

Please tell us if you find a glow-worm
Records should contain information about:

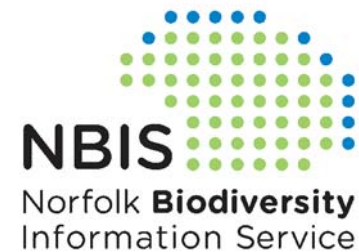
What you saw; When you saw it; Where you saw it (grid reference and habitat); and Who you are. You can record on-line – visit our website www.nbis.org.uk to do this. Or you can send us an email at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk or get in touch by phone **01603 224458** or post at NBIS, Room 301, County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2SG.

Date	Grid reference	Place name	Habitat description	Number seen	Your details

Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) collects records of plants and animals, insects and fungi found in Norfolk. This is important so that we know what exists where, so it can be protected and conserved.

Images

Front (main): Woodland ride (Keith Waldron)
Front (inset): Glow-worm (author: Herky. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license.
See http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lampyris_noctiluca_glow_worm.jpg)



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**Biodiversity
is life**

**NBIS glow-worm survey
- can you help us find them?**



NBIS glow-worm survey—can you help us find them?

We don't have many records of glow-worms in Norfolk. They are probably under-recorded because only the adult females are easy to spot, and then only for a few hours over the course of a couple of weeks at night. If we have a better idea of where they are distributed we will be able to investigate whether populations are stable and what we can do to help them thrive.

Description

Glow-worms aren't worms at all! They belong to a family of beetles called the Lampyridae. Just the adult female glows brightly, using a chemical called luciferin to produce a pale green light to attract a mate. In appearance she has no wings and a segmented body. The male adult glow-worm is much smaller and is a typical beetle with full wings. Females can be up to 2.5cm long, whilst males are often half that size.

More about glow-worms

As dusk falls in early summer, the wingless females waiting in the grass and low vegetation, display their lights, turning their bodies so their lamps are visible to the males flying above. Male glow-worms have much larger eyes than the females and they fly towards the light, so a glowing female soon attracts a mate. After mating, the female puts out her light and gets on with egg laying. The larvae which hatch from the tiny eggs are just 5mm long at first. They are predatory and

Glow-worm distribution Norfolk 2010

Can you help fill the gaps?



feed on small slugs and snails which they seize with their jaws and inject with a toxin. This immobilises and liquefies the prey which can then be eaten. The larvae, which resemble the wingless adult female, live under stones and logs in damp places. The glow-worm life cycle takes one to three years, with adults emerging in June to July. Adult glow-worms don't feed and live only for a couple of weeks.

Where to look

Your best chances of seeing glow-worms are:

- From mid June to mid July;
- On a moonless or overcast night (wait until your eyes can no longer make out colours);
- On heathland, grass verges, along disused railway lines, churchyards, woodland clearings or rides.