

Participant Information Sheet

Title of Project: Floods and Droughts Research Infrastructure (FDRI)

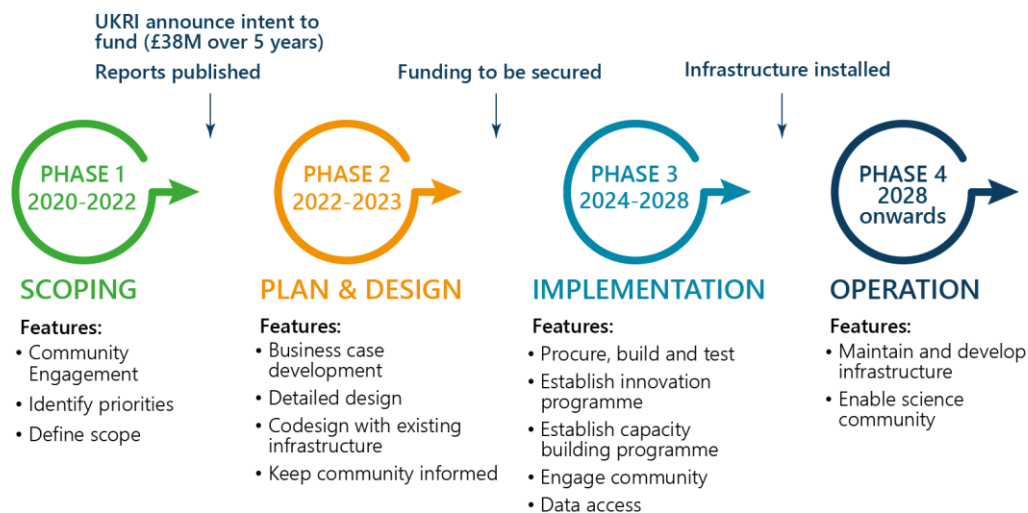
Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a feedback process for the Floods and Droughts Research Infrastructure ([FDRI](#)) project. Taking part in the feedback process is voluntary and your decision. To help you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve from you.

What is the purpose of the study?

FDRI is a major new capital investment by the UK Government that will enable essential science and innovation to improve the UK's resilience to hydrological extremes. It is being led by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology ([UKCEH](#)) with project partners; the British Geological Survey ([BGS](#)), the [University of Bristol](#) and [Imperial College London](#).

FDRI phases



The project has already been through a [Scoping Phase](#), which involved extensive user engagement to understand community needs for the infrastructure, and a [Planning Phase](#), where the FDRI delivery team worked to establish the FDRI governance, recruit key team members and develop a robust business case. Thank you if you have already been involved with one of our activities; the outcomes have been summarised in published [reports](#). Funding has since been secured for FDRI with the project launch formally announced in August 2024.

The FDRI team have been working with many of you to help understand the River Chess sub-catchment. With this information we have created a perceptual model of the hydrological features and processes in the catchment. Perceptual models are fundamental to FDRI as they will be used to develop catchment monitoring designs.

We are now asking for your feedback on the Chess perceptual model. We need your help to check if we have missed any important knowledge or existing understanding of the hydrological features and processes in the catchment. Your feedback will help us to design the catchment monitoring network more effectively so the infrastructure can better serve the needs of users and the wider community.

Why have I been asked/offered the opportunity to take part?

You have been invited because you have signed up to the FDR I mailing list and therefore have been identified as a potential user or stakeholder of the FDR I project.

You will be asked to read a perceptual model document and then answer an online survey in a UKCEH-approved third-party online survey platform, [JISC](#).

Do I have to take part?

No. Participating in this feedback process is voluntary, and entirely your decision/choice. If you do not want to take part, that is ok.

Can I change my mind about taking part?

If you change your mind about being involved you can withdraw from the process at any time, without giving a reason, and your contributions will be removed from the outputs. You should contact the FDR I Project Office if you wish to do so. You can find contact details at the bottom of this page.

What will happen to information collected about me?

Your personal data will only be used if we need to follow up with you to clarify or discuss your answers to this feedback form. Any personal data will be carefully managed according to existing FDR I protocols. All information will be kept securely in a UKCEH database with restricted access to project staff at UKRI-NERC, UKCEH, BGS, University of Bristol, Imperial College London and Lancaster University. Data will only be shared amongst authorised partner staff; they must follow rules contained within a project collaboration agreement about keeping your information safe.

Information we may collect about you may include:

- name and title
- contact details (email and/or phone number)
- organisation
- job title

Personal data will be stored until the end of the project. After this your anonymised data will be deposited within UKCEH digital file archives for long-term storage, and it may be accessed by other researchers.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- in the [FDRI Privacy Notice](#)
- by contacting the FDRI Project Office. You can find contact details at the bottom of this page

What will happen to the results of the feedback form?

The results of the feedback form will be used by FDRI team members to inform and design the next version of the FDRI perceptual model for the Chess catchment. We will not make changes to the perceptual model which result from responses to this feedback form attributable to you or the organisation(s) you represent. Anonymised summary information may be made internally and publicly available within FDRI outputs (e.g. community reports or presentation), ensuring you cannot be identified from the information provided.

Who is organising and funding this project and feedback process?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is the funder of this project; FDRI partner organisations have joint responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as Joint Data Controllers for the study.

Further information and contact details

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you would like to take part in the survey please continue to the Microsoft form.

If you would like any further information, please contact the FDRI Project Office. They will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Contact details:

Name: FDRI Project Office

Email: fdri@ceh.ac.uk

Postal address: UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8BB

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the UK Research Ethics Committee ukcehresearchethics@ceh.ac.uk

