UK Research and Innovation

Overview of UKRI Facilities

Part of the launch of Round 2 of the UKRI CRCRM Pilot Scheme

Welcome. The webinar will begin shortly

4 July 2024

Purpose

- to inform the broader research community about the UKRI supported facilities available for the CRCRM scheme that applicants might wish to access
- to provide information on how to access UKRI supported facilities
- outline any processes and deadlines that facilities have

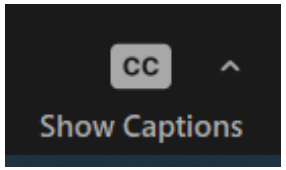
Not all UKRI supported facilities will be covered today. We are highlighting those that might be of most relevance to interdisciplinary research projects across research council boundaries and that can be funded through the CRCRM Scheme.

Agenda and Presenters

10.00	**Introduction**	**Alex Amey** Strategic Lead Interdisciplinary Research, UKRI
10.10	**Environmental and earth observation research facilities**	**Jacob Wood and Edoardo Fiordalisi** Senior Programme Managers, NERC National Capability Team
10.20	**National capabilities and laboratories to support physical sciences**	**Hugh Mortimer** Associate Director of the National Laboratories, STFC
10.30	**Facilities supporting health and bioscience research**	**Robert Deller** Programme Manager – Structural Studies and Biophysics, MRC
10.40	**Facilities supporting bioscience and biotechnology research**	**Tim Shuttleworth** Head of Research Infrastructure, BBSRC **Karim Gharbi** Head of Technical Genomics, Earlham Institute
10.50	**Engineering and physical sciences research facilities**	**Kay Yeung and Richard Bailey** Senior Portfolio Managers, Research Infrastructure, EPSRC
11.00	**Social science-led data collections and services**	**Matt Neale** Senior Policy Manager, Data Strategy ESRC
11.10	**Resources and Facilities supporting Arts and Humanities**	**Maria Traill** Senior Investment Manager, Infrastructure AHRC
11.15	**Questions and Answers**	Chaired by Alex Amey
11.30	**Close**	
The webinar will stay open for a few minutes to allow for any further questions to be posted that we will respond to in the Q&A document.		

Technical Admin and Question Etiquette

- The webinar is being recorded
- This event is fully closed captioned
- Please only use the chat for technical issues



- **Submit your questions using the Q&A function**
  - you may post questions throughout the webinar and UKRI colleagues will respond
  - if you are coming to the webinar with a question on a facility please wait until the presentation is given for that facility
  - there will be a short Question session at the end of the webinar to answer any questions we need to live
  - a record of the Q&As will be uploaded to the UKRI website shortly after the webinar and circulated to those that registered for the webinar.

Please put the name of the facility and/or the presenter that your question refers to at the start of the question to help the back office team manage the responses.

Questions should be about facilities and not details of the CRCRM call unless it is in connection with facilities access

Cross Research Council Responsive Mode pilot scheme

Pilot: assess demand and to test and refine our processes

Applications must have disciplines from >1 council

Interdisciplinary research applications that fall within a single research council boundary are ineligible

£65M

2 rounds

~36 awards each round

£200k→£1.2M FEC

2 years

- Arts and Humanities Research Council
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
- Economic and Social Research Council
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- Medical Research Council
- Natural Environment Research Council
- Science and Technology Facilities Council

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-round-2/

https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/

UK Research and Innovation

Round 2 Funding Timeline

Round 2

Pre announcement June

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-round-2/

2 September
Call Launch

19 November
Outline Deadline

10-14 March
Outline Panels

4 April
Invitations for full applications

3 July
Full application Deadline

3 – 7 Nov
Full stage Panels

November
Awards announced

Round 2: Access to UKRI facilities

Delays to allow access to UKRI facilities

- applicants may request by exception a delay to the grant start date to allow access to a UKRI supported facility of up to 12 months from the date of the award letter
- need to be requested at the outline stage and fully justified

Exceptions for access to NERC large research infrastructure facilities

£1.2 million (100% FEC) grant maximum may inhibit applications wanting to use NERC's large research infrastructure facilities (these facilities are normally available to environmental scientists through separate NERC budgets)

Applicants wanting to access the following NERC facilities will be allowed to exceed the maximum budget limit by up to £250,000 (100% FEC):

- ship-time and marine facilities
- polar research facilities
- facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM)

Costs and access

- Facilities will need to be reimbursed at 100% FEC by the host organisation
- Costs associated with facility access will be funded from the grant at 80% FEC.
- Research organisations will be responsible for the remaining 20%

- Applicants should discuss access to facilities to get an understanding of the facility access timelines and the estimated delay to the start date.

UK Research and Innovation

Environmental and earth observation research facilities

Jacob Wood and Edoardo Fiordalisi, NERC

National Capability - Research Facilities

National Capability funding supports the operation and delivery of NERC Research facilities, to enable and underpin world-leading research across NERC remit.

The NERC Research Facilities portfolio includes:

- Scientific Support and Facilities – providing specialist services, including measurement facilities
- Large Research Infrastructures – enabling excellence and impact in national to global-scale environmental science and includes polar, aerial and marine capabilities
- International Subscriptions – enabling UK membership and access to international facilities and networks

NERC Research Facilities are delivered through the NERC Centres

British Antarctic Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

BGS British Geological Survey

National Centre for Atmospheric Science
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

National Centre for Earth Observation
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

National Oceanography Centre

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

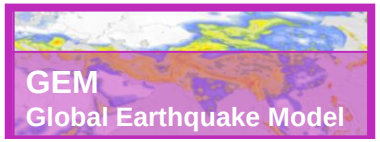
UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

Map of Research Facilities

NC Large Research Infrastructures

NC Scientific Support and Facilities

NC International Subscriptions



Examples from the NERC Research Facilities portfolio

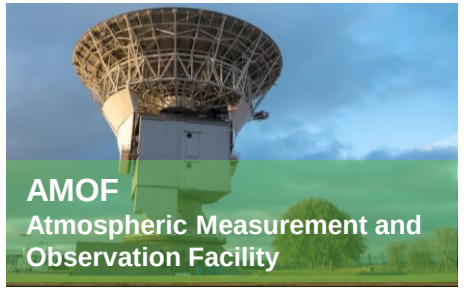
Measurement facilities

NEIF
National Environmental Isotope Facility

IMF
Ion Microprobe Facility

GEF
Geophysical Equipment Facility

NEOF
NERC Environmental Omics Facility



AMOF
Atmospheric Measurement and Observation Facility

FSF
Field Spectroscopy Facility

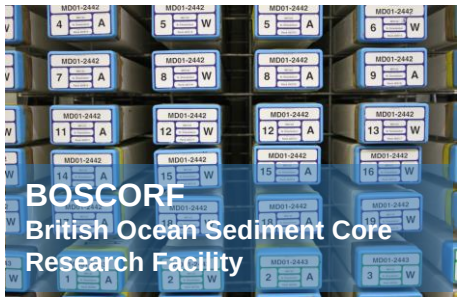
NEODAAS
NERC Earth Observation Data Analysis and Artificial Intelligence Service

UK access to international networks and facilities

EISCAT
European Incoherent Scatter Radar

Sample repositories

CCAP
Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa



BOSCORF
British Ocean Sediment Core Research Facility

Natural Environment Research Council

Accessing NERC Research Facilities (CRCRM call)

For this call, costs associated with facility access will be funded from the grant at 80% FEC. The research organisation will be responsible for the remaining 20% (facilities will be reimbursed at 100% FEC by the host organisation).

You should have discussed your research proposal with the facility or service before you submit your outline application, making sure you are aware of the access procedures, resource availability and timelines at an early stage in developing your proposal (e.g., you may need to apply directly to the facility or service as well as including it in your funding application). Whilst pre-submission processes differ, applicants will need to contact facilities at least 2 months in advance.

You will need to provide confirmation that you can use the facility or service, which may include a technical assessment or a quote, if your application is successful.

Applicants may request a delay to the grant start date to allow access to a UKRI facility of up to 12 months from the date of the award letter. This will need to be requested at outline stage and fully justified.

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

CRCRM exceptions for NERC large research infrastructures

For this call, applicants are allowed to exceed the maximum budget limit up to £250,000 (100% FEC) for the following NERC facilities:

- Ship-time and marine facilities
- Polar research facilities
- Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM)

You will need to contact the facility to discuss the feasibility of your project and obtain approximate costings in advance of the outline stage application submission, including an estimate of any additional costs that exceed the £1.2 million budget limit or any potential delay to the start date to access these facilities and justify this. Final costings and approvals can be determined at the full stage if invited to submit.

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

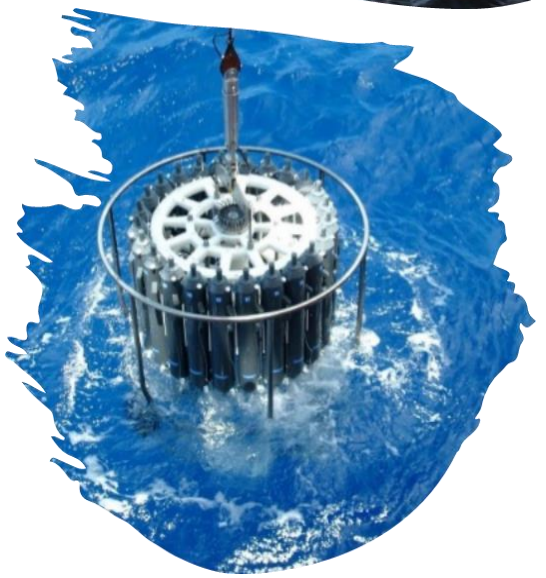
Ship-time and marine facilities

NERC marine facilities includes:

- Three research vessels (RRS James Cook, RRS Discovery and RRS Sir David Attenborough)

- The National Marine Equipment Pool
  - Autonomous systems (gliders, autosubs, surface vehicles)
  - Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)
  - Coring, dredging, trawling, geophysics
  - Oceanographic sampling (e.g. conductivity, temperature, depth sampling (CTDs), vertical microstructure profilers (VMPs), moorings

- Highly skilled technicians to prepare, deploy, recover and reset (and fix where needed!)



UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

Ship-time and marine facilities

If you intend to apply for NERC's marine facilities you must contact marineplanning@nerc.ukri.org to discuss ship-time and equipment needs before the outline stage submission, including the feasibility of scheduling.

You must also complete an online Shiptime and Marine Equipment (SME) form or Autonomous Deployment Form (ADF) available from http://www.marinefacilitiesplanning.com/. These must be submitted to NERC Marine Planning 2 months before call closure, and should include:

- A description of the proposed research
- Where you will be going
- Which ship/s (and why)
- What equipment will be needed

N.B. Funding must be confirmed by April 1st to be considered for the following year's programme.

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

Ship-time and marine facilities - some tips!

Speak to Marine Planning/NMF/BAS

↓

Complete & submit SME/ADF*, email us

↓

Discussions, (iterations), SME/ADF approved

↓

Costs provided (with iterations if needed)

↓

Submit grant proposal

↓

Confirm funding (progress or archive SME/ADF)

Start early!
Provide details!
Be accurate!
Consider flexibility
Submit! (we can iterate)

Talk to us!

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

Polar research facilities

If you require **NERC BAS Antarctic logistics support**, you must email the Antarctic Access Office (AAO) at BAS (afibas@bas.ac.uk to discuss the feasibility of your proposed request and approximate cost before the outline stage submission. You must then complete a pre-award operational support planning questionnaire (OSPQ) online, stating your name, institution and project title, by the time of your outline stage application is submitted (OSPQ deadline to be added to the guidance document)

If you require access to the **NERC UK Arctic Research Station** should first contact the station manager (arctic@bas.ac.uk) to discuss the support required. You should then complete a NERC Arctic Research Station application form by the outline stage submission (19 November 2024) and return it to the station manager for review. Find out more on the UK Arctic Research Station website.

Natural Environment Research Council

Aerial capabilities

To apply to use the FAAM Airborne Laboratory (see https://www.faam.ac.uk/using-faam/nerc-research-grants/), you will need to start the process by contacting the FAAM Operations Manager. Early contact allows the FAAM team to share information on timetabling, technical details and costs. You will need to take the availability of FAAM into account in your research plans within your application, including any requests to exceed the maximum budget limit as part of the outline stage.

After initial discussions, you should submit a full FAAM Project Proposal Form. Your proposal will allow the FAAM team to further evaluate and document the project feasibility and costs, in a process which takes at least four weeks. The resulting FAAM Technical Assessment (and cost estimate), signed by the Head of FAAM, should be used to complete your full stage application.

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

Further Information

For a full list of NERC facilities:

https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/facilities-and-resources/#contents-list

For questions about NERC research facilities contact us:

Researchfacilities@nerc.ukri.org

Marineplanning@nerc.ukri.org

Natural Environment Research Council

UK Research and Innovation

National capabilities and laboratories to support physical sciences

Hugh Mortimer, STFC
Hugh.mortimer@stfc.ac.uk

STFC National Labs: Supporting Multidisciplinary Research Across Councils

The STFC National Laboratories provide comprehensive support across all UK Research Councils, fostering innovation through advanced scientific facilities and expertise.

- **Interdisciplinary Support**: Facilitates cross-council research initiatives.
- **Advanced Facilities**: Access to state-of-the-art labs such as ISIS, Diamond Light Source, and Central Laser Facility.
- **Expertise and Collaboration**: Connects researchers with experts in various scientific and technological fields.
- **Accessibility and Guidance**: Assists researchers in navigating access protocols and leveraging lab resources effectively.
- **Strategic Impact**: Contributes to UK's scientific strategy and major research outcomes.

STFC National Lab Sites

The UK ATC

The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Oxfordshire

Daresbury Laboratory

Chilbolton Observatory Hampshire

Daresbury Laboratory and Sci-Tech Daresbury

The Daresbury Laboratory: Daresbury Laboratory has over 60 years heritage as a world leader in computing and advanced digital technologies, particle accelerator technology and engineering.

The Cockcroft Institute

The Cockcroft Institute is devoted to the development and construction of particle accelerators and intense sources of radiation for pure and applied research

Accelerator Science and Technology Centre

UKRI's centre of excellence in particle accelerator research and development

The Hartree Centre

UK businesses of any size to explore and adopt supercomputing, data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies for enhanced productivity, smarter innovation and economic growth.

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

UK ATC and The Royal Observatory

UK Astronomy Technology Centre: The UK's national centre for astronomical instrumentation. Based at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, UK ATC delivers world-class instruments for the biggest land and space telescopes.

Astronomy

UKATC designs and building state-of-the-art instruments for many of the world's major telescopes. Managing UK and international collaborations with universities, research centres, national institutes and industry.

Technology

UK ATC and our technology delivers a range of practical benefits outside its traditional field of astronomy. Expertise in optics and imaging systems are being used for:

- biomedical imaging including tools for ophthalmology
- biomedical imaging to detect diseases
- instruments for monitoring the Earth's environment from the ground.

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

The Rutherford Appleton Labs: With facilities as diverse as globally-ranked lasers, neutron sources, X-rays brighter than a million Suns, quantum computing and satellite testing and development. RAL national labs science facilities supports researchers to address challenges such as:

- net zero – batteries, fuel cells, alternative fuels
- climate change – space based EO and monitoring
- healthcare – cancer research, dementia
- creating a secure and resilient society – space

- **The Central Laser Facility** https://www.clf.stfc.ac.uk
- **ISIS Neutron and Muon Source** https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk
- **RAL Technology Department** https://www.technology.stfc.ac.uk
- **RAL Space** https://www.ralspace.stfc.ac.uk
- **Diamond Light Source** https://www.diamond.ac.uk
- **Scientific Computing** https://www.scd.stfc.ac.uk
- **RAL Particle Physics Department** https://www.ppd.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

Chilbolton Observatory

The Chilbolton Observatory: Home to a wide range of science facilities, enabling research into atmospheric science, radiocommunications, astronomy and technology.

- Iconic 25m antenna tracks and characterises Earth orbiting satellites and rain radar.
- Hosts LOFAR-UK – part of the Europe-wide LOw Frequency ARray (LOFAR) radio telescope.
- An ongoing collaboration with the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

Boulby Underground Laboratory

Boulby Underground Laboratory: Boulby Underground Laboratory is the UK's deep underground science laboratory located 1.1km below ground in Boulby Mine, a working polyhalite and salt mine in the North East of England.

- Boulby is one of just a select few facilities in the world suitable for hosting ultra-low background and deep underground science projects.
- It is a special place for science, 'a quiet place in the Universe', where studies can be carried out almost entirely free of interference from natural background radiation.
- Science at Boulby ranges from particle physics and ultra-low background science, Earth and environmental science, biology / astrobiology, planetary exploration technology development and more.

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

National Labs and the CRCRM Pilot Scheme

At STFC National Labs, we can support a wide range of needs of different researchers and offer tailored support for those participating in the Cross Research Council Responsive Mode Pilot Scheme.

- **Flexible Access Models**: Different departments at STFC have different access models. Some facilities are free at the point of access for academic research, others involve a more collaborative arrangements or specific proposal processes.
- **Tailored Support**: There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to how we support research. Facilities like ISIS offer free access for research that results in public domain publications, with additional pathways for industrial and confidential research.
- **Key Contacts and Guidance**: For guidance on accessing facilities and collaborative opportunities, please visit our departments web pages or contact the our department heads.

  For more information on accessing ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, please visit: https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/ApplyingForBeamtime.aspx

  For details on combined proposals involving ISIS and Diamond, refer to: https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/Proposals-requiring-access-to-ISIS-and-Diamond.aspx

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

UK Research and Innovation

Facilities supporting health and bioscience research

Robert Deller, MRC

Research Complex at Harwell

- Located on the **Harwell Campus**.
- Supported by **MRC**, **STFC**, **EPSRC**, **BBSRC**, **NERC** and Diamond Light Source.
- Applicable to researchers **across the life and physical sciences spectrum.**
- "*Mission is to deliver transformative impact in science and technology with **multidisciplinary**, integrated teams of researchers from **universities, national facilities** and **micro-SMEs***".
- Builds on **synergies with facilities** such as Diamond Light Source, electron Bio-Imaging Centre, ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, Central Laser Facility and the Rosalind Franklin Institute.

UKRI Research Complex at Harwell

Research Complex at Harwell

- "*home to a wide variety of research groups across the life and physical sciences, **encouraging collaboration across disciplines**.*"

- Centred around 3 core themes
  - **Functional Materials**
  - **Cellular and Molecular Biology**
  - **Imaging and Spectroscopy**

- Offers access to a broad range of **expertise and instrumentation** available to users both **short and long term**.

UKRI Research Complex at Harwell

Research Complex at Harwell

- Opportunities and access requests should be considered in advance of an application by **approaching Research Complex via their website**.

- **Access is free** for academic research groups who will hold a research grant funded by one or more of the funding research councils. **Travel** and **subsistence** costs can be included within a grant application.

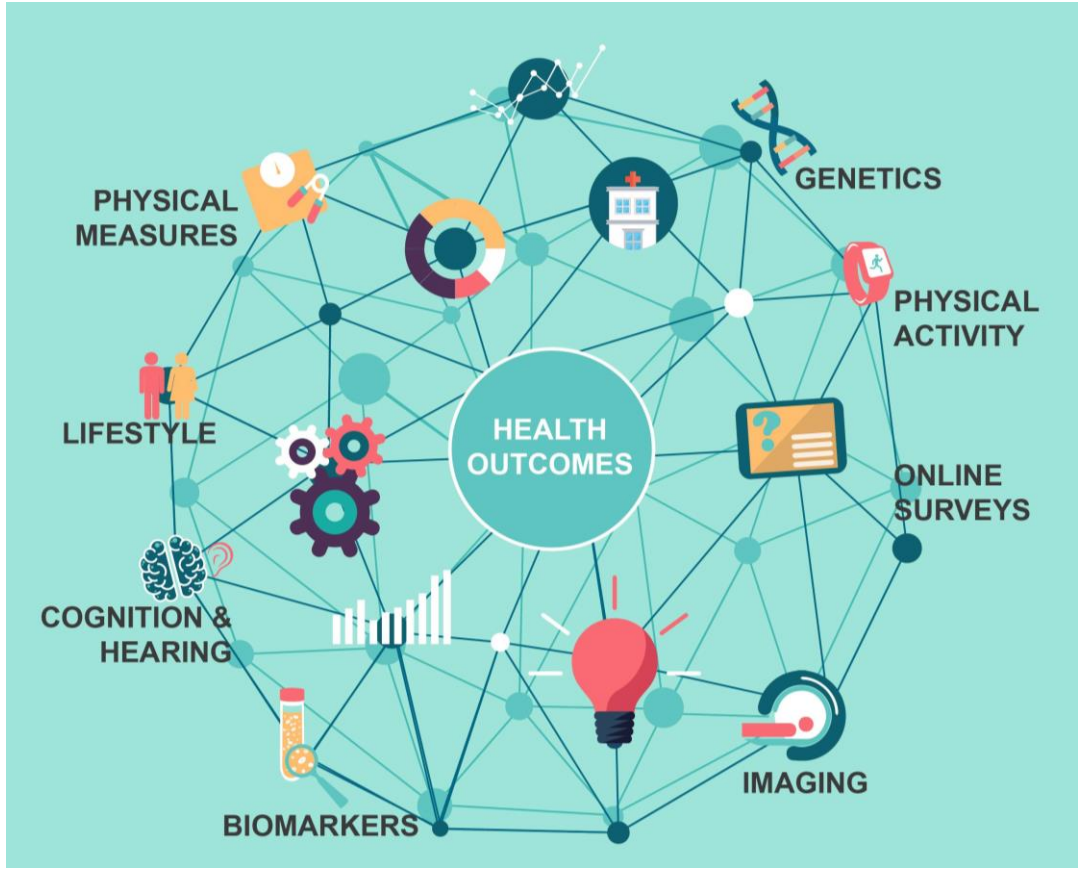
- "…*groups at Research Complex are* ***constantly evolving*** *and we welcome new groups regularly."*

UKRI Research Complex at Harwell

UK Biobank

- UK Biobank is a **longitudinal study**; it follows the health of **500,000 volunteer participants**

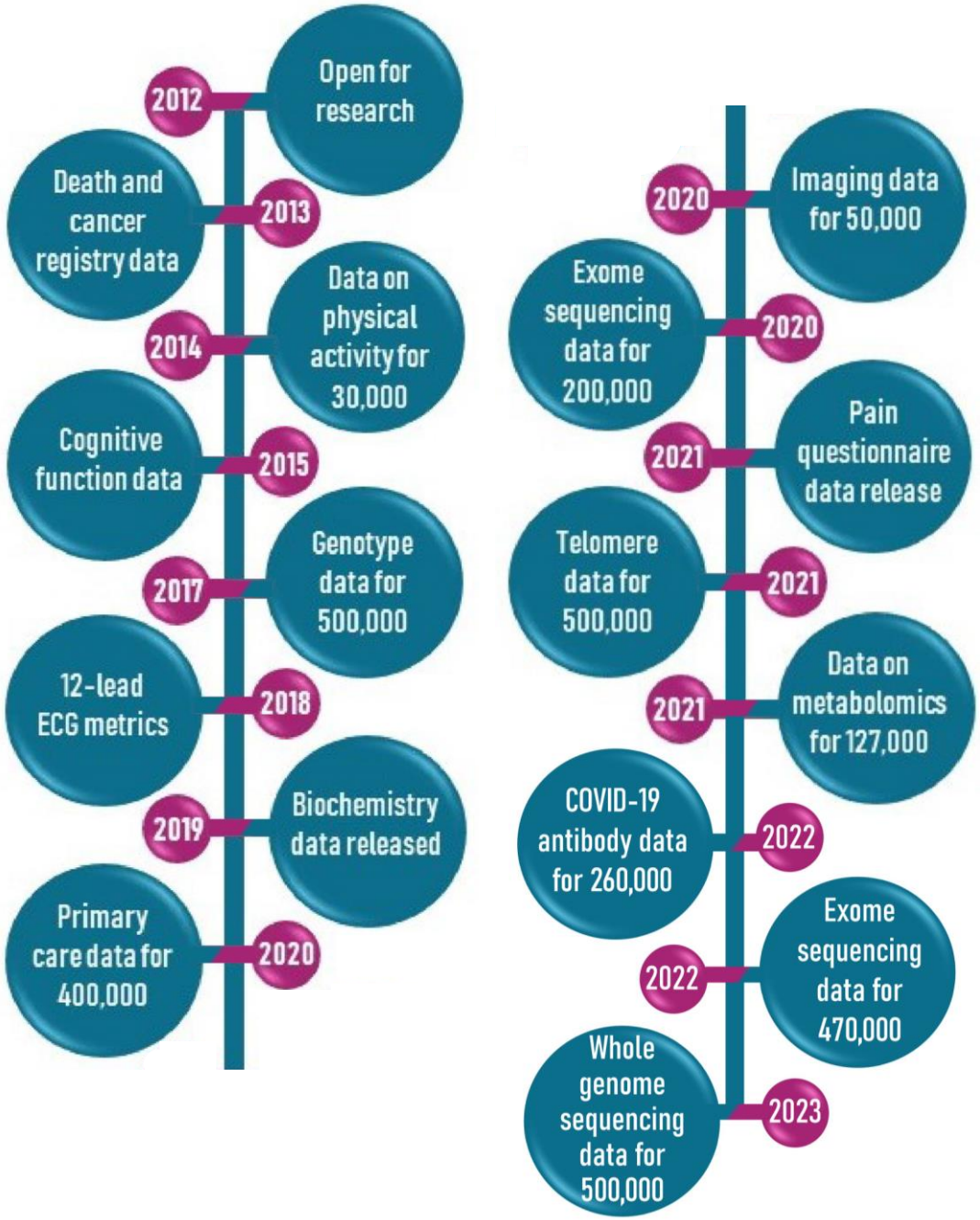
- "…*large-scale biomedical database and research resource containing de-identified **genetic, lifestyle** and **health** information and **biological samples** from half a million UK participants*"



uk biobank
Enabling scientific discoveries that improve human health

UK Biobank

- Access costs can be **included within UKRI grant applications**.
- Registration, **application** and management is via the **UK Biobank website**
- All applications assessed via an **access committee**.
  - In 2022 the average was 15 weeks from application to data release.



uk biobank

Enabling scientific discoveries that improve human health

Mary Lyons Centre

- Located on the **Harwell Campus**.
- The UK's **national facility for mouse genetics** and the use of mouse models for the preclinical study of human disease.
- *"Services include free archiving of mouse lines to protect them for future use, distribution of mouse lines from the Archive, breeding and phenotyping of genetically altered mice, and genome engineering services to generate new mouse models…"*
- *"…proactively committed to implementing the 3Rs – the refinement, reduction, and replacement of the use of animals in research…"*

UKRI Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell

Mary Lyons Centre

- Support is provided to the scientific community through the **National Mouse Genetics Network** and other projects.
- Encompasses the **Advance Training Centre**.
  - *"…newly designed scientific training centre located at MRC Harwell. Purpose-built to deliver our world-class practical and theoretical training courses…"*
- Access costs can be **included within UKRI grant applications**.
- Enquires should be made **directly with the Mary Lyons Centre** via their website.

UKRI Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell

Advance

MRC Biomedical NMR Centre

- Located at **Francis Crick Institute**
- Centre for NMR studies of biological macromolecules with local expertise encompassing a "**do it with me**" approach.
- Broad range of **capabilities** and high throughput **capacity**
  - *"…facility has five spectrometers, with a range of magnetic field strengths corresponding to operating frequencies of **600 MHz to 950 MHz**"*
  - *"…cryogenically-cooled probes for either **1H/13C/15N** or **1H/13C/15N/31P** multiple-resonance experiments with pulsed-field gradients and deuterium decoupling"*

UKRI Medical Research Council

MRC Biomedical NMR Centre

- Applications can be as an **individual** or as a **consortium**.
- Access is **free but competitive** and administered through an annual allocation exercise.
- The next deadline for applications is **August 15th**.
- Applicants should **contact the Facility Director** (Dr. Geoff Kelly) in the first instance.

UKRI Medical Research Council

Other Facilities and Resources

- Range of other **MRC supported facilities and resources** is detailed online.
- Many supported in conjunction with **other UKRI research councils, charities, government bodies** e.t.c.
- Includes numerous facilities **discussed by others** today.
- **Continuously evolving** list of capabilities to serve the **health and bioscience community**.

UKRI Medical Research Council

UK Research and Innovation

Facilities supporting bioscience and biotechnology research

Tim Shuttleworth, BBSRC
Karim Gharbi, Earlham Institute

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

BBSRC supported facilities and resources

BBSRC supports a number of **advanced technology, facilities and other resources** that are widely used by the bioscience research community across UK and globally

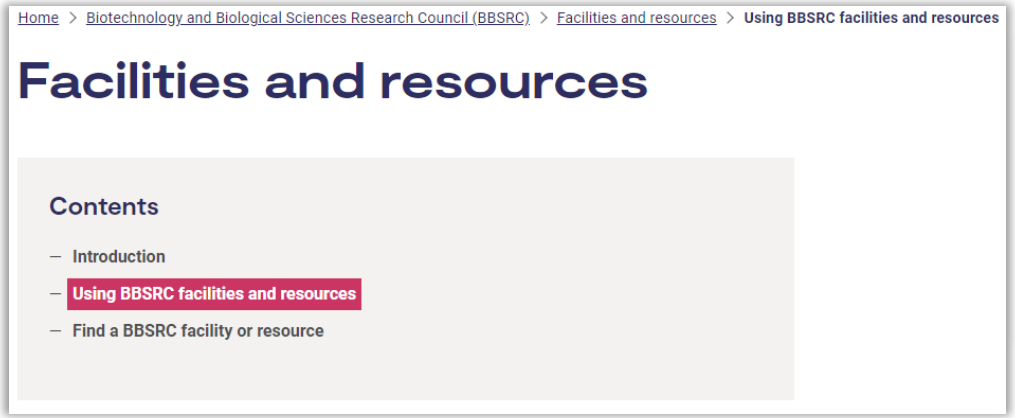
These include

- high-performance computing
- bioinformatics and computation services
- data visualisation and mathematical modelling services
- genome sequencing facilities
- seed collections and other biological resources
- databases, software and training
- networks for information and data sharing

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Researchers can also access large-scale facilities such as **laser installations**, **neutron and synchrotron light sources**, and the **Research Complex at Harwell**

If you're planning to use a facility or resource, **please contact them before submitting your application**



For more information
https://www.ukri.org/councils/bbsrc/facilities-and-resources/using-bbsrc-facilities-and-resources/#contents-list

BBSRC supported facilities and resources

International Infrastructures

EMBL-EBI

The world's most comprehensive range of freely available and up-to-date molecular data resources

ELIXIR and **ELIXIR-UK**

Pan-European infrastructure enabling researchers to access and analyse life science data

EuroBioimaging-ERIC and its **UK node**

Pan-European infrastructure offering open access to biological and biomedical imaging technologies, training and data services

Selected UK facilities and resources

Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Centre

Provides seed and information to the International Arabidopsis Genome Programme and wider community

SEISMIC

Provides single and sub-cellular sampling and analysis of living cells

Electron Bio-imaging Centre (eBIC)

Provides state-of-the-art experimental equipment and expertise in the field of cryo-electron microscopy

For more information and examples

https://www.ukri.org/councils/bbsrc/facilities-and-resources/find-a-bbsrc-facility-or-resource/

National Bioscience Research Infrastructures (NBRIs)

Operated by BBSRC's 8 strategically supported institutes

Earlham Institute

- Transformative Genomics
- Earlham Biofoundry

John Innes Centre

- Germplasm Resource Unit

The Pirbright Institute

- High and Low Containment Services

Quadram Institute

- Food and Nutrition

Roslin Institute

- Large Animal Research and Imaging Facility

Rothamsted Institute

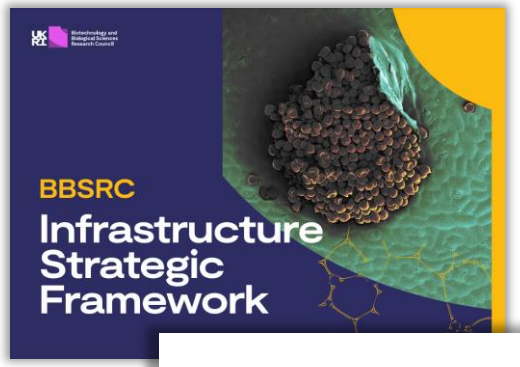
- Insect Survey
- Long Term Experiments
- North Wyke Platform

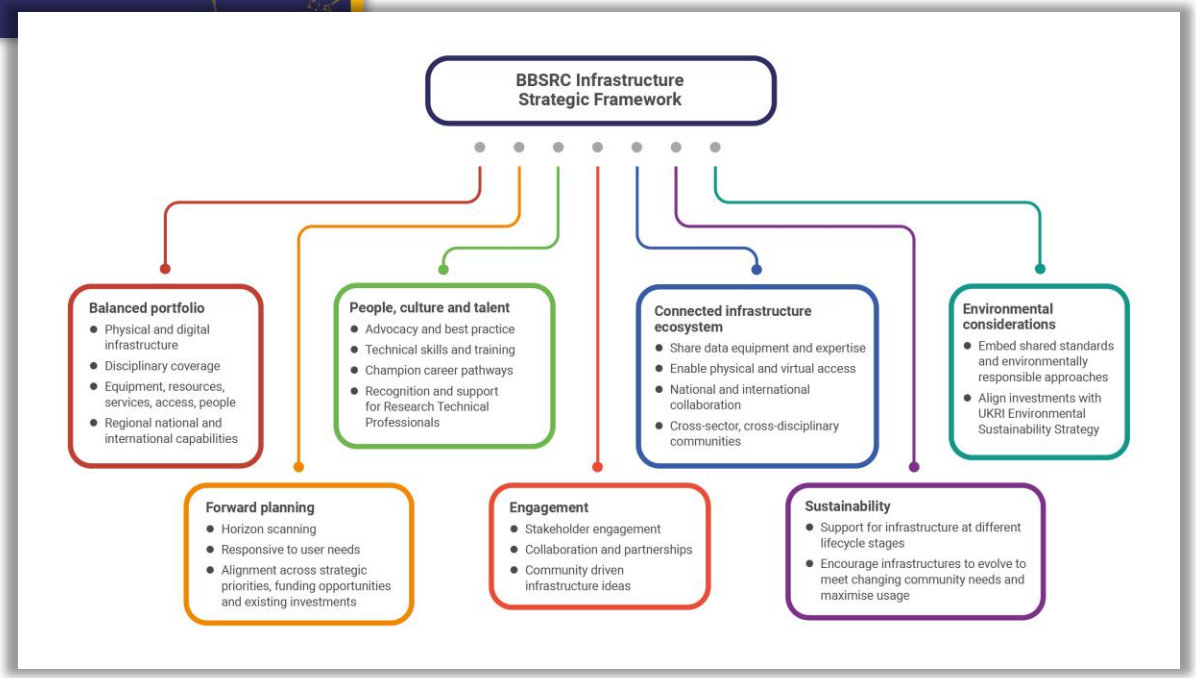
UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

BBSRC Infrastructure Strategic Framework

A holistic framework to guide the planning and development of BBSRC's infrastructure portfolio, comprising:

- BBSRC's role in the landscape and strategic objectives in investing in infrastructure
- The research and innovation trends and drivers shaping its approach
- Key bioscience areas to address
- The strategic principles underpinning the portfolio
- BBSRC's approach and next steps in fulfilling its goals





Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

https://www.ukri.org/publications/bbsrc-infrastructure-strategic-framework/

TRANSFORMATIVE GENOMICS

National Bioscience Research Infrastructure

In partnership with

Centre for Genomic Research

NEOF NERC ENVIRONMENTAL OMICS FACILITY

Bringing together specialist **facilities**, **equipment**, and **expertise** to translate the latest advances in **genomics** and **bioinformatics** into ground-breaking discoveries, innovation, and market opportunities

Spatial and Single-Cell Analysis

Long-read Sequencing

Genomics at Scale

Tools and Resources

Specialist Services

Training and Collaboration

- Biobank (e.g. NRP Biorepository)
- Research Institute, Colleges, and Universities
- International Consortia (e.g. ERGA)
- Industry, SMEs / University spin-outs / Start ups
- Government, policy makers, and public affairs

UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Contact: Karim.Gharbi@earlham.ac.uk

Earlham Institute

EARLHAM BIOFOUNDRY

National Bioscience Research Infrastructure

Global Biofoundries Alliance

We specialise in the **design**, **construction**, and **testing** of biological systems, offering access to **automated** platforms and workflows, and providing **expertise** in **engineering biology** and **high throughput experiments**

Bioengineering

Biorepository

Microfermentation

Automation

Tools and Resources

Specialist Services

Training and Collaboration

Research Institute, Colleges, and Universities

International Consortia (e.g. GBA)

Industry, SMEs / University spin-outs / Start ups

Government, policy makers, and public affairs

UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Contact: Carolina.Grandellis@earlham.ac.uk

Earlham Institute

UK Research and Innovation

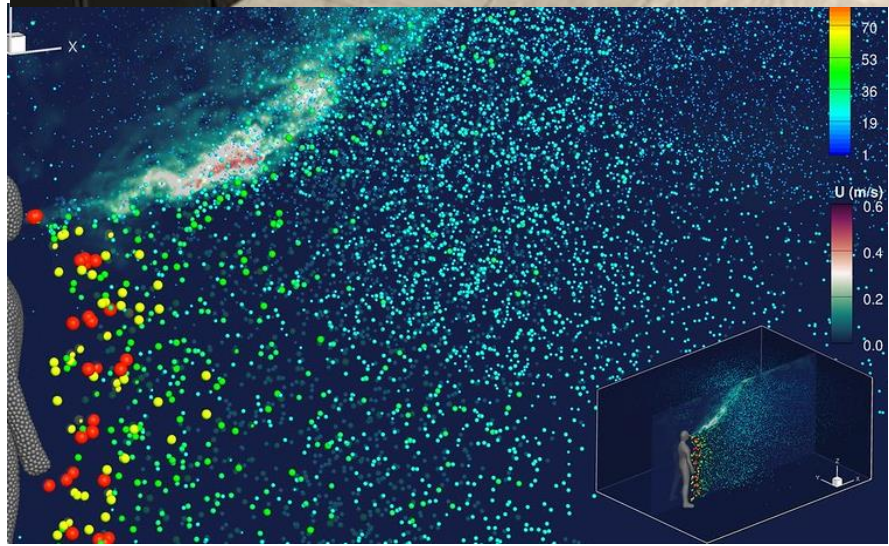
Engineering and physical sciences research facilities

Kay Yeung and Richard Bailey, EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

EPSRC/NERC
UK National Supercomputing Service

- ARCHER2 - HPE Cray EX supercomputing system
  - 5,860 compute nodes, dual AMD 64-core processors
  - Modelling and simulation from quantum to galaxies
  - Training courses available
- Access details at www.archer2.ac.uk/support-access/access.html
  - ‘Access through EPSRC grants and fellowships’ route
  - Not costed on grant
  - Technical Assessment required before receive allocation



UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council | Natural Environment Research Council

archer2

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Facilities

For the list of engineering and physical sciences facilities on the next 3 slides:

- **The costs associated with facility access will be funded from the grant at 80% fEC.** The research organisation will be responsible for the remaining 20%, that is facilities will be reimbursed at 100% fEC by the host organisation.
- EPSRC funds a wide portfolio of national research facilities, however, **please note for EPSRC-funded facilities, only those mentioned in this webinar are available in this scheme.**
- If you wish to include facility access in your grant application, you **must** contact the facility to discuss the feasibility and appropriateness of your project **before** submitting your application to UKRI. Some facilities may offer routes for free-at-point-of-access.

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Facilities

- **EPSRC National Research Facility for Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Spectroscopy** - provides EPR measurement and analysis capabilities
  - Website: https://www.chemistry.manchester.ac.uk/epr/
  - Contact: David Collison (david.collison@manchester.ac.uk; 0161-275-4660) and Eric McInnes (eric.mcinnes@manchester.ac.uk; 0161-275-4469)
- **National X-ray Computed Tomography (NXCT) Facility** – offers cutting-edge 3D and 3D time-lapse imaging experiments
  - Further information on access: https://nxct.ac.uk/accessing-equipment/
- **SuperSTEM** – offers cutting-edge instrumentation and expertise in advanced electron microscopy
  - Website: www.superstem.org; general enquiries: enquiries@superstem.org
  - Contact the facility is required prior to submission. A short form/proposal is then evaluated by the facility.

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

NXCT National X-Ray Computed Tomography

SuperSTEM DARESBURY

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Facilities

- **The UK High-Field Solid-State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Facility** – offers cutting-edge solid-state NMR equipment and expertise
  - For access, please complete the webform and see details at: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/physics/research/condensedmatt/nmr/850/grant_applications_for_access/
- **The UK X-ray Material Science (XMaS) Facility** – offers synchrotron radiation at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)
  - Website: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/xmas/applying_for_beamline_time/
  - Contact: Tom Hase (t.p.a.hase@warwick.ac.uk); Chris Lucas (clucas@liverpool.ac.uk); Yvonne Grunder (yvonne.grunder@liverpool.ac.uk)
- **UK National Ion Beam Centre (UKNIBC)** – offers ion beam modification and analysis infrastructure and expertise.
  - Access is via a ticket system or through a commercial route. See website: https://uknibc.co.uk and contact Satheesh Krishnamurthy (s.krishnamurthy@surrey.ac.uk) and Roger Webb (R.Webb@surrey.ac.uk).

UK HIGH-FIELD SOLID-STATE NMR FACILITY

ESRF | The European Synchrotron

UKNIBC UK NATIONAL ION BEAM CENTRE

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Facilities

- **National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Terahertz (THz) facility** – offers THz facilities and services which include time-domain and frequency-domain spectroscopy, device characterisation and THz communications
  - Website: https://www.npl.co.uk/electromagnetics/terahertz-radiation/epsrc-facility
  - Access model: Use of the facility is charged at £1500 per day (excl. VAT), all inclusive.
  - Contact: mira.naftaly@npl.co.uk
- **Electron Diffraction Facility based in Southampton and Warwick University** – offers electron diffraction capability and expertise for structure determination
  - Website: https://www.ncs.ac.uk/nedf/
  - Contact: info@ncs.ac.uk

NPL National Physical Laboratory

National Electron Diffraction Facility
Southampton – Warwick

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

UK Research and Innovation

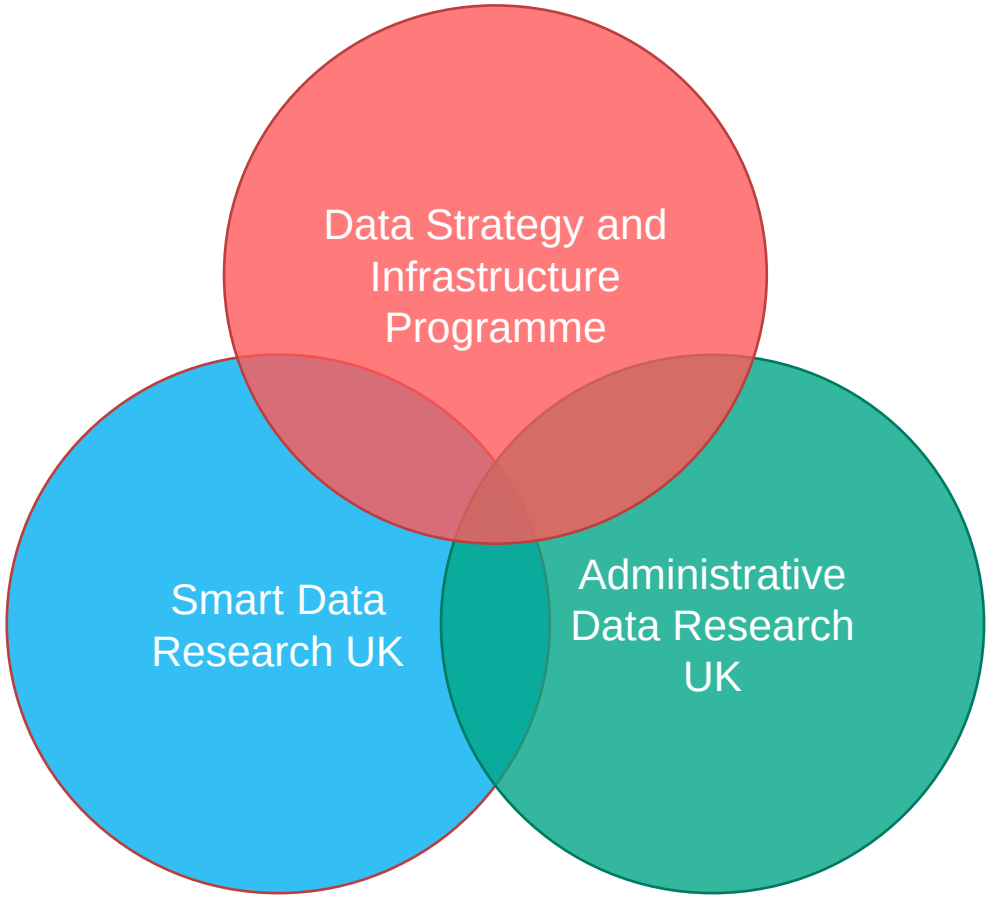
Social science-led data resources and services

Matt Neale, ESRC

ESRC’s invests in more than 30 data resources and services

Typically free to use but data may be safeguarded

We also fund a portfolio of training investments



Economic and Social Research Council

Data resources: surveys

Longitudinal studies

- Understanding Society – the UK Household Longitudinal Study
- Generations and Gender in the UK
- Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) cohorts
    - 1958 National Child Development Study
    - 1970 British Cohort Study
    - Next Steps
    - Millennium Cohort Study
    - COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities Study (COSMO)
    - Generation New Era (“Early Life Cohort”) *

Other surveys

- Election studies for Britain, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- European Social Survey in the UK
- International Social Survey Programme in the UK
- National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal) **
- Skills and Employment Survey
- World Values Survey in the UK

* In development, active by 2026
** investments of which ESRC is not the lead funder

Data resources: census data

Census Longitudinal Studies

The three census longitudinal studies link the same individuals' data between censuses. This may then be linked to other datasets.

- CeLSIUS (supports use of the ONS Longitudinal Study, covering England and Wales)
- Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study – Research Support Unit
- Scottish Longitudinal Study – Development and Support Unit
- CALLS-HUB, supporting cross-UK analysis

Census data

- UK Data Service: census data
- Integrated Census Microdata (1851-1921 historical data)

Data services

UK Data Service

Data acquisition, access & support services

- Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resource (CLOSER)
- Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)*
- Health Data Research UK (HDR UK)**
- Population Research UK *
- UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration *

Researcher tools

- HateLab
- Social Data Science Lab
- Software Sustainability Institute*

UK Data Service

closer The home of longitudinal research

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

* In development, active by 2026
** investments of which ESRC is not the lead funder

How to find out what data is available

Service	
UK Data Service	Searchable archive including ESRC birth cohort studies, Understanding Society, Census outputs, and thousands of other datasets.
ADR UK	Linked administrative datasets, UK-wide: ADR UK website has info on data catalogues
CLOSER Discovery	Longitudinal data search tool
HDR UK	Health Data Research Innovation Gateway
Census Longitudinal Study support units	CeLSIUS (England and Wales), NILS-RSU (NI), SLS-DSU (Scotland). Support units can advise on access to, and use of, three UK Census Longitudinal Studies.

Data is often available directly from the investment, e.g. European Social Survey, British Election Study, CDRC, UBDC.

Opening up access to administrative data for research:
ESRC's ADR UK programme

Economic and Social Research Council

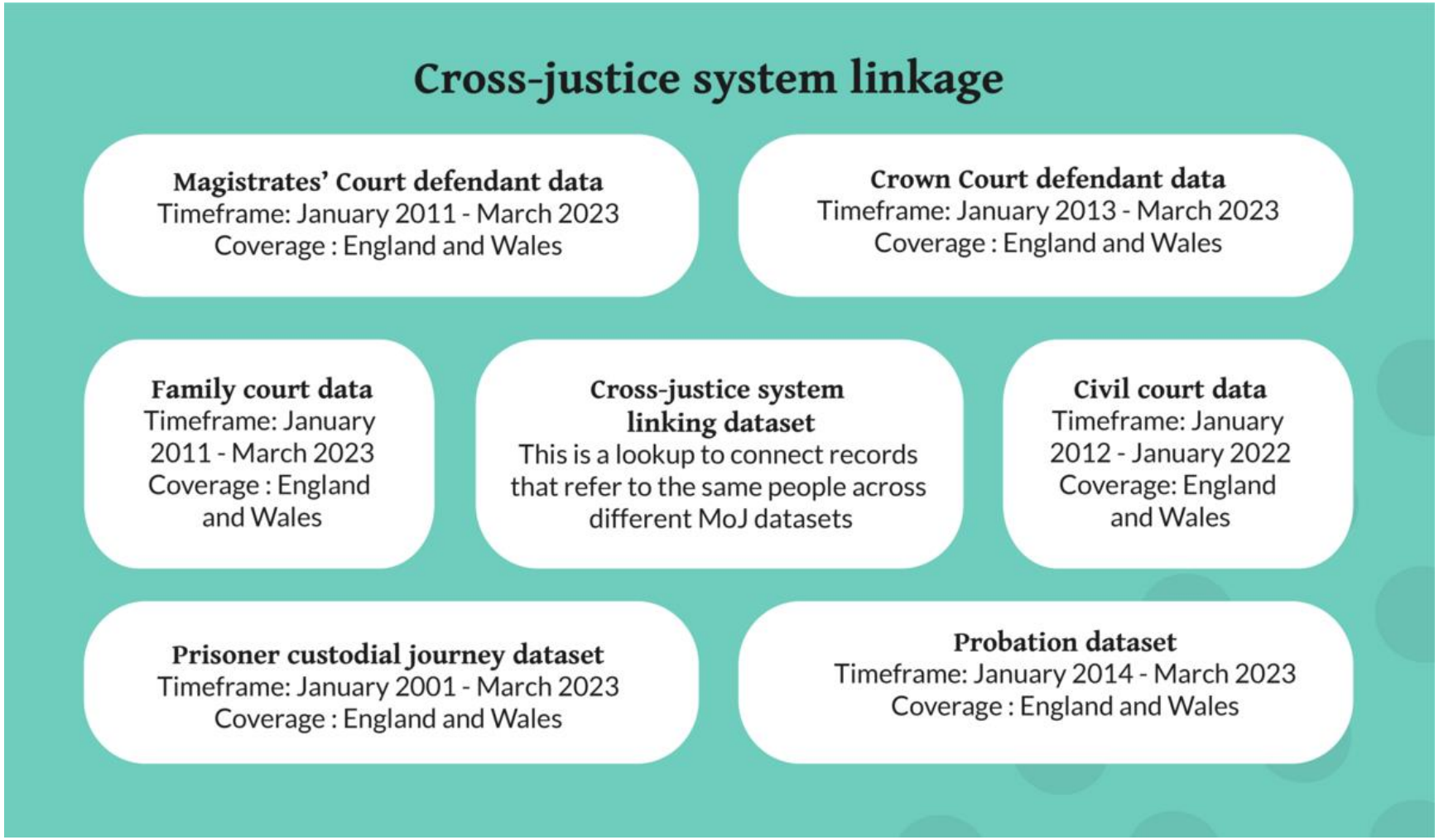
Data access points

Each ADR UK national partnership, as well as ONS, has a dedicated secure service through which approved researchers can access de-identified administrative data for projects in the public interest.

ADR UK
Data-driven change

UKRI
Economic and Social Research Council

Data First: Cross-Justice System - England and Wales



How to access the data

- SAIL - the SAIL Databank Scoping Form.

  Applicants complete Stage 1 of the two-stage process They will then be contacted by a SAIL databank analyst to discuss their project.

- The information in these forms will be used to make a decision by the ADR UK Funding Panel and SAIL Databank's Information Governance Review Panel.

Smart Data Research UK

A UKRI Infrastructure Investment in Digital Data

Smart Data Research UK

UK Research and Innovation

What is smart data?

Data generated through everyday interactions with the digital world.

Wide definition which covers a range of data types (e.g. loyalty card data, app data, sensor data, fitness tracking data, etc.)

We have **strong foundations**

SDR UK's data services provide researchers with **safe access to secure data**

CDRC datasets cover themes such as Health and wellbeing; Crime and emergency services; Retail; Urban mobility; and Ethical and sustainable consumption

UBDC datasets cover themes such as Labour markets; Housing and neighbourhoods; Education; Urban governance; and Education

Smart Data Research UK

In Autumn 2024...

4-6 new data services will come online proving smart data across SDR UK's 4 thematic pillars

PRODUCTIVITY AND PROSPERITY

SUSTAINABILITY

DIGITAL SOCIETY

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Data training and skills investments

National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

Training materials and resources on methodology are available through NCRM. The centre aims to increase research methods capability in the social sciences and beyond through training and capacity-building.

CLOSER Learning Hub

The CLOSER Learning Hub provides a range of training resources relevant to using longitudinal data.

UK Data Service

The UK Data Service provides an ongoing programme of training events.

ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK)

ADR UK has a list of resources on getting started with administrative data.

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

Get in touch

ADR UK: hub@adruk.org

SDR UK: smartdataresearch@ukri.org

Surveys, census and services: datainfrastructure@esrc.ukri.org

Economic and Social Research Council

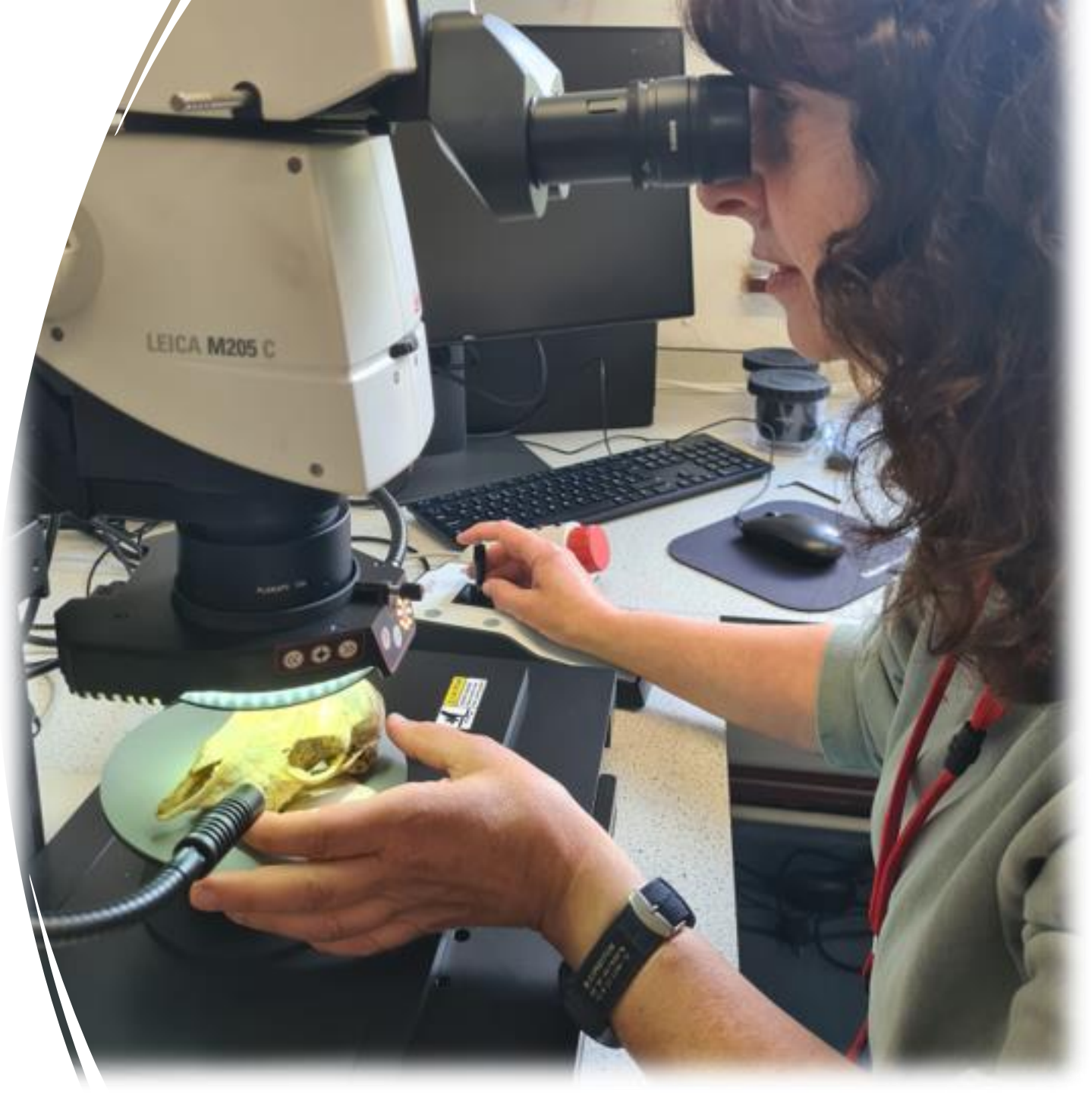
UK Research and Innovation

Resources and Facilities supporting Arts and Humanities

Maria Traill, AHRC

Recent Facilities: World-Class Lab (WCL) Portfolio

- The UKRI WCL Fund launched 2020
- Funding aims to support science & innovation within the UK
- Initially provided AHRC with opportunity to consider funding facilities for collections-led research



Arts and Humanities Research Council

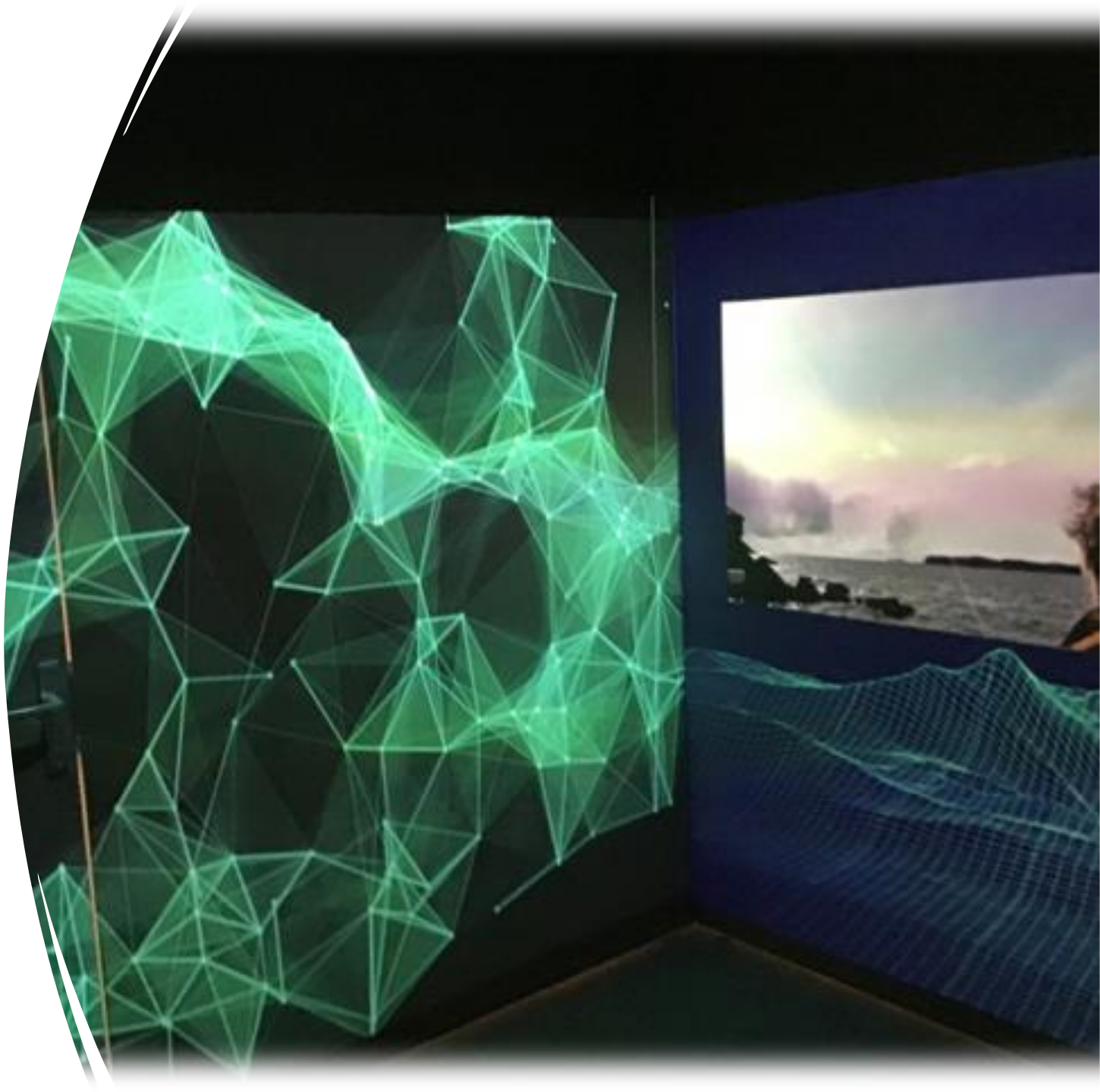
Recent Facilities – World-Class Labs Portfolio

- Capability for Collections (CapCo)
- Focus on conservation and heritage science facilities
- Designed to improve access to all facilities
- The portfolio includes 62 funded projects across all four UK nations

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Recent Facilities: World-Class Lab (WCL) Portfolio continued

- Creative Research Capability (CResCa)
- This tranche of WCL funding widened the portfolio
- Wide ranging institutions and subject areas were awarded funding
- Portfolio consists of 23 projects



Arts and Humanities Research Council

Convergent Screen Technologies and Performance in Realtime (CoSTaR)

- UK Research & Development Network for Creative Technology
- Nationally distributed research and innovation infrastructure for creative industries sector
- Programme launched in November 2023 and runs to 28/29
- Focus on screen & performance
- Co-located with industry

Future Facilities – Research Infrastructure for Conservation & Heritage Science (RICHes)

- Built on the success of CapCo
- RICHeS is a UKRI Infrastructure Fund programme
- Grant funding to support reference collection facilities & a new Digital Research Service (DRS)
- First tranche of awards will start summer 2024
- Programme launch October 2024
- RICHeS: Access Fund

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council

Digital Research Capability

- Phase 1 2021/22 - 23/24
- Data Repositories
- Phase 2 2023/24 – 24/25

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Thank you

Maria Traill

Maria.traill@ahrc.ukri.org

Infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org

Arts and Humanities Research Council

UK Research and Innovation

Q&A

Alex Amey, UKRI

Questions and Answers

Q	**If an applicant applies for the additional £250k to access these NERC facilities, will this budget come out of the same £32.5M pot available for this scheme?**
A	Yes, it will come out of the budget for the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme.

Q	**Will applications for this call only be considered if they include, or indeed focus on, work with one of these facilities, please?** **Furthermore: do they need to focus on two different facilities, in order to show cross-council research? or do you just need to show you have two academics from different disciplines working together, and the facilities are incidental?** **Is using these facilities required for a proposal? Is the interdisciplinarity here meant using of these facilities?**
A	No, you do not have to work with one of these facilities to be eligible for the scheme. This webinar has been designed to let you know what UKRI facilities are available and the processes to secure access if you are seeking to include them in your application. To be eligible for the scheme you application needs to cover the remits of at least two research councils and be interdisciplinary research. For guidance on what is considered interdisciplinary research see the pre-announcement on the funding finder where there are definitions for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and there is a link to a video which goes into these in more depth. https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-round-2/ Interdisciplinary research that falls under the remit of a single council should apply using that council's responsive mode funding opportunity.

Questions and Answers

Q	**In medicine (like in the current presentation) multidisciplinary is often more useful than just interdisciplinarity. How is this call oriented? Mainly to interdisciplinarity, or involvement of few disciplines is welcomed?**
A	To be eligible for the scheme you application needs to cover the remits of at least two research councils and be interdisciplinary research. Multidisciplinary research is where researchers work independently within their disciplines and there is little or no integration of disciplines. Work packages are discrete and discipline specific rather than integrating disciplinary knowledge. Interdisciplinary research has significant interaction between disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines. There will be integration of disciplines across and within work packages, there will be reciprocal research benefits for all the disciplines involved and there will be co-creation of project framework with input from all disciplines. For further guidance on what is considered interdisciplinary research see the pre-announcement on the funding finder where there are definitions for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and there is a link to a video which goes into these in more depth. https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-round-2/ To be eligible for this call applications need to have disciplines from at least two research councils. Multidisciplinary research that involves disciplines from more than 1 council can still apply through a single council responsive mode funding opportunity and be funded under the cross council remit agreement. https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/preparing-to-make-a-funding-application/if-your-research-spans-different-disciplines/

Questions and Answers

Q	**Are there facilities related to research in the building industry? may be related to the application of Circular Economy concept?** **My research area is the building sector and how to guide the path towards sustainability and circularity and achieve a net zero carbon sector addressing new projects and renovation projects.**
A	There aren't any facilities that we've gone through today which are directly relevant to the building industry. However, there are activities and resources through the High Value Manufacturing Catapult that supports some work in this area https://hvm.catapult.org.uk/. There is also an Innovation Knowledge Centre (IKC) that does some work about low carbons and building https://www-smartinfrastructure.eng.cam.ac.uk/. UKRI has also funded one of the Circular Economy Hubs that is looking at buildings and the sustainability https://ce-hub.org/ce-centres/. You would need to engage with those and see how working with them might fit within the CRCRM call or if other funding opportunities are more appropriate. Some of the facilities outlined in the webinar today could be useful anyway, for analysing samples if they do material science, etc. The advise is to have a look at the links to our facility pages and see if any of those facilities can be helpful for their research.

Q	**As an England registered SME with R&D as SIC codes, and researchers from abroad, is it possible to submit proposals and work in collaboration with the councils and organisations?** **(This question is in regard to submitting proposals to the CRCRM scheme, the facilities, and joining in on active research and grant opportunities)**
A	For the CRCRM scheme non-academic organisations, such as businesses, charities or other third-sector organisations that are not UKRI approved IROs or PSREs are not eligible to be applicants but they can be project partners. Further information is on the pre announcement page under Who can apply https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-round-2/ Access to facilities will differ across facilities. You can follow this link about further eligibility for UKRI funding opportunities https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/

Questions and Answers

Q	**Is there consistency on how the Research facilities costs are entered on TFS as we have had differing advice from different research councils on various calls?**
A	Guidance on how to put facilities costs on TFS for this call will be provided in the full stage information.

Questions and Answers

Q **This is the first time we have heard that the RO needs to provide 20% of the cost for use of a national facility, as typically 100% FEC for the facility is taken nominally out of all URKI awards for the facility. From the presentation yesterday, it was clear this call is acting differently to past UKRI calls and instead suggests that 100% FEC is still awarded to the facility, but only 80% of this is coming from UKRI.**

For this remaining 20%, please can you confirm:

- **Will this 20% cost be invoiced from the RO separately? And if so, who will be doing the invoicing (the facility or UKRI)?**
- **Or will this 20% cost also be taken from our awarded value? (i.e. if we had a £10k bid FEC, and £1k of that was the facility, does that mean we would only get awarded 80% of the £9k, then minus 20% of the £1k = £7400, meaning only a 74% funding level?)**

- **How should these facilities and the 20% contribution from the RO be shown in TFS? Are you expecting these to be added under the resources and costs section as a normal requested cost at 80%, and if so, which section would you expect to see it in? (i.e. DI non-staff?)**

A Most schemes are led by a single Research Council, and each council manages the costing arrangements for facilities in different ways, according to the needs and nature of the facilities they support. This does include the example you give where the council award the facility costs to the grant at 100% FEC but top-slice these costs directly to the facilities, but is not the case for all facilities. For pan-UKRI schemes, the arrangement is that for all facilities where there is usually a cost associated with access to use the facility or service, this should be charged to the grant, and that UKRI will fund 80% of this. That is, facility costs should be included under Directly Incurred - Other costs, stating the full economic cost, of which UKRI will fund 80% FEC (“applied for” column), as per usual rules for DI costs.

To confirm, UKRI will not be top slicing any costs from the grants to the facilities. ROs will need to obtain an invoice from the facility, which will be the 100% FEC value. Therefore, as with other DI costs, the RO is responsible for funding the remaining 20% of this cost, and should be added under the resources section as such.

Using the example you give, with a £10k bid that includes £1k facility costs, we would fund £8k, £800 of which would be towards the facility costs - there would be no further reductions. So for the facility costs alone, the RO would be responsible for funding the remaining £200. The same rule will also apply to equipment costs.

Questions and Answers

Q	**Is the heritage conservation also referred to listed buildings?**
A	We would need to understand this in a bit more detail to be able to answer this question. Please contact Maria.traill@ahrc.ukri.org.

Q	**Does the ESRC smart data research UK have social media data? How do we know which social media data sets are available?**
A	SDR UK is a new UKRI Infrastructure investment which funds data infrastructures/services. SDR UK does not directly hold social media, or other, data. Datasets for our Phase I investments (Consumer Data Research Centre and Urban Big Data Centre) are searchable on their websites. We are currently commissioning Phase II data services which will be announced in Autumn 2024. SDR UK will then have an understanding of the datasets which are held and/or will be acquired by our data services. We're in active talks with key partners about how to enable social media data access. Researchers may access the Meta Content Library via SOMAR (https://transparency.meta.com/en-gb/researchtools/meta-content-library/). We'd welcome UK researchers to connect with us to hear about their experiences of requesting Meta data from this new service (smartdataresearch@ukri.org)

UK Research and Innovation

Useful Links

Alex Amey, UKRI

Useful Links

Webinar Feedback Survey:
https://engagementhub.ukri.org/ukri-talent/facilities-webinar-feedback-survey-questions

EPSRC Links:
ARCHER2: https://www.archer2.ac.uk/support-access/access.html

EPSRC National Research Facility for Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Spectroscopy: https://www.chemistry.manchester.ac.uk/epr/
Contact: David Collison (david.collison@manchester.ac.uk; 0161-275-4660) and Eric McInnes (eric.mcinnes@manchester.ac.uk; 0161-275-4469)

National X-ray Computed Tomography (NXCT) Facility: https://nxct.ac.uk/accessing-equipment/

SuperSTEM: www.superstem.org Contact: enquiries@superstem.org

The UK High-Field Solid-State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)
Facility: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/physics/research/condensedmatt/nmr/850/grant_applications_for_access/

The UK X-ray Material Science (XMaS) Facility: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/xmas/applying_for_beamline_time/
Contact: Tom Hase (t.p.a.hase@warwick.ac.uk); Chris Lucas (clucas@liverpool.ac.uk); Yvonne Grunder (yvonne.grunder@liverpool.ac.uk)

UK National Ion Beam Centre (UKNIBC): https://uknibc.co.uk
Contact: Satheesh Krishnamurthy (s.krishnamurthy@surrey.ac.uk) and Roger Webb (R.Webb@surrey.ac.uk)

National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Terahertz (THz) facility: https://www.npl.co.uk/electromagnetics/terahertz-radiation/epsrc-facility
Contact: mira.naftaly@npl.co.uk

Thank you

ukrirm@ukri.org

UK Research and Innovation