

## Data Management Policy

### Principles

The Ecological Continuity Trust (ECT) exists to help protect and encourage long-term ecological experiments and therefore the proper management of data is central to the charity's mission. Only by ensuring the integrity, preservation and accessibility of data collected in long-term experiments can they be of value to scientists, land managers and policy-makers in the future. The ECT does not run experiments itself, so our management policy is directed at the projects and scientists whom we support. Receipt of support from the ECT is conditional on compliance with the ECT data management policy set out in this document.

Responsibility for the data management policy resides with the ECT Trustees, who consult with the ECT user-group on any relevant matters on a regular basis.

### Recording of data

ECT will normally only provide funds to projects involving properly designed experiments that have sufficient replication and controls. However, it is recognised that some historical LTEs were not designed to modern standards and these may also be supported where the data produced are of clear scientific value.

Data must be recorded in conformity with the requirements of the Natural Environment Research Council. A full data management plan must accompany each request for funding from ECT. This can be conveniently generated using the free online tool at <https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>

### Storage of data

Upon collection, data must be quality-checked, safely stored and backed-up as indicated in the relevant project's data management plan. Upon publication, supporting data must be made publically available via deposit in Data Dryad or another recognised public data repository such as the Environmental Data Centre <http://eidc.ceh.ac.uk/>. Unpublished data should be deposited with the EIDC and made openly available within 5 years of collection.

### Access to data

By default, all data should be published in an open data repository such as Data Dryad. In cases of doubt, such as where a journal does not require data to be made openly available after publication, the policy of the journals of the British Ecological Society should be followed. A limited embargo period may be placed on the public release of data, where immediate publication could compromise ongoing research, or where a research student is awaiting the award of a degree.

### Guidance

Further guidance on data management may be found in the publication: Harrison (2014) A guide to data management in ecology and evolution. British Ecological Society, London, which is available on the BES website.