

WHY: DOES THE UK NEED A NATIONAL RIVER FLOW ARCHIVE?

BECAUSE: ACCESS TO NATIONAL HYDROMETRIC DATA IS VITAL FOR EFFECTIVE WATER RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

What does the NRFA do?

The NRFA underpins hydrological research and water-management activities in the UK, and delivers data and expertise to UK Government and international organisations. The NRFA:

- Acts as the main focal point for hydrometric data in the UK
- Provides access to river flow data from over 1,500 gauging stations across the UK
- Offers independent, authoritative commentary on current hydrological conditions
- Supports the hydrometric monitoring activities of our partner organisations

How do we do it?

We integrate national hydrometric data from partners in the UK measuring agencies and provide long-term stewardship for national hydrometric data assets.

We operate the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme, to enable us to assess current water resources status and to examine evidence for change in long-term hydrological datasets.

We also:

- Validate river flow data to enhance quality and completeness
- Guide the evolution of the UK hydrometric network
- Develop and improve operational practices for hydrometric data management
- Design software for processing, visualisation and analysis of hydrological data
- Help UK Government meet water resources reporting obligations
- Deliver UK data to international data-sharing initiatives



Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



Photo - Jamie Hannaford, CEH

What can we offer?

NRFA delivers hydrometric data and analysis to a wide range of users, including UK government departments, academia, consultancies and the water industry. NRFA services include:

- Daily mean flow data for rivers across the UK
- Catchment rainfall and spatial information to support river flow interpretation
- A Hydrometric Register and web-based portal cataloguing gauging stations on the NRFA
- Monthly Hydrological Summaries for the UK and Annual Hydrological Reviews
- Reports on major floods and droughts
- Information on long-term hydrological trends in the UK
- Advice on hydrometric data management practices
- Hydrological expertise and advice for the general public and media

How to access the NRFA

- The NRFA website <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/data/nrfa/> provides access to data, reports and other services
- A data-retrieval and enquiries service offers access to data and hydrological advice by 'phone (+44 (0)1491 692599) or email (nrfa@ceh.ac.uk)

Who are our partners?

The NRFA is steered by a network of hydrometric stakeholder organisations, comprising:

- Natural Environment Research Council (including the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and British Geological Survey)
- Defra and the devolved administrations
- UK hydrometric and meteorological measuring agencies: EA, SEPA, Rivers Agency, Met Office
- British Hydrological Society/CIWEM
- UK Water Industry

