

# National Biodiversity Network Membership Survey - November 2016

## RESUBMITTED

Please use this form if you are unable to use the online survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VS59FZH>. There are 9 questions in total.

Before completing this form please refer to the briefing paper <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/NBN-Trust-Membership-Review-October-2016.pdf>

### 1. Please indicate which best describes how you are completing this questionnaire

Individual	
Organisation	✓

### 2. If applicable - which option best describes your organisation?

Individual	
Record Centre	
Government Body	
Conservation Charity	
Academic	
Consultant	
Other – please state	✓ National association for Local Environmental Record Centres in Great Britain

### 3. Are you or your organisation currently a member of the NBN?

Yes	✓
No	

### 4. If you are not currently a member are you currently considering membership?

Yes	
No	
Not sure	

### 5. Do you agree that the Benefits of Association provide the right emphasis for current and potential members?

ALERC welcomes this review of the NBN Trust Membership Scheme and thanks the NBN Trust for seeking views from the wider Network. ALERC recognises there are advantages to a

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simpler membership scheme structure and agrees that greater clarity around the different types of membership would be a good thing.

In drafting our response to this consultation, we ourselves have been confused as to why ALERC was invoiced by the NBN Trust for £350 for “NBN Membership for 2016-17”, when the briefing document sets out a range of “Current Membership Levels and Fees” which do not match this amount. We have, in the past, been given to understand that the £350 payment is related to ALERC’s place on the board as a Trustee; this seems a rather odd arrangement as the relationship between the NBN Trust and its Trustees should surely be based on the skills, enthusiasm and commitment which Trustees, as individuals, can bring to the board, rather than a financial transaction. ALERC therefore requests that these payments be reviewed within the current Membership Scheme Review.

We would also request that, in reviewing the amount ALERC is asked to contribute to the NBN Trust, consideration is given to ALERC’s status as a Community Interest Company providing a central voice for the views and concerns of the Record Centre community while promoting and developing good standards of practice in the collation, management, dissemination and analysis of biological and geological records. Given ALERC’s role, its capacity for generating income, and therefore its capacity to contribute financially towards the NBN Trust, is limited.

The Benefits of Association outlined in the briefing paper are very broad and we suggest that language such as “a partnership for nature” and making “a better place for wildlife” could potentially create confusion amongst members and environmental NGOs regarding the fundamental purpose of the NBN Trust and NBN Network. The NBN Strategy clearly positions the NBN Trust as an organisation which exists to support sharing of biological data; ALERC would be keen to see this clearly reflected in the Membership offer.

ALERC suggests it would be helpful to look in more detail at the services and benefits the NBN Trust provides to Local Environmental Record Centres and other constituent part of the Network, as well as data users, in designing its new Membership Scheme.

To this end, ALERC would welcome further dialogue between the NBN Trust and the Local Environmental Record Centre community, looking at the benefits of NBN Membership and how the value of the products and services that the NBN Trust provides can be recognised. ALERC would be happy to help facilitate such a dialogue.

## **6. Do these benefits represent a package sufficient to encourage potential members to join the NBN?**

We suggest further refinement is needed, focussing specifically on the services and benefits that are relevant to Local Environmental Record Centres, other constituent parts of the Network, and data users, before this question can be answered.

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ALERC also suggests that further clarification is needed regarding the financing of any small grants schemes being proposed and questions the appropriateness of funding this through membership fees.

**7. Do you agree with the categories of membership that we have identified?**

ALERC suggests that the categories of membership should be further reviewed, taking into consideration the different types of individuals and organisations the NBN Trust is seeking to attract as members, and the products, services and benefits which would motivate them to join.

**8. Do you agree in principle with the proposed fee structure?**

ALERC suggests that the fee structure should be further reviewed, with more detailed consideration given to:

- the non-financial value that different categories of members contribute towards delivery of the NBN's Strategic Aims
- the limitations that different categories of members may face, regarding their capacity to contribute financially
- the value of the products and services that the NBN Trust intends to provide to different categories of membership
- the NBN Trust's aspirations for raising revenue

**9. Optional**

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