

Data Access Policy – Classical and Long Term Experiments



Principles

The Rothamsted collections of long-term experimental data represent a considerable investment of scientific expertise over many years and are owned by the Lawes Agricultural Trust. The data and associated documentation are a unique historical record from experiments that have measured the effects of agricultural practices on soils, crops and associated ecosystems continuously for over 150 years. Correct interpretation of much of these data, together with the accompanying meteorological records, requires extensive knowledge of the experimental design and data collection methods employed, many of which have evolved over their long lifetime and in many cases only documented in the original paper records.

Rothamsted Research is committed to sharing these data and associated sample collections for bona fide scientific research. For the reasons stated, and associated costs of data and sample access, however, we require that potential users first make contact with us to establish the nature of the research to be undertaken so that we can (at our discretion) nominate a Rothamsted scientist as designated collaborator.

Past experience has demonstrated that dialogue with Rothamsted scientists able to direct collaborators to appropriate subsets of the data and with knowledge of the shortcomings will save our collaborators time and help prevent inadvertent misinterpretations of the data. The level of interaction required will, of course depend on the complexity of the research question and the range of data required. Where a designated (Rothamsted) collaborator has been nominated, reflecting a complex or time consuming interaction with a particular data access, then we reserve the right to approve the content of scientific publications using Rothamsted data or samples, and would expect co-authorship on any resulting publications. Where the level of effort or volume of data is modest, then at our discretion, corresponding reduced recognition of the Rothamsted collaborator would be expected. The minimum recognition would be an acknowledgement.

Where access to Rothamsted data and samples will form part of a research grant application, early discussions should be had about the costs of data or sample preparation and distribution.

Conditions

- Access by research scientists with a bona fide requirement for access to the data, intending to publish their research in peer reviewed scientific journals is never (or rarely) denied.
- Access by bona fide students should be made through their course tutor or research supervisor who will be considered the official collaborator.
- In the case of large or complex data or sample requests Rothamsted reserves the right to recover the full economic cost from the collaborator.
- Access for the use in commercial research is encouraged, but will be subject to special license agreements negotiated with our contracts office.
- Data obtained from Rothamsted Research should not be passed to a third party without written permission from either the designated Rothamsted collaborator or the e-RA curators.

Process

1. Access by e-mail from the e-RA website is the most common first method of contact. Direct e-mail to the e-RA curators (Sarah Perryman or Margaret Glendining) is equally acceptable.
2. An email discussion will establish the scale and nature of the data access request and usually, a designated Rothamsted Collaborator will be assigned. Further discussions as to the data required would then take place.
3. The applicant requesting access would be expected to complete a formal request document (see below) submitted either on paper or electronically.
4. Once the data subsets required have been identified, and formal approval agreed, either the applicant will be given their own password to the e-RA database and then allowed to run queries and download the agreed datasets at their convenience, or a dataset will be prepared for them.
5. Questions relating to data analysis and interpretation during the research would generally be directed to the designated Rothamsted collaborator. Technical questions would be directed to the e-RA curators.
6. When the research was ready for publication, the designated Rothamsted collaborator/co-author would be sent the manuscript for review and approval in the normal manner of collaborative publications.
7. Upon publication, the designated Rothamsted collaborator would be sent a reprint of the article for the e-RA citations database.



Request for data from e-RA

Please complete details of applicant requesting the data:

Name	
email	
Institute/University/ Organisation Name	
Institute/University Organisation Address	
Brief description of Institute/University/ Organisation	

Names of Rothamsted Research staff (if any) that are collaborating in the data request:

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Scientific Case for Obtaining Data

Brief details of the research project that the data will be used for, including the project title, the hypothesis being tested, and the data analyses that will be performed:

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Details of the Data Requested

Give details of what data will be required, including which experiment(s), years and plots/treatments:

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I request access to data from the e-Rothamsted Archive 'e-RA'. I agree that the copyright and database rights for this information are vested in the owner as specified on the e-RA web site. I agree not make the data available to any third party, or publish any part of the data in any form

either physical or electronic without first obtaining the approval of Rothamsted Research. I agree that I will acknowledge Rothamsted Research as the owner of the data in any publication that arises from their use. I will take all precautions necessary to ensure that the data are safeguarded against unauthorised access and/or use by any other person. My authority to use the data will terminate on a date four years from the date of my signature of this declaration and I will not retain any copy of the data after this date. Subsequent use of this data shall be conditional upon a request to renew access to the data. This declaration shall be subject to and construed and interpreted according to the Law of England.

Applicant Signature

Date

Please return the completed form to:

Margaret Glendining and Sarah Perryman
e-RA Curators
Computational and Systems Biology (Bawden)
Rothamsted Research
Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ UK

era@rothamsted.ac.uk