

Play a part in recording species to help protect Northern Ireland's biodiversity

Marsh Fritillary



Marsh Fritillary Web

© Geoff Campbell

You can help the Belfast Hills Partnership by filling in this card if you see the Marsh Fritillary or its webs during your visit to the site. For further information go to www.habitas.org.uk



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Belfast Hills Partnership
163 Stewartstown Road
Dunmurry
BELFAST
BT17 0HW

Biodiversity, an abbreviation of “biological diversity” literally means the total variety of life on earth. This includes animals, birds, fungus and insects. In the Belfast Hills, some wildlife is under threat but there is also a rich diversity of species to celebrate.

MARSH FRITILLARY

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly was once widespread throughout Britain and Ireland, but over the last 100 years its numbers have severely declined and are now under threat of becoming totally extinct. The Marsh Fritillary has been reported to be present in the Belfast Hills. The Marsh Fritillary is a NI Priority Species for conservation and a Species Action Plan has been produced to ensure its future conservation.

Interesting facts

- The female lays batches of eggs on the underside of Devil’s-bit Scabious leaves in June
- During the autumn the brown–black, spiny caterpillars feed together on Scabious leaves inside a silken white web
- During the winter they hibernate together in a small web, hidden in the sward. The caterpillars emerge in February or early March and separate; sometimes wandering as much as several meters to find fresh Scabious leaves. By late April–early May the caterpillars change in to a chrysalis and emerge as adult butterflies 2–3 weeks later

Description

- Upper sides are dark brown and strongly marked with cream and orange square spots
- Seen from June to early July
- Found in heath and grassland



Name:☒

Address:☒

.....Telephone number:

E-mail:☒

Species (e.g. Marsh Fritillary)	Number seen	Date (e.g. 12/05/07)	Grid Reference/Location (e.g. J272756/ Divis Mt, near base of old boundary stone wall)	Comments (e.g. Passing glimpse among the devils bit scabious plants)

Your contact details will be passed to the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) for recording purposes only. For more information got to **www.habitas.org.uk**

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You can help the Belfast Hills Partnership by filling in this card if you see the Barn Owl during your visit to the site. For further information go to www.habitas.org.uk



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BARN OWL

The flight of a Barn Owl at dusk can look like a ghostly apparition; however this sight is becoming increasingly rare with Barn Owl numbers declining. This is due in part to the reduction of derelict old buildings as well as the loss of grassland habitat and hedgerows in which the small mammals they feed on live. The Barn Owl is a NI Priority Species for conservation and a Species Action Plan has been produced to ensure its future conservation.

Interesting facts

- Barn Owls use sound to detect their prey
- Barn Owls tend to mate for life
- Barn Owls consume twice as much food for their weight as other owls

Description

- Large heart-shaped face, white under-parts and pale golden back and wings
- Usually seen at dusk or after dark and have a slow silent flight
- Omit an eerie screech



Name:☒

Address:☒

..... Telephone number:

E-mail:☒

Species (e.g. Barn Owl)	Number seen	Date (e.g. 19/11/07)	Grid Reference/Location (e.g. J255716/ Ballycolin Rd near point where stoneyford river crosses road)	Comments

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Pink Waxcap



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PINK WAXCAP

N.B. FUNGI SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED OR EATEN AS MANY VARIETIES ARE POISONOUS

In Europe the Pink Waxcap is a very threatened species but may be found throughout NI. This means we have an international responsibility to look after it. Decline of this fungus is caused by improvement of its grassland habitat through ploughing or addition of fertilizers; reduction in the levels, or cessation, of grazing leading to growth of rank vegetation and woody species also contributes to its loss. The Pink Waxcap is a NI Priority Species for conservation and a UK Species Action Plan has been produced to ensure its future conservation.

Interesting facts

- The Pink Waxcap is often likened to a ballerina because of its similarity to a dancer’s tutu!
- The earliest fruiting body recorded in Northern Ireland was found on 7 August and the latest 20 December (mostly seen Aug to Oct)
- Unusually it has been recorded from both limestone grassland and acidic grassland

Description

- Pinkish-lilac conical cap which is slightly greasy in appearance. As it ages cap becomes more flattened and splits at the margins.
- Gills vary from pink to white in colour. Long delicate stem can be up to 10cm long
- Its main habitats include lawns, grassy meadows, pastures and woodland margins.



Name:☒

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E-mail:☒

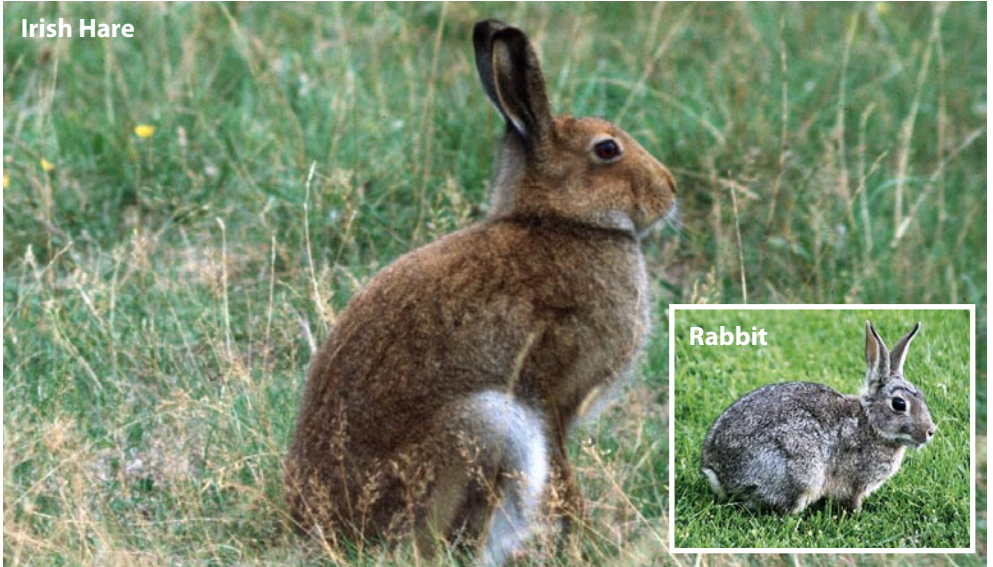
Species (e.g. Pink Waxcap)	Number seen	Date (e.g. 31/9/07)	Grid Reference/Location (e.g. J250712/ Slievenacloy Nature Reserve near old farmhouse)	Comments

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Irish Hare



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IRISH HARE

The Irish Hare is found only in Ireland and may be seen in the Belfast Hills. Although historically widespread and common populations have undergone a substantial decline in the last 10-20 years, with numbers falling to critical levels in some areas. As a result of this the Irish Hare is a NI Priority Species for conservation and a Species Action Plan has been produced to ensure its future conservation. Dogs are a major cause of disturbance to the Hares, so please control any dogs when walking in the hills.

Interesting facts

- The animals have long powerful back legs that help them reach speeds of up to 30mph and jump heights of around 2m
- Hares do not live in a burrow underground, but shelter in a hollow depression above ground known as a form
- Life expectancy is up to nine years

Description

- Russet brown coat, long ears with black tips and eyes set high in the head
- Seen all year round
- Irish hares occur in a wide range of habitats, including uplands, lowland raised bogs, blanket bog, grasslands and sand dunes.



Name:☒

Address:☒

..... Telephone number:

E-mail:☒

Species (e.g. Irish Hare)	Number seen	Date (e.g. 7/4/07)	Grid Reference/Location (e.g. J320800/ Back of Cave Hill towards Collinward)	Comments

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