habitat recording any adults you see **within a 5 m to your left, right and ahead** of yourself. Remember to mark the route you've taken on your map. Please take care and **do not attempt to survey in areas where risk of injury is high**. Where appropriate, you can record 'suitable, but inaccessible' habitats on your map.
6. If possible, conduct the habitat assessment on the same day or within a week of completing your transect. A common approach if using the same point for entry/exit on a site is to conduct the transect going into the site, then conduct the habitat assessment on the way back before exiting the site.
7. Mark on your map the boundary of suitable habitat patches and the path taken by your transect. Please complete the habitat information boxes as far as possible and add clarifying notes on management or site access.
8. Even if adults are not found please record this and conduct the habitat assessment. Areas that are suitable for the butterfly are not always consistently occupied each year.

General Information:

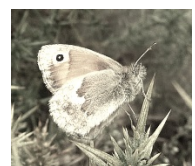
1. ACCESS

Please make sure you have the permission of the owner before surveying a site.

2. HEALTH & SAFETY

Surveyors should be aware of the potential risks of field surveying and should take sensible precautions to reduce these risks.

If you have any queries please contact: Jesmond Harding at conservation.butterfly@gmail.com or Tomás Murray at tmurray@biodiversityireland.ie.




RECORDING FORM

SITE DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| SITE/SUBSITE NAME: | |
| COUNTY: | |
| CENTRAL GRID REF.: (e.g.S215502) | |
| RECORDER NAME & CONTACT DETAILS: | |
| SITE OWNER & CONTACT FOR ACCESS: | |

SITE MAP

Copy/Attach an OS map at 1:10 000 or equivalent showing scale, 1 km gridlines and boundary of suitable and/or occupied habitat marked by thick black line (use a separate sheet if necessary). Please mark the route of your transect.



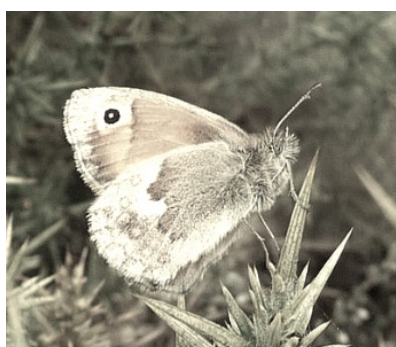
LARGE HEATH TRANSECT(S)

| SITE/SUBSITE: | DATE OF VISIT: | START TIME: | END TIME: | NUMBER OF ADULTS: |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
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COMMENTS/ADULT NECTAR SOURCES

| General comments and, if observed, the species of flower being visited and the number of observations per flower species e.g. Cross-leaved Heath (4), Tormentil (2), Hawkweed (1) |
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The information supplied here is sent to the National Biodiversity Data Centre on the understanding that the data provided by the recorder will be entered into an open licence (CC-BY) database and will be used for nature conservation, research, education and public information. For records of any other species, please submit these records to <http://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>



Please send completed forms to:
National Biodiversity Data Centre,
WIT West Campus,
Carriganore,
Waterford,
X91 PE03
tmurray@biodiversityireland.ie