



Sharing NBMP Waterway Survey data via the National Biodiversity Network

Recognising the importance of species data for informing conservation, BCT and JNCC have a joint objective to provide more open access to the data the programme produces, providing that allowing access to data will not compromise the security of sensitive sites or the privacy of property owners or land owners.

In order to fulfil BCT's obligations to provide open access to publicly-funded data, we are working to extend the availability of data collected through the NBMP. If you have any questions, please contact us at nbmp@bats.org.uk or on 020 7820 7166.

About the NBN Atlas

The NBN Atlas (<https://nbnatlas.org/>) is an online database containing over 100 million records from a large number of wildlife recording schemes. The data available on the NBN Atlas allow users to access species data and help enable informed decisions to be made on how to protect the UK's wildlife.

The NBN Atlas has replaced the NBN Gateway. Previously we were able to make NBMP Waterway Survey data available on the NBN Gateway at two levels of access: public access and enhanced access. At present the NBN Atlas does not have enhanced access functionality though this may be reintroduced in further development of the Atlas.

1. Public access

Public access enables registered users to download data from the NBN Atlas. Users are required to agree to standard terms and conditions for data use before downloading the data (<https://docs.nbnatlas.org/nbn-atlas-terms-of-use/>).

From the NBMP Waterway Survey, the following details will be made available via public access on the NBN Atlas:

- Survey date
- Species
- Grid reference (at 1km resolution)

2. Enhanced access

At present, the enhanced access functionality that was a feature of the NBN Gateway is not available on the NBN Atlas but it may be reinstated in future development. When enhanced access functionality is reinstated we will continue with our approach to assessing enhanced access data requests as outlined below.

Users requiring enhanced access to data will need to submit an enhanced access request outlining their intended use of the data. Enhanced access will be automatically granted where there is a clear need, or positive conservation benefit, to releasing the information. Examples include: local planning authorities, developers or their consultants, conservation organisations, academic researchers, etc. Where there is a less clear need, the person making the data request will be asked to provide more information to support their request and enable the request to be fully assessed.

Users granted higher access will be required to agree to standard terms and conditions for data use before downloading the data (<https://docs.nbnatlas.org/nbn-atlas-terms-of-use/>). Certain users will be granted permission to use the data in ways that require written permission from BCT. For example, Local Record Centres and bat groups will be permitted to disseminate NBMP records in response to record search requests to inform local bat conservation. A condition of data supply will be that LRCs/bat groups and any third party they supply with NBMP data must not publish site locations at resolutions greater than 1km. Researchers will be permitted to use the data for academic research purposes on the condition that they do not publish site locations at greater than 1km resolution.

From the NBMP Waterway Survey, the following details will be made available when granting enhanced access requests:

- Survey date
- Species
- Count (no. of passes)
- Grid reference (at maximum available resolution)
- Location (e.g. town)
- Recorder name (if you have ticked the box giving permission for your name to be listed)

Selecting whether you would like your name to be shared with your records

You can indicate whether you would like your name to appear against your records shared at the enhanced level of access (your choice will apply to all NBMP surveys you take part in and all sites you survey). We contact volunteers about reviewing/updating their preference at the start of each year but you can do this at any time via your “My Account” page in the online recording pages at <https://nbmp.bats.org.uk/Surveys.aspx> or by contacting us at nbmp@bats.org.uk or on 020 7820 7166.