

Data Management for UK SOLAS

Gwen Moncoiffé*¹, Jenny Andrew¹ and Charles Kilburn²

NERC Data Policy

UK SOLAS is funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). NERC is committed to long-term management of data. Through its national data centres, NERC ensures that data collected using government funds are available for use into the future.

NERC requires recipients of their grants to deposit with NERC a copy of resulting datasets, for use by other bona fide researchers, but without prejudice to the intellectual property rights.



UK SOLAS Data Centre

UK SOLAS data will be centrally managed by the UK SOLAS Data Centre (SDC). The data centre will be responsible for providing data management support to the UK SOLAS fieldwork activities, and will act as a central hub for data access and submission.

The SDC will benefit from the expertise of two leading data centres in the UK: the British Atmospheric and Oceanographic Data Centres (BADC and BODC), the NERC designated data centres for atmospheric and marine data.

The core SDC team is made up of:

Jenny Andrew – marine data scientist and UK SOLAS data manager

Charles Kilburn – atmospheric data scientist and UK SOLAS atmospheric and model data manager

Gwen Moncoiffé – marine data scientist and UK SOLAS data management co-ordinator

Data Centre Rôle and Services

The SDC Team are involved with UK SOLAS data from the project-planning phase right through to its long-term curation.



We attend fieldwork planning meetings to offer support to the UK SOLAS scientists.

Our extensive experience of data management gives us insight into the logistics of data collection. Guidelines are given to fieldwork participants, detailing our expectations and requirements for data submission.

SDC representatives have been involved in the earliest stages of planning. We endeavour to be sympathetic to the aims of each UK SOLAS project.



Project Planning

Fieldwork Preparation

Data Collection

Quality Control

Data Banking

Data Access Level 1

Data Access Level 2

Data Access Level 3



The SDC team hopes to participate in UK SOLAS fieldwork.

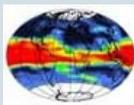
Working closely with data originators familiarises us with the data sets and helps us understand the challenges and limitations faced by our colleagues.



The SDC employs world-leading procedures in data quality control.

The expertise of our data scientists ensures that UK SOLAS data sets meet the highest standards. Input and feedback from data providers and data users are an integral part of the quality control and evaluation process.

We offer a facility to ensure the secure storage of UK SOLAS data well into the future.



Knowledge Transfer

Our data management policy allows data sharing, while protecting the intellectual property of project participants.

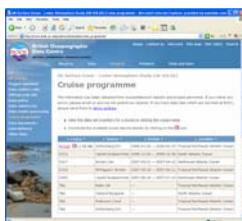


Data access is controlled to protect the interests of UK SOLAS researchers. Data sets are initially only available to the project collaborators. Access is opened to the wider UK SOLAS community a year after data acquisition, and to everyone after two years.

SDC Online

The UK SOLAS data management pages at BODC provide descriptions of the activities of the SDC. Information relating to the status of UK SOLAS data sets is also available, along with details of each of the UK SOLAS projects and planned and completed fieldwork.

The web pages also offer guidance on data submission for our partners in UK SOLAS, and advice for other parties interested in UK SOLAS data.



<http://www.bodc.ac.uk/projects/uk/uksolas>

Data Management Plan

Standards for data management and expectations of UK SOLAS are set out in the official Data Management Plan.

This document clearly states the responsibilities of research scientists regarding UK SOLAS data, and also details the SDC tasks linked to each project, along with timescales for their completion.

The complete Data Management Plan is available to download from the UK SOLAS pages at BODC.



* Corresponding author, email: gmon@bodc.ac.uk

1. British Oceanographic Data Centre, Liverpool L3 5DA
2. British Atmospheric Data Centre, Chilton OX11 0QX