

Four-spotted Moth Monitoring

Information provided in this report will be used to showcase your project on the Biodiversity Partnership web pages. Please expand boxes as needed or use a separate sheet.

Project title:

Four-spotted Moth – Monitoring at Werrington Brook Drain 2008

Date of Project report submission: 30 March 2009

Date of Application: April 2008

Sites/Location (if applicable):

Werrington Brook Drain

Contact:

Name: Dr Paul Waring

Organisation: Freelance

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Please answer the following questions about your project:**If any aren't applicable insert N/A.**

For Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) please see:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/natureconservation/action/partnership/baps/>

* If your project involved habitat work, how much habitat area in terms of BAP habitat has been created/restored (please cross out accordingly)?
___ About three acres has been maintained

Which habitat(s)? _ Ditch bank (Ditches LBAP) and associated farm track _____

* Which BAP species have benefited (or other species)? Four-spotted Moth. Also Grizzled Skipper, Grass Snake and Common Lizard.

* Did the project contribute to other Biodiversity action plan targets and actions? Which ones and how? _____
___ Probably. Brian Armstrong can advise. PW concentrating on Four-spotted Moth objectives.

* Did the project generate ecological data? Yes No
Has the data been submitted to the Biological Records Centre?
 Yes No Will be, via Brian Armstrong. PW keen for BRC to have it.

* How many volunteers have been involved in the work? None in the direct monitoring, which is carried out by one individual (PW) for consistency and comparability of data. But workshops, training etc held by PW most years. _____

* How many volunteer hours have gone into the project? None except those of PW. _____

* Any other information you would like to tell us about? _____

_____The site and the monitoring of this species has become of national importance, both in tracking this UK BAP moth population and its responses to the weather and to management, and in guiding survey timing and methodology in other parts of the UK each year. It is also now one of the few classic examples of monitoring a moth population by standard day-time means over the long-term. 2009 will be the tenth year of monitoring by a standardized Pollard transect method.

Please provide a summary report of your project:

What worked well, was/were your main successes?

What was difficult/challenging? What lessons have you learnt that could be shared with other projects, can be learnt for future projects?

The habitat management and the monitoring methods worked well. The weather (prolonged dull, wet and cool periods) during most of the season proved unfavourable both for the Four-spotted Moth and for many other moths and butterflies and numbers seen were amongst the lowest since monitoring began at this site in 2000. The numbers are expected to bounce back if the weather is hot and dry during April-August 2009, as has happened in earlier years when the habitat management has been favourable.

In this space we are interested in receiving your feedback on all aspects of the application process so that we might improve it in future.

Rather time consuming in 2008. Hopefully it will be swifter in 2009 now that the project has been through the new system.

Are you happy to share this information with other projects? X Yes No

Thank you!

Please email this form back to Fabiola Blum,
Fabiola.Blum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or post it to
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