

NBN Data Sharing Badges – report from the 2016 NFBR Conference

Background

A consultation was submitted to NBN members in 2016 (for more background please see [associated documents](#) and [forum thread](#)). This was followed by a workshop at the NFBR 2016 Conference to finalise the details of such a badge scheme (led by Tom Hunt, ALERC and Rachel Stroud, NBN Secretariat).

The workshop group had representatives from large and small national schemes and societies and local environmental record centres. It was agreed that data sharing badges are a good idea, though they must not be designed in such a way that could penalise small organisations with limited resources. They must be kept simple.

A discussion was had around **who it is for?** The group felt that it is primarily for the recorder and it was identified to be a huge motivator to know that data will be shared wider. However, organisations who capture data will also benefit as it will be an opportunity to showcase that they are part of the partnership and helps people associate with the NBN

Before the conversation moved into details of the scheme it was key to clarify **what the badges are for?** There are many reasons why they are required but the three key messages were:

1. Clarify data flows
2. Raise awareness of the National Biodiversity Network, and all involved
3. Will help HLF and other funding bodies undertake audits on the conditions of their funding

It was agreed that the **design** needed to be simple, using the NBN leaf and NBN colours, and if possible be metallic to show accreditation.

What is being badged was being discussed. It was agreed that we are badging the data provider at the point of data entry. A long discussion was had around iRecord. It was decided that in the first instance iRecord would not be badged as the data flows through the schemes who in turn upload the data. In the future we need a way to credit all partners in the data flow pathway. We will review this in the future and need to keep simple for now.

The group wanted to be able to **link the badge** to more detail and it was agreed that the data partner should choose where the badged linked to. This could either be to

- the NBN member page on the NBN website,
- data provider page on the NBN Gateway or NBN Atlas of Living Scotland
- a new page explaining the initiative on the NBN website

It was agreed that while there are many ways to tier such a scheme, the initial stage should be to keep the badge and scheme very simple with **no tiering**. It would be an indication of either sharing data with the NBN or not. The process will be to roll out the badges and support data partners to implement them. With time the scheme can evolve with the addition of tiers, perhaps incorporating openness, licences and visibility of data.