



Survey Techniques

for Bumblebees, Butterflies and Flowers



How to carry out bumblebee and butterfly surveys

General Method

- Conduct these surveys
 - Between April and August.
 - When it is dry, mild ($\geq 12^{\circ}\text{C}$) and relatively calm (< 5 on the Beaufort scale).
- Decide on a safe area where you can walk along a hedgerow or fence.
- Identify and record the number and type of butterflies and bees you observe*.

Specific Method

1. **Record** the date, start-time, temperature, time since last rainfall (hrs), and wind speed using the Beaufort scale.
2. **Walk** at a slow, steady pace along the hedgerow or fence counting all the butterflies and bumblebees seen within 1m either side of the route.
 - Bumblebees can be identified using the Bumblebee ID guides on National Biodiversity Data Centre www.biodiversityireland.ie
 - You can identify butterflies by using a butterfly key. Visit the Butterfly Ireland website www.butterflyireland.com or www.irishbutterflies.com
3. **Input your data** into the bumblebee and butterfly survey sheet below.

Sample Butterfly Recording Form

E.g. if you observe 10 Large White butterflies, four Small White butterflies and seven Small Tortoiseshell butterflies you record these as follows:

Species	Numbers seen
<i>Large White</i>	### ##
<i>Small White</i>	IIII
<i>Small Tortoiseshell</i>	### II

