

North Meadow 2014 Fritillary Count feedback

<p>How did you hear about this project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EA colleagues</li><li>• On the FMP website</li><li>• EA colleagues</li><li>• EA colleagues</li><li>• Through dealing with the OU on a work project.</li><li>• From a colleague (Paul St Pierre)</li><li>• Internet, via FMP website and also cricklade bloomers website</li><li>• Through a friend who already volunteers.</li><li>• Involved with the bumblebee surveys and one led to another.</li><li>• While visiting North Meadow, spoke to Anita.</li><li>• Through Cricklade in Bloom website</li><li>• When we visited the fritillaries we asked Anita about counting them as we had counted them on Iffley Meadows.</li><li>• Isobel Whitwam, NE</li><li>• I work for Natural England so am aware of the site and the fritillaries.</li><li>• Through working at Natural England</li><li>• EEE department</li><li>• Word of mouth.</li><li>• Whilst working at OU</li><li>• Work email (Natural England)</li><li>• Through work – NE email.</li><li>• Reserve manager informed me.</li><li>• Word of mouth via OU</li></ul>
<p>Why have you volunteered to count fritillaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To help with the project and also I love working with wild flowers. I find it really relaxing and also I enjoy close contact with nature</li><li>• Am a keen botanist and taken today as one of the EA environmental leave days.</li><li>• General interest in floodplain meadows and their ecology</li><li>• Interest in site condition as part of work</li><li>• Interest in floodplain grassland ecology. Environmental leave day from EA</li><li>• To gain experience and to help a local nature reserve/project</li><li>• I regularly visit both clattinger and north meadow through the year and felt this was a worthwhile and interesting project. I like the idea of data collection contributing to an understanding of ecosystems and how best to manage them.</li><li>• North Meadow is a very special place and I'm interested in the research and conservation projects that are connected to it.</li><li>• They need counting and I have the time to join in.</li><li>• To learn more about the plants and undertake interviews for BBC Wiltshire</li><li>• I love wildflowers, especially fritillaries and anything I can do to help them I try to do. I count for Plantlife as well.</li><li>• Because it is a glorious day out of the office.</li><li>• Enjoyment of being outside and learning to ID plants.</li><li>• I have an interest in botany and this looked interesting.</li><li>• Interest in department research other than my own.</li><li>• I love flowers and hope to do something to help preserve this particular species.</li><li>• Interest in flowers/nature</li></ul>

- I get up to four days per year for development (I usually only use 2 days, one on this).
- I value fritillaries/wildlife and wanted to do something practical to contribute.
- To get experience of plant surveys and fun
- I'm interested in conservation, natural history and especially plants. Fritillaries are beautiful plants and Cricklade Meadow is a great place.

Have you done natural history recording before?

- Only bat recording
- Yes for BBOWT, local WT dormouse surveys, edible dormouse surveys, botanical surveys for reading urban wildlife group.
- Yes previously for NE and through academic studies.
- Yes
- Work related only
- Yes
- Butterfly, bird and bee transects and taught biology to all age groups before retiring.
- RSPB bird count, Bumblebee walk.
- Yes, including the rather different fritillary count by BBOWT at Iffley North Meadow.
- RSPB Birdwatch
- I have counted fritillaries and marsh hxxxxx for BBOWT and have done flower counts with plantlife for the last 12 years.
- Yes
- Other than doing this last year, no.
- Yes, a long time ago doing plant surveys.
- No
- No
- Long time ago for Somerset Wildflower Atlas.
- Yes, Duke of Burgandy fritillaries NE NNR
- No – maybe bird count. Occasional moth count informally.
- Adder surveys, cowslip surveys, harvest mouse, mammal trapping, bumblebees butterflies, birds (BBS), hedgehog tunnels.
- BTO breeding bird survey, some plant recording.

Do you have any suggestions on where else we could look for volunteers?

- Schools, local village halls (posters)
- Wider within the EA
- Wildlife Trusts, green gym, WI, 6<sup>th</sup> forms
- Royal agricultural college, Cirencester?
- Tie in with more local organisations, e.g. Royal Ag. College in Cirencester, Oxford Uni. Wilts and Glos. WT's.
- Local wildlife trusts, natural history groups, local newspapers; place ads and get paper to feature aspects of the project.
- Cricklade Chronicle, posters in Cricklade and surrounding areas. Approach Wilts WT/Swindon Borough Council to see if their conservation/wildlife volunteers could spare some time for this.
- Local (or fairly local) employers.
- Further work with local wildlife Trusts, more notices around nearby towns.
- Plantlife?
- Wilts Wildlife Trust
- Nothing springs to mind.
- Social media, schools?
- OU student forums

- Local wildlife trusts e.g BBOWT. U3A wildlife groups.
- Local Wildlife Groups?
- No
- WI groups, Schools, DoE students, volunteer weekly.
- Local wildlife groups, e.g MK Nat Hist Soc, BBOWT, RSPB groups? More publicity at OU? Intranet? Local companies who want to get involved in community.

Are you enjoying the day? Would you recommend it to others?

- Yes, I love it!
- Yes and yes
- Yes
- Yes and yes
- Yes now that we have moved away from our very wet transect along a ditch! Would recommend it.
- Yes and yes
- Yes and yes
- Yes and yes
- Yes and yes
- Yes really enjoyable
- Yes but perhaps new comers should be checked that they really can spot the single leaf samples.
- Absolutely
- Yes and yes.
- Having a great day, definitely will recommend to others.
- Yes, yes (sun is shining)
- Yes and yes
- Yes and yes. Very enjoyable and learning about how the research is done.
- Yes indeed.
- Yes and yes
- Yes
- Yes certainly.

Do you think you have improved your skills in natural history recording?

- Yes definitely
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes generally
- Yes recognising fritillary vegetative stages
- Yes
- I don't feel I have learned anything additional – it would have been interesting to have some info on the other plant species we were looking at. Lots of leaves; didn't know what most were
- Improving more than improved just yet
- Yes, more confident with plant species and recording.
- I felt fairly confident with the fritillaries at each stage, but there were young leaves which I wished I'd brought my flower book for. No help was given for other species other than fritillaries, but I didn't expect it.
- Yes#
- Very much so, I don't have any experience so am learning a lot.
- Yes, much improved plant identification, just from one day!
- Yes, never done this before.
- Yes, the whole way these observations are done is a revelation.

- Definitely better able to identify fritillaries.
- Not especially but it interesting how different the site is each year (this is my 4<sup>th</sup> year coming here).
- Yes
- Yes fritillary is confident now.
- Better able to recognise fritillaries again and different grasses and sedges

Have you gained more knowledge of conservation and environmental issues?

- About meadow management and flooding
- No
- Not really
- No
- Yes, better understanding about relationship between bumblebees and fritillaries
- Gained knowledge of lifecycle of fritillaries and importance of north meadow as a site and fragility (re last years count). Also of dependence of fritillary on bumblebees for pollination and on feeding, nesting and cycle of bees.
- Not today specifically.
- Impressed at the number of organisations involved.
- Yes, a better knowledge of floodplain grassland management
- Learnt about the issues surrounding North Meadow, especially coming last year when there was little to see, and this year.
- Yes, learnt about floodplain meadows and recording techniques.
- I have learned that 80% of the country's fritillaries all in this field.
- Yes, general snippets of information around the country.
- Not especially
- Better understanding of access on an NNR.
- Yes
- Interested in link between water levels and fritillary growth.

Would you do it again?

- Yes definitely
- Yes-nice day out of the office.
- Yes very enjoyable and interesting.
- Yes
- Yes feels good to be part of a long term monitoring project.
- Yes if I have the time.
- Yes an enjoyable task, meeting like minded people.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, the more the merrier.
- Yes, it is the highlight of the year!
- Yes work permitting.
- Yes
- Yes, good to get away from MK!
- Yes I have enjoyed doing something so new in my experience.
- Yes, well organised day, enjoyed doing it.
- Yes
- Yes very enjoyable and I feel like I am doing something practical and helpful.
- Yes
- Yes, enjoyable day in nice place doing something useful and worthwhile.

Is there any aspect of the project you would like to know more about?

- The data and results (the historical data especially for transects that I have counted)

- No as results are available
- Already regularly updated through work
- Would be interested to know conclusions of the PhD and other projects, on plant genetics etc and associated bee projects.
- None at the moment
- Do we get to see some of the results?
- Probably
- Im sure there is a lot of information I would find interesting.
- Interested in the bees, if they appear at some point!
- Data! Results!
- Conservation in general.
- I will try to come along to any sessions about the results.
- No
- Powerpoints very informative.
- Results from quadrats by year if possible.

Would you like to get involved with other aspects of the project?

- Data entry/analysis perhaps.
- No sorry no time.
- No thanks
- Yes would be happy to help with all/any of above.
- Data entry perhaps. Not sure I have the skills for data analysis.
- Would be happy to help further.
- Not at present
- Unlikely
- Yes
- Interested in updates.
- Mmmm maybe
- Yes, if I could; data entry and analysis.
- Don't really have the time, so no thanks.
- Maybe in retirement
- No
- Probably don't have time for more.

Have you found out more about the project?

- I looked at the website and I would like to attend the presentation (which I just missed this year). Perhaps for the EA.
- Attended FMP training course in 2012
- Yes online
- yes
- Attended floodplain meadows training course in May 2012
- Yes read on line material and results. Will be attending conference in May.
- Attended meeting in Cricklade earlier this year, attended the bumblebee ID course at Lower Moor Farm 2 weeks ago. Looked on line.
- Yes
- Not yet
- Saw basic graphs on line last night.
- Yes
- No
- I intend to look into it further.
- No
- Not yet.
- Absolutely.
- Online

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended presentations</li> <li>• Attended a presentation</li> </ul>
What format do you prefer for information sharing/discussion?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the results</li> <li>• Any</li> <li>• On line, website, emails etc</li> <li>• Presentations and newsletters</li> <li>• On line lack of time to attend</li> <li>• Online is best because it can be accessed at any time and at your own pace, but also good to gain practical experience.</li> <li>• Prefer workshops/presentations, always good to discuss face to face and share.</li> <li>• Happy with any of the above.</li> <li>• On line easier to schedule (unfortunately easier to overlook).</li> <li>• ON line.</li> <li>• Emails good but face to face better.</li> <li>• Would consider any medium of information useful.</li> <li>• Email, workshops etc.</li> <li>• Presentations – tend not to keep up to date with websites.</li> <li>• On line is a perfect way of gaining information for me as I have no transport to get me to specific talks etc.</li> <li>• On line best, but may be workshops and presentations if timings OK.</li> <li>• Definitely online. Don't live very close by, so I wouldn't travel to a presentation/meeting.</li> <li>• Online is good, can do it in my own time.</li> <li>• Presentations I find more interesting, good to discuss with others on the spot.</li> </ul>
Any other comments
Please can we have a portaloo next time?

#### Lugg Meadow 2014 Fritillary Count feedback

How did you hear about this project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via nature trust email</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Natural England internal emails</li> </ul>
Why have you volunteered to count fritillaries?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to learn more botany</li> <li>• Experience in field surveying and interested in local wildlife</li> <li>• Experience as a graduate ecologist and just to help out</li> </ul>
Have you done natural history recording before?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB bird counts</li> <li>• Yes WT events, buglife and with university</li> <li>• All of the above and with NE and UNi</li> </ul>
Do you have any suggestions on where else we could look for volunteers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fownhope CRAG group</li> <li>• Social media pages, magazines</li> <li>• Universities, sciencel media; FB, Twitter, LinkedIn</li> </ul>
Are you enjoying the day? Would you recommend it to others?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes and yes</li> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes bar the weather</li> </ul>
Do you think you have improved your skills in natural history recording?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes before today I couldn't identify a fritillary, very familiar with it now.</li> <li>• Yes learnt new species and refreshed quadrat survey skills</li> </ul>
Have you gained more knowledge of conservation and environmental issues?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadow management, grazing rights, commoners rights</li> <li>• Yes gained more knowledge about fritillaries</li> </ul>
Would you do it again?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes really enjoyed it and getting some more experience.</li> </ul>
Is there any aspect of the project you would like to know more about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'd like to know the outcome of the project and any findings</li> </ul>
Would you like to get involved with other aspects of the project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes all of the above</li> </ul>
Have you found out more about the project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Not yet but I will attend in future</li> </ul>
What format do you prefer for information sharing/discussion?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email is best for me</li> <li>• Presentations/online workshops would be good to meet up to discuss results with others.</li> </ul>
Any other comments

#### Clattinger Farm Flight of the Fritillary Surveys Questionnaire 2014

How did you hear about this project?
I took part in the previous count at Clattinger Farm, so you had my details and contacted me. I think that I first found out about the project through Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
Why have you volunteered to survey Fritillaries?
I know and value Clattinger Meadows, having visited them many times both for the spectacle and for their botanical value. I am interested in the techniques used for surveillance and in the factors that decide plant distributions and survival. Lastly, Fritillaries are very attractive.
Have you done natural history recording before e.g with Wildlife trusts, RSPB, ISPOT, Springwatch etc?
I have recorded wildlife on the WWT nature reserve that I warden (Clouts Wood SSSI, Wroughton) for over 30 years. This included surveillance of numbers and growth of Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem on fixed transects to assess its response to coppicing. I am joint BSBI Recorder for Wiltshire and gather, store and analyse the county's botanical records.
Do you have any suggestions on where else we could look for volunteers?
I advertised recording days to members of the Wiltshire Botanical Society and this produced some volunteers. You already advertise through the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Wiltshire Wildlife Conservation Volunteers work on practical habitat management, but there may be some members who would be interested in the Fritillary survey. I could email members and/or advertise it on our website. Plantlife? Cotswold Water Park (Gareth Harris [gharris_doh@hotmail.com]) ?

Have you enjoyed the survey days? Would you recommend it to others?
Certainly
Do you think you have improved your skills in natural history recording and if so how?
Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As an example of detailed recording</li> <li>• Evaluating how much can reasonably be done</li> <li>• Any new experience is good.</li> </ul>
Have you gained more knowledge of conservation and environmental issues; can you give an example?
Feedback sessions at Cricklade have been a valuable source of ideas on plant survival strategies. Good to find out more about bumblebees.
Would you do it again?
Yes
Is there any aspect of the project you would like to know more about e.g. data input/analysis/presentation of findings?
Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How year on year changes are compared</li> <li>• Have you linked results with environmental factors?</li> </ul>
Would you like to get involved with other aspects of the project?
Thanks, but I am busy enough already.
Have you found out more about the project e.g. attended workshops, found out more about the findings in other ways, read material on line?
Attended Cricklade workshops, otherwise no.
What format do you prefer for information sharing/discussion e.g. on-line, workshops, presentations? Why?
Workshops, presentations – good to see the people involved, opportunity for discussion and questions.
Any other comments



Flight of the Fritillary Bumble Bee Surveys Questionnaire 2014

How did you hear about this project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By word of mouth, someone already involved.</li> <li>• Word of mouth.</li> </ul>
Why have you volunteered to survey bumblebees?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am very keen on anything involving the environment and on retiring wanted to give time to support local projects. I first got involved with the Fritillary counts and this led to me helping out with bee surveys. Knowing that Bumble Bees are in trouble this project seemed ideal. After attending Richard's workshop I felt inspired and confident enough to start my own transect in addition to helping with the Clattinger and North Meadow transects.</li> <li>• Enjoy biological recording. Chance to learn about a new species group(s).</li> </ul>
Have you done natural history recording before e.g with Wildlife trusts, RSPB, ISPOT, Springwatch etc?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes. I am involved with Butterfly Conservation and do regular transects for them. I assist with bird surveys at a couple of local WWT reserves. I am also a River Monitor for WWT and the EA.</li> <li>• Yes, with several bryophyte groups, Plantlife, and other surveys.</li> </ul>
Do you have any suggestions on where else we could look for volunteers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local schools, sixth form students.</li> <li>• I heard about it on an FSC course, could advertise as a news item through them. Local recording society eg Gloucester Naturalists or Wiltshire equivalent. Local school/college. I had a small groups of 6<sup>th</sup> Form biologists doing the Plantlife Survey; it does need a keen teacher to front it. Local watch group. You have probably tried all these!</li> </ul>
Have you enjoyed the survey days? Would you recommend it to others?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very much. Yes</li> <li>• Yes, they are always enjoyable walks in a lovely venue, chatting about wildlife, and catching an occasional unlucky bee.</li> </ul>
Do you think you have improved your skills in natural history recording and if so how?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brushed up rather than learning news skills, but it's always good to know these are supporting real projects, rather than paper exercises. Also keeps me practising computer skills.</li> <li>• Yes because on the strength of what I have seen at Cricklade and Clattinger I set up a transect and submitted records from a farm in Gloucestershire</li> </ul>
Have you gained more knowledge of conservation and environmental issues; can you give an example?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes. Improved ID of bumblebees and increased knowledge of lifecycles and interdependence of species and subsequent management practises.</li> <li>• Learnt about North Meadow.</li> </ul>

Would you do it again?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes, hope so.</li></ul>
Is there any aspect of the project you would like to know more about e.g. data input/analysis/presentation of findings?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data analysis.</li><li>• I like to see the results of the surveys even though its early days as yet. I quite like data, graphs etc.</li></ul>
Would you like to get involved with other aspects of the project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes.</li><li>• Quite possibly.</li></ul>
Have you found out more about the project e.g. attended workshops, found out more about the findings in other ways, read material on line?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have attended workshops, searched online, read books and talked to people involved, etc</li><li>• Read material on line, and newsletter</li></ul>
What format do you prefer for information sharing/discussion e.g. on-line, workshops, presentations? Why?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshops/presentations because they allow for more interaction.</li><li>• Workshops and presentations because I like the immediacy of discussing and questioning and talking about topics with others</li></ul>
Any other comments