



Annual Impact Report

2025/26



1

About the NBN Trust: National Biodiversity Network Trust

The NBN Trust

is a **small charity** with a
bold ambition:
to make data work for nature.

Since 2000, as the UK's **biodiversity data backbone**, we've been making data accessible to **inform better decisions** about the natural world and connect people with nature. The **NBN Atlas**, our data portal, is the **national biodiversity data infrastructure**. Through this we're ensuring that **better data supports better decisions** for nature.



Our vision is:

"Nature thriving everywhere, in all its diversity"

Our mission is:

"Making data work for nature"



2

Message from our Chairperson

I continue to be astonished by the scale and importance of the biodiversity data that the National Biodiversity Network Trust handles on behalf of the UK. The Trust stewards one of the most important and impactful conservation data resources available to decision makers in the UK and worldwide, and much credit should go to the NBN Trust staff for their passion and commitment to making data work for nature.



This year, it has been brilliant to welcome Dr Gareth Thomas to the Trust as our new CEO. Gareth brings a depth of knowledge and insight, particularly around biodiversity data, innovation, and the development of new technology. That experience will be important as we move towards the next phase of the Trust's work.

It is a cliché, but still true, to say that we live in a more connected and data centric world, where expectations are changing quickly. The risk for all organisations, and particularly for those working with technology and data, is that we fail to keep up with the pace of change. The expectations of businesses, communities, researchers, and conservationists look very different now from 10 years ago, and they will look different again in another 10 years.

At the NBN Trust, we have begun the task of building towards that future. We are thinking carefully about what a more connected, interoperable, and agile Trust should look like, sitting at the centre of a network of services delivered with and for our stakeholders.

As we move into our 26th year, the Board's focus is on supporting the Trust to stay trusted, relevant and resilient. The next phase will require careful choices, strong partnerships, and a sustainable operating model, but the need for the Trust's work has never been clearer.

Pete Tomlin



Message from our CEO

I joined the NBN Trust at an important point in its history. This year marked 25 years since the Trust was created, and it has been a moment to recognise what this network has achieved, while also being clear about what is needed next.

The NBN Trust exists to make data work for nature. That mission matters because good decisions depend on good evidence. Across the UK, biodiversity data supports research, policy, planning, conservation, restoration, and public understanding. When data is shared well, it becomes part of the infrastructure that helps society understand nature and act with greater confidence.

The scale of that work is clear in this report. By the end of March 2026, more than 335 million biodiversity records were being shared through the NBN Atlas. Data from the NBN Atlas was downloaded a staggering 2.1 billion times during the year. More than 143 million records were shared through GBIF, strengthening the UK's contribution to global biodiversity knowledge. Through iNaturalistUK, more people are also taking part in recording wildlife and connecting with nature.

Behind those figures is a community. The NBN Trust is only possible because recorders, recording schemes, Local Environmental Records Centres, statutory bodies, research organisations, charities, businesses, funders, members, volunteers, staff, and Trustees all play their part. This report is a record of their contribution as much as ours.

This has also been a year of transition. We have had changes in leadership, reviewed how the organisation works, and sharpened our focus on the areas where the Trust can have the greatest impact.



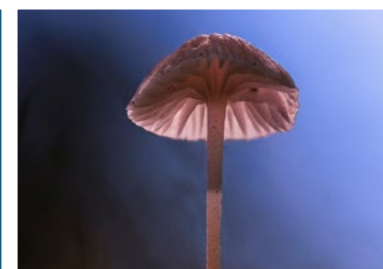
That has meant strengthening our financial and operational grip, improving our systems, developing the NBN Atlas, and building the foundations for the next phase of the charity.

As we enter our 26th year, we are taking a phased approach to strategy. The current strategy has been extended to 2028 to give us the right space to stabilise, listen, test assumptions, and build the next strategy with the people and organisations who rely on the Network, NBN Atlas, and services. That matters, the NBN Atlas is the national biodiversity data infrastructure, its future cannot be designed in isolation.

The next phase is about resilience, relevance, and trust. We need to protect what already works, improve what needs to change, and make sure the NBN Trust is financially and operationally strong enough to serve the biodiversity data community for the long term.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the NBN Trust's work over the past year, and over the past 25 years. The need for trusted biodiversity data has never been clearer. Our task now is to make sure that data continues to work for nature, at the scale and pace needed.

Dr Gareth Thomas



3

From the past to the present – 25 years of the NBN Trust

Over the past 25 years, the NBN Trust has fundamentally changed how biodiversity evidence is shared and used in the UK. What began as a pioneering, but relatively small data resource - fewer than 15 million species records shared on the NBN Gateway - has grown into a world-leading national infrastructure. By March 2026, more than 335 million records were openly available through the NBN Atlas.

This scale matters because better data leads to better decisions. The NBN Atlas now underpins nature recovery, scientific research and environmental policy across the UK. By bringing organisations, data and people together, the NBN Trust has enabled a step change in the availability, accessibility and impact of biodiversity evidence.

The numbers tell a powerful story of an unprecedented expansion of ecological knowledge. But it is the collective effort behind this - an ever-growing network of data partners and members - that has created a truly collaborative movement for open data.

Crucially, this data is not just collected - it is used. With billions of records downloaded and shared globally, NBN Atlas data informs real-world decisions, from local conservation action to national policy and international research. As a trusted national platform, it also connects local recording to global initiatives such as GBIF: Global Biodiversity Information Facility, ensuring UK biodiversity data contributes to tackling worldwide environmental challenges.

In short, the NBN Trust has turned biodiversity data into a critical national asset, powering evidence-based action to protect and restore nature.

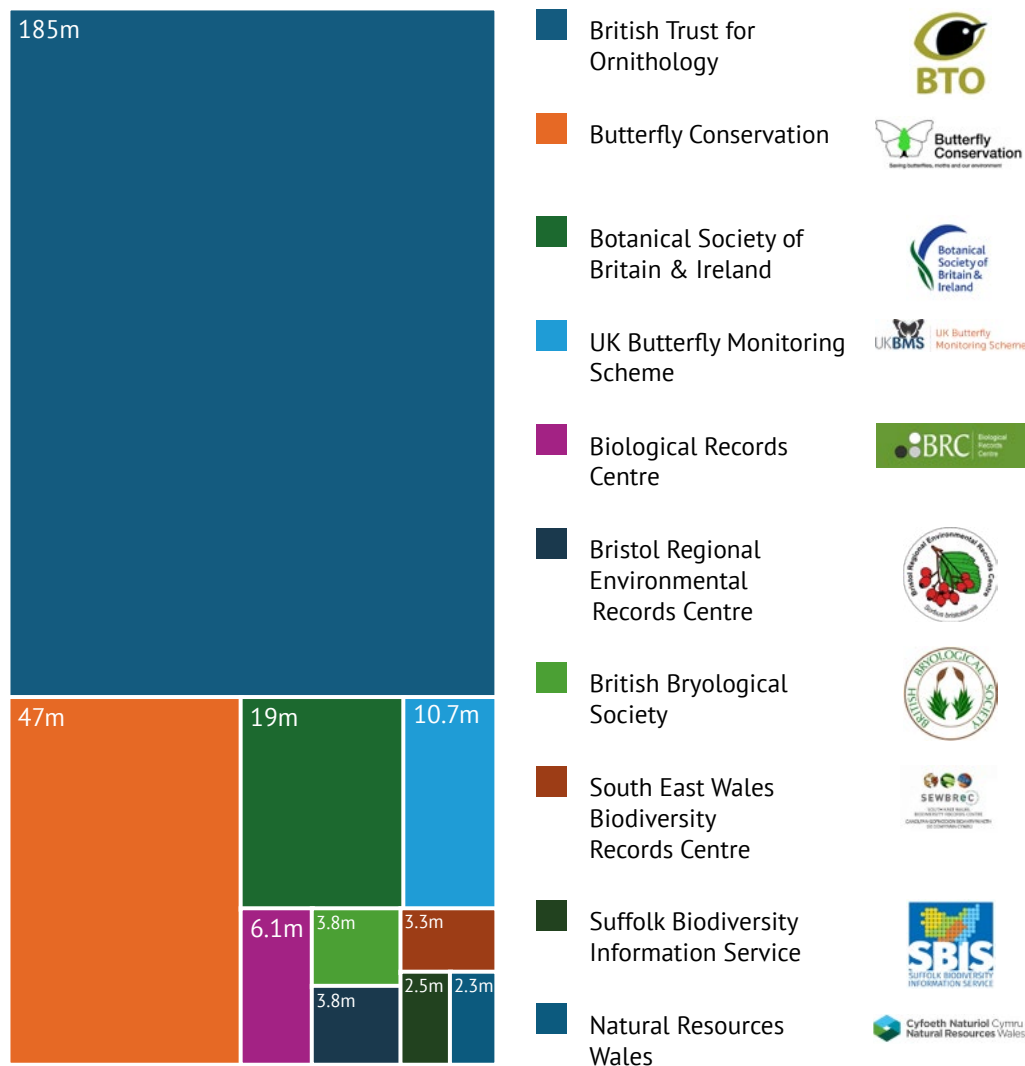
"an ever-growing network of data partners and members has created a truly collaborative movement for open data."



Jewel anemones & Tubularia on high energy circalittoral reef © Natural England/Angela Gail

4 From the past to the present – 25 years of making data work for nature

The 10 organisations providing the most data (number of records)



We value the vital contributions of all our data partners enormously. A complete list of those contributing can be found on the [NBN Atlas](#).

in those 25 years...



We've helped
192 data partners
to share their data
accessibly

We've reached **27,500+**
followers on social media



We've made
335+ million
species occurrence
records available



We've celebrated
100 amazing people
through the
**NBN Awards for
Wildlife Recording**



We've enabled
143+ million
records to be shared globally
through **GBIF: Global Biodiversity
Information Facility**

We've enabled
2.1+ billion
downloads



We've brought **3,000+ delegates**
together at our 25 NBN Conferences around the country

To the present day



Following on from our 25 year journey, this report highlights our progress from April 2025 to March 2026, showing how our work delivers measurable outcomes for nature. It demonstrates how investment in the NBN Trust translates into better data, stronger partnerships, and greater impact for biodiversity.

5 We're transforming our data infrastructure

By making biodiversity data more convenient, accessible, and interoperable, we empower action for nature and amplify the impact of conservation efforts, accelerating progress toward nature's recovery.

Enhanced access to records

In May 2025, we introduced Access Controls in response to stakeholder feedback, enabling data partners to share high-resolution biodiversity data securely while keeping public views generalised. This gives authorised users access to more precise data for better research and decision-making, while ensuring providers retain full control over sensitive information. The result is more transparent, secure and collaborative data sharing, which maximises the value of biodiversity data across the UK.



Our Progress and Impact

The continued growth in shared records demonstrates the strength of the NBN data partnership model:



335
million biodiversity
records shared



35.2
million records
added



192
organisations
sharing data



3,141
new NBN Atlas
users

supporting
planning, policy and
conservation

meaning even
more vital data is
available

improving access
to more vital
information

enabling research,
planning and ultimately
protection of nature.



NBN Atlas Strategy

Published in 2025, the first NBN Atlas Strategy sets out how the NBN Atlas will continue to develop as the cornerstone of the UK's biodiversity data infrastructure, transforming how we understand, protect, and enhance the natural world through data innovation and improved technology.

To achieve this, we are:



Harnessing technological advances

to evolve the NBN Atlas into a more powerful, scalable, and user-friendly platform



Accelerating data capture and integration

enabling rapid growth in both the volume and richness of biodiversity data



Leading the community

in clarifying data flow pathways and setting robust data standards to ensure data is truly open, accessible, and usable.

The NBN Atlas Strategy is separate from the NBN Trust organisational strategy and was developed in consultation with the NBN Atlas Stakeholder Advisory Group and other key partners, supported by the NBN Atlas Accelerator project.¹

This work, carried out by the NBN Atlas development team over the last year, has created a more resilient, future-ready platform, able to handle growing volumes of biodiversity data without compromising performance. Faster processing means quicker access to up-to-date information, supporting more timely and informed decisions. At the same time, greater efficiency reduces costs, freeing up resources for innovation and new capabilities.

Mike Prince, Senior Officer, Natural England:

"The NCEA and Natural England have been delighted to support the NBN Trust with the Atlas Accelerator project to develop new functionality for the NBN Atlas and facilitate an overall increase in the quality and quantity of FAIR data."

¹ The NBN Atlas Accelerator Project was delivered in partnership with Natural England and supported by the Environment Agency and funded by Defra through the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services (NCEA) programme.



6 We're ensuring data can work for nature

We have strengthened the quality, visibility and usability of NBN Atlas data making it easier to trust, interpret and apply. This means better evidence for research, policy and conservation, and stronger recognition for data providers.

Improving performance and usability

Enhancements delivered through the Atlas Accelerator Project are increasing both quality and usability of data.

- **Better citation tracking** enables clearer evidence of data use and value
- **Improved species information** means stronger conservation decisions
- **Enhanced mapping tools** mean a better user experience and greater accessibility for non-specialists
- **Saved searches and profiles** mean more efficient workflows

Data, access and experience enhancements

We have enhanced how data is visualised and integrated, including new mapping services and GIS capabilities. This means users can more easily embed, analyse and apply biodiversity data in real-world decision-making.

We have also improved the user experience, making the platform faster and more intuitive to use. This means users can find, reuse and act on data more efficiently.

These achievements help the NBN Atlas to better serve its 335,000 annual users and support critical decision-making in conservation, policy, and ecological research across the UK.



Ladybird © Jen Fellows Photography

Our Progress and Impact



2.1
billion records
downloaded



143.7
million records
shared via GBIF



241
peer reviewed
scientific publications



61
datasets cited in
peer-reviewed papers

demonstrating
the demand for
accessible, trusted
biodiversity data

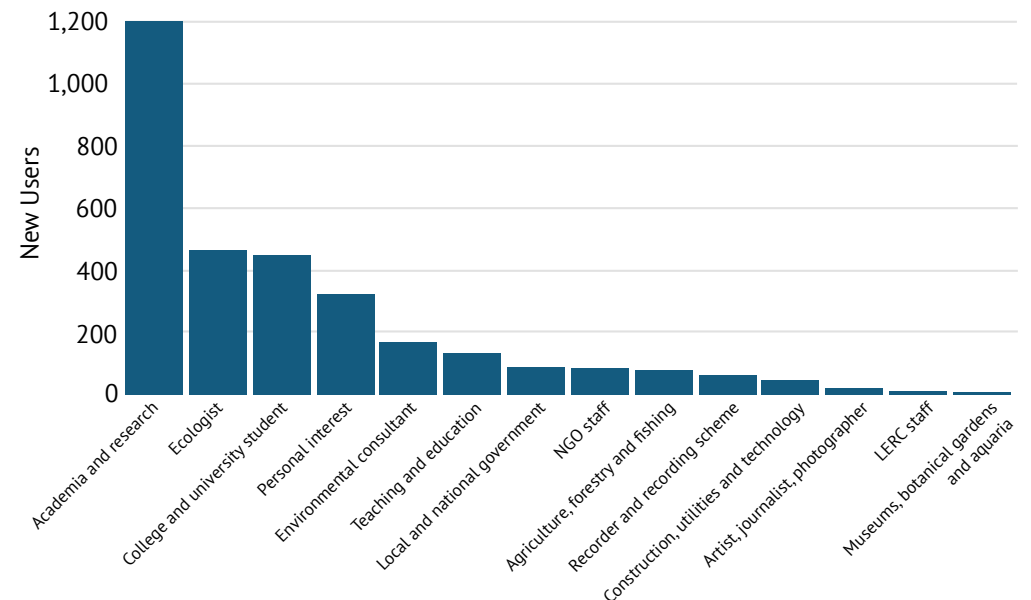
strengthening UK's
contribution to
global biodiversity
knowledge

confirming the
NBN Atlas as a
critical evidence
base for research

demonstrating the
power of, and need
for, accessible data
for research.

Who uses the NBN Atlas

NBN Atlas users remain consistent year-on-year, with academia being the largest group. As with previous years, data partners from this sector remain very low, showing ongoing opportunity to engage.



NBN Atlas data is providing the evidence

By making biodiversity data accessible and usable at scale, the NBN Atlas enables evidence-based decisions to protect nature. While citation numbers naturally vary, the consistently high volume of peer-reviewed papers and datasets demonstrates the enduring research value of the NBN Atlas. Its impact is clear in the continued and growing use of its data to advance scientific understanding and inform action.

- **This year**, there were 241 peer-reviewed citations for 61 datasets.
- **For the second year**, the **All taxa records for Leicestershire and Rutland** was the most cited dataset, with 69 citations.
- **33 NBN Atlas datasets** were used to show how a diverse range of data sources, such as are available through the Atlas, are important in monitoring freshwater sponges' species in Europe.
- **282 NBN Atlas datasets** contributed to a global study on bumblebees, with a bias towards weekends for Bumble Bee records being found. This paper highlighted how citizen science records are important, but this bias should be considered when using such data.

Why do queen bumblebees emerge from hibernation during weekends?

This all demonstrates that NBN Atlas data is not just collected, it is actively shaping scientific understanding, influencing global research, and strengthening the evidence base for protecting biodiversity.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee © Natural England/Allan Drevitt

Citizen science data can significantly improve predictions of potential ranges of non-charismatic species: a study on two freshwater sponges

- **339 NBN Atlas datasets** were used to support this global multi-taxon study. The paper found that biodiversity data has great potential to inform on the effects of urbanisation of floodplain species. However, biases toward data collection of certain taxa groups, such as birds and plants need to be addressed.

Urbanisation of Floodplains Reduces Species Richness of Several Taxonomic Groups Worldwide

Supporting our users to make the most of data for research

In 2025/26, the NBN Trust data team provided bespoke support to two PhD students, helping maximise their, and our, impact and placing further value on the services the NBN Trust can provide.

- **PhD student at University of Durham**
We completed a large-scale data export for over 1,000 species across multiple taxa. This data will be used to produce an estimated species richness map. This map can help to guide strategic, landscape-scale planning of conservation by indicating hotspots for protection, as well as identifying where gaps exist to justify interventions for meeting the targets of the Environment Act in England.
- **PhD student at University of Portsmouth**
We completed a large-scale export for a list of fish species. The student will use the data to review the effectiveness of molecular (eDNA) data collected as part of the **GB Row Challenge** surveys against traditional monitoring. The NBN Atlas data was able to fill in species record gaps missing from other data sources.



"The timely provision of data enabled rapid progress, avoiding delays that can be encountered when sourcing from several independent providers".

PhD student at University of Durham

Mullion Cliff to Pledmarnack Cliff SSSI © Natural England/Beith Lloyd Davies



Showcasing the NBN Atlas and the importance of data publicly

The NBN Trust has become a regular contributor to the BBC “Watch” programmes, with researchers often seeking permission to use NBN Atlas maps to clearly show how species distributions are changing over time.



Springwatch (9 July 2025)

NBN Atlas data illustrated the spread of non-native ring-necked and Alexandrine parakeets across the UK and Isle of Man



Winterwatch (21 January 2026)

NBN Atlas Pine Marten records highlighted their recovery and increasing presence in Northern Ireland

Making an impact in Scotland

Since its inception in 2023, the Better Biodiversity Data (BBD) project has been developing a national biodiversity data service model for Scotland. The major focus of work in 2025/26 was the development of NBN Record Manager, a new multi-tenanted Data Management System. Delivery of the NBN Record Manager is intended to be completed over a two-year period and will provide a much needed, new recording platform to support and help Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) and Recording Groups to transition from Recorder 6.

The next phase will focus on moving NBN Record Manager through final development and towards practical implementation with Scottish partners, strengthening the link between local data management, national infrastructure, and better biodiversity evidence.



7 We're encouraging and celebrating wildlife recording

Without biological records, we wouldn't have the information needed to help protect the UK's wildlife. Without the records we wouldn't have the NBN Atlas. Without biological recorders, we wouldn't have any records at all. As a sector, one that is striving for the most current and accurate wildlife information, we owe a huge amount to the community of wildlife recorders who dedicate their time to observing and recording nature.

Engaging people through iNaturalist



During 2024 / 2025 two reports were carried out to help understand iNaturalistUK users and their observation records. These reports were published in January 2026.

The findings and final reports come from a study conducted as part of the **RENEW project**, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

The **iNaturalistUK Observation Records (2008-2023) Analysis Report** analysed 4.8 million iNaturalist observations made in the UK between 2008 and December 2023. It explored user behaviour, spatiotemporal patterns, taxonomic trends, and data quality, using additional UK datasets (land cover, population density, deprivation indices) to contextualise patterns.

The **iNaturalistUK Survey 2024: NBN Trust Question Summaries Report** is one of the first comprehensive efforts to explore the users of the iNaturalistUK platform, aiming to understand who the users are, how they engage with the platform, and what motivates their participation.

The findings highlight both the strengths of the iNaturalistUK community – high motivation, strong nature connection, willingness to share data – and the challenges, including demographic and geographic under representation.

The research was led by Emma Squire and Devmini Bandara from the RENEW team at the University of Exeter as part of their doctoral studies, in collaboration with the NBN Trust.

Supporting further engagement

iNaturalist launched an ambassador programme to support users already engaging others on the platform. The NBN Trust contributed guidance on common data quality issues and shared best practice for ambassadors working with new and existing iNaturalistUK users. We also helped connect the UK ambassador community to strengthen collaboration.

Our Progress and Impact



14

individuals and groups recognised



4,117

new observers joined



2,421

new species added



2,493,689

new wildlife records shared

through the NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording

the iNaturalistUK community

to iNaturalistUK

via iNaturalistUK



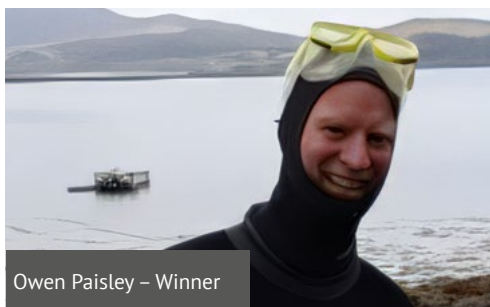
Silver-studded blue © Jen Fellows Photography

Celebrating wildlife recording

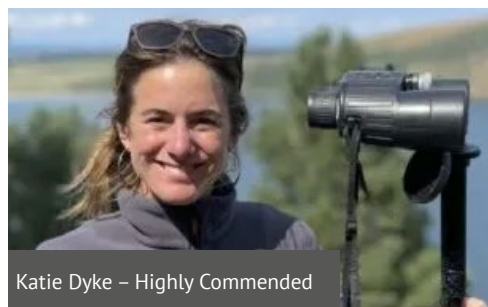
Our annual NBN Awards' scheme is designed to recognise the unsung heroes of the recording world and celebrate their achievements. In November 2025 we brought together our winners and highly commended nominees at the NBN Conference to receive their Awards.



NBN Award for Marine Wildlife Recording



Owen Paisley – Winner

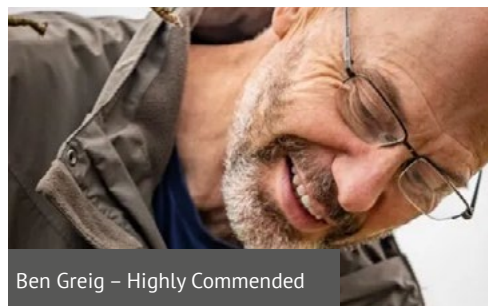


Katie Dyke – Highly Commended

NBN Award for Terrestrial Wildlife Recording



Dylan Peters – Winner

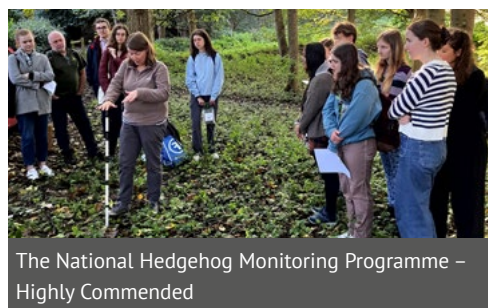


Ben Greig – Highly Commended

NBN Group Award



The Joint Derbyshire Moth Verification and Recording Team – Winner

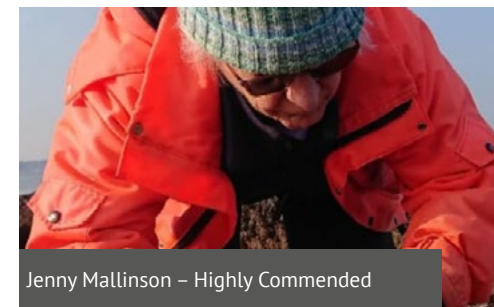


The National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme – Highly Commended

NBN Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr Philip Smith – Winner



Jenny Mallinson – Highly Commended

NBN Newcomer Award



Elizabeth Beston – Winner



Janine Maree Finlay – Highly Commended

NBN Verifier's Award

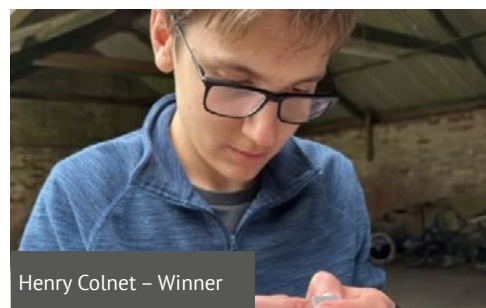


Ashleigh Whiffin – Winner

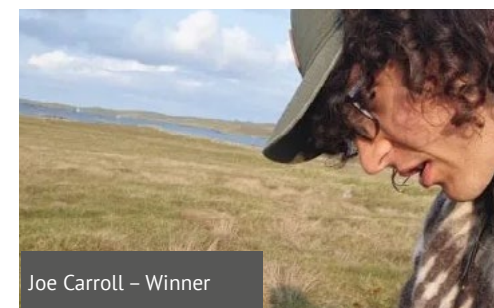


Chris Du Feu – Highly Commended

NBN Young Person's Award



Henry Colnet – Winner



Joe Carroll – Winner

8 We're supporting our community

The National Biodiversity Network is a well-connected and highly collaborative community with a united voice on key issues.

We use our communications channels to showcase the work of our members and data partners, strengthening and growing the NBN community. By sharing their stories, we promote collaboration and learning, demonstrating how, together and individually, we are making data work for nature.

Our Progress and Impact



170

delegates attended the NBN Conference



3

organisations sponsored the NBN Conference



2,000+

people subscribed to Network News



27,500+

people engaged through social media

NBN Conference

The 2025 NBN Conference took place on 20 November at the iconic SS Great Britain in Bristol, bringing together more than 170 delegates from across the biodiversity data community.

Marking the NBN Trust's 25th anniversary, the Conference reflected on "25 years of collaboration", celebrating the collective achievements that have shaped the Network.

It also explored "The here and now", showcasing current projects and the critical role of biodiversity data in research, alongside "Beyond the now – what's next", which highlighted emerging opportunities and future directions for data use.

Katie-Jo Luxton, Executive Director for Global Conservation at the RSPB, delivered the prestigious Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture. She also joined representatives from NBN Award sponsors, Opticron and the Field Studies Council, in presenting the NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording.

The Conference provided a valuable platform for sharing knowledge, strengthening partnerships, and inspiring continued collaboration to advance biodiversity understanding and conservation.

Thank you to [Futures Wild](#), [Habitat Aid](#), and [Tailpipe](#), for sponsoring our NBN Conference 2025.



9 We're improving our sustainability

Achieving the NBN Trust's strategic ambitions depends on maintaining financial security and enabling sustainable growth.

During 2025/26 we took a more proactive approach to fundraising from businesses and philanthropic sources to raise the income needed to fund our core delivery services and organisational operations.

Corporate Partnerships

As a first step, we launched a [corporate partnerships brochure](#) and this area will be developed further in 2026. As this area progresses, we will continue to apply proportionate due diligence to ensure partnerships align with the Trust's charitable purpose and values.

Trusts & Foundations



We delivered on the second year of the £180,000 3-year grant

of core funding kindly provided by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. This grant supports the NBN Trust's organisational resilience and sustainability, growth and new collaborations as well as allows us to assist organisations and individuals supplying data to, and using, the NBN Atlas. A huge thank you to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for providing their invaluable support.

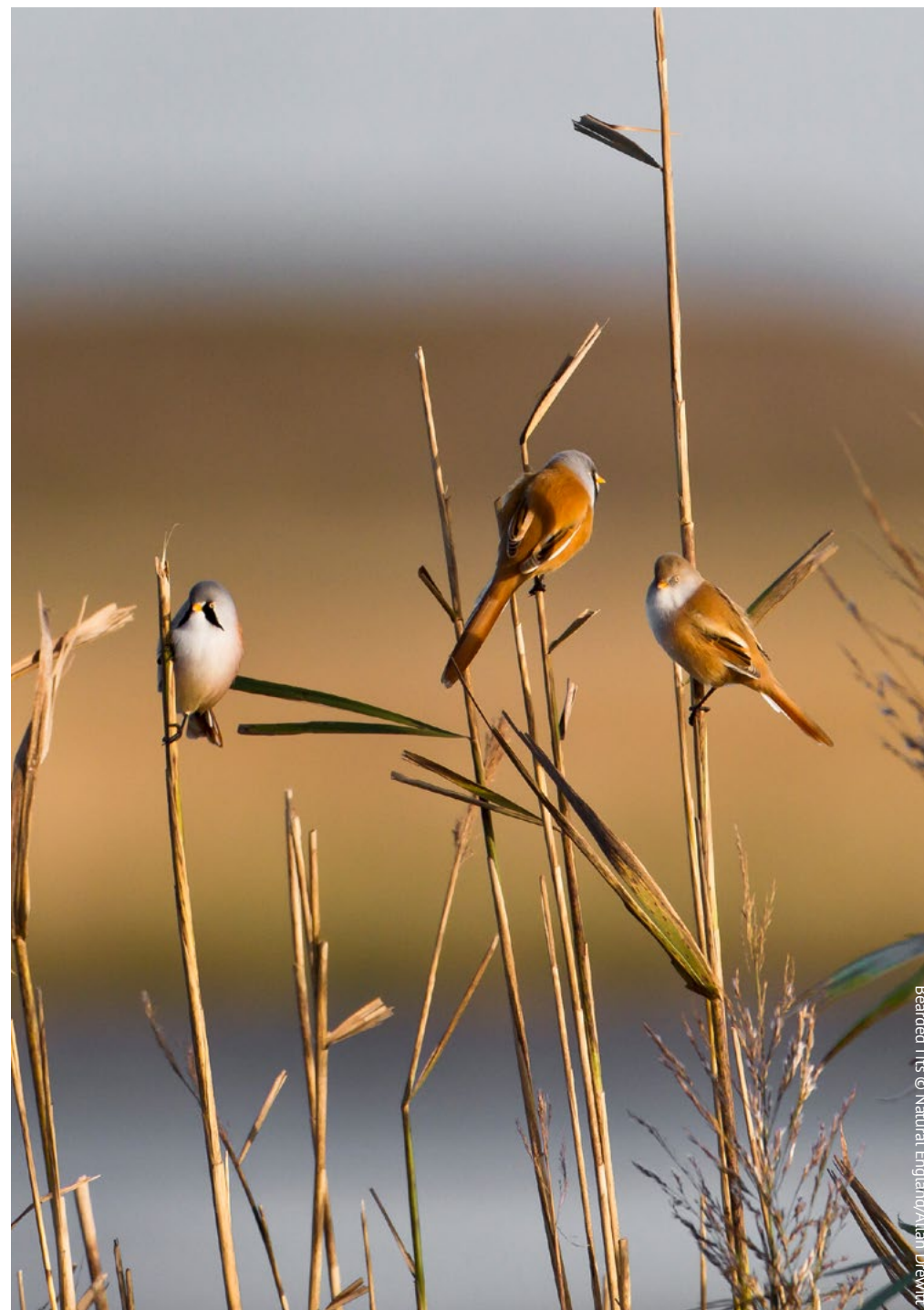
John Ellerman Foundation

2025/26 was also the second year of a £120,000 3-year grant from John Ellerman Foundation towards core costs including staff time for software development as we further develop the NBN Atlas. A huge thank you to John Ellerman Foundation for providing this invaluable support to our charity.

Individual giving

In April 2025, we took part in the [Big Give's Green Match Fund](#) for the first time. We were delighted to exceed our £15,000 target, raising £16,142 in total from public and corporate donations, Gift Aid and the matched funds from the Big Give. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal!

In 2025, we voluntarily registered with the Fundraising Regulator to give donors confidence in our fundraising practices.



Bearded Tits © Natural England/Alan Drewitt

10 We're looking after our people, the environment and community

We take our responsibilities to staff and volunteers seriously, creating an inclusive environment where people can develop and thrive, regardless of background. This commitment not only supports our team but strengthens our ability to deliver on the NBN Trust's strategic goals for social diversity and inclusion.

As we sharpened our focus on where we can have the greatest impact, we made changes to our organisational structure - strengthening our finances and operations and improving our systems.

With new colleagues joining the organisation, we also carried out a staff survey to understand what it's like to work at the Trust. The feedback highlighted what we do well and where we can improve, helping us continue to build a positive, supportive culture. We are taking forward these insights as part of our ongoing work throughout 2026.

Externally, for the second year, the NBN Trust was proud to contribute to the RACE Report and was one of the 137 organisations represented in the data it contains.



Common Frog © Natural England/Allan Drewitt

Environmental

We are passionate about the environment and continually look for ways to reduce our impact on the planet. In 2025/26, we made further progress by reducing the carbon emissions associated with the NBN Atlas following the completion of the new data processing pipeline. This enhancement enabled us to streamline the infrastructure required to store occurrence data, with the monthly data processing environment now provisioned on a temporary basis rather than maintained permanently on servers. As a result, we have reduced both our infrastructure footprint and the associated energy consumption with carbon emissions decreasing² by 46.65% (LBM - Location-based method) and 58.22% (MBM - Market-based method) over a four-month period in 2025 pre-pipeline and 2026 post-pipeline.

² Whilst we can see a decrease in carbon emissions there can be many factors involved and it is not possible to isolate and directly attribute the changes at the present time. The fall does however correlate with the change over to the new pipelines.

Members

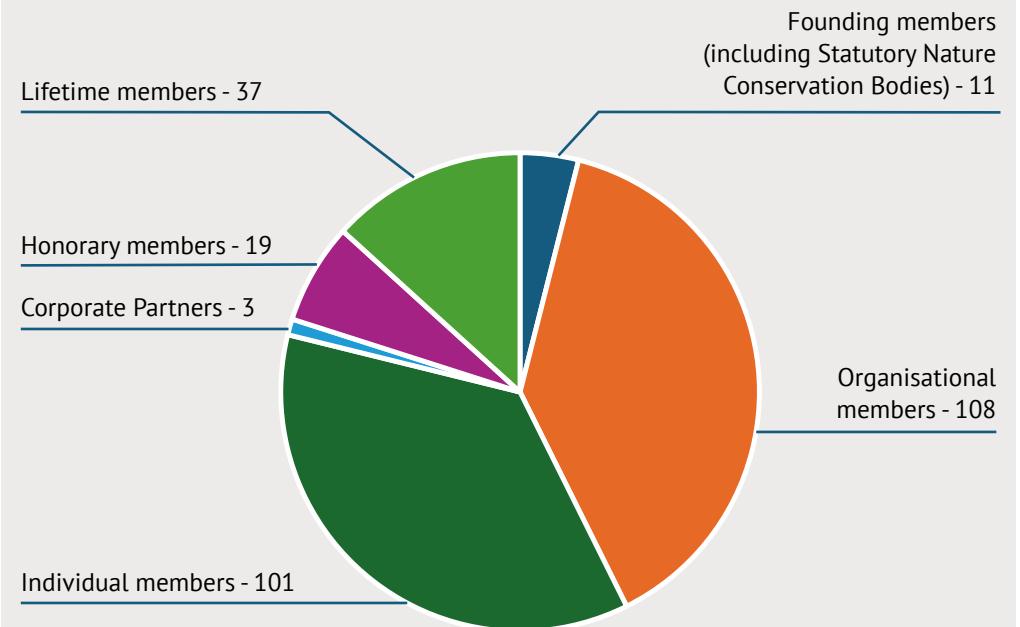
The NBN Trust is a membership charity supported by a diverse network of organisations and individuals united by our mission to make data work for nature. Our members include statutory conservation bodies, charities, Local Environmental Records Centres, wildlife groups, and recording schemes and societies, alongside valued individual supporters.

Membership matters greatly. Together, our members strengthen the network, bring credibility and expertise, and play a vital role in the shared stewardship of biodiversity data.

In July 2025 we carried out a survey of our members. Following this, and in conjunction with the membership study conducted by Pilotlight in 2024, we carried out a full review of the NBN Trust membership scheme.

In February 2026, our Board of Trustees approved our proposal for an updated Individual Membership scheme, which was rolled out on 1 April 2026. Our Organisational Membership scheme is being reviewed in 2026 and will be updated from 1 April 2027.

Members and Partners at 31 March 2026



11 Our Year Ahead



Bank Vole © Natural England/Allan Drewitt

As we move into 2026/27, our focus is on strengthening the NBN Trust so it can continue to serve the biodiversity data community with confidence.

The current NBN Trust Strategy has been extended to 2028. This gives us the time and discipline to take a phased approach to the next stage of the charity's development. First, we will stabilise and prepare, whilst working with our members, data partners, funders, and wider stakeholders to build the evidence base for the next strategy. We will then move into delivery with clear priorities, stronger governance, and a sustainable operating model.

Through 2026/27, we will focus on:

- Continuing to develop and improve the NBN Atlas, with a focus on resilience, usability, data quality, and secure access to biodiversity data.
- Further developing the NBN Record Manager through the Better Biodiversity Data programme, moving from development towards practical implementation with Scottish partners and supporting Scotland's transition from outdated biodiversity data systems.
- Strengthening our relationships with data partners, Local Environmental Records Centres, recording schemes, statutory bodies, researchers, NGOs, and members.
- Reviewing our organisational membership and corporate partnership offer, so that more individuals and organisations can support the Trust's mission and help sustain shared biodiversity data infrastructure.

- Continuing to diversify income through grants, trusts and foundations, public fundraising, individual giving, membership, and corporate partnerships.
- Improving our internal systems, including the introduction of HR and Customer Ticketing systems, to strengthen people management, wellbeing, governance, and operational control.
- Continuing to celebrate and support the recording community, including through the NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording and our role in iNaturalistUK.

Financial resilience will remain a major priority. The NBN Trust is a small charity responsible for infrastructure of national importance. Maintaining that infrastructure requires stable funding, careful prioritisation, and continued support from the organisations and people who rely on biodiversity data. In the year ahead, we will keep making the case for long-term investment while continuing to manage our resources carefully and transparently.

We are grateful to our data partners, members, funders, Trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters. The NBN Trust's impact is collective. Our role is to help that collective effort become trusted evidence for nature.

12 Looking further ahead, the next 25 years

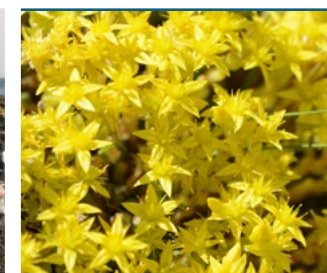
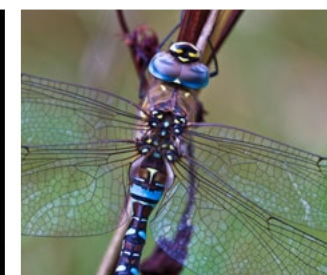
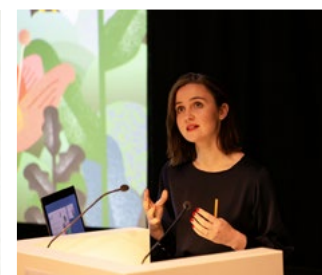
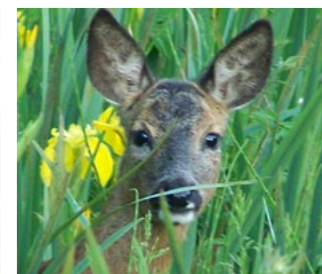
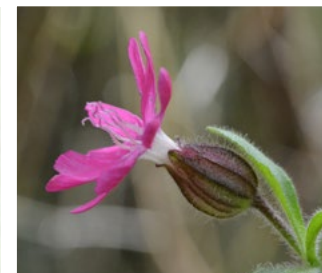
Over the past 25 years, the NBN Trust has helped transform how biodiversity data is shared and used. The next 25 years will ask even more of that infrastructure.

Biodiversity data will need to be more connected, more current, more trusted and easier to apply. It will need to support local recording and national policy, scientific research and practical nature recovery, public engagement, and emerging environmental markets. It will also need to work across different platforms, standards, and technologies.

Our future role will not be limited to operating a data portal. We see the NBN Trust developing as the steward of a wider network of services, built around the NBN Atlas and shaped with our members, data partners, and users. This could include better data management tools, clearer data flow pathways, stronger data standards, improved access controls, partner support, training, insight services, and new ways to help people turn biodiversity data into evidence.

New technologies, including artificial intelligence, will create opportunities to improve data handling, discovery and analysis. But trust will remain central. The value of the NBN Trust will lie in combining innovation with governance, transparency, community confidence, and scientific credibility.

The next 25 years will be about more than bigger datasets. They will be about making biodiversity data work harder for nature, for people, and for the decisions that shape the future of the UK's environment.



© Natural England/ Allan Dewart / John Sawyer photos / Tom Daquenne / B-Rowson



JOIN US

We'd love you to join us in our mission to make data work for nature. You can join us by:

[Becoming a member of the NBN Trust](#)

[Sharing and accessing data on the NBN Atlas](#)

[Recording wildlife and sharing your data](#)

Find out more at nbn.org.uk

Contact us

You can get in touch by email – support@nbn.org.uk
or phone – 0115 850 0177.

The full financial statements can be found on the [NBN Trust website](#).

Follow us



The National Biodiversity Network Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 3 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 25 August 2000.

Charity number: 1082163 / Company number: 03963387

Registered office: 27 Old Gloucester Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3AX
(Address is not for correspondence, please use either phone or email).



Artic Tern-Inner Farne © eddieg_photog (Instagram)