



**This guide summarises the data management and sharing requirements for research funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Please visit their website for further details.**

**Resource types covered:** Qualitative data, quantitative data, software code, scripts and other research outputs produced in a study.

**Data Plan:** A 'Data Management Plan' must be submitted as part of the research bid. A template and associated guidance are available on the NERC website.

**Data-related funds:** Not stated

**Retention:** Data should be preserved for a minimum of 10 years following the end of the funding period. Research outputs of 'significant importance' should be kept for 20 years or longer.

**Data standards:** Domain-specific standards and formats should be adopted. See <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/format/> for examples.

**Documentation:** Project and data-level documentation should be created. See <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/document>.

**Data hosting:** Data should be submitted to an appropriate NERC Data Centre (<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/>). A data description will be published in the NERC Data Catalogue (<https://csw-nerc.ceda.ac.uk/>). Data should be cited in compliance with NERC guidelines.

**Sharing timescales:** A release embargo is permitted to allow publication of research findings – recommend a maximum of 12 months from the end of grant.

**Rights:** IPR will typically remain with the institution(s) performing the research. NERC data centres are allocated a non-exclusive licence to manage and publish research data. Use of open licences such as Open Data Commons and Creative Commons are encouraged.

**Monitoring:** Ongoing monitoring. Grant holders who do not meet these requirements risk having award payments withheld or become ineligible for future funding

## References:

- NERC Data Policy  
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/policy/>
- NERC Data Management Planning  
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/dmp/>
- NERC Data Value Checklist  
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/policy/data-value-checklist/>
- NERC Data Citation guidelines for Scientists  
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/doi/>