

Copy of email sent to all iRecord verifiers in October 2021

This email is being sent to everyone who is registered on iRecord with a verification role. If you are no longer actively verifying on iRecord please let us know and we will remove you from this list.

Dear iRecord verifiers,

This email is to let you know of some new developments in iRecord that will be happening over the next few weeks and months. Read on for more about:

- Import of records from iNaturalist
- Drupal 9 update to the iRecord website
- Exchange of records with the BirdTrack online recording system

Import of records from iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a global online system for collecting wildlife observations. It uses a crowd-sourcing approach to provide help with species identification, and can also suggest identifications on the basis of image-recognition from photos. Use of iNaturalist in the UK has been growing, and in April 2021 a UK portal for iNaturalist was launched:

- [iNaturalist UK](#) website
- [Launch announcement](#) on the NBN website

The NBN Trust is working with BRC and the Marine Biological Association to steer this project and make the records available more widely. In order to help this process we are importing records from iNaturalist into the iRecord data warehouse, and they will be available to verifiers who wish to access them. They can be verified and downloaded in the usual way, but the main limitation is that there is no two-way communication between the systems. This means that verifications, redeterminations and comments added in iRecord are not communicated back to the recorder in iNaturalist, and for this reason we will be presenting the iNaturalist records in a **separate verification page**, alongside the main verification page.

This means that there will be a change to the "Verify" menu, so that it will have three submenus: "main" (the normal verification page), "iNaturalist" and "old format" (the latter being the old page that is slower to load and is not recommended for use). This menu change will come into effect tomorrow (Friday).

For more detailed information on the iNaturalist records and how to verify them, please refer to the guidance document which can be [viewed here](#) or downloaded from the [verifiers' resources page](#). The records from iNaturalist will start to appear from tomorrow (Friday 24 September) onwards (to start with only a small number of records will appear while we carry out final tests, with the main set of records following soon after).

Records from iNaturalist can be downloaded direct from the iNaturalist website, but the iRecord 'version' of the records will add UK grid references and ensure that species names are consistent with the UK Species Inventory. Within iRecord, any iNaturalist records that fall within your verification role will be included in the verifier downloads.

If for any reason you decide that you do not wish to verify the iNaturalist records, you can simply ignore the iNaturalist verification page and just use the main verification page (which excludes the iNaturalist records). Or you can contact us and ask for iNaturalist records to be excluded from your verification filter.

Please do have a look at the [guidance document](#), and contact us if you have any questions.

More information about the background to iNaturalistUK is available on the NBN Trust website, including details of the [iNaturalistUK User Group](#).

Drupal 9 update to the iRecord website

“Drupal” is the name of the content management software used to construct the iRecord website (and many other websites). Like all software it gets updated periodically, and we have reached a stage where it is necessary for us to upgrade iRecord to use the latest version, Drupal 9. We have been testing the new version and expect to make the switch to it in the next month or so, date to be confirmed.

This update should not affect any of the functionality of iRecord, but there may be small differences in the appearance of some pages.

If anyone is keen to get a preview and to help us with the testing over the next few weeks please contact us.

Exchange of records with the BirdTrack online recording system

Many of you will be familiar with the excellent BirdTrack online recording system that is developed by the British Trust for Ornithology and partners, and is the main recording tool for bird recording in the UK. You may not realise that for some time now BirdTrack has included options for recording some additional species groups, as well as birds.

For some time BRC has been working with BTO to develop a two-way exchange process, so that bird records added to iRecord can be shared with BirdTrack and verified at the BirdTrack end, while non-bird records from BirdTrack can be shared with iRecord for verification there.

This has been a complex piece of work but it is almost ready to go live, and we expect that it will follow soon after the iNaturalist import has gone live. The majority of records that will come through to iRecord initially will be of mammals and dragonflies/damselflies, which have been a part of BirdTrack for some years. In future, additional groups including butterflies will feature as well. For more information see the [BTO news page](#).

We will circulate more information about this development as we near the launch of the record transfer.

If you have any questions or feedback on any of the above issues please let us know.
Many thanks for all you do to support iRecord verification and biological recording.

Best wishes,
Martin

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on behalf of the iRecord team at
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