

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Environmental Data Service (EDS) Digital Object identifier (DOI) Policy



Working with [DataCite](#) and the [British Library](#), the NERC Environmental Data Service (EDS) implemented the use of [Digital Object Identifiers](#) (DOIs), a type of Persistent Identifier (PID), in 2011.

The EDS encourages its environmental data centres (EDCs) to assign a DOI to all deposited data resources, where it is appropriate to do so. All DOIs assigned by the EDS are registered with DataCite and are compliant with DataCite requirements.

The EDS will assign DOIs to datasets and other data resources that are held in one of its five Environmental Data Centres. DOIs can also be assigned to collections, or series of data resources as long as the individual resources making up the series/collection meet the requirements necessary to mint a DOI for them.

DOIs are assigned with the NERC EDS prefix (10.5285). All DOIs resolve to a publicly available landing page. All data resources given a DOI will be held by the EDS for the foreseeable future and remain accessible (see also "Withdrawal policy" (below) for exceptions to this).

DOI allocation and mandatory requirements

DOIs are allocated by DataCite. In order to provide a DOI, a mandatory set of metadata elements are required. These are defined by DataCite and may change over time ([see the most current DataCite Metadata Schema for details](#)). Elements include, for example, a title, authors/creators and date of publication. Metadata provided to DataCite are often far richer than the mandatory properties required as the EDS adheres to the UK GEMINI metadata standard.

Authorship

Depositing to a NERC Data Centre is taken by the EDS to mean that all the listed authors/creators have agreed to the publication of the data and supporting information/metadata, including the author list. The DOI requester is responsible for having ensured that this agreement has been reached and that all authors have agreed to be listed.

Modifications to data resources

In line with DataCite guidance, once a DOI has been assigned, major modifications to data resources are not normally accepted. Major modifications will result in the old version being withdrawn (see withdrawal policy) and a new version being issued with a new DOI.

Modifications to metadata

Once a DOI has been assigned, modifications to mandatory metadata (i.e., title, authors/creators, date of publication, publisher) will not normally be permitted.

Withdrawal policy

Content held by the EDS and given a DOI is intended for long-term preservation. However, there may be infrequent cases where it is not desirable for the item described by a DOI to be available publicly. Reasons for withdrawal might include:

- Proven copyright violation or plagiarism
- Falsified research
- Legal requirements
- National security
- Data are found to contain errors

A withdrawn item will retain its DOI and the landing page (metadata) will still be publicly available online along with a withdrawal notice. The withdrawal notice will clearly state the reason for the withdrawal, and where possible, the date of withdrawal. Users may still be able to submit a request for a copy of the data resource to the responsible Environmental Data Centre.