



Background:

- No UK national specimen archive despite annual collection and archiving activities costing estimated £16 million.
- Lack of information about what has been collected results in under-exploitation of archived specimens
- Lost opportunity in:
 - developing new science
 - identify emerging environmental pressures and threats
- We surveyed 86 UK-based organisations - what samples were collected, how and why they were archived, type of facility)
- We developed the concept and outline functionality of a UK virtual Environmental Specimen Bank (UK-vESB)
- We built a catalogue and have added initial entries

Collector provision of key metadata enables the UK-vESB to act as a discovery portal

Sample curation and ownership under this model remains with the collector

Welcome to the Home page of the UK Environmental Specimen Bank (UK-ESB).

Scientists have been systematically taking environmental specimens from representative ecosystems in the United Kingdom for many years. These samples have been classified and stored appropriately so that the chemical composition of the substances remains unchanged.

Our catalogue enables users to find and access environmental samples and provides details of sample availability, access restrictions, archive location, etc.



Find and access samples



Create a catalogue entry



Help



About Us

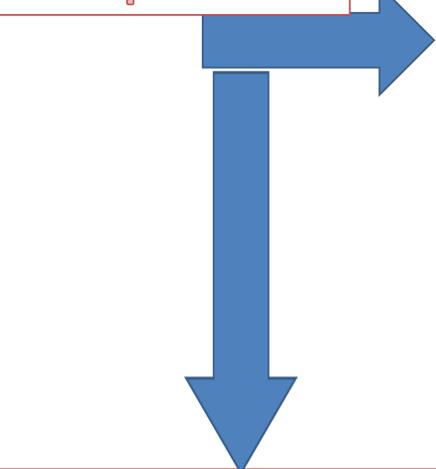


External Links



Contact us

Find UK archive facilities; access samples and specimens



Search the catalogue – example of entries to date

Sample archive
National Fish Tissue Archive
Fish collected in the field by the Environment Agency are frozen on site

Sample archive
Cardiff University Otter Project
The Otter Project runs a long term environmental surveillance scheme project records observations, measurements and biological specimens

Sample archive
Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)
The Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) investigates wildlife pesticide use after approval, so that product approvals can be revised

Sample archive
Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS)



Interrogate a catalogue entry - access more information

Key fields include:

- specimen type,
- availability,
- access restrictions,
- storage,
- temporal extent,
- web. address,
- contact information

Specimen Types	Tissue Wing Feather Egg Bone
Availability	On a case by case basis
Access Restrictions	PBMS must be cited in a
Storage	PBMS archived specime numbered trays.
Health and Safety	Freezer

We aim to encourage submission of information on key national specimen archives over the following 12 months