



NBN Trust

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The NBN Trust is the charitable body overseeing the development and management of the NBN and its information facilities.

The Trust's Chairman and Board of Trustees play a leadership role and collectively own and promote the concept.

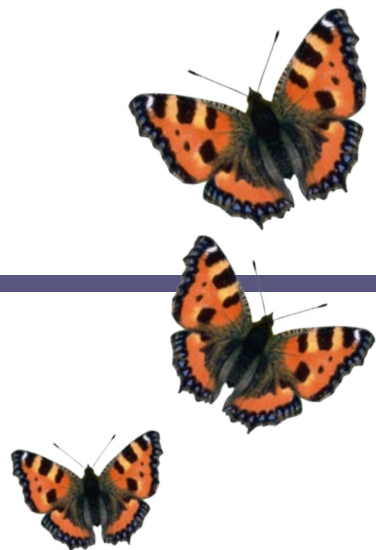
The NBN Trust has a number of full time staff who work to achieve the objectives of the Trust, which has four main roles:

- **Champion:** It broadens awareness of the NBN, encourages engagement with it and communicates progress
- **Facilitator:** It provides a range of services and develops standards that enhance the ability of the Network to operate
- **Advisor:** It provides advice when required. This might be on technical matters such as data management and administration, or it might relate to the way in which organisations use biodiversity data or data flows
- **Participant:** This is principally through the development and management of the NBN Gateway. From time to time the NBN Trust will lead on projects designed to develop the Network.

By its nature, the Trust undertakes some general tasks relating to the Network including the general promotion of the Network through targeted and general communications.



Image © Natural England / Paul Lacey



## Find out more or contribute

If you would like to find out more about the Network or to search the NBN Gateway, please visit the NBN website. Alternatively sign up to receive NBN eNews to be kept up to date with the latest news and developments.

If you would like to become involved in recording or would like to share your own data, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us at [support@nbn.org.uk](mailto:support@nbn.org.uk)

## Useful information

**NBN** – [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

**NBN Gateway** – <http://data.nbn.org.uk>

**Use data** - <http://www.nbn.org.uk/Use-Data.aspx>

**Tools & Resources** - <http://nbn.org.uk/Tools-Resources.aspx>

**Submit Wildlife Sightings** - <http://www.nbn.org.uk/Submit-Data.aspx>

**iRecord** - [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord)

**iSpot** - <http://www.ispotnature.org/>

**Local Record Centre database** – <http://www.alerc.org.uk/find-an-lrc.html>

**National Schemes & Societies** – [http://www.brc.ac.uk/recording\\_schemes.asp](http://www.brc.ac.uk/recording_schemes.asp)

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NBN Trust

NBN Trust  
Broadway Business Centre  
32a Stoney Street  
Lace Market  
Nottingham  
NG1 1LL

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**NBN**  
National Biodiversity Network



# Sharing information about wildlife





- Do you want to learn about the UK's wildlife?
- Do you want to look at species distribution maps?
- Do you want to know what wildlife lives in your area?
- Do you want to learn how organisations work together gathering and collating wildlife information?

## The National Biodiversity Network will help you to do all of that...

**T**he UK's natural heritage is in decline, largely as a result of our own actions. Development and changes to land-use, the effects of a changing climate, habitat loss and fragmentation, wildlife diseases or invasive non-native species have all played a role. Information about wildlife is

critical to our understanding of the changing status, distribution and abundance of species and habitats in the UK and to help reverse their decline. The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) brings biological records together in one place to underpin

assessments of the UK's wildlife landscape. These records, describing the presence, absence and abundance of our wildlife, provide a basis for decision making in valuing, conserving, managing and using nature and, importantly, in monitoring environmental outcomes.

Honeybee  
Apis Mellifera  
© Jane V. Adams

## Making data exchange and access easier

**T**he idea of a national network for the exchange of biodiversity data started in the 1980's and was the theme of a major report in 1995, carried out by the Co-ordinating Commission for Biological Recording. The report revealed that, despite many thousands of people being involved in recording wildlife, there was a lack of agreed standards, general ignorance of what records existed and also of the law affecting ownership. There was a clear need for leadership in building a more effective biological recording network. It was also clear that a mechanism was needed for making the

information, which was at the time stored in over 2,000 different locations, more easily available!

## The National Biodiversity Network

**T**he National Biodiversity Network (NBN) was established to make data more easily accessible. The NBN involves those who collect and use biological records including many of the UK's wildlife conservation organisations, UK government and non-government wildlife-related organisations, local environmental record centres, local recording groups, national recording schemes and many voluntary groups. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) also supports

specific projects to develop the NBN.

The NBN uses the power of the internet to allow the records to be mapped and visualised as never before, through the NBN Gateway, giving an immediate insight into what data exists and, perhaps just as importantly, where there are gaps in our knowledge.

## How is the NBN organised?

**T**he National Biodiversity Network Trust was set up as an independent charity in 2000 to oversee and facilitate the development of the Network. The Trust is also supported by a wide range of biodiversity data providers and users and through a membership scheme.

# At a glance - the differences between the NBN, the NBN Gateway and the NBN Trust



## National Biodiversity Network (NBN)

The NBN is a collaboration between biodiversity data providers and users who are working together to make data accessible to everyone.

### The NBN concept is:

- capture wildlife data once in a standard electronic form
- integrate data from different sources
- use the internet to enable data to be used many times, in different ways, by as many people as possible

### Partners in the Network include:

- government agencies
- national schemes and societies
- local environmental record centres
- academics
- consultants
- local recording groups
- individuals with an interest in biodiversity data



BioBlitz participants © NEYEDC / Natural England



## NBN Gateway

The NBN Gateway is the internet portal that makes available many millions of records for species that have been recorded in the UK.

### Some key facts:

- Search for UK species information, from 10km scale up to six figure grid reference resolution
- Select Biodiversity Action Plan species or a particular site, such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Time slice the data to show how species distributions are changing
- Map two or more species alongside each other
- Data providers retain ownership and full control of their data

The NBN is working together to ensure the ongoing flow of data through the Network, but much more data is held by UK organisations which has not been supplied to the NBN Gateway. This means the absence of species records in a certain area may not indicate an absence, it's just that the NBN Gateway doesn't currently hold that data. Local environmental record centres play a pivotal role as local data delivery nodes to the NBN. They hold the up to date information for their regions and provide comprehensive biodiversity and geodiversity information and services for businesses, such as ecological scoping reports and Environmental Impact Assessments.

