



"Bigger and Better" Improving Biological Data Flow

Mike Prince

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NCEA Partners: Defra, Cefas, Environment Agency, Forest Research, Natural England, JNCC, Marine Management Organisation, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

About Me









About Me





BTO BirdTrack

Needham



\$

BirdTrack

Welcome	Activity Feed X	My lists/species	*
The Party of Control o	03/12/2018 - , Woodbridge	Species Lists	\$
Log Out	Casual list 9 bird species seen, including Collared Dove (13), House Sparrow, and Starling (50)	Species this month: 12 Species this year: 226	
Your options	✓ Tweet Facebook Added 14 hours ago	Species this year. 220	_
Home			
Add records	01/12/2018 - , Woodbridge	J F M A M J J A S O N	D
My records	Casual list 9 bird species seen, including Collared Dove, House Sparrow, and Starling	High scores	×
My places	Courses 4	Complete lists this month	0
My preferences	Maded 14 hours ago	1.	26
Management	30/11/2018 - Brussels	2.	22 13
Upload records Explore data	Casual list	3.	13
Notifications	8 bird species seen, including Ring-necked Parakeet, Feral Pigeon, and Kestrel	5.	12
Help	V Tweet Facebook Added 3 days ago	Species recorded this year	318
Contact us		2.	286
	● less ● more		286 272
BirdTrack Partners		5.	270
and the state	Recent Sightings X	44.	226
	Monewden Easton	Calendar	*
rspp a home Bremediniand	Helmingham Charsfield Wickham Aldeburg	< December 2018	>

Aldebu

Nature Conservation Foundation, India







BUBO Listing and Pan-species Listing

Glass Snail Oxychilus (Oxychilus)

Molluscs.

draparnaudi to reach 10 species for

Duerden Cormack added Cylindroiulus

Tuesday 05 March 2024 23:18





John Martin

Sam Thomas

Sarah Patton

Sally Luker

6.293

6.221

5,418

Pristiphora luteipes

Phthitia longisetosa

Xiphydria prolongata

5.195 Simacauda dicommatias

13

14

15

16

Forum

'Missing' vascular plants

Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment programme NCEA

- A comprehensive baseline assessment of our environmental assets and ecosystems
- Long-term coordinated monitoring to supplement existing data and fill gaps in our evidence base
- A transformed infrastructure for collecting and sharing environmental data
- Policy-relevant, accessible outputs









Marine Management Organisation







Living England national habitat map

Norwi

đ

England Peat Map (vegetation condition)

Green Infrastructure map

Habitat Networks map (restoration potential)

















Organisations Collecting Species Data



Numerous, diverse organisations collecting and storing species data







Human observation of *Tephroseris palustris subsp. congesta* (R. Br.) Holub recorded on 1662

Overview

Back to search results

🏴 Flag an issue 🛛 🔀 Contact data provider

Licence: OGL

Date loaded: 2023-01-10 Date last processed: 2023-04-14



Occurrence ID	LC0002150000G6X5	
Basis of record	Human observation	
Scientific name	Tephroseris palustris subsp. congesta (R. Br.) Holu	b
Licence	OGL	
Record Date	1662 (Year)	3
Location	Grid Reference: SS78 Latitude: 51.	10 Setter
Recorded by	John Ray	Alex And Ste
Identified by	John Ray	
Identification verification status	Unconfirmed - plausible	
Occurrence vitality	Alive	

Dataset

Data partner	South East Wales Biodiversity Rec
Data resource	NRW Regional Data: South East W

Compare "original vs processed" values

Marsh Fleabane © Alex Prendergast



Why were major insect groups such as wasps and bees excluded from 2022 red list?

the species groups that were included were ones where we have "good evidence"

How would the absence affect the UK's [statutory] biodiversity targets?

the indicators would "not be sensitive to those species"

How good is our information base on insects?

"relatively low"

How do we get better information? Is there anything Natural England can do?

"maintaining and investing in partnerships"



Data for Red List Assessments





GB Rarity Status



- Nationally Rare: recorded from between 1-15 hectads in Great Britain
- Nationally Scarce: 16-65 hectads





"I don't submit records anywhere near as much as I could because I am unsure what will happen to them" "I sent records to [my local] Bird Club for 8 years before realising it just all goes behind a paywall to the LERC"

• Data Sharing

- "One of the benefits of iRecord over written records and some other computerised recording systems is in relation to where your records go after you submit them"
- "Local environmental records centres (LERCs) have instant access to records"
- "Verified records from iRecord may be shared via the NBN Atlas. The decision to do so lies with individual <u>national recording schemes</u>"

<u>Verification</u>

 "Only expert verified records can be used as evidence in planning enquiries, species atlases etc. That doesn't mean a record that cannot be verified is not useful"



Data Flow: NBN Atlas



NB



VERSITY NETWORK TRUST NBN FORUM	NBN ATLAS 🔒 LOG OUT			IOIN OR DONATE - NRN ATI AS NEWS	
as 🖉			SPECIES LOCATIO		
Т	he NBN Atlas is		st repository sity data	of publicly ava	nilable
	254,150,199 Occurrences	50,881 Species	1,072 Datasets	178 Data partners	17/1
	MAKING THE	MOST OF BIO	DIVERSITY	DATA	
PER S	Biodiversity data about to educate and informed environment assessed	m and in environme	ntal decision-ma	king, state of the	used
	718,225 Ray-finned fishes	1,326,890 Basidiomycota	2,387,708 Dragonflies	79,429,267 Perching birds	
NBN ATLAS JOB VACAN	3,003,536	804,143		1,631,037	SHARE DATA o record wildlife and share data

Data Flow: NBN Atlas





Data Flow: iRecord to NBN Atlas



- How long does it take records to reach the NBN Atlas?
- How much does verification interfere with data flow?
- What differences are there with data flow for different taxa groups?

Date Location	Grid Reference	English Name ce	Scientific Name	Notes	Taxon Group	тvк	Recorder Name
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 White Dead-nettle	Lamium album		flowering plant	NBNSYS000004244	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 16-spot Ladybird	Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata	larva	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	NBNSYS000008318	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Buff-tailed Bumblebee	Bombus terrestris		insect - hymenopteran	NHMSYS0000875595	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Elm	Ulmus		flowering plant	NHMSYS0000464698	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Common Earwig	Forficula auricularia	nymph	insect - earwig (Dermaptera)	NHMSYS0001387317	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Splayed Deerfly	Chrysops caecutiens	female	insect - true fly (Diptera)	NBNSYS000007867	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Pied Shieldbug	Tritomegas bicolor	immature	insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	NHMSYS0020309919	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Lime	Tilia platyphyllos x cordata = T. x europaea		flowering plant	NHMSYS0001754450	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Great Pond Snail	Lymnaea stagnalis		mollusc	NHMSYS0021056362	Mike Prince
20/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM2499	Wren	Troglodytes sternalis		bird	NHMSYS0000530671	Mike Prince
21/06/2023 Shotesham-	Tendaba TM24499	94 Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria		insect - moth	NHMSYS0021144226	Mike Prince
21/06/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499	Three-spined Stickleback	Gasterosteus aculeatus		bony fish (Actinopterygii)	NBNSYS0000188612	Mike Prince
21/06/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499	Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus		insect - butterfly	NHMSYS0020755521	Mike Prince
21/06/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499	Roesel's Bush-cricket	Roeseliana roeselii		insect - orthopteran	NHMSYS0021351693	Mike Prince
21/06/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499		Lecanora muralis		lichen	NHMSYS0001494846	Mike Prince
27/07/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499	Jelly Ear	Auricularia auricula-judae		fungus	NHMSYS0001475388	Mike Prince
27/07/2023 Shotesham-	Shotesham Common TM2499	Smooth Newt	Lissotriton vulgaris		amphibian	NHMSYS0020194827	Mike Prince
27/07/2023 Mousehold	Heath TG24010	05 Common Lizard	Zootoca vivipara		reptile	NHMSYS0001706186	Mike Prince
27/07/2023 Shotesham-	-Shotesham Common TM2499	European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus		terrestrial mammal	NHMSYS0000080219	Mike Prince
27/07/2023 Strumpshaw	v Fen RSPB TG33906	53 Brown Centipede	Lithobius (Lithobius) forficatus		centipede	NHMSYS0020500668	Mike Prince

Data Flow: iRecord Verification



197 records submitted across 27 different taxa groups

29% moths, 26% plants, 9% flies, 36% other

33% verified by following day

80% of which vascular plants

64% verified within 7.5 months

86% of which plants and moths36% of all records unverified

Ignoring plants and moths, just 20% of records verified

										Da	ays to	Verif	Г у					
Taxa Group	1	2	6	8	13	23	30	43	68	93	154	173	174	179	188	>213	>232	Tota
bird																	15	15
bony fish (Actinopterygii)																	1	1
crustacean																1	1	2
flowering plant	51	1																52
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1									1						10	3	15
insect - butterfly														-	1		2	3
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	1	1																2
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)																	1	1
insect - hymenopteran	1						1									1	6	ç
insect - moth		3									1	49	2	1		1		57
insect - orthopteran																	1	1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	1	1															4	6
insect - true fly (Diptera)	3			1	1											6	7	18
lichen																	1	1
millipede																	1	1
mollusc								1										1
moss																	2	2
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	_					1												1
fungus	_															1		1
chromist																1		1
stonewort	1																	1
amphibian	_															1		1
reptile																1		1
terrestrial mammal	_		1															1
centipede									1									1
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)																1		1
insect - snakefly (Raphidioptera)																1		
Total	59	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	_1_	1	49	2	1	1	25	45	197

Data Flow: iRecord to NBN Atlas



34% reached NBN Atlas within 7.5 months

91% flowering plants

Ignoring plants, 9% of records reached NBN after 7.5 months

8 unverified records on Atlas

amphibians, reptiles, some insect groups

17% of verified records not on Atlas 6 months after verification

molluscs, odonata, moths, some other insect groups

Days to NBN Atlas												
Taxa Group	46	63	65	111	191	210	>213	>232	Total			
bird								15	15			
bony fish (Actinopterygii)								1	1			
crustacean							1	1	2			
flowering plant		1	49					2	52			
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	2						9	4	15			
insect - butterfly								3	3			
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)					1	1			2			
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)								1	1			
insect - hymenopteran			2				1	6	9			
insect - moth							5	52	57			
insect - orthopteran								1	1			
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)			1	1			2	2	6			
insect - true fly (Diptera)	2		1				7	8	18			
lichen								1	1			
millipede								1	1			
mollusc								1	1			
moss								2	2			
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)			1						1			
fungus							1		1			
chromist							1		1			
stonewort	1								1			
amphibian	1								1			
reptile	1								1			
terrestrial mammal	1								1			
centipede							1		1			
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)							1		1			
insect - snakefly (Raphidioptera)							1		1			
Total	8	1	54	1	1	1	30	101	197			



The NBN Atlas is the first place to go to access biological records, and acts as a signpost to where more detailed data may be obtained if required

- Encourage data providers to mobilise records to the NBN Atlas:
 - Implement NBN Atlas Access Controls
 - Enhance NBN Atlas Data Provider and Dataset Pages
 - Introduce Consistency in Verification across Data Sources
 - Improve Handling of Unverified Records
 - Address Data Quality Issues with Current NBN Atlas Records
 - Mobilise Biological Record Datasets on a Regular Basis

NBN Atlas Access Controls





- Data providers can share high-resolution species data on the NBN Atlas
- Public view specified at a lower resolution, e.g. 2km
- Permission from data provider would be needed to access the high-resolution data, e.g. having granted an appropriate licence

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre

Acronym: BRERC

Resources

1. BRERC Notable Species records within the last 10 years

BRERC Notable Species records from within the last 10 years at 1km resolution, excluding sensitive records and those without NHM Taxon Version Keys (species name code).

2. BRERC species records from all years at full resolution excluding Notable Species within the last 10 years

Species records at full resolution as held at BRERC excluding; Notable Species within the last 10 years, sensitive records, and those without NHM Taxon Version Keys (species name code)



3,886,613 records

NBN Record Cleaner

Windows tool to clean data before import

- Validation, e.g.
 - Date formats, date in future
 - Spatial references: invalid grid reference, latitude/longitude out of range
- Verification, e.g.
 - Unexpected seasonality: Orange-tip Butterfly in August
 - Identification difficulty: "Needs microscope to ID"
- Same rules are implemented in Indicia



Widely used but software is outdated: doesn't work well on modern operating systems Rulesets used of varying quality: not as well-maintained as they could be



New Web-based Record Cleaner

- Openly available web service to "check" records from any data source
- Additional rules functionality:
 - Clearer rule definition for "rare species": current rules
 focus on identification difficulty
 - UKSI Organism Key as well as Taxon Version Key, to minimise the need for updates when taxonomy changes
 - Rules for life stages: current rules are applied to all records of a species, regardless of whether it is an adult or larva for example
 - Rules continue to be maintained on Github, with new rule editor interface, e.g. to allow visual editing of distributions on a map
- Liaison with Recording Schemes







- Aid verification consistency through a common set of rules, maintained by recording schemes, to be used by anyone, e.g.
 - eDNA project deriving species data from DNA analysis of specimens, to highlight rare species but also records that may be based on errors within barcode reference libraries
 - Recording app for a citizen science project when a user is entering a sighting, to prompt for details for a potentially unusual (or erroneous) record
- Rules easily maintainable and therefore easy to keep up to date to incorporate recent knowledge, further leading to benefits such as early identification of distribution and temporal expansions, invasive species etc.
- Use of more thorough rules and/or automated rules, would reduce verifier workload and increase the speed of data flow

Unverified Records



- Consider options for sharing unverified records direct to NBN Atlas
 - Invasive non-native species (INNS) where prompt data sharing can be critical
 - Also records of taxa that are not currently covered by a recording scheme
 - But, potentially, ALL unverified records
 - Arguments against this are, in part, due to how they are currently displayed on the Atlas, and the risk of verification status being missed/ignored in analyses
 - Would displaying only verified records by default alleviate this?

50,914 records (51,151 in total)





NBN Atlas collates data from many sources, which have varying levels of verification applied



iRecord has established verification processes with expert verifiers

- Could we combine these points? E.g. provide a tool that would allow National Recording Scheme verifiers to:
 - "pull" selected records/datasets from Atlas to iRecord for verification
 - "push" the verification result back
- Improve Atlas annotation handling, to mark annotated records as "unverified"?

Adur River Recovery Adur River Recovery is developing a blueprint for

Explore activity data

Desirability-the species is threatened by (L.) Rich. **Red Helleborine**

Action on Climate in Teignbridge Teignbridge Non-member

Recording the wildlife of Addingham parish.

Addingham Wildlife

Non-member

For records submitted by ACT's Wildlife Wardens within

Explore activity records

collection

Activity summary

Incoming records chart



Species List: Natural England - Sensitive Species England

Additional data management within Indicia

- Large-scale editing of records, e.g. corrections to multiple grid refs or dates following uploads of large datasets
- Enhance sensitive species handling
 - Improve consistency with NBN Atlas sensitive species lists
 - Respect recording scheme requirements
 - More formal data sharing for access to sensitive data
- Better links between national and local recording and monitoring projects
 - Enhanced "activities" to collect and analyse local data while linking to national methodologies and approaches
 - Activity homepage, blog, etc.

Other Indicia/iRecord Work





OINGA

Cephalanthera rubra

By 2025...?



What evidence do we have to assess progress towards the statutory environment targets?

"we have the most extensive and highest quality biodiversity evidence base in the world"

- John Holmes, November 2025

What is our progress towards halting the decline in species populations by 2030?

"our evidence shows that we are ahead of our targets to both halt and reverse the decline..."

- John Holmes, November 2025





