

## **Can solar parks contribute to the recovery of butterflies in agricultural systems?**

The next few decennia will see marked changes in our agricultural landscapes due to the increased space requirements for solar parks that provide us with renewable energy. These solar parks also offer opportunities to contribute to solving the biodiversity crisis in our arable systems. At this moment, a large consortium consisting of researchers and project developers are developing clear guidelines to achieve biodiverse solar parks. In this internship, you will make an important contribution to identifying the characteristics of solar parks that positively contribute to butterfly populations, and how the biodiversity of solar parks compares to former land use (usually intensive agriculture) and protected nature areas. This knowledge will make sure that existing and future solar parks can contribute towards the conservation of insects, and notably butterflies.

### **What do we seek?**

We are looking for an independent student that is enthusiastic about butterflies. A driving licence is essential, as you will be visiting 20 different solar parks, and near-located nature reserves and meadows, throughout the Netherlands, either alone or with others. The fieldwork takes place between May-August. In this research you will collaborate with researchers from Wageningen University & Research, and the Dutch Butterfly Conservation. A background in ecology or biology is preferred, but the most important thing is that you have affinity with butterflies. The internship can be adapted to the needs of your study.

### **What do we offer?**

- An internship from April-August 2022 at the Dutch Butterfly Conservation, a dynamic organisation with enthusiastic entomologists and conservationists
- Excellent support for a succesful internship
- Travel costs and potential accommodation costs during field work will be reimbursed
- An internship with an highly relevant and timely subject

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