

Guide to the online transect input system for butterfly monitoring - eBMS




This online system is to support the recording of butterfly transects. It can be used anywhere in the world, although is currently tailored to use within Europe (e.g. uses a European list of species). We recommend that you use national systems where a formal monitoring scheme is in place. For schemes in Europe, refer to the list [here](#).

You can watch explanatory videos on the [BCE YouTube Channel](#) of the steps explained in this guide for better comprehension.

Quick Guide:

These are the simple steps to get you started with entering data on the new online system.

1. [Register](#) for an account.
2. Go to '[My Sites](#)' to set up new transect routes, or review the details of existing ones.
3. Go to '[My Walks](#)' to enter the data for your transect routes.
4. Go to '[My samples](#)' to review everything submitted by you on the system and edit any record.
5. You can download everything on '[My downloads](#)'
6. Go to '[Annual Report](#)' to review your annual butterfly data, and to see what's been entered for other transects you shared.

Step-by-step instructions for the key parts of the system are detailed below. Key links to click are given in red text. Key areas of relevant web pages are highlighted through a red circle, e.g. 

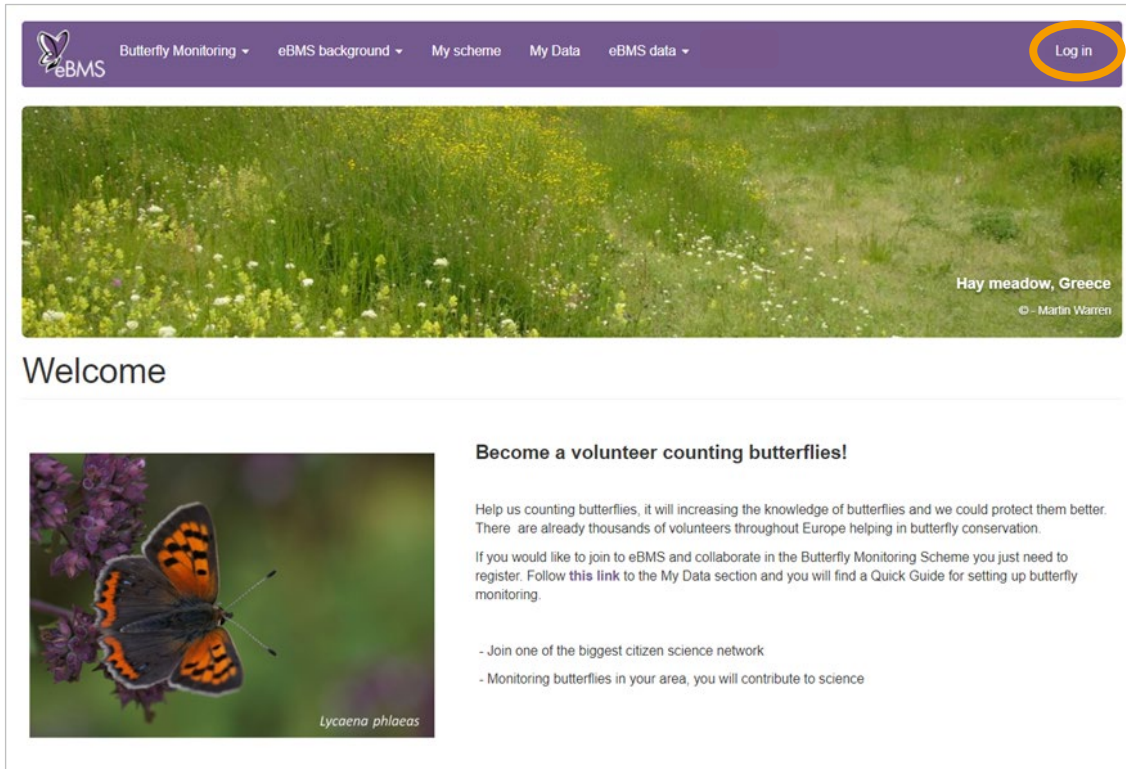
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Setting up a new account

The account registration approach uses email verification to minimise risks for spam accounts.

Go to <http://www.butterfly-monitoring.net/mydata> and click on 'Log in' (top right of home page).



Butterfly Monitoring ▾ eBMS background ▾ My scheme My Data eBMS data ▾ **Log in**

Hay meadow, Greece
© Martin Warren

Welcome

Become a volunteer counting butterflies!

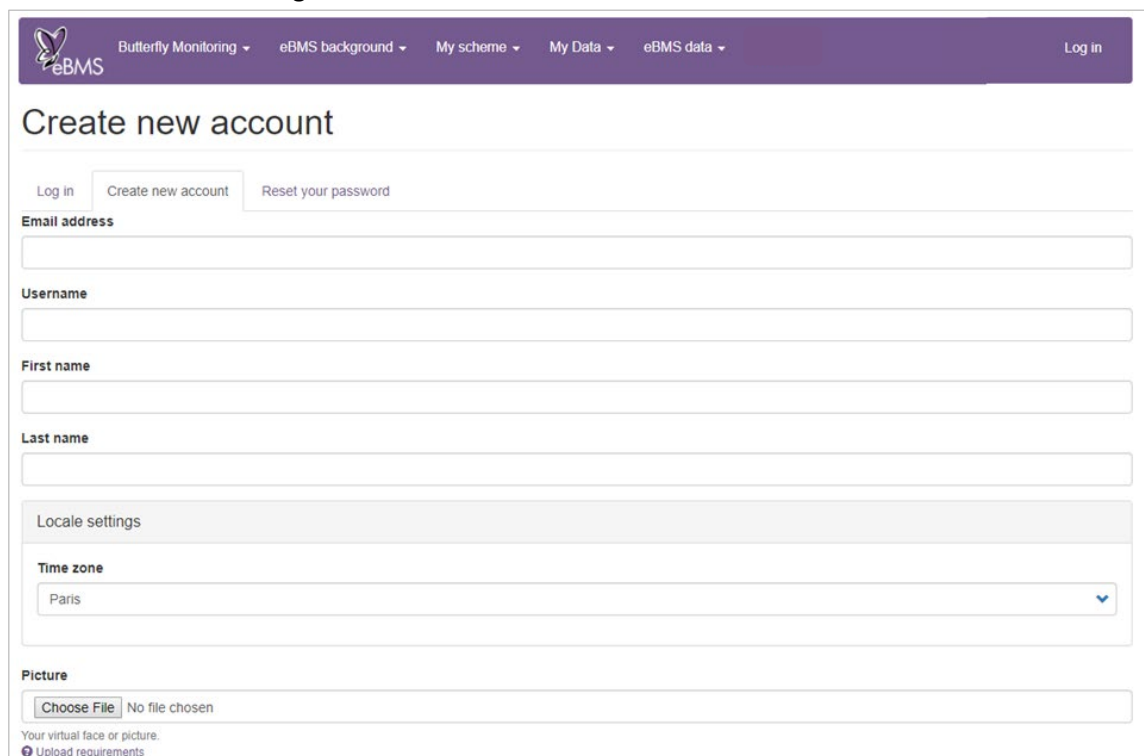
Help us counting butterflies, it will increasing the knowledge of butterflies and we could protect them better. There are already thousands of volunteers throughout Europe helping in butterfly conservation.

If you would like to join to eBMS and collaborate in the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme you just need to register. Follow this link to the My Data section and you will find a Quick Guide for setting up butterfly monitoring.

- Join one of the biggest citizen science network
- Monitoring butterflies in your area, you will contribute to science

Lycaena phlaeas

1. Enter a username, your email address and your proper name. Tick the Time Zone and the Country/scheme you are part of. Review the Terms of use for the site, and tick to agree to them. Enter the image code in the human verification. Then click on 'Create new account'.



Butterfly Monitoring ▾ eBMS background ▾ My scheme ▾ My Data ▾ eBMS data ▾ **Log in**

Create new account

Log in **Create new account** Reset your password

Email address

Username

First name

Last name

Locale settings

Time zone

Paris ▾

Picture

Choose File No file chosen

Your virtual face or picture.
Upload requirements

2. You will now receive an email indicating that your account has been registered.
3. This email will include the following text:

Thank you for registering at European Butterfly Monitoring. You may now log in by clicking this link or copying and pasting it to your browser:

<http://www.butterfly-monitoring.net/mydata/user/reset/17/1468321218/30vice-mLt67H11-Hxp5uw1zR-ltwOrEd20U0X7ETwc>

This link can only be used once to log in and will lead you to a page where you can set your password.

After setting your password, you will be able to log in at <http://www.butterfly-monitoring.net/mydata/user> in the future using:

username: Your username
password: Your password

4. Click on the link provided in the email to confirm your registration, via validation of your email address.
5. Click on the 'Log in' button on the confirmation web page.
6. Enter your password for the site on the next page, making sure you enter it twice as required. Select your preferred language and time zone. Then click on 'Save'.

Your account is now ready to use

7. You can change your account details at any time by clicking on 'My Account' in the top right corner of any web page on the site, then selecting the 'Edit' tab.

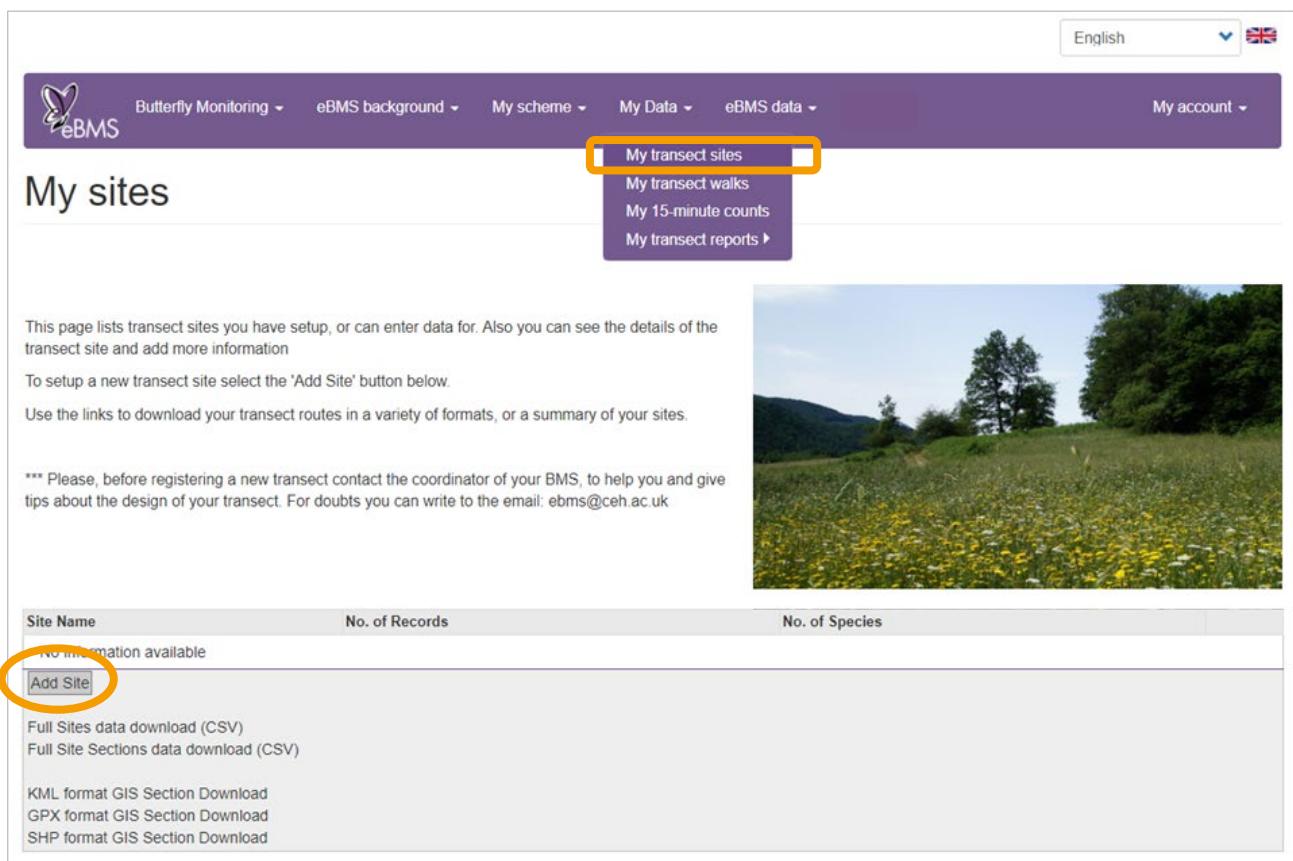
Linking an existing transect route to your account

1. If you record butterflies on an existing transect that you know to be in the system, it is important that you do not recreate the transect route. Please contact your coordinator or the site administrators via ebms@ceh.ac.uk to request access to enter data for this route.
2. Click on 'My Sites' to see a list of transect routes associated with your account.

Setting up a new transect site

If you are setting up a new transect, you will need to enter details of the site and draw the transect route, so please have these details to hand before you start.

1. To create a new site, in the main menu go to My Data and click on '[My transect sites](#)' and then click on '[Add Site](#)'.



The screenshot shows the eBMS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the eBMS logo and several menu items: Butterfly Monitoring, eBMS background, My scheme, My Data, eBMS data, and My account. The 'My Data' menu is expanded, showing 'My transect sites' (highlighted with an orange box), 'My transect walks', 'My 15-minute counts', and 'My transect reports'. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'My sites'. The main content area contains text explaining that the page lists transect sites and provides instructions on how to add a new site. A note states: '*** Please, before registering a new transect contact the coordinator of your BMS, to help you and give tips about the design of your transect. For doubts you can write to the email: ebms@ceh.ac.uk'. To the right of the text is a photograph of a field with yellow flowers. Below the text is a table with the following structure:

Site Name	No. of Records	No. of Species
No information available		
Add Site		

Below the table, there are several links for data downloads: Full Sites data download (CSV), Full Site Sections data download (CSV), KML format GIS Section Download, GPX format GIS Section Download, and SHP format GIS Section Download. The 'Add Site' button is circled in orange.

2. Select the Country in which you are setting up a transect. The list of countries excludes those for which an established Butterfly Monitoring Scheme exists, other than Luxembourg which use this system as its main transect input system. For other countries with an established monitoring scheme in Europe, refer to the list [here](#).
3. Enter the Name of your transect
4. Tick in the Grid Ref.: field. You will need to locate the approximate centre point of your site on the map provided. To find your site on the map use the search facility or move around or zoom into the map using the tools provided. When you click on the map, the lat/lon for your transect centre will be automatically filled in.
5. A Site Code will automatically be assigned to your transect. You can change this value if required.
6. Enter the number of sections for your transect (between 1 and 16).
7. Enter the Width of your transect. Normally is 5 metres (2.5m in each side), if not there is the option 6 and 10 metres.
8. Enter as many other general site details are possible (these are not mandatory).
9. Once your transect route is created you can download it in a variety of GIS formats.

Butterfly Monitoring | eBMS background | My scheme | My Data | eBMS data | My account

Site details

Site Details

Country

Country:

<Please select>
▼

Although you can set the grid yourself, it will be filled in automatically when you draw the site on the map.

Site Details

Transect Name:

Grid Ref.:

4326
+ -

Click on the map to set the central grid reference.

Internal ABE site code:

EBMS:Portugal:[INDEX]

Details

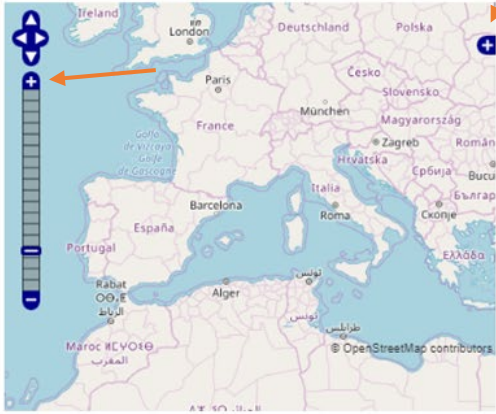
No. of sections:

Overall Length (m):

The overall length will be calculated once the transect route has been drawn.

Use the search box to find a nearby town or village, then drag the map to pan and click on the map to set the centre grid reference of the transect. Alternatively if you know the grid reference you can enter it in the Grid Ref box.

Search for Place:



The map shows a portion of Europe, including Ireland, the UK, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. A search box is located above the map. A red arrow points from the search box to a location in the Balkans region of the map.

10. At the bottom, click on **'Save'**

11. Now you will need to draw the route of each section of your transect, as described below.

Drawing the transect route section-by-section

1. After you have saved your new site details, you should now be looking at the 'Your Route' tab as shown below.
2. Make sure that the first section is highlighted ('S1') in order to draw and edit the route for that section.
3. Move the map around and zoom in or out so that you can see the area where you need to draw.

Site details

Transect_16 Details **Your Route**

Select a section from the list then click on the map to draw the route and double click to finish. You can also select a section using the "Query" tool to click on the section lines. If you make a mistake in the middle of drawing a route, then you can use the "Erase Route" button to remove the last point drawn. After a route has been completed use the "Modify feature" tool to correct the line shape (either by dragging one of the circles along the line to form the correct shape, or by placing the mouse over a circle and pressing the "Delete" button on your keyboard to remove that point). Alternatively you could just redraw the line - this new line will then replace the old one completely. If you are not in the middle of drawing a line, the "Erase Route" button will erase the whole route for the currently selected section. To increase the number of sections, either return to the "Site Details" tab, and increase the value in the "No. of sections" field there (which will add new sections to the end of the list), or use the "Insert Section" button to add a new section immediately after the currently selected section. Once all route sections are drawn, select the "Section Details" tab (or use the "Complete section details" button) to co

Select section: **S1** S2 S3 S4

Save Route Complete section details Insert Section Erase Route Remove Section

* Tools for drawing your section route

* Click on the map to start the section, draw the route, then double-click to finish the section

Map of at pointer

Finish

4. You need to use the line-drawing tool, which will show a small circle on the point of your cursor.
5. Click on the map at the start of your section, then draw the route by clicking on each corner or turning point until you get to the end of the section. **Double-click at the end of the section to finish** drawing the line.
6. When finished, the complete section should be shown as a yellow dashed line. Now click on "Save route" to save the section drawn and click the next section.
7. Continue until all the sections have been drawn. You can include new sections with the button "Insert section"

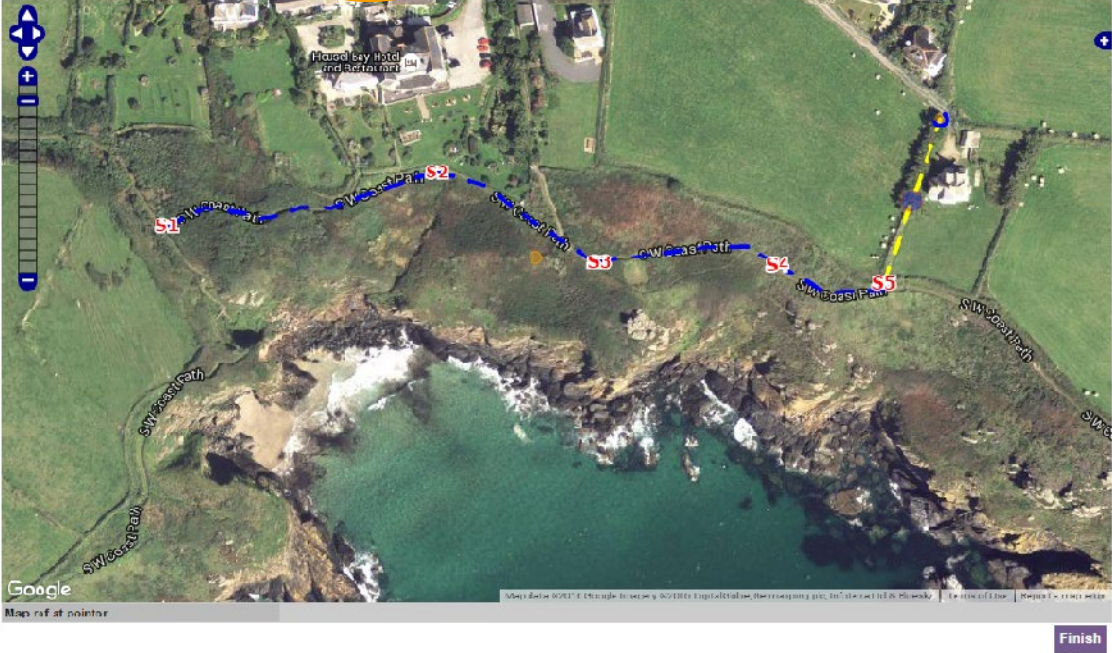
Site details

Transect_16 Details **Your Route**

Select a section from the list then click on the map to draw the route and double click to finish. You can also select a section using the "Query" tool to click on the section lines. If you make a mistake in the middle of drawing a route, then you can use the "Erase Route" button to remove the last point drawn. After a route has been completed use the "Modify feature" tool to correct the line shape (either by dragging one of the circles along the line to form the correct shape, or by placing the mouse over a circle and pressing the "Delete" button on your keyboard to remove that point). Alternatively you could just redraw the line - this new line will then replace the old one completely. If you are not in the middle of drawing a line, the "Erase Route" button will erase the whole route for the currently selected section. To increase the number of sections, either return to the "Site Details" tab, and increase the value in the "No. of sections" field there (which will add new sections to the end of the list), or use the "Insert Section" button to add a new section immediately after the currently selected section. Once all route sections are drawn, select the "Section Details" tab (or use the "Complete section details" button) to complete the route setup.

Select section: S1 S2 S3 S4 S5

Save Route Complete section details **Insert Section** Erase Route Remove Section



Map of point

Finish

8. Drawing the route can be a challenge. So, if you are not happy with the result, there are several ways to make amendments. Firstly, make sure the relevant section is highlight by selecting the route section (e.g. S5).
9. The simplest option is to just redraw a new line over the top. When you double-click to finish, you will get a warning to confirm that it is ok to replace the existing section.
10. If you want to get the current line out of the way, you can click on the 'Erase Route', which should then remove the line for that section. If you have made a mistake mid-section, this button will also remove the latest node on the line.
11. If you just need to move one or two corner points, then you can use the **Modify tool**. Small blue circles will appear at each node on the line, and these can be dragged around into new positions. You can also add new nodes by dragging the mid-section of a line.
12. Once the sections are drawn, please click on the '**Complete section details**' button. Then click on the '**Section Details**' tab and enter as many details as you can about each section, saving as you go along.

Site Details

Language

English

Site Details Your Route Section Details

Section Details

Select section:

S1

S2

S3

S4

S5

Section Grid Ref.:

49.964N, 5.197W

*

Section

Details

Section Length (m):

108

Habitat and management

Habitat etc

Primary Habitat Present:

Agricultural

2nd Habitat Present:

Forest

Primary Land Management Present:

Mowing (or other vegetation clearance, e.g. herbicide spraying, burning etc.)

2nd Land Management Present:

Grazing

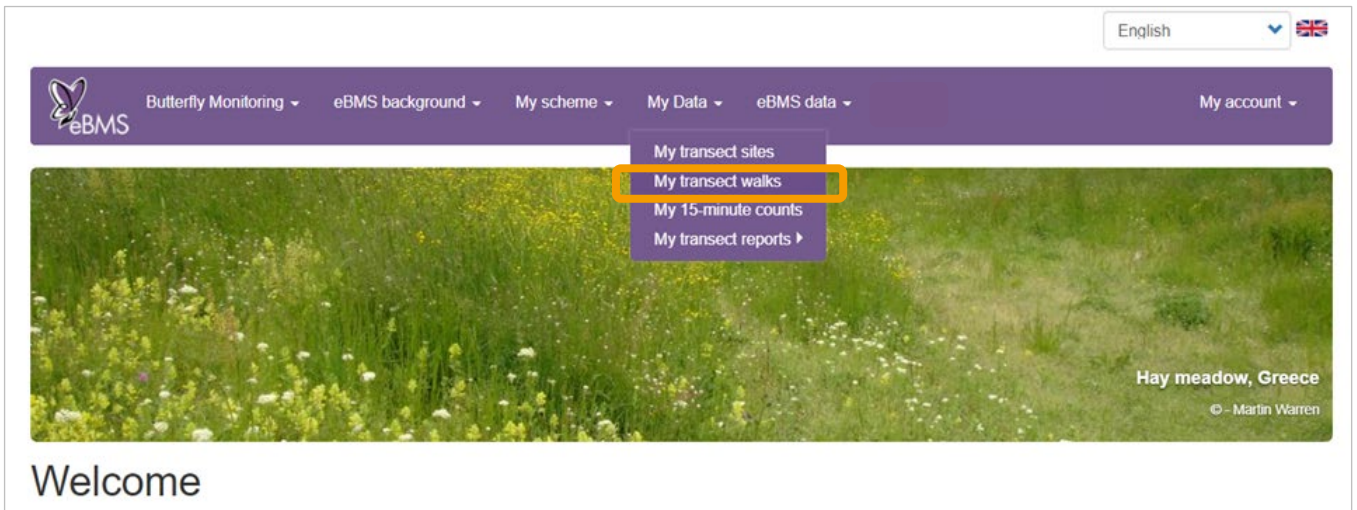
Notes on Land use and management:

Pasture next to forest

Save

Entering the results of a transect walk

1. In the main menu go to “My Data” and click on “[My transect Walks](#)” to see a calendar, showing all the walks that you have entered so far.



2. “[My Walks](#)” page will appear and you'll see the calendar that shows all the counts you've entered so far.

This page provide a diary view to enable you to select dates to enter transect counts. Click on a date to enter details of your transect visit. Dates for the current year are displayed by default - use the arrows to switch to a different year.

For registering your transect visit:

- You can download and print a Field Sheet pdf to bring it to the field
- Or you can register directly your transect visit with your phone downloading the eBMS app “**ButterflyCount**” in your phone (go to the page eBMS- mobile application)

Click on the link to edit details of a transect visit that you've already entered.

Filter by site: All my sites

Week Number	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			2	3	4	5	6
			9	10	11	12	13
			16	17	18	19	20
4	Jan 21	22				26	27
5	Jan 28	29					3
6	Feb 4	5				9	10
7	Feb 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8	Feb 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9	Feb 25	26	27	28	1	2	3
10	Mar 4	5	6	7	8	9	10

* Use the drop-down list to filter the calendar for just one site

* Click on the green ‘plus’ sign to enter data from a walk on that date

- If you walk several different sites, you can use the drop-down list to only show walks from one site.
- Locate the date of your walk, click on the green 'plus' sign to create the new walk, and you will be presented with the 'Walk Data Entry' screen.
- Make sure the right transect site is selected. Check the recorder name and edit if needed. Enter the start and finish times, temperature and wind information.
- If you enter a value for the % sun on this screen, it will fill in this value for all sections. Alternatively, individual %sun values for each section can be entered on the next screen.
- Remember to write in the Notes tab any change happened in the transect.

Walk Data Entry

In the species grid visible after the visit details are entered, the field "Reliability" allows you to record the count reliability at each section level. The meaning of each code is as follows:

- Suitable conditions, the count reflects the butterfly abundance.
- Unsuitable conditions (for instance too much wind, running cows around the observer...). The count does not reflect the butterfly abundance although some butterflies have been observed.
- The section could not be surveyed, for instance due to accessibility.

Select Transect:

please select
▼ *

Date: 18/06/2019

Recorder Name:

García Sanchez , Cristina
✖

Start Time (hh:mm):

--:--
✖

* Use 24hr clock

End Time (hh:mm):

--:--
✖

% Sun:

Temp (Deg C):

▼ *

Wind Direction:

▼

Wind Speed:

▼ *

Notes:

Use this space to input comments about this week's walk.

Next
Cancel

- Once all the basic walk information has been entered, click on 'Next'.

9. On the butterfly data entry screen, the default table shows the whole European species list in taxonomic order. You can choose alternative lists using the drop-down list. However, the first time entering a visit to the transect, it will appear the whole list by default. After selection a specific list, in the second time entering a visit, you will see only the species saw before in your transect.

You can edit the preference species list to show on your account profile.

Walk Data Entry

View
Edit
Delete
Revisions
Translate

In the species grid visible after the visit details are entered, the field "Reliability" allows you to record the count reliability at each section level. The meaning of each code is as follows

1. Suitable conditions, the count reflects the butterfly abundance.
2. Unsuitable conditions (for instance too much wind, running cows around the observer...). The count does not reflect the butterfly abundance although some butterflies have been observed.
3. The section could not be surveyed, for instance due to accessibility.

test on Monday 3rd January 2022

Butterflies

Use species list : All species

Species Sort Order: All species

Taxonomic Sort Species known at this site

Species name Species I have recorded

* Use drop-down list if you want to choose a shorter species list

Sections	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	Total
% Sun	100	100	100	100	100	100	90	90	80	80	
% Cloud	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	20	
Reliability	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	1 Suitabl	
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>											0
<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>											0
<i>Papilio alexanor</i>											0
<i>Papilio machaon</i>											0
<i>Papilio hospiton</i>											0
<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>											0
<i>Parnassius phoebus</i>											0
<i>Parnassius apollo</i>											0
<i>Archon apollinus</i>											0

10. If you are using a short list, but have seen a new species, you can add this species to your list by typing its name in the box below the data grid. This box will auto-complete when you start typing a name (as shown below). Select the relevant species when it appears and it will be added to the bottom of your list.

Butterflies

Use species list : Species known at this site ▼

Species Sort Order:

Taxonomic Sort Order
 Species name

Sections	S1	S2	S3	S4	Total
% Sun	50	50	50	50	
<i>Carcharodus tripolinus</i>					0
<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>					0
<i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>					0
<i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>					0
<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>					0
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>					0
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>					0
<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>					0
<i>Pieris rapae</i>					0
<i>Pontia daplidice</i>					0
<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					0
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>					0
<i>Aricia morronensis</i>					0
<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>					0
<i>Aglais io</i>					0
Total	0	4	2	1	

Add species to list

- Aglais ichtnusa*
- Aglais io*
- Aglais urticae*

* This box will auto-complete.
Select the relevant name

11. Check/enter the % sun (at the top of the data table) figures for each section.
12. Enter the butterfly counts for **each species/section**. The data are saved as you go.
13. Once you have entered all your data, click on **'Finish and return to walk list'**

Reviewing the data from your transects

Please note that data just entered into the system does not appear immediately within the annual summary. There are two reasons this may happen:

1) there is a process that must run every 15 minutes to calculate the summary values and estimates, and 2) there is some caching (storing of calculated summaries) of the data to speed up the page response times. To bypass the caching, untick the option box below (but beware that the page may take longer to respond). In the meantime, newly entered data should still be visible in your 'My Walks' page.

1. In the main menu go to My Data -> Reporting and click on the **'Annual Report'** tab to show a summary of the transect data. Initially you will see all data for the current year from all sites that you have linked to your account. However, there are several options for looking at other summaries or other years.

Annual Summary data shows a summary of the data arranged by weeks of the year.

In *Estimated table*, figures shown in red are (or include) estimates for missing weeks, based on a simple interpolation.

Raw data will just show the counts (in black font) exactly as entered. When looking at single sites in *Raw data* form, you can edit your counts by clicking on the sample link at the top of the column.

Please be aware that there will be delay between entering the walk data, and that data appearing on this page. There are two reasons this may happen:

1. There is a process that must run every 15 minutes to calculate the summary values and estimates
2. There is some caching of the data to speed up the page response times.

To bypass the caching, untick the option box below (but beware that the page may take longer to respond). In the meantime, newly entered data should still be visible in your 'My Walks' page.

2020 Filter: My data Site: Combine data for all your current sites Use cached data

Summary Table	Summary Chart	Estimate Table	Estimate Chart	Raw Data	Downloads																				
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Date	Jan 01	Jan 08	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 05	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	Mar 05	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26	Apr 02	Apr 09	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 07	May 14	May 21	May 28	Jun 04	Jun 11	Jun 18
Erynnis tages												0	2		0	2			0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Carcharodus alceae												0	4			1			0		0	0	0	1	1
Carcharodus tripolinus														0					1	0	0	1			0
Pyrgus carthami														0					1						
Pyrgus andromedae														0					1						
Pyrgus cacaliae														0					1						
Pyrgus malvae																					1				

2. You can **change the year** by clicking on the black arrows (top left)
3. You can choose to view everyone's data in the system, or just your own, by using the 'Filter by recorder'
4. You can choose to view all sites, or individual sites linked to your account, by using 'Filter by site'
5. You can use the tabs to view raw data or summary data or include simple estimates for missing weeks. You can also choose to display the information as a chart.

6. The best way to check through your own data is to select your site from the drop down list and view 'raw data'. In this mode, if you spot a mistake that needs to be corrected, you can go directly through to the Data Entry screen for an individual walk by clicking on the date at the top of the column.
7. You can download your data in a variety of formats via the Downloads tab.



Parnassius apollo
By Chris van Swaay