



Earthworm

Recording Info Sheet

Earthworms are a small taxonomic group of soil invertebrates situated within the phylum Annelida. There are 29 species known to occur in Great Britain in natural environments. UK earthworms can generally only be reliably identified once preserved and observed under a microscope.



National Earthworm Recording Scheme



Organisation: Earthworm Society of Britain (ESB)

Recording Officer: Keiron Derek Brown

Website: www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/ners

Contact: keironderekbrown@gmail.com

Record submission pathways

- 1) Using any iRecord form (though Earthworm Survey form preferred).
- 2) Sending Excel spreadsheet directly to ESB/Keiron (preferred format available from downloads section of the ESB website).

Identification Resources

- **Key to the earthworms of the UK and Ireland (2nd edition)** by Emma Sherlock (2018) is the recommended key as it provides the most recent published key for British earthworm species. As part of the FSC AIDGAP series, it uses a relatively simple key and suitable language for non-specialists.
- **Key to the earthworms of the UK and Ireland (1st edition)** by Emma Sherlock (2012) is still sufficient for most species, but some taxonomy has changed and *Aporrectodea caliginosa* has since been split into two species.
- **Earthworms: Synopsis of the British fauna (21 revised)** by Sims & Gerard (1999) is a more detailed and technical account of British earthworms. Much of the taxonomy is now out of date and the technical language can be difficult to interpret for non-taxonomists.
- **Earthworm Identikit** is an online multi-access key based on Sherlock 2012 and is freely available to use on the ESB website:
<http://www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/fullscreen/earthwormkey>

