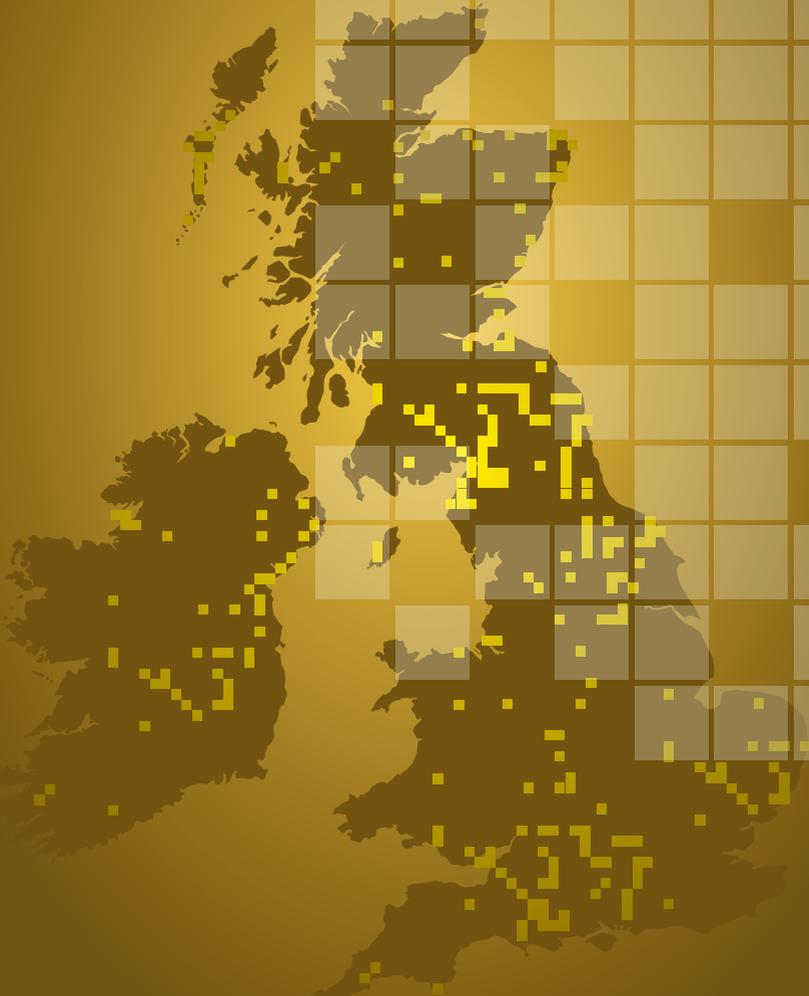


NBN



National Biodiversity Network

Mapping UK wildlife- the NBN Gateway



SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT WILDLIFE

Do you ever want to know where a species has been recorded within the UK?

Do you ever need to produce species maps for protected or conservation priority species?

Do you need to access data on species, sites or habitats to help make informed decisions?

Do you want your data to be shared and used for conservation purposes?



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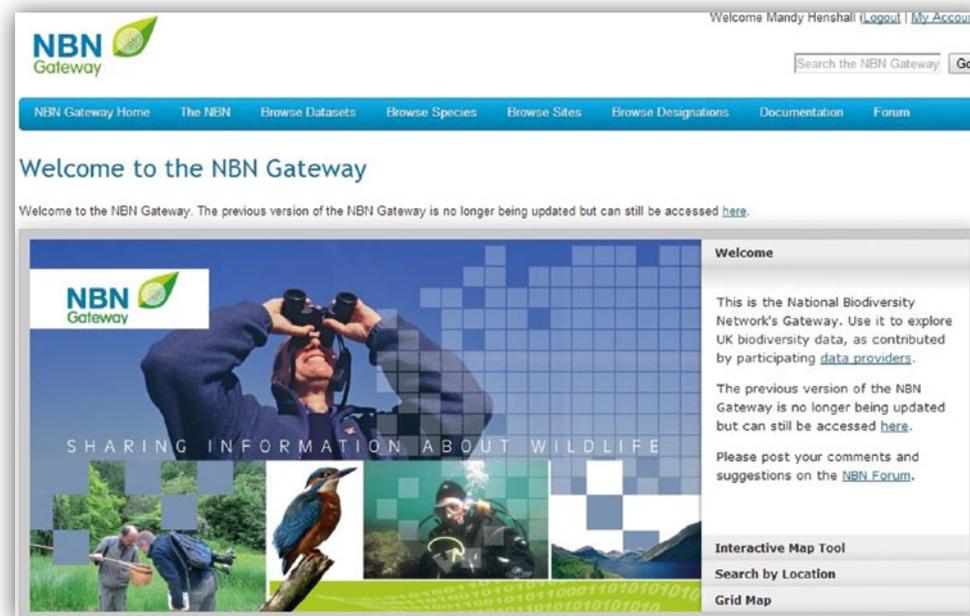
If you do, the NBN Gateway could be just what you need and it's free and available for anyone to use.

The NBN Gateway holds millions of records for species that have been observed in the UK – from plants and insects to birds and mammals – and new and updated datasets are added every month.

Bringing data together

Many groups and organisations in the UK are committed to sharing their wildlife information for conservation, research and education. Collectively, they make up the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), a collaboration of conservation, charitable, research and government organisations which are all interested in biodiversity data and in making it freely and publicly available. However, because of the sheer number

of organisations involved in data collection, it can be difficult for people who want to use the information to find out what may be available and who to contact to obtain a copy. To help with this, the NBN Gateway brings all of the information together so that it can be searched, viewed and downloaded easily.



NBN Gateway – key facts

The NBN Gateway holds millions of records for species that have been observed in the UK – from plants and insects to birds and mammals – and new and updated datasets are added every month. It allows users to search for information on species across the UK from 10km scale up to six figure grid reference detail in some cases. It is possible to select only BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species or a particular site and it also allows the data to be time sliced to show how distribution is changing, as well as allowing the mapping of two or more species alongside each other. The system is constantly being developed to introduce functionality requested by users and NBN partners. It also, increasingly, allows users to search for information on habitats, with many specific datasets being provided by the

country conservation agencies.

All these records can be interrogated using the search engine or by browsing lists. They can also be filtered by date or the conservation status of the species.

The results are then displayed on maps, which can be customised to show different background layers, different date ranges, or zoomed to particular geographic regions.

In its simplest terms, the NBN Gateway will help you to find out:

- What records are available for a particular species in the UK
- What records are available for a particular geographic region
- What organisations within the NBN hold further information about species or wildlife sites, so that you can get the local detail that you need

It is also possible to view absence data on the NBN Gateway, for some species.

Do I need to register or pay?

You don't have to register to use the NBN Gateway, but in order to see the details of records, to download data and to request better access to datasets, if you need it, you should register and login.

Simply click on the register button at the top right of the screen, create your username and password (case sensitive) and you will be sent an activation email. You're then ready to login and get started.

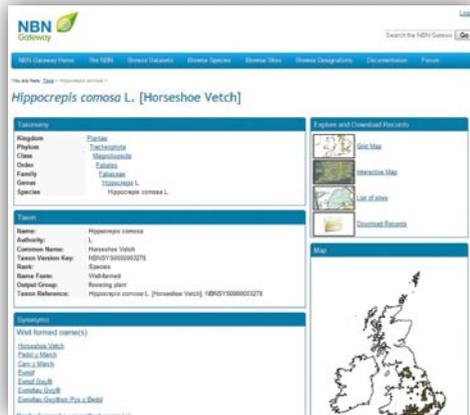
There is no cost associated with using the NBN Gateway.

Searching the NBN Gateway

There are a couple of simple ways to search the NBN Gateway:

1 Using the search box

If you are interested in a particular species then you can simply type its name into the search box, which appears on the top right of every page. You can use the common or scientific name.



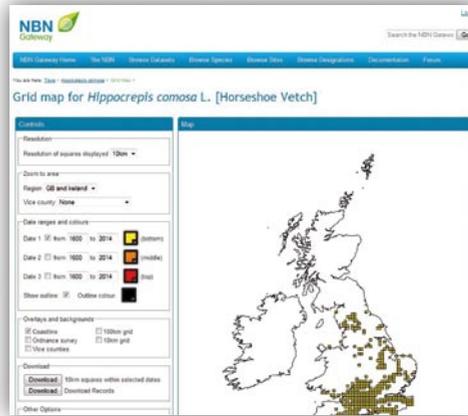
You will then be presented with a list of results for your search and can select the entry of choice. You will then see all the taxonomic information and will have four options to further explore or download the information:

- Grid map of records
- Interactive map of records
- List of sites
- Download records

Grid map of records

Click on grid map and a map will appear, which shows all of the 10km squares where the species is present.

Using the boxes to the left of the map, you can select a range of dates, different overlays or zoom to a specific Vice County Boundary. You can also select specific datasets from those listed beneath the map.

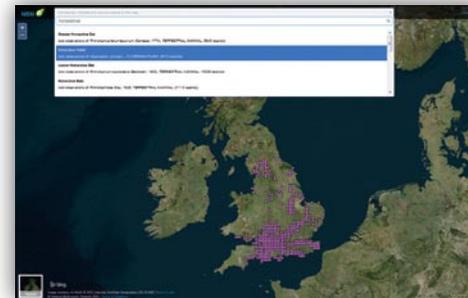


To the left of the map there are two links to "Download". "Download 10km squares" will simply list all the squares where the species is shown to be present from the data available. "Download records" will show a number of attributes including all the observations for the species in question, along with site names, dates and the original recorder's name (where it's available). For both of these options, you will first need to agree to the NBN Gateway Terms & Conditions, and will then receive a link to a tab delimited file which can be downloaded into excel. The information provided will also contain the metadata for the datasets.

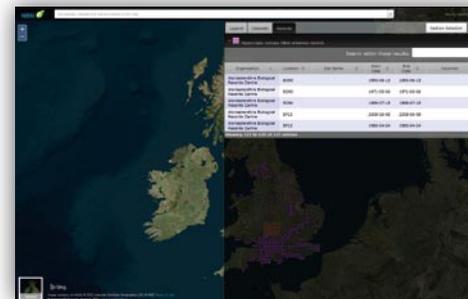
Your access to the datasets is shown alongside each of the datasets beneath the map and this can range from 100m to 10km. If you require better access to data, you can click the button to the left of the map and fill out the online form, which is submitted to the data provider. They will then either grant or deny enhanced access.

Interactive map of records

Another mapping option is to use the Interactive map. You can either navigate to this from the grid map (link is shown under "other options" to the left of the map), or you can navigate straight there from your species search. You can also search directly from the interactive map by typing the species name into the box at the top of the screen.



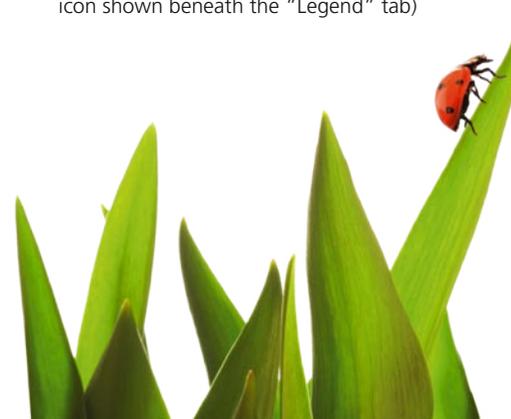
The map will show coloured squares indicating where the species has been recorded. You can look at the datasets available for this particular search as well as the actual records for a particular area within the map by drawing a box with your cursor once you are in the Records section of the map.



The interactive map allows you to look at two or more different species at the same time, which is an excellent option for coincidence mapping. You can also change the date range or colours of the squares by clicking on the settings icon (spanner icon shown beneath the "Legend" tab)



You can also change the map backdrop by clicking on the icons in the bottom left of the screen.

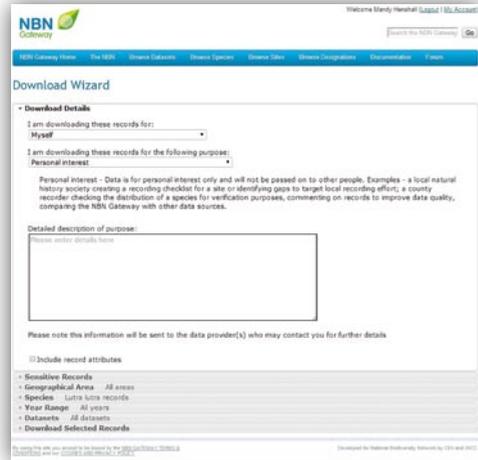


List of Sites

You can search for a particular species on a specific site, such as a UK LBAP boundary, Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserve. You can select or deselect datasets for your search, change the date range and download the site list.

Download records

This allows you to download the records for the particular species. You need to agree to the NBN Gateway Terms and Conditions and then follow the download wizard to explain why you are downloading the information.



2 Using the search by location map selector

If you are interested in which species are found in a particular area then you can use the Search by location option, which you can navigate to from the NBN Gateway home page.

Click on the relevant 100km square and a further map will be shown which is broken down into 10km squares. Click on the square of interest and you will be taken to more information for that square, including all the species found there. You can then click on any of the species groups to interrogate the data further or download species data for all groups by clicking the Download button on the left of the map.



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Getting the best possible access to data

The NBN Gateway is an invaluable resource, but it should be remembered that it can only supply the detail supplied to us, although we encourage data providers to include as much relevant information as possible, such as associated habitats.

One of the key things to be aware of is that you may not have the best possible access to the datasets, but you can request improved access as long as you are registered. This is strongly advised and can be easily done when you are logged in to the NBN Gateway.

The NBN Trust is making every effort to make the Terms and Conditions of data use as straightforward as possible and 'signposting' and caveats for data users are available on the NBN Gateway.

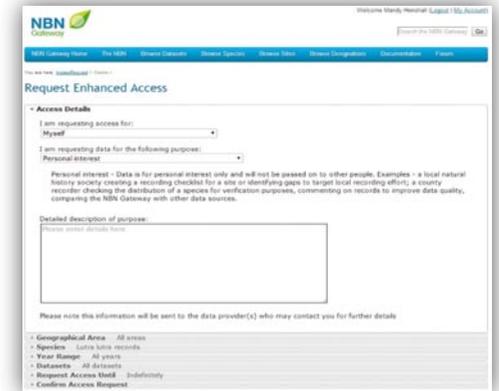


These are just a few top tips for searching the NBN Gateway, but it can deliver far more information once you have started to find your way around. You will also find more advice and training videos on the website.

Data on the NBN Gateway and the data providers

Many organisations provide data to the NBN Gateway, and all the latest statistics can be found on the website. Importantly, each of the data providers retains ownership of their data so, in essence, the NBN Gateway simply acts as a data warehouse. Without the data providers, the NBN wouldn't exist, but there are still many more datasets held by numerous organisations not yet available on the NBN Gateway, and therefore not easily accessible.

It is important to remember that even if a species doesn't appear in a particular area on a Gateway map, it may still be present there; it's just that we may not have received the relevant data, yet. This is why we are working hard to ensure the ongoing flow of data onto the NBN Gateway to give as complete a picture as possible of the UK's wildlife.



How are data from the NBN Gateway being used by others?

Examples of how the data are being used can be found on the NBN website. Examples include using the data for land management, planning, policy making, public engagement and research.

Find out more or contribute

The information provided here is intended to be introductory. If you would like to find out more, please visit the NBN website, where you can find out all about the Network and search the NBN Gateway.

If you feel that you would like to become involved in recording or would like to share your own data, you may like to contribute to iRecord or to get help with identifying species through iSpot.

There are also many local and national recording schemes and societies and local record centres who can be contacted regarding sharing your data and for the local detail.

You can also sign up to receive NBN eNews so that you are kept up to date with the latest news and developments from across the Network. You can also contact us at support@nbn.org.uk

Useful information

NBN – www.nbn.org.uk

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

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

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

iRecord – www.brc.ac.uk/irecord

iSpot – <http://www.ispotnature.org/>

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

National Schemes and Societies – http://www.brc.ac.uk/recording_schemes.asp

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NBN Trust

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