



Small red-eyed damselfly *Erythromma viridulum*, Wicken Fen NNR, Cambridgeshire

The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) is one of the national societies that have adopted *Recorder 6* software for collecting field data. Information gathered by BDS volunteers is fed into the National Biodiversity Network and can be accessed via the NBN Gateway.

The society has just launched the National Dragonfly Atlas Project, which will update the known distribution of British dragonfly and damselfly species over the next five years.

The launch comes at a time when climate change is affecting the ranges of many dragonflies and damselflies. For example, one new species to Britain is the small red-eyed damselfly, which was first recorded only in 1999 but is now to be found around ponds and lakes in much of southern England.



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*Distribution map of *Erythromma viridulum* produced by the NBN Gateway using data provided by the British Dragonfly Society*



> Access to information

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JNCC works to support nature conservation by collecting and collating biological and geological data and by making the information as accessible as possible to users

During the reporting year we continued to improve the way we collect information, hold it and make it available to as wide a range of users as possible.

Volunteers collect a huge amount of biodiversity data, and JNCC's *Recorder* software has been developed to allow their records to be entered and collated in a standard digital form.

Recorder 6 follows on from its predecessors *Recorder 2000* and *Recorder 2002*, which are widely used by field biologists.

The package allows users to collect and collate an unlimited number of records, and includes a distribution mapping function. During the reporting year we made improvements to the stability and functionality of *Recorder 6* and we are now looking to widen the uptake of the software.

In the UK, *Recorder* is used by National Societies and Local Records Centres, and a number have adopted *Recorder 6*. They include the British Dragonfly Society, the British Lichen Society, Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre.

The new software has also been noticed at European level, and during the year two new partners, in Ireland and Germany, have taken it up.

Data collected by *Recorder* users feeds into a network of biodiversity databases, the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), that was created in the 1990s on the recommendation of the UK Biodiversity Steering Group to provide an evidence base for nature conservation action.

www.searchNBN.net, the NBN Gateway website, is managed by JNCC and holds species records in an accessible form. At the end of the reporting year it held 28 million records and was receiving 120,000 visits each month – users include Government agencies,

nature conservation organisations and members of the public. Increasing use is also being made of the NBN data and functionality via other websites, which were clocking up 70,000 page views per month of NBN data at the end of the reporting year.

During the year we made a series of improvements to the NBN Gateway site's infrastructure to address this growing popularity. The changes have increased the site's capacity and made it more reliable.

JNCC has continued to promote public access to information across its work programmes. For example, maps and guidance on mapping developed as part of the Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) project are now available online (see section 8, page 39), as are six volumes of the Geological Conservation Review (see section 9, page 43).

We have continued to support the Marine Data and Information Partnership. Led by the British Oceanographic Data Centre, it aims to ensure that those involved in marine nature conservation have access to high-quality information by creating an easy-to-use portal.

JNCC has also worked closely with the Ordnance Survey (OS) to maximise the use of OS data in the service of nature conservation. The focus of this effort has been to change working arrangements to make them more free-flowing.

