

Summary of changes to the NBN Gateway Data Access Controls to be rolled out in 2013

Revisions to the original proposal put forward in October 2011 are shown in red.

Please note that all access to and use of data shared via the NBN Gateway will continue to be covered by the [NBN Terms and Conditions](#).

- 1.1 There will be only two levels of access for each record: 'public' and 'enhanced'.
 - 1.2 Public access will never include access to records which have been flagged as sensitive within the dataset.
 - 1.3 The dataset administrator can decide whether to include recorder and determiner names and record attributes as part of public access. Recorder and determiner names and attributes can only be made publicly available if the record is shown at full capture resolution. *(this is not a change to the current system but it is a change to the original proposal)*
 - 1.4 It will no longer be possible to limit access to view only (dots on maps). All records except those flagged as sensitive will be available to download at the resolution at which public access has been defined by the dataset administrator.
 - 1.5 Enhanced access will mean access (including download) to the full resolution of the record including recorder and determiner names and record attributes (where present). However, access to sensitive species will remain a separate control.
 - 1.6 Enhanced access will be set at the record level so the dataset administrator can grant enhanced access to the whole dataset or to a subset of a dataset. *In the first release of the new system, the available filters for setting enhanced access will be:*
 - Local Records Centre boundaries
 - Vice County boundaries
 - SSSI/ASSI boundaries
 - Year
 - Taxon – access to records of a single species or all species within a higher taxonomic group
 - Designation – e.g. all BAP species
- Filters planned for inclusion in future releases include:*
- Survey
 - Attributes
 - Sample
 - Other site boundaries on the NBN Gateway, user-defined polygons, buffered points, bounding box.
 - Taxon reporting categories (e.g. 'marine mammal') and organisation supplied lists (e.g. local red data book).
- 1.7 New export functionality will be introduced to allow download of the complete species dataset (except sensitive records) at the resolution at which public access has been defined by the dataset administrator¹.
 - 1.8 Dataset administrators will have the option of receiving an e-mail alert every time a user downloads their data through the NBN Gateway. These e-mail alerts can be switched on or off at any time by the dataset administrator.
 - 1.9 We will publish monthly summary reports of data downloads and access requests across the whole NBN Gateway. These will not include details of organisations or individuals, but will provide an overview of how much data is being downloaded, for what purpose, at what level of resolution and what proportion of datasets it represents.

¹ We previously communicated that there would be a separate control over full dataset downloads, enabling dataset administrators to refuse or grant requests on a case by case basis. However, as development progressed, it became clear that this control would not offer any meaningful benefits to the data provider. The control would only be triggered when a user attempts to download a whole dataset in a single search. It would remain possible in the new system, as in the current system, to download a whole dataset 'in chunks' or via web services. **The new system of access controls will therefore not include a separate control over full public dataset downloads.** This was communicated to all dataset administrators on the 12th September 2012.

- 2.0 Dataset administrators will be able to apply a time limit when granting enhanced access to a dataset or to records within a dataset, the enhanced access will automatically be revoked after the defined time period.
- 2.1 Data users will have to log in to the Gateway in order to download data. It will also be necessary to log in to view record details on the screen, i.e. clicking on a square to query the records behind it.
- 2.2 Data users will have to provide details of their organisation, category of use, how they intend to use the downloaded information and to acknowledge (tick box) that they will abide by the terms and conditions of use. The monthly summary statistics provided to dataset administrators by e-mail will be extended to include these user details as well as the e-mail addresses of users who downloaded their data.
- 2.3 Dataset administrators will be able to view information on use of their datasets in 'real time' by logging into their My Account page on the Gateway, i.e. these statistics will be updated daily rather than monthly as they are now.
- 2.4 Data downloaded as part of 'custom downloads' carried out by the NBN Technical Liaison Officers for data users will be included in statistics supplied to dataset administrators.
- 2.5 With a single request, data users will be able to request better access across multiple datasets and not just within a single dataset.
- 2.6 There will be no maximum download file size limit on data downloads.
- 2.7 New functionality ('data download wizard') will enable users to download only the records of interest to them by applying taxonomic, temporal and geographic filters.
- 2.8 New functionality ('data access wizard') will make it easier to manage data access requests. When a user applies for enhanced access to a geographic, spatial or temporal subset of a dataset, the access request will tell the dataset administrator how many records are covered by the request and what proportion of their dataset this represents.
- 2.9 Flagging records as 'sensitive' will continue to make them invisible to the public. In future we plan to improve the data loading process to enable data providers to specify whether the sensitive control should make records invisible to the public or simply blur their resolution, but this feature will not be available in the first release.
- 3.0 1 metre, 10 metre and 5km resolution access levels will not be available in the first release, but are planned for introduction in a later release.
- 3.1 Download files will no longer be split onto separate sheets according to dataset. Data downloads will consist of two files, one containing the data from all datasets collated into a single table, and the other summarising the metadata for all the datasets in the download.