Great Western Highway - Forty Bends

Purple Copper Butterfly

Paralucia spinifera



2017-2018 Post-Construction Monitoring Report



This fauna survey report has been prepared by Raymond Mjadwesch (Mjadwesch Environmental Service Support). The information contained herein is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I accept full responsibility for any errors or omissions however this document has been prepared in good faith and on the basis that neither MESS nor its personnel are liable (whether by reason of negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur in respect of the taking (or not taking) any advice herein.

Signed:

Date: 12th February 2019

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Lachlan Manning and his colleagues from the Australian Museum assisted with nocturnal survey of the offset site (Donaldsons / L20) on 7th January 2018; their assistance finding caterpillars was invaluable.

Cover: *The Purple Copper Butterfly (Paralucia spinifera)*

Introduction

Occupied Purple Copper Butterfly habitat along the Forty Bends Realignment of the Great Western Highway and the ecology and behaviour of the Purple Copper Butterfly was described in Mjadwesch (2012); Mjadwesch (2013) detailed the same for the Fern Hill section of the realignment. Management / operational procedures to minimise impacts on the threatened butterfly within and adjacent to the construction area were provided by GHD (2013) and NGH (2014). Locations of the occupied habitat areas are indicated in Figure 1; grid coordinates for each site are included as Table 1.

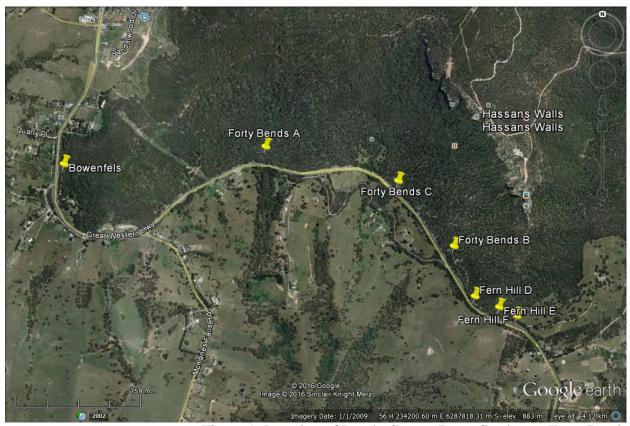


Figure 1. Location of Purple Copper Butterfly sites at Forty Bends

Table 1. Forty Bends / Fern Hill Purple Copper Butterfly Sites

	1 11 7		
Designation	Site Name	EASTING	NORTHING
L19(A)	Forty Bends A	233882	6288167
L19(B)	Forty Bends B	235016	6287612
L19(C)	Forty Bends C	234703	6287969
L19(D)	Fern Hill D	235150	6287318
L19(E)	Fern Hill E	235292	6287260
L19(F)	Fern Hill F	235397	6287211

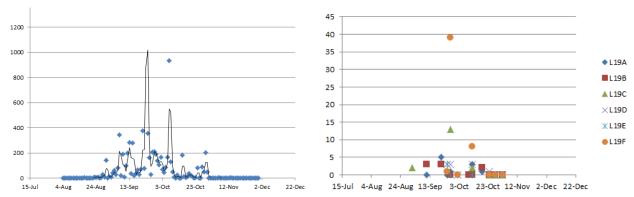
In addition a conservation offset property was identified near to the construction envelope, being referred to as L20. Donaldsons (E235529 N6287273). Annual monitoring of the offset site is required as part of the post-construction monitoring program.

Post-Construction Monitoring

Seymour Whyte Constructions were contracted to deliver the Great Western Highway MV2L safety upgrade, with works completed in 2017; Mjadwesch (2016) describes the known butterfly sites and impacts of the works program. Subsequently monitoring of (amongst other things) the Purple Copper Butterfly sites fell to the RMS; the RMS commissioned a monitoring program to quantify outcomes for the threatened butterfly; this report is the first monitoring report in this series, covering the years 2017 and 2018. A final monitoring report will be produced for monitoring in the 2019 flying / active period.

Methodology

Butterfly survey targeted each site under optimal conditions (sunny days) during the flying season (September – October), with site daytime butterfly inspections conducted between 1000 – 1500 hrs, and with nocturnal survey (January 2018) between 2200 – 2400 hrs.



Observations for the species define a flying period from late August – early November

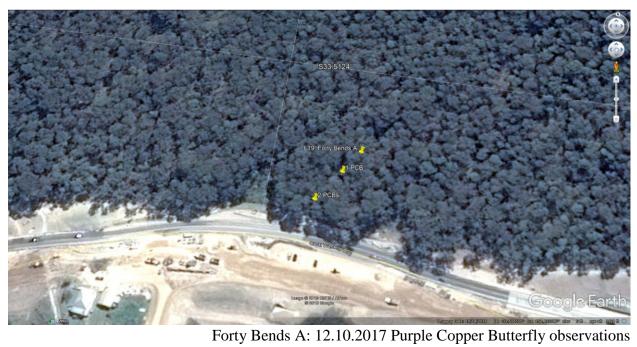
Daytime inspections of known active sites included area searches of the entire known occupied area, and periods of observation. All butterflies observed were counted, and their locations were noted on site maps. The nocturnal survey of the offset site (L20) targeted the main site systematically (all plants inspected in an area ~20m radius), with opportunistic observations of plants across the wider site.

Data sheets from monitoring sessions are attached as Appendix 1.

Results

2017 Monitoring Period

12 October 2017	Bowenfels (spot check)	P. aurifer
	Forty Bends A	P. spinifera (3)
	Forty Bends B	Nil observed
	Forty Bends C	P. spinifera (2)
	Fern Hill D	P. spinifera (3)
	Fern Hill E	Nil observed
	Fern Hill F	P. spinifera (8)
	L20 (Donaldsons)	Nil observed





Forty Bends C: 12.10.2017 Purple Copper Butterfly observations



Fern Hill D & F: 12.10.2017 Purple Copper Butterfly observations

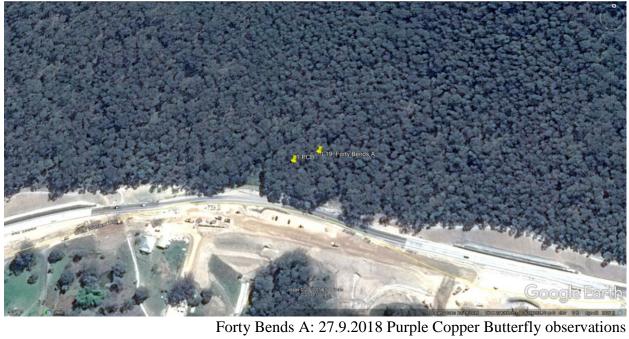
24 October 2017	Bowenfels (spot check)	P. aurifer
	Forty Bends A	P. aurifer
	Forty Bends B	P. aurifer
	Forty Bends C	Nil observed
	Fern Hill D	P. spinifera (1)
	Fern Hill E	Nil observed
	Fern Hill F	Nil observed
	L20 (Donaldsons)	P. aurifer
7 January 2018	Fern Hill F	P. spinifera (1 caterpillar)
	L20 (Donaldsons)	P. spinifera (4 caterpillars)



L20. Donaldsons: 7.1.2018 Purple Copper Butterfly (caterpillar) observations

2018 Monitoring Period

27 September 2018	Forty Bends A	P. spinifera (1)
	Forty Bends B	Nil observed
	Forty Bends C	P. spinifera (13)
	Fern Hill D	P. spinifera (3) + P. aurifer
	Fern Hill E	Nil observed
	Fern Hill F	P. spinifera (39)
	L20 (Donaldsons)	P. spinifera (3)





Forty Bends C: 27.9.2018 Purple Copper Butterfly observations



Fern Hill D & F: 27.9.2018 Purple Copper Butterfly observations



L20. Donaldsons: 27.9.2018 Purple Copper Butterfly observations

28 October 2018	Forty Bends A	Nil observed
	Forty Bends B	Nil observed
	Forty Bends C	Nil observed
	Fern Hill D	Nil observed
	Fern Hill E	Nil observed
	Fern Hill F	Nil observed
	L20 (Donaldsons)	Nil observed

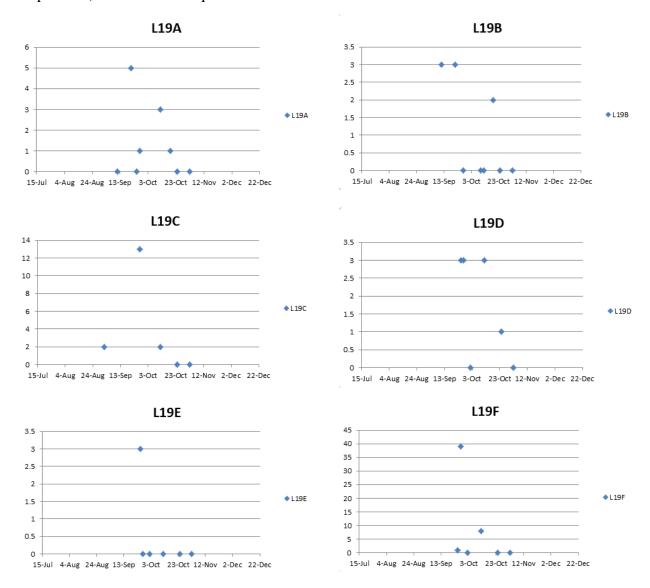
Discussion

Commissioning of the monitoring program in 2017 was very late in the season, and not all sites remained active by mid-October, with inclement weather bringing the season to an early conclusion. Consistently cloudy and rainy weather between 4-19 October in 2018 again ended the flying season prematurely, with no Purple Copper Butterfly obervations on 28 October.

Surveys earlier in the season provide that identified butterfly sites and the offset site remain active in the post construction period, with confirmed observations of butterflies at most locations; there were no butterflies observed at Forty Bends B, which seems to be an "early" site.

There have not been any observations of the species at Fern Hill E, subsequent to the observation there in 2014. Like the Type locality at Yetholme, Fern Hill E may be active intermittently, being dependant on seasonal conditions, or requiring dispersal of individuals across the wider habitat area, which is extensive between Fern Hill D and Fern Hill F.

Sites at Forty bends / Fern Hill have been inspected enough times now to produce graphs of observations across the flying season, which seem to define an early finishing date in the Forty Bends / Fern Hill area; inspections in the earlier part of the season (late August and early to mid September) have been infrequent.



L20. (the offset site) continues to return observations; with scattered observations over time the majority of the site appears to provide habitat which supports a low-density population across a wide area. Patch burning could improve sections of habitat so that more high-density populations could be established locally (results from a burning program for the LLS is *in prep*).

Recommendations

Survey in 2019 should target early to mid-September and early October, rather than being conducted later in the season (after mid-October). Lack of recent observations at Forty Bends B and Fern Hill E may be a consequence of infrequent survey in the first half of the flying season, as sites may finish "early" or may have a very short active period, where populations consist of few individuals.

Conclusion

Good numbers at Forty Bends C and Fern Hill F in 2018 illustrate the widely variable returns that come from butterfly (imago) counts; the peak in activity, where dozens of butterflies may be active, can be ephemeral. It does not appear to be the case that construction works had any discernible impact on the Purple Copper Butterfly; a final report in 2019 will conclude the post-construction phase of this threatened species monitoring program.

Bibliography / References

- GHD 2013 Great Western Highway Upgrade (Forty Bends to River Lett Hill) Purple Copper Butterfly Management Plan unpublished report to RMS
- GHD 2013 Great Western Highway (Forty Bends Safety Upgrade) Purple Copper Butterfly EPBCA Act Offset Strategy unpublished report to RMS
- Mjadwesch R 2012 Purple Copper Butterfly Survey Report Great Western Highway: Mt Victoria to Lithgow Realignment unpublished report to SKM
- Mjadwesch R 2013 Purple Copper Butterfly: Forty Bends River Lett Hartley Offset Assessment unpublished report to RMS
- Mjadwesch R 2015 Great Western Highway: Fern Hill Purple Copper Butterfly Management Program unpublished report to RMS
- NGH 2014 Review of Environmental Factors: Great Western Highway Fern Hill unpublished report to RMS
- NPWS 2001 Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines Purple Copper Butterfly OEH Hurstville

APPENDIX 1: Data Sheets

Observer(s)'s name Site: L19. Forty Ber	•	· ·		act: Ray on 02	
GPS co-ordinates:					1130
A 233882 6288167; B	235016 6287612	2; D 235150 62	87318; E 235292	6287260; F 235	397 6287211
Weather condition	<u>s</u>				
Cloud cover:	Wind:		Precipitation:	Tempe	erature:
None Up to 25% 26 – 50% 51 – 80% Overcast	Lig Ste	ne ght breeze ght wind eady wind ong wind	None Drizzle Light rain Heavy rain ni Downpour	$\begin{array}{c c} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & \\ & & \\ &$	0°C - 10°C 1-20°C 1-29°C 0°C +
Site Conditions: A	ir temp.: G	round temp.:.	Relative hu	midity: Sh	nade:%
Weeds present Ye	es 🛮	No □			
If yes, identify when	e possible:				
Blackberry St John's Wort Sweet Briar	v	Phalaris Villow Verbenum (purpl	Hawth Thistle e top) Primre	e [Broom Pine Cotoneaster
Other Weeds / Note	s:				
% weed invasion:	up to 10% 1 0	0-25%□ 25-	50%□ 50-75%	5□ >75%□	
Attendant ant:	Present □	Absent □			
Survey method:	Transect □	Area search	Statio	onary 🗆	
Number of butterform Other / exact number			□ 5-10□ 10-30	0□ 30-50□ 50	0-100□ >100□
Butterfly behaviou	r: Flying	Basking	Breeding \square	Feeding \square	Fighting □
☐ Other behaviour	(describe)				
If feeding, identify (·				
Other insects presen					
Other butterflies (de	escribe): Heteme	ro, Paraauri,	skipper		
Other observations a	at this site:				
Follow up required	12 Ves ■ No F	Tifves desc	ribe: Ongoing m	onitoring requ	ired

Observer(s)'s name(s): Raymond Mjadwesch

Site: L20. Donaldsons Date: 12.10.2017 Start time: 1430 Finish time: 1500

GPS co-ordinates: E235529 N6287273 Map Zone: 56 Map datum: **Weather conditions** Cloud cover: Wind: Precipitation: Temperature: $< 0^{\circ}C$ None None None Up to 25% Light breeze $0-10^{\circ}C$ Drizzle 26 - 50%Light wind Light rain 11-20°C 21-29°C 51 - 80%Steady wind Heavy rain night before Strong wind $30\,^{\circ}C +$ Overcast Downpour Site Conditions: Air temp.:.... Ground temp.:....Relative humidity:..... Shade:......% (if thermometer held) No □ Weeds present Yes If yes, identify where possible: Blackberry **Phalaris** Hawthorn Broom St John's Wort Willow Thistle Pine Verbenum (purple top) Sweet Briar Primrose Cotoneaster Other Weeds / Notes: <u>% weed invasion</u>: up to 10% ■ 10-25% □ 25-50% □ 50-75% □ >75% □ **Attendant ant:** Present □ Absent □ **Survey method:** Transect □ Area search Stationary □ Number of butterflies observed: None \blacksquare 1-5 \square 5-10 \square 10-30 \square 30-50 \square 50-100 \square >100 \square Other / exact number: Basking □ Breeding □ **Butterfly behaviour:** Flying □ Feeding □ Fighting □ ☐ Other behaviour (describe)..... If feeding, identify (or describe) plants used: Other insects present on *Bursaria*: Other butterflies (describe): Vanekers, Paraauri Other observations at this site: **Follow up required?** Yes ■ No □ If yes, describe: Ongoing monitoring required.

Observer(s)'s name Site: L19. Forty Ben	· /	3		ct: Ray on 02 1300 Finish 1	
GPS co-ordinates:					2.2.2.0
A 233882 6288167; B	235016 6287612	2; D 235150 62	87318; E 235292	6287260; F 235	397 6287211
Weather conditions					
Cloud cover:	Wind:		Precipitation:	Tempe	rature:
None Up to 25% 26 – 50% 51 – 80% Overcast	Lig Ste	one ght breeze ght wind eady wind rong wind	None Drizzle Light rain Heavy rain ni Downpour		0°C - 10°C 1-20°C 1-29°C 0°C +
Site Conditions: Ai	r temp.: G	round temp.:.	Relative hur	nidity: Sh	ade:%
Weeds present Yes	3	No □			
If yes, identify where	e possible:				
Blackberry St John's Wort Sweet Briar	v	Phalaris Willow Verbenum (purple	Hawthe Thistle Primro		Broom Pine Cotoneaster
Other Weeds / Notes	:				
% weed invasion: u	ip to 10% 1	0-25%□ 25-	50%□ 50-75%	□ >75%□	
Attendant ant:	Present □	Absent □			
Survey method:	Transect □	Area search	Station	nary 🗆	
Number of butterfli Other / exact number		None □ 1-5□	5-10□ 10-30	□ 30-50□ 50)-100□ >100□
Butterfly behaviour	:: Flying	Basking	Breeding \square	Feeding □	Fighting □
☐ Other behaviour (describe)				
If feeding, identify (
Other insects present	on Bursaria:				
Other butterflies (des	scribe):				
Other observations a	t this site:				
Follow up required	? Yes ■ No □	☐ If yes, desci	ribe: Ongoing m	onitoring requi	red.

Observer(s)'s name(s): Raymond Mjadwesch

Site: L20. Donaldsons Date: 24.10.2017 Start time: 1430 Finish time: 1500

GPS co-ordinates: E235529 N6287273 Map Zone: 56 Map datum: **Weather conditions** Cloud cover: Wind: Precipitation: Temperature: $< 0^{\circ}C$ None None None Up to 25% Light breeze $0-10^{\circ}C$ Drizzle 26 - 50%Light wind Light rain 11-20°C 21-29°C 51 - 80%Steady wind Heavy rain night before Strong wind $30\,^{\circ}C +$ Overcast Downpour Site Conditions: Air temp.:.... Ground temp.:....Relative humidity:..... Shade:......% (if thermometer held) No □ Weeds present Yes If yes, identify where possible: Blackberry **Phalaris** Hawthorn Broom St John's Wort Willow Thistle Pine Verbenum (purple top) Sweet Briar Primrose Cotoneaster Other Weeds / Notes: <u>% weed invasion</u>: up to 10% ■ 10-25% □ 25-50% □ 50-75% □ >75% □ **Attendant ant:** Present □ Absent □ **Survey method:** Transect □ Area search Stationary □ Number of butterflies observed: None \blacksquare 1-5 \square 5-10 \square 10-30 \square 30-50 \square 50-100 \square >100 \square Other / exact number: Basking □ Breeding □ **Butterfly behaviour:** Flying □ Feeding □ Fighting □ ☐ Other behaviour (describe)..... If feeding, identify (or describe) plants used: Other insects present on *Bursaria*: Other butterflies (describe): Other observations at this site: **Follow up required?** Yes ■ No □ If yes, describe: Ongoing monitoring required.

Purple Copper Larvae Survey Form

Observer(s)'s name	(s): RM, LM, & Musei	am staff Contact	: RM on 0423 949 789
Site: L20	Date: 7/1/2018	Start time: 2200 I	Finish time: 2300
GPS co-ordinates:	Map Zone:	Map datum:	
Weather conditions			
Cloud cover:	Wind:	Precipitation:	Temperature:
None Up to 25% 26 – 50% 51 – 80% Overcast	None Light breeze Light wind Steady wind Strong wind	None Drizzle Light rain Heavy rain Downpour	<0°C 0 - 10°C 11-20°C (19 meas. 21-29°C 30°C +
Site Conditions: Ai	r temp.: Ground to	emp.: Relative humi	dity: (if thermometer held)
Moon phase: No Mo	oon I ¼ wax □ ¼ wane	☐ ½ wax ☐ ½ wane ☐ 3	4 wax □ ¾ wane □ Full □
Dominant ground c	over: Leaf litter ■ Gr	rasses & herbs Timber	☐ Stones & pebbles □
% BSL stems choke	ed by weeds: up to 109	% ■ 10-25% □ 25-50%	□ 50-75%□ >75%□
Attendant ant:	Present ■ Absent [
Survey method:	Transect □ Area sear	rch ■ Systematic scrutin	y of all BSL on site \square
Caterpillars observe	ed: None □ 1-5□ 5	5-10□ 10-30□ 30-50□	□ 50-100□ >100□
Exact number: 4			
Other insects presen	nt on Bursaria:		
Other observations:	: 1 caterpillar also obse	rved in the adjacent L191	F site
Follow up required	? Yes ■ No □ If ye	s, describe: ongoing mo	nitoring.

Site: L19. Forty Ben	e(s): Raymond Mjadwesch ds / Fern Hill Date: 27.9. Map Zone: 56 Map dat	2018 Start time: 11		
	235016 6287612; D 235150			
Weather conditions				
Cloud cover:	Wind:	Precipitation:	Temperature:	
None Up to 25% 26 – 50% 51 – 80% Overcast	None Light breeze Light wind Steady wind Strong wind	None Drizzle Light rain Heavy rain nigl Downpour	$\begin{array}{c c} & <0^{\circ}\text{C} \\ & 0-10^{\circ}\text{C} \\ & 11\text{-}20^{\circ}\text{C} \\ & 21\text{-}29^{\circ}\text{C} \\ & 30^{\circ}\text{C} + \end{array}$	
Site Conditions: A	ir temp.: Ground temp	p.:Relative hum	idity: Shade:	%
Weeds present Ye	s ■ No □			
If yes, identify where	e possible:			
Blackberry St John's Wort Sweet Briar	Phalaris Willow Verbenum (pu	Hawthon Thistle urple top) Primrose	Pine	r
Other Weeds / Notes	:			
% weed invasion :	up to 10% ■ 10-25% □ 2	25-50%□ 50-75%□	□ >75%□	
Attendant ant:	Present □ Absent □]		
Survey method:	Transect □ Area sear	rch Station	ary □	
	ies observed: None \square 1- r: A = 1; C = 13; D = 3; F		30-50□ 50-100□ >10	0
Butterfly behavious	Flying Basking	Breeding \square	Feeding □ Fighting □]
☐ Other behaviour ((describe)			
•	or describe) plants used:			
	t on Bursaria: Beefly, Blo			
Other butterflies (des	scribe): P. aurifer			
Other observations a Hill F	t this site: Cymblaws and	Hardviol flowering,	Gang-gangs calling at Fer	n
Follow up required	? Yes ■ No □ If yes, do	escribe: Ongoing mo	nitoring required.	

Observer(s)'s name(s): Raymond Mjadwesch

Site: L20. Donaldsons Date: 27.9.2018 Start time: 1250 Finish time: 1320 **GPS co-ordinates:** E235529 N6287273 Map Zone: 56 Map datum: **Weather conditions** Cloud cover: Wind: Precipitation: Temperature: $< 0^{\circ}C$ None None None Up to 25% Light breeze $0-10^{\circ}C$ Drizzle 26 - 50%Light wind Light rain 11-20°C Steady wind 21-29°C 51 - 80%Heavy rain night before Strong wind $30\,^{\circ}C +$ Overcast Downpour Site Conditions: Air temp.:.... Ground temp.:....Relative humidity:..... Shade:......% (if thermometer held) No □ Weeds present Yes If yes, identify where possible: Blackberry **Phalaris** Hawthorn Broom St John's Wort Willow Thistle Pine Verbenum (purple top) Sweet Briar Primrose Cotoneaster Other Weeds / Notes: <u>% weed invasion</u>: up to 10% ■ 10-25% □ 25-50% □ 50-75% □ >75% □ **Attendant ant:** Present Absent □ **Survey method:** Transect □ Area search Stationary □ Number of butterflies observed: None \Box 1-5 \Box 5-10 \Box 10-30 \Box 30-50 \Box 50-100 \Box >100 \Box Other / exact number: 3 **Basking** Breeding □ **Butterfly behaviour:** Flying Feeding □ Fighting □ ☐ Other behaviour (describe)..... If feeding, identify (or describe) plants used: Other insects present on *Bursaria*: Other butterflies (describe): Other observations at this site: **Follow up required?** Yes ■ No □ If yes, describe: Ongoing monitoring required.

Observer(s)'s name Site: L19. Forty Ber GPS co-ordinates:	nds / Fern Hill 1	Date: 28.10.20	18 Start time:		
A 233882 6288167; B	-	-			397 6287211
Weather conditions	<u>s</u>				
Cloud cover:	Wind:		Precipitation:	Tempe	rature:
None Up to 25% 26 – 50% 51 – 80% Overcast	Lig Ste	ne ght breeze ght wind gady wind ong wind	None Drizzle Light rain Heavy rain n Downpour	ight before 0	0°C - 10°C I-20°C I-29°C J°C +
Site Conditions: A (if thermometer held)	ir temp.: G	round temp	Relative hu	midity: Sh	ade:%
Weeds present Ye	es	No □			
If yes, identify when	e possible:				
Blackberry St John's Wort Sweet Briar		Phalaris Villow Verbenum (purple	top) Hawth		Broom Pine Cotoneaster
Other Weeds / Notes	s:				
% weed invasion:	up to 10% 1	0-25%□ 25-5	50%□ 50-75%	>75%□	
Attendant ant:	Present □	Absent □			
Survey method:	Transect □	Area search	Statio	onary 🗆	
Number of butterfl Other / exact number	_	None ■ 1-5□	5-10□ 10-30	□ 30-50□ 50	0-100□ >100□
Butterfly behaviou	<u>r:</u> Flying □	Basking □	Breeding \square	Feeding □	Fighting □
☐ Other behaviour	(describe)		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	
If feeding, identify (or describe) pla				
Other insects presen					
Other butterflies (de	scribe):				
Other observations a	at this site:				
Follow up required	l? Yes ■ No □	If yes, descr	ibe: Ongoing m	onitoring requi	red.

Observer(s)'s name(s): Raymond Mjadwesch

Site: L20. Donaldsons Date: 28.10.2018 Start time: 1330 Finish time: 1420

GPS co-ordinates: E235529 N6287273 Map Zone: 56 Map datum: **Weather conditions** Cloud cover: Wind: Precipitation: Temperature: $< 0^{\circ}C$ None None None Up to 25% Light breeze $0-10^{\circ}C$ Drizzle 26 - 50%Light wind Light rain 11-20°C Steady wind 21-29°C 51 - 80%Heavy rain night before Strong wind $30\,^{\circ}C +$ Overcast Downpour Site Conditions: Air temp.:.... Ground temp.:....Relative humidity:..... Shade:......% (if thermometer held) No □ Weeds present Yes If yes, identify where possible: Blackberry **Phalaris** Hawthorn Broom St John's Wort Willow Thistle Pine Verbenum (purple top) Sweet Briar Primrose Cotoneaster Other Weeds / Notes: <u>% weed invasion</u>: up to 10% ■ 10-25% □ 25-50% □ 50-75% □ >75% □ **Attendant ant:** Present □ Absent □ **Survey method:** Transect □ Area search Stationary □ Number of butterflies observed: None \blacksquare 1-5 \square 5-10 \square 10-30 \square 30-50 \square 50-100 \square >100 \square Other / exact number: Basking □ Breeding □ **Butterfly behaviour:** Flying □ Feeding □ Fighting □ ☐ Other behaviour (describe)..... If feeding, identify (or describe) plants used: Other insects present on *Bursaria*: Other butterflies (describe): Junovill, Vaneitea Other observations at this site: **Follow up required?** Yes ■ No □ If yes, describe: Ongoing monitoring required.