



## Land access permissions FAQs by landowners

Below you can find a list of questions and responses regarding access, some of which may be asked by the landowner from whom you are requesting access to conduct your surveys.

### ❖ Will I know when the surveyor is going to be on my land?

Yes, should access permissions be granted, the volunteer should be in touch with you to let you know the dates they plan to access any sites discussed on your land. This is a good opportunity to raise any considerations or preferences you have around the timing of their visit, i.e. planned management work, limited access or safety concerns at specific times. Unless you have advised the volunteer that no set schedule is necessary, once you have agreed upon site visit dates for the coming season, either party should be notified as soon as possible if there are any changes to these plans.

### ❖ Who gets to see the data and who owns it?

NPMS data are captured, stored and reviewed (for verification) within an online database, built using the Indicia<sup>[2]</sup> system.

The NPMS disseminates data for any purpose for which the data is requested, in accordance with the [data access policy](#). The NPMS website is the primary route for participants to access their own data. The NPMS data will be held securely in accordance with the data security policies of the NPMS and its partners (available upon request).

NPMS data is made available as widely as possible, subject to requirements to protect information for threatened species as defined by UK conservation agencies.

Survey data will be supplied for external use via two principle mechanisms:

(i) Via the NBN Atlas<sup>[4]</sup> and associated UK portals (such as the NBN Atlas Scotland)<sup>[5]</sup>. For England, Wales and Scotland data will be made available at full resolution by the end of the calendar year in which it is collated. For Northern Ireland, data will be made available for public view at 1km resolution.

(ii) NPMS data will also be published each year as a dataset via the NERC Environmental Information Data Centre<sup>[6]</sup> (with a Digital Object Identifier). This will include all survey data entered online within that calendar year.

In both cases the NPMS will ensure that data collected relating to sensitive species in each UK country (as defined by the relevant statutory nature conservation bodies), and a limited number of plots marked as sensitive in the 2015 survey, are only shared with the data provider, NPMS staff, experts doing verification or critical revisions and compilers of accounts of floras, and members of statutory nature conservation bodies.

These annual datasets will be available for discovery and direct download from [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk).

Any personal data will be managed in accordance with the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and/or any subsequent legal provisions. Contact details (email and postal address) of individual recorders, determiners and landowners will be used for administration and verification purposes only. Neither recorder nor landowner contact details will be made available to other parties without the consent of the individual to whom it relates.

❖ **Will my name or land/farm details be part of the dataset when it's used by third parties for research etc?**

Landowner name and contact details are not included in the disseminated surveys data and will not be made available to other parties without the consent of the individual to whom it relates.

❖ **Will I get paid for my data?**

This is a nationwide citizen science scheme and as such contributions and access provided by volunteers and landowners are voluntary.

❖ **What's the benefits of it to me as a landowner if I don't get paid?**

Data from your land will be contributing to a Nationwide survey to measure how wildflowers and their habitats are doing in our changing countryside. By granting access, you would be helping to build an understanding of how the countryside is changing and data used by the NPMS to inform national species trends and biodiversity conservation, research, education and public information. You are also more than welcome to access the species data collected on your own land for your own monitoring purposes, or to simply find out what species have been recorded, or any changes observed over the course of the surveys.

❖ **Will this limit my land participating in future schemes or projects? Conversely, will granting access for NPMS surveys tie this land into future schemes or projects?**

No, you can take part in multiple surveys (monitoring schemes) on your land and taking part does not impact on taking part in agri-environment schemes.

❖ **Would The NPMS help me out with future audits if I needed?**

The NPMS is a specific scheme, with set methodology to meet the need to monitor specific indicator species over time at a nationwide scale, to investigate the health of UK habitats. It does not conduct any further surveys or species audits. But you will always be able to access NPMS data collected on your land.

❖ **Will the data collected affect the way Welsh Gov, NRW, NatureScot, Daera or Natural England work with me or what they expect of me (i.e. restrictions of any kind)?**

No. There will be no restrictions or change in expectations

❖ **Can I pull out and withdraw access if I need to in future?**

Data collected on your land that has already been submitted cannot be removed from the database. But should circumstances change, consent to access the site can be withdrawn for any future surveys.

❖ **Are survey volunteers covered by public liability insurance?**

If a landowner you are contacting has requested further information regarding volunteers' public liability insurance or health and safety, please do not hesitate to contact [support@npms.org.uk](mailto:support@npms.org.uk) with the request. We will be more than happy to respond to these queries and provide supporting materials.