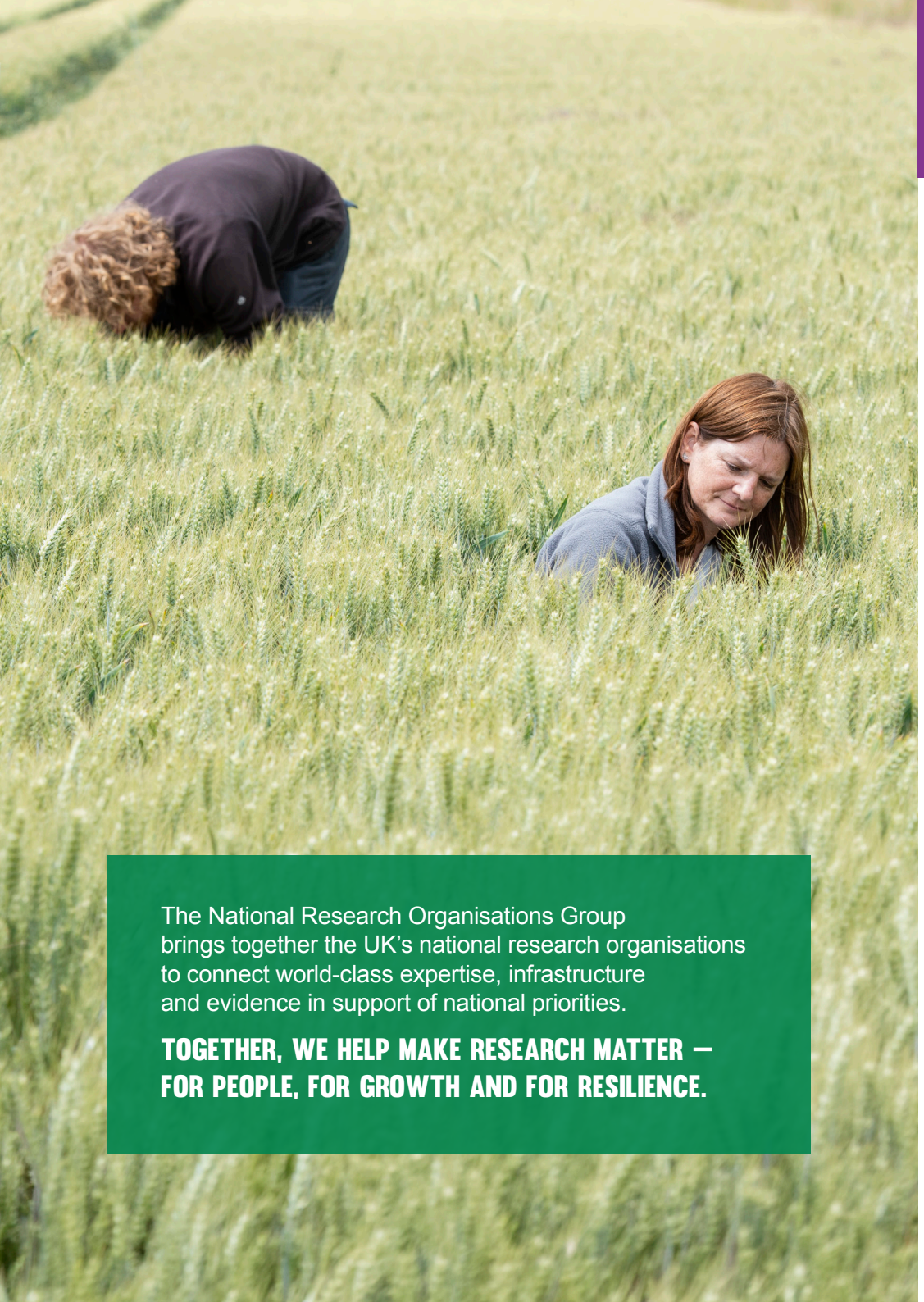
MAKING RESEARCH MATTER



The National Research Organisations Group brings together the UK's national research organisations to connect world-class expertise, infrastructure and evidence in support of national priorities.

TOGETHER, WE HELP MAKE RESEARCH MATTER — FOR PEOPLE, FOR GROWTH AND FOR RESILIENCE.

FOREWORD

Dr Stuart Wainwright
NRO Group Director,
CEO UKCEH

Claire Hook
NRO Steering Group Chair,
COO Francis Crick Institute

The launch of the National Research Organisations (NRO) Group marks a defining moment for UK science.

For the first time, the UK's leading public research organisations - home to world-class facilities, unique national capabilities and some of the brightest scientific minds - are coming together with a shared purpose: to unlock the full power of science.

The organisations that make up the NRO are an extraordinary collective asset. Across our community, thousands of people work every day to generate trusted data, advance knowledge and translate scientific insight into real-world impact. From climate and health to security, energy and emerging technologies, they underpin the UK's ability to respond to complex national challenges.

The creation of the NRO signals a step-change in how that capability is connected and made visible. By working as a strategically aligned community, the NRO will provide a clearer interface to government, industry and academia, helping expertise move more effectively from science into decision-making.

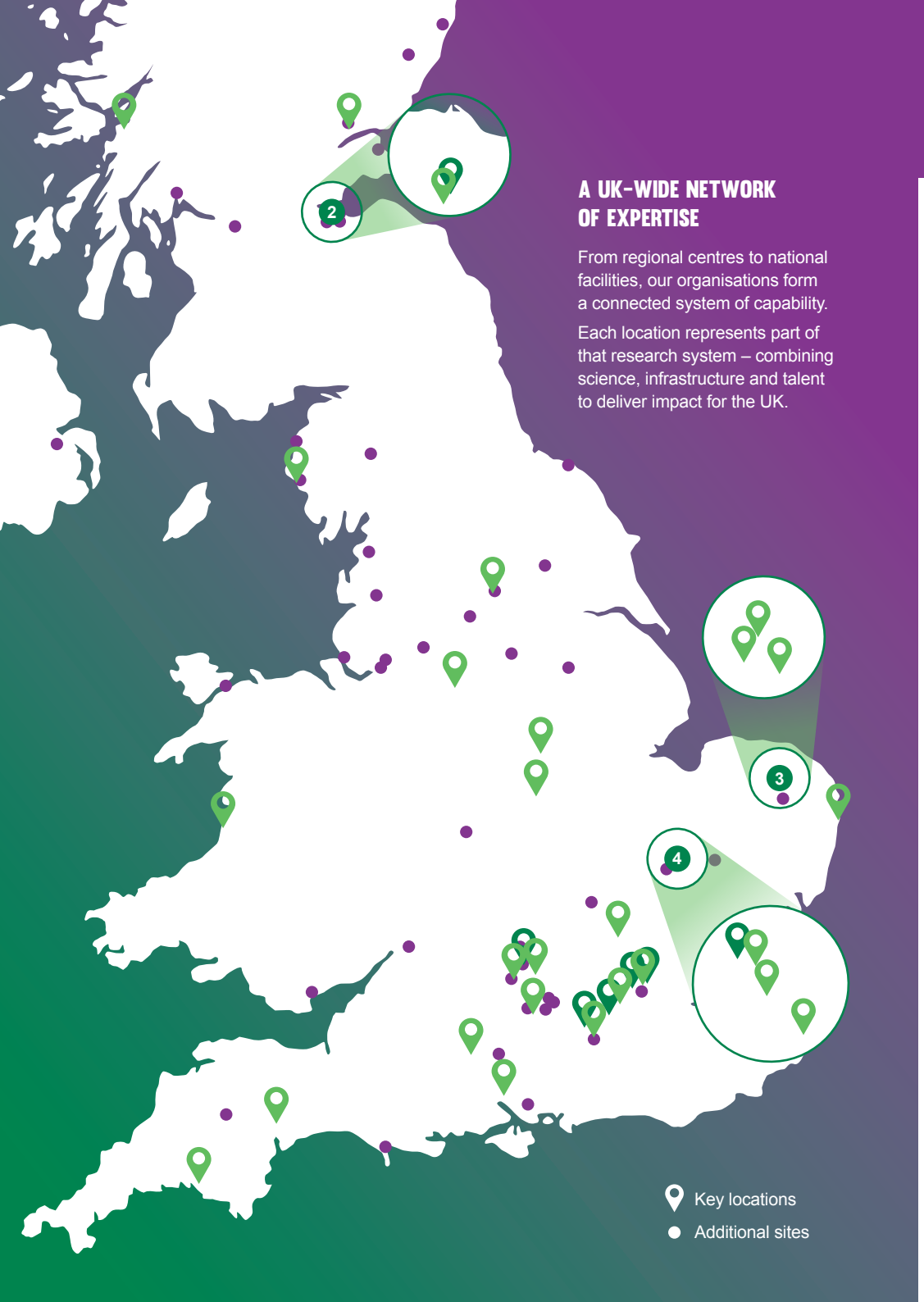
"OUR STRENGTH LIES IN OUR BREADTH. OUR IMPACT COMES FROM HOW WE CONNECT IT."

The organisations featured in this publication bring this vision to life. They show how national research organisations turn scientific excellence into tangible benefit: informing policy, accelerating innovation, strengthening resilience and delivering economic and societal value.

As we mark this launch, our ambition is clear. This is not just another forum; it is the foundation of a more joined-up, responsive and impactful research system. With the NRO Group, the NRO community can achieve more together than any organisation could deliver alone.

The opportunity is significant, the moment is now and together we will make research matter more than ever.

MAKING RESEARCH MATTER — FOR PEOPLE, FOR GROWTH, FOR THE UK.



A UK-WIDE NETWORK OF EXPERTISE

From regional centres to national facilities, our organisations form a connected system of capability.

Each location represents part of that research system – combining science, infrastructure and talent to deliver impact for the UK.

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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WORK

NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

The Alan Turing Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Alan Turing Institute is the UK's National Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI), operationally independent of government and commercial interests but delivering impact with both. We undertake research which tackles some of the biggest challenges in science, society, and the economy. We collaborate with universities, businesses and public and third sector organisations to apply this research to real-world problems, with lasting effects for science, the economy, and the world we live in. We specifically support national resilience by building sovereign AI capability for the UK through research, knowledge exchange and public engagement.

OUR IMPACT

At the Turing, we are building sovereign AI capability to strengthen our national resilience, giving the UK access to models and methods designed or tailored for national needs, maintaining choice and control over the technologies that will shape the coming decades. The Institute delivers frontier research combined with prototyping and engineering delivery to deepen understanding of how trusted and reliable AI can be designed, evaluated, and deployed. We work with our partners across government, academia, and industry to translate research into cutting-edge, sovereign AI capability for key national resilience application areas: defence, national security, including critical national infrastructure protection, environment and sustainability.

CASE STUDY: AI-ENHANCED FORECASTING

Accurate, timely weather forecasting saves lives and protects livelihoods. But it's complex, resource-intensive, and often too slow or lacking local detail. With the Met Office, we created FastNet – a new AI model that forecasts weather patterns. By building meteorological expertise and physics into the AI, the system produces sharper, more realistic forecasts. This reduces the "blurring" common in AI predictions and preserves the fine detail needed for tracking storms. We aim to deliver the first major deployment of an AI-enhanced forecasting model by a national meteorological agency - a sovereign capability supporting decision-makers across sectors.

330

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI EPSRC, UK DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

LONDON

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Animal and Plant Health Agency

WHAT WE DO

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is the UK government's expert agency, combining world class science, surveillance and regulation, to protect animal, plant and bee health and animal welfare, helping safeguard people, the economy and the environment across the UK. It supports government by preventing and responding to pests, diseases and biosecurity threats, regulating welfare, strengthening food security, and enabling safe, trusted trade. Designated with 49 national and 23 international reference laboratories, APHA provides surveillance, diagnostics, research, inspection and emergency response. Internationally, it shapes standards, shares expertise, builds capability overseas and works with partners to reduce disease risks at source, supporting UK biosecurity, productivity and global confidence in UK government delivery priorities.

OUR IMPACT

APHA's work has a direct impact on everyday life, protecting the UK's food security, economy, environment and public health. By detecting and controlling animal and plant diseases, strengthening borders and improving surveillance, APHA helps stop outbreaks before they spread, safeguards trade, and supports farmers, growers and businesses to thrive underpinning the UK's agriculture and food industries. Its science and expertise help tackle global threats such as zoonotic disease, antimicrobial resistance, invasive species and climate-related risks. From local communities to international partners, APHA builds confidence in UK animals, plants and products, shapes global standards, and helps keep the nation resilient, productive and secure for future generations too.

CASE STUDY: APHA'S RESPONSE TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

APHA is the UK's frontline defence against avian influenza, bringing together world-leading science, rapid diagnostics and outbreak expertise to identify threats early and reduce the impact of spread. As the National and International Reference Laboratory, APHA's coordinated action helped shield the £4 billion UK poultry industry from greater losses, protecting poultry, supporting trade and strengthening national biosecurity. During the UK's biggest ever outbreaks, since 2021, APHA delivered tens of thousands of tests, developed faster PCR methods and used cutting-edge genomics to identify dangerous strains within hours, demonstrating our national capability for disease surveillance and our high-containment laboratory network, coordinating internationally to lead on tackling the global disease threat.

3,200

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

WEYBRIDGE, REGIONAL LABORATORIES AND OFFICES ACROSS ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

AWE – Nuclear Security Technologies

WHAT WE DO

AWE – Nuclear Security Technologies's purpose is to protect the UK through nuclear science and technology. Our mission is to design and manufacture warheads and deliver nuclear services to support national defence and we play a central role in supporting the UK's Continuous at Sea Deterrent (CASD).

CASD is vital to our national security and that of our NATO allies. It provides round-the-clock protection against future threats.

AWE supports security through our nuclear threat reduction and counter-terrorism abilities, working with government to counter radiological and nuclear threats, and contributing to international efforts to detect and deter nuclear testing.

OUR IMPACT

The Government is committed to maintaining an independent nuclear deterrent.

The 2025 Strategic Defence Review confirmed £15 billion of investment in the warhead programme – supporting long-term national capability, scientific and technical skills, and economic growth.

The scale and complexity of this work is a critical national endeavour. AWE is responsible for delivering Astraea, the UK's replacement nuclear warhead, while maintaining the current in-service warhead, Trident, and developing solutions to counter emerging threats and terrorism.

AWE's unique and vital role in UK defence is at the forefront of nuclear technology and innovation. We help keep the nation – and our allies – safe and secure.

CASE STUDY

Our capabilities are built on a unique combination of remarkable people, scientific expertise, and engineering excellence – underpinned by decades of experience that place us at the forefront of nuclear innovation.

We're proud of the part we play in enabling the Government's policy and protecting the UK's citizens.

Every scientist we inspire, every apprentice we train has a direct impact on our future: all our futures. It's a role we carry with pride, attracting brilliant minds, developing extraordinary capabilities, and securing Britain's place at the forefront of nuclear science for the next 75 years and beyond.

9,000

PRIMARY FUNDER: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ALDERMASTON, BURGHFIELD, BLACKNEST, COULPORT AND READING

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Babraham Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Babraham Institute is a life science research institute dedicated to making the fundamental discoveries needed to maintain health and improve wellbeing throughout life. Our ground-breaking research in human biology sparks the innovative advances which will improve and protect lifelong health.

A particular focus is how we age and studying the underlying mechanisms controlling this process, for example how older people respond differently to infection compared to the young. To answer these questions we examine the regulation of gene expression, the control of cell function by signalling processes and the complex cellular interactions that produce an effective immune response.

OUR IMPACT

Ageing is a societal grand challenge, while lifespan has increased in recent decades, these gains are not matched by increased years spent in good health. If we are to understand and ameliorate deficits in healthspan we need to understand the complex alterations in biological functions that lead to ageing.

Insights gained from the Institute's fundamental research may lead to changes to public advice on healthy living, wellbeing and ageing; could influence public health policies; and may underpin translational research and the creation of new therapies and treatments to improve and protect lifelong health.

300

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

BABRAHAM AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

British Antarctic Survey

British Antarctic Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

WHAT WE DO

British Antarctic Survey (BAS) delivers world-leading interdisciplinary research in the Polar Regions, advancing understanding of Earth systems and humanity's impact on them. Based in Cambridge, Antarctica and the Arctic, BAS scientists and support staff collaborate on research into climate change, polar oceans, land and sea ice, ecosystems, atmospheric conditions and space weather. In addition, BAS also provides essential operational support for the UK's presence in Antarctica. Working with partners including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), BAS combines science, logistics and innovation to address challenges and inform policy that impacts society around the world. BAS is a world-leader in polar science and logistics and is partner of choice in many international collaborations for ambitious, large-scale polar projects.

OUR IMPACT

Our research has significantly advanced global understanding of climate change, polar ecosystems and Earth's environmental systems. BAS science expertise has informed international climate policy by providing critical evidence on melting ice sheets, rising sea levels and changing ocean circulation. Our long-term monitoring of the Antarctic atmosphere led to the discovery of the ozone hole in 1985, shaping global environmental agreements. BAS science also improves forecasting of extreme weather, space weather and ecosystem change, supporting governments, industry (including fisheries, satellite industry, ice forecasts for polar shipping) and communities worldwide.

CASE STUDY

We create impact by transforming polar research into real-world solutions for global challenges. Our research on the polar ice sheets helps governments and decisionmakers to prepare for global sea-level rise. Our expertise in space weather helps protect satellites, communications, GPS, aviation and banking systems from solar disruption. BAS technology originally designed to study Antarctic ice is now being adapted to detect water in some of the world's driest regions, and real-time sea ice maps and forecasting tools improve ship safety in hazardous polar waters. The impact of BAS supports advances in science, sustainability and contributes to economic resilience worldwide.

700+

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI NERC

CAMBRIDGE, ANTARCTICA AND ARCTIC

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

British Geological Survey

British Geological Survey

WHAT WE DO

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is a world-leading geological survey and global geoscience organisation, focused on delivering public-good science for government and broader research to understand earth and environmental processes.

We are the UK's premier provider of objective and authoritative geoscientific data, information and knowledge which helps society to use natural resources responsibly, manage environmental change and be resilient to environmental hazards.

We generate data, information and expertise through observation, analysis and characterisation of the Earth and its geological processes - monitoring at multiple temporal scales, from real-time to multi-decadal. We are independent and impartial.

OUR IMPACT

We use our geological expertise to address societal challenges at regional, national and global levels, providing impartial advice to decision-makers, industry and academia.

Our work enables the effective and responsible use of the subsurface, supporting the energy transition and providing resource security for the UK.

We aim to optimise the sustainable use of groundwater resources and enhance their role in water security, climate change adaptation, human health and human livelihoods.

We monitor, characterise and forecast natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes) and their likely impacts, helping communities live with geological hazards.

We work with partners worldwide to enhance understanding of the subsurface, enabling governments, industry and the public to make better decisions regarding geology and associated processes in managing the economy, the environment and society.

CASE STUDY

The National Geological Repository (NGR) is the UK's most comprehensive collection of geological materials, consisting of over 16 million specimens assembled over 200 years. The collection acts as both an evidence base of previous scientific endeavours and a resource for new and future research.

Economic analysis shows that the NGR generates significant savings for major energy and infrastructure projects through access and re-use of pre-drilled rock core. This includes:

- £1.5 billion in avoided drilling and analysis costs for major energy and infrastructure projects over the last 20 years
- Time-savings of around three years per infrastructure project through access to legacy core samples

A recent evaluation found the NGR delivers a return on investment of £36 for every £1 spent on the continued operation of the facility.

600

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI NERC

KEYWORTH (NOTTINGHAM), EDINBURGH, CARDIFF AND BELFAST

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science

WHAT WE DO

Through our science at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), we work to strengthen food security, restore the marine environment and support economic growth.

Our applied science, evidence and advice, enables the marine and freshwater environment to provide the essentials of life - food, water, energy and health, now and for future generations.

OUR IMPACT

By providing critical national scientific capability, we lead marine science for Defra/Government, working across organisations, sectors and borders. We respond to emergencies and build resilience in marine and freshwater systems. We work across the UK and internationally, to share knowledge and grow expertise.

Our expertise focuses on addressing knowledge gaps and influencing better decision making. By understanding the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we help to balance the needs of nature, society and the economy, safeguarding security, livelihoods and wellbeing.

CASE STUDY

As a centre of scientific excellence, we apply our unique capability to address the most complex and interlinked environmental challenges including clean energy expansion and spatial co-existence; sustainable fisheries and blue growth; and recovering or sustaining marine ecosystems in a changing climate.

Our Research Vessel Cefas Endeavour operates for up to 300 days a year in the UK Shelf Seas collecting evidence used in seabed mapping, fish stock assessments, habitat surveys, pollution monitoring and analysis of changes in water temperature, pH and chemical composition.

The breadth of our applied capability in the marine and freshwater domain means that we can quickly and effectively support government multi-disciplinary responses to emergencies and incidents, like the collision between the Solong and Stena Immaculate in 2025.

600

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

LOWESTOFT AND WEYMOUTH, RESEARCH VESSEL CEFAS ENDEAVOUR

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

[dstl] Delivering Mission Success

WHAT WE DO

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) provides science, technology and analysis to support UK defence and security. As an executive agency of the Ministry of Defence, it delivers high-impact research and advice to help protect the UK and its interests. Dstl works across a wide range of disciplines, from cyber and artificial intelligence to chemical and biological defence, ensuring the Armed Forces and government have cutting-edge capabilities. It collaborates extensively with industry, academia and international partners to translate innovative ideas into operational advantage, while maintaining sovereign expertise in critical areas of national security.

OUR IMPACT

Dstl's work underpins the UK's ability to respond to evolving threats and maintain strategic advantage. Its science and technology enable better decision-making, enhance military capability, and support national resilience in areas such as counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and chemical and biological threat protection. Dstl also drives innovation across the UK economy by partnering with businesses and universities, helping to grow high-tech sectors and strengthen supply chains. Its contributions ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of defence and security science, safeguarding the public and supporting international stability.

CASE STUDY

Dstl has played a critical role in strengthening the UK's chemical and biological defence capabilities at Porton Down. By combining world-leading laboratory science with operational expertise, Dstl provides rapid detection, analysis, and response to hazardous threats. During national and international incidents, Dstl's specialists deliver trusted scientific advice to government and emergency responders, enabling effective and timely decisions. This capability is unique in the UK, ensuring readiness against high-impact risks such as chemical attacks or emerging biological threats, and reinforcing national resilience. As well as other niche defence and national security expertise, Dstl has sovereign energetics capabilities, including the Forensic Explosives Laboratory which investigates the misuse of explosives by terrorists and criminals.

4,800

PRIMARY FUNDER: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PORTON DOWN (WILTSHIRE) AND PORTSDOWN WEST (HAMPSHIRE)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Diamond Light Source

WHAT WE DO

Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron – a world-class science facility that produces intense X-ray beams for cutting-edge research. Located at the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire, Diamond's electron accelerator generates extremely bright X-rays delivered to dozens of specialised beamlines (experimental stations). The facility supports thousands of scientists each year from academia and industry, who use its beams to study the atomic structure of samples, from mapping proteins and viruses to developing new materials for clean energy. Diamond also hosts national centres for cryo-electron microscopy, extending its ultra-high-resolution imaging capabilities in the life and physical sciences.

OUR IMPACT

Diamond's unique infrastructure delivers major scientific and economic benefits. By providing state-of-the-art research tools, it enables breakthroughs in fields like structural biology, materials science and clean energy, boosting the UK's scientific output and international competitiveness. Discoveries made at Diamond, reflected in thousands of research publications, have improved understanding of diseases, advanced vaccine development, and driven innovation in technologies from batteries to aerospace. Diamond also accelerates industry innovation: its facilities and experts help companies develop new products and processes. An independent review found Diamond delivers a substantial return on investment to the UK economy, underscoring its value to national science and innovation.

CASE STUDY: FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE – SYNCHROTRON SCIENCE STRENGTHENING BIOSECURITY

Diamond's powerful X-ray facility was crucial in developing a new foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine, a breakthrough achieved with The Pirbright Institute. Diamond enabled scientists to visualise the FMD virus's structure at the atomic level, a capability unique to a national synchrotron, guiding the design of an effective, stable vaccine. This success highlights Diamond's national role in tackling urgent animal and public health challenges by powering cutting-edge science and collaboration. The resulting vaccine strengthens the UK's agricultural biosecurity, helping safeguard livestock and the rural economy.

850

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI STFC

HARWELL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CAMPUS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Earlham Institute

WHAT WE DO

We work at the interface of bioscience and computational science to accelerate discovery and innovation in life science research and deliver societal impact in the areas of health, biotechnology and food security. We generate key datasets and develop software tools for the research community. We also provide national coordination and leadership in data standards to enable data sharing among the bioscience research community.

OUR IMPACT

We provide national facilities in genomic analysis and engineering biology that provides researchers in industry and academia across the UK to access cutting edge technologies.

Datasets, such as the genome sequence of bread wheat help to accelerate breeding programmes as well as basic research. Software developed at EI is being used by researchers around the world to understand the structure and function of microbial communities in the soil and in human guts.

An independent economic impact study estimates that EI return of nearly £13 globally for every £1 invested.

CASE STUDY

Earlham Institute combines development of novel technologies with computational approaches to generate and analyse novel datasets. For example, EI has led development of single-cell RNA and DNA sequencing protocols, collaborating with multiple academic and industry leaders.

Scientists at EI are combining single-cell analysis methods with long-read sequencing to investigate cell differentiation in both health and disease. For example, our teams have also worked with genetic therapy company ISOgenix in support of their mission to transform the lives of patients with serious diseases through novel isoform-based therapies.

We also make this technology available to the wider community through our National Bioscience Research Infrastructure. We also train researchers in these technologies and analyse single cell datasets through our advanced Training Program.

125

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

NORWICH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

The Francis Crick Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical discovery institute with the mission of understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease. This includes research into cancer, developmental and stem cell mechanisms, genes and genomics, infection, immunology, neuroscience and structural, chemical and computational biology.

We break down barriers between disciplines to create a space where talented and ambitious scientists can pursue big and bold ideas. Our researchers work in an environment that fosters excellence through state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology alongside a creative and curious culture.

We are prepared to take risks on unusual, pioneering research, and with the help of our partners, we aim to bridge the gap between research and application so that our discoveries can change lives for the better.

OUR IMPACT

Crick researchers are changing how disease is understood and treated. Discoveries made across our labs feed into work with clinical and industry partners to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The Crick's work is also reaching beyond scientific discovery, through training, education, public engagement and community programmes that connect people with science and support the next generation of science leaders.

Together, this work advances fundamental understanding of human biology while translating discovery into benefits for health and building a wider understanding of science and its place in the economy.

CASE STUDY

Research at the Crick has led to the launch of ALTx Therapeutics, a spinout translating fundamental insights in genome integrity and DNA damage repair, into new treatments for cancer. ALTx is developing therapies targeting the Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT) pathway, used by around 10–15% of cancers to enable unlimited growth.

Crick scientists identified and validated genetic targets, supported by in house specialist expertise and technology platforms spanning chemical biology, structural biology and screening. This group is uniquely positioned to support early drug discovery for novel biology emerging from the institute.

Backed by £12.55 million in funding, ALTx is now advancing these targets towards the clinic, demonstrating how the Crick progresses discovery science into first in class therapeutics.

2,000

PRIMARY FUNDER: CANCER RESEARCH UK, UKRI MRC AND WELLCOME

LONDON

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Health and Safety Executive – Science, Engineering and Analysis Division

WHAT WE DO

The Science, Engineering and Analysis Division of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), is a national facility and provides an embedded Public Sector Research Establishment (PSRE) to HSE, wider Government and the private sector. Primarily based at its extensive facility in Buxton, it serves to provide the evidence and scientific foundation for HSE's regulatory and policy activities, delivering this through research, testing and experimentation, and accident investigation, working closely with HSE's policy and regulatory staff. Collaboration, both Nationally and Internationally, is a key feature of the work with a particular focus on enabling new technologies to reach market with due regard for safety and compliance, research outcomes being published and disseminated wherever possible.

OUR IMPACT

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety, dedicated to protecting people and places, and helping everyone lead safer and healthier lives. However, our role goes beyond worker protection to include public assurance, working to ensure people feel safe where they live, where they work and in their environment. The fact that the UK has the lowest number workplace fatalities of any developed country in the world clearly demonstrates the impact of HSE's approach to regulation, which itself depends upon having robust, clear and reliable scientific evidence upon which to base decisions, policies and actions. The Science, Engineering and Analysis Division generates that evidence.

CASE STUDY

Over 20 years ago scientists at HSE began pre-normative research to understand the safety implications of using hydrogen at scale, recognising that it was going to be used in greater quantities and in increasingly wider applications in order to deliver the UK's Net Zero ambitions. Unique facilities were built at HSE's Buxton site to support science at scale and research has been carried out in order to generate the fundamental knowledge needed to facilitate the safe uptake of hydrogen across a range of sectors. HSE has worked closely with major private sector organisations and Government Departments, addressing and mitigating emerging risks associated with the storage, transport and use of hydrogen at full scale. Focus has recently shifted to cryogenic liquid hydrogen with our capability and facilities now recognised as the UK's leading centre for experimentation with hydrogen in this form, its facilities and expertise being used by both Government and industry.

550

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE AND 20 LOCATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

ibers
CNYDAU GWYDN
RESILIENT CROPS

WHAT WE DO

Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) is a research institute committed to ensuring humanity can sustainably produce the food, feed and plant-based industrial resources it needs. Drawing on a century of plant breeding expertise, our scientists undertake fundamental and applied research that underpins the breeding of improved varieties of resilient crops, makes grassland agriculture more sustainable and enables industry to develop new processes and products. As a strategically funded BBSRC institute, we provide the UK with a national capability in grassland and plant breeding science, supporting strategic food security, bioenergy, climate resilience and economic growth objectives.

OUR IMPACT

IBERS works collaboratively with industry to better understand the challenges facing modern agriculture and to move new varieties, sustainable farming practices and industrial processes from the laboratory into the real world. Many IBERS-bred varieties are on the UK's recommended lists and our commercial collaborations with companies such as Germinal and Senova ensure innovation is taken to market. More than 95% of all winter oats, 75% of winter beans and 35% of forage crops grown across the UK originate from our breeding programmes. As a result, our crop varieties are grown on approximately 2 million hectares of agricultural land in the UK. We help start-ups validate innovations, attract funding and launch new products in the bio-economy. We also share knowledge through policy engagement and through a range of CPD agrifood programmes.

CASE STUDY

Red and white clovers can improve the sustainability of livestock production by reducing the need for inorganic fertilisers and providing a home-grown protein source as an alternative to imported soya. However, their use has been limited by poor persistence and resilience in mixed swards or as monocultures. Scientists at IBERS have addressed this through innovative plant breeding and genomics. In a world first, white clover was crossed with Caucasian clover to combine stoloniferous growth with a tap root, creating more resilient plants. This groundbreaking cross led to the development of AberLasting, which is now marketed commercially by Germinal as DoubleRoot.

140

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

ABERYSTWYTH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

The James Hutton Institute

The James Hutton Institute

WHAT WE DO

We are a world-leading independent scientific research organisation based in Scotland and collaborating with over 35 countries across the globe.

We find innovative socio-technological solutions to the challenges posed by the nature and climate crises on the sustainability and resilience of our crops, land and natural resources so that we can support thriving communities now and in the future.

Our science makes a vital contribution towards national and international commitments for sustainable development.

OUR IMPACT

Hutton delivers science based solutions to food, water and energy security and gives £15 of economic benefit to the UK, £9 of which is retained in Scotland for each £1 received in funding from the Scottish Government.

528

PRIMARY FUNDER: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

INVERGOWRIE, DUNDEE, ABERDEEN, GLENSAUGH, MYLNEFIELD AND BALRUDDERY. EDINBURGH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

John Innes Centre

WHAT WE DO

The John Innes Centre (JIC) is a national capability in plant and microbial science. We conduct long-term, interdisciplinary research that advances fundamental understanding of plants and their associated microbes, applying this knowledge for the benefit of humanity, the environment, and the UK economy.

We foster a creative, curiosity-driven approach to fundamental questions in bioscience, and specialise in a range of disciplines including genetics, advanced genomics, cell and molecular biology, chemistry, and engineering biology, alongside conserving national germplasm collections in wheat, barley, and pea.

We support food security and sustainable agriculture, nutrition and health, and the climate crisis via our HP3 vision: Healthy Plants, Healthy People, Healthy Planet. Our science strategy organises JIC's end-to-end science around three research themes: sustainable agriculture for a healthier planet; resilient plants in a changing environment; and next-generation medicines and diets.

OUR IMPACT

Over the last 115 years, we have achieved a range of fundamental breakthroughs, resulting in major societal impacts. Our science reaches every UK household, and across the world. For example, we identified the wheat semi-dwarfing genes which underpinned the 'Green Revolution', and provided the science for the production of many modern antibiotics. Our research changes textbooks, and unlocks key drivers in nature, including how plants sense the environment and flower in spring. We continue to innovate, including the famous 'purple tomatoes' now on sale in the USA, Canada and Australia.

CASE STUDY

A biological mechanism that makes plant roots more welcoming to beneficial soil microbes was discovered at JIC. This extraordinary discovery could mean less reliance on fertiliser, paving the way for more environmentally-friendly farming practices. The team isolated a mutation that enhances a plant's partnership with symbiotic fungi that increases nutrient uptake. They identified this mutation in wheat and confirmed beneficial effect in field experiments conducted at JIC's Research Field Station.

350 STAFF, 100 PHD STUDENTS

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

NORWICH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Met Office

WHAT WE DO

The Met Office is the UK's national meteorological service. It provides weather forecasts, severe weather warnings and climate information to help people make informed decisions to stay safe and thrive. The Met Office supports the public, government, emergency responders and businesses with trusted, science based information. It also carries out world leading climate research, improving understanding of weather, climate change and its impacts in the UK and globally. Using advanced technology and specialist expertise, the Met Office plays a vital role in protecting lives, property and the environment.

OUR IMPACT

The Met Office's work has a significant impact on lives, livelihoods and the UK economy. Accurate weather forecasts and early warnings help protect people and infrastructure from extreme weather, enabling emergency responders, businesses and communities to prepare and act. Its climate science supports government and industry to adapt to climate change, strengthening long-term resilience and sustainability. As well as this, the Met Office delivers substantial economic value by improving decision making across sectors such as aviation, energy, transport and health. An independent economic study published in 2024 concluded that the Met Office will deliver benefits worth £56 billion to the UK economy over the next ten years. This is equivalent to a return of almost £19 for every £1 of public money spent. Through trusted science and global collaboration, the Met Office helps the UK stay safe and plan confidently for the future.

CASE STUDY

The National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) demonstrates the Met Office's unique role as the UK's national meteorological service. The Met Office issues impact based weather warnings, combining expert forecasting with nationally developed weather models to assess both the likelihood and potential impacts of severe weather. These warnings are informed by Met Office forecast systems and long term climate knowledge, ensuring consistency and trust across government, emergency responders and the public. By producing and managing its own weather forecast models and climate projections, the Met Office provides an integrated end to end capability that no other UK organisation can replicate.

2,500

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

EXETER, ABERDEEN, OPERATIONAL OUTSTATIONS ACROSS THE UK AND UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Moredun Research Institute

WHAT WE DO

Moredun Research Institute conducts world-class research to improve livestock health and welfare through the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Established by farmers in 1920, Moredun remains closely connected to the practical needs of livestock keepers, vets, industry and policymakers. Its scientists investigate endemic and emerging diseases of agricultural importance, with expertise in parasitology, bacteriology, virology, immunology, pathology, diagnostics, vaccines, disease surveillance and epidemiology. Moredun also provides knowledge exchange, policy support and industry engagement, helping translate research evidence into practical action that supports animal health, sustainable farming, food security and the wider livestock sector.

OUR IMPACT

Moredun's research supports healthier livestock, more resilient farming systems and improved disease control in the UK and internationally. Its work has contributed to the development of vaccines, diagnostic tests, treatment strategies and practical disease-management approaches used by farmers, vets, industry and government. By reducing the burden of infectious disease, Moredun helps improve animal welfare, farm productivity, food security and the sustainability of livestock production. Its independent science also informs surveillance, horizon scanning and policy responses to endemic and emerging animal health threats, including diseases with wider implications for public health, trade and the rural economy.

CASE STUDY

Sheep scab, caused by infestation with Psoroptes ovis, costs the UK up to £200m annually. To improve its control, MRI scientists developed a sensitive blood test allowing targeted treatments. The Lewis and Harris project applied this test to control sheep scab in crofting systems with extensive common grazing. The approach was co-developed with crofters, vets, and the community, over 60,000 sheep were treated in coordinated dipping campaigns. The project produced impact through reduced disease prevalence, improved animal welfare, targeted treatments to prevent environmental contamination and provided a blueprint for expanding this approach into other island communities. Societal impacts were through collaboration of crofters for a common goal, strengthening social bonds and mental health within the community. Crofters noted the role of teamwork in rekindling shared purpose and optimism. Policy impact was realised through co-working with Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare division which sets a precedent for sustainable sheep scab control.

150

PRIMARY FUNDER: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

EDINBURGH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences

WHAT WE DO

The MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences (LMS) is a biomedical research institute that undertakes fundamental and translational research advancing our knowledge of human biology and disease. LMS priorities are the investigation of effects that life course, sex differences and environmental exposures have on health and disease. LMS research is built around a strong team science ethos, bringing together researchers with diverse expertise in metabolism, physiology, genetics, epigenetics, gene regulation and computational biology who tackle complex scientific and clinical challenges collaboratively. By combining discovery science with clinical insight and cutting-edge technologies, the LMS generates progress that translates into new tests and therapies and improved patient outcomes.

OUR IMPACT

Discoveries at LMS advance biomedical knowledge and spur new approaches to improving health. LMS research into gene regulation and metabolism reveals how our bodies adapt over lifetime and informs strategies for the prevention of diabetes and cancer and new therapies for heart disease and obesity. By integrating lab-based and clinical research, LMS accelerates the translation of fundamental discoveries into patient benefit. LMS systematically supports clinician scientists in discovery science and experimental medicine. Its Drug Discovery Hub helps turn promising research targets into new treatments. LMS develops advanced methods for the UK medical research community, also resulting in numerous viable spin-out companies.

CASE STUDY

LMS researchers led a study of more than 21,000 UK Biobank participants to investigate how body fat influences cardiovascular ageing. By combining whole-body and cardiac MRI imaging with artificial intelligence and clinical expertise, the team showed that visceral fat surrounding internal organs is associated with accelerated heart ageing. The study also revealed important sex differences, finding that fat stored around the hips and thighs may protect against heart ageing in women, while abdominal fat was linked to poorer outcomes. Published in the European Heart Journal (Losev et al., 2025), the findings received widespread international media coverage and highlighted new opportunities for disease prevention.

240

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI MRC

LONDON AND HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL CAMPUS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

WHAT WE DO

The MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) is dedicated to understanding important biological processes at the levels of atoms, molecules, cells and organisms.

By discovering how life works, we provide fundamental knowledge needed to solve key problems in human health.

Our curiosity-driven research spans the breadth of biology, from the origin of life to molecular machines, to the workings of cells, the immune system and the brain.

We are also advancing scientific missions that drive accelerated progress in brain science, cell biology, biological engineering and understanding neurodegeneration.

OUR IMPACT

Since our origins in 1947, the LMB has pioneered the molecular biology revolution and is a world-leading source of new ideas, scientific advances and technology.

The work of LMB researchers has been recognised with numerous accolades, including 12 Nobel Prizes.

From the first atomic protein structures to the development of monoclonal antibodies, LMB science has changed the world. Our discoveries have led to medical advances and highly successful commercialisations that have improved human life.

CASE STUDY

The development of monoclonal antibodies has provided targeted therapies for many chronic and severe diseases, improving lives worldwide.

Initially developed as a research tool at the LMB in the 1970s by César Milstein and Georges Kohler, immune cells were engineered to produce a single (monoclonal) antibody targeting specific cells or molecules.

Recognising their clinical potential, Greg Winter and Michael Neuberger later developed methods to ‘humanise’ monoclonals, making them safe for therapeutic use. Winter’s phage-display method proved game-changing.

Cambridge Antibody Technology, an LMB spin-out, was founded in 1989 to accelerate phage-display antibody drug discovery. In 2003 the first fully human monoclonal antibody drug, HUMIRA® – HUman Monoclonal Antibody In Rheumatoid Arthritis – was launched.

Monoclonals are now widely used to treat conditions including arthritis and cancer, and in diagnostics such as pregnancy, HIV and blood group tests. In 2024, five of the top ten global best-selling drugs were based on monoclonal antibody technology.

800

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI MRC

CAMBRIDGE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

National Centre for Atmospheric Science

National Centre for Atmospheric Science
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

WHAT WE DO

The National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) is a global leader in atmospheric research and innovation. We study the atmosphere, how it is changing, and its impacts on the environment, health, and prosperity. NCAS keeps the UK at the forefront of atmospheric science by supporting experimental campaigns, providing bespoke airborne and ground based measurements, maintaining long term observations and data archives, and delivering advanced climate and Earth system modelling. Funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, NCAS brings together expertise across UK universities and research institutes.

OUR IMPACT

Our research, skills, and infrastructure support climate resilience, clean air solutions, and early warning systems for high risk weather. We provide the academic community with access to state of the art facilities, data, and models to address key scientific challenges, ensuring international leadership in climate science. As an independent source of advice, NCAS supports evidence based decision making across government, industry, and society. Through an open science approach and by coordinating research efforts nationally and globally, we maximise impact while improving efficiency and reducing costs and environmental impacts.

CASE STUDY: NCAS NATIONAL CAPABILITY IN AIR QUALITY RESEARCH

NCAS leads nationally on air quality research, covering outdoor and indoor pollution. We integrate real world monitoring, long term observations, laboratory experiments, and advanced modelling to quantify emissions from sources such as transport, buildings, woodburning, fuels, consumer products, and cooking. Our work improves understanding of pollution transformation and its effects on health and the environment. NCAS research has informed major public health and policy initiatives, including Royal College of Physicians reports and government reviews. We have also identified persistent pollution inequalities affecting deprived and minoritised communities. By working with industry and contributing directly to Defra’s Air Quality Expert Group, we translate science into evidence that shapes national policy and future strategies.

250

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI NERC

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS (HQ) AND OTHER UK-WIDE UNIVERSITIES

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

National Centre for Earth Observation

National Centre for Earth Observation
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

WHAT WE DO

At the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO) we use satellite, aircraft, and ground observations to study the changing Earth system, from atmospheric composition to terrestrial carbon. It develops innovative algorithms and high quality environmental datasets, integrating observations with predictive models. With expertise in Earth system science, remote sensing, data quality, and mission design, NCEO contributes to over 20 international Earth observation missions. It provides scientific support to civil satellite programmes, including Copernicus and meteorological services. NCEO also operates digital research infrastructure, near real time data systems, archives, and instrument facilities, enabling global access to reliable Earth observation data and advancing understanding of environmental change for science, policy, and societal applications.

OUR IMPACT

The NCEO delivers world leading science that converts satellite data into actionable intelligence on climate, ecosystems, and hazards. Its evidence underpins UK and international policy, supporting climate reporting and mitigation targets, land use change, ocean ecosystems, and the Paris Agreement. NCEO's monitoring and modelling improve forecasting of extreme events, strengthening resilience and disaster response. Through partnerships with government, space agencies and industry, it accelerates innovation in the space and geospatial sectors, generating economic value and high skill jobs. Collaborations include satellite manufacturers, software companies, and service companies from agriculture to finance. By training experts, sharing knowledge and designing ground-breaking systems, NCEO ensures its insights translate into effective decisions, enabling a more sustainable, secure, and resilient future for society and environment. NCEO supports UK government policy leads with trusted technical insights and advice.

CASE STUDY

The NCEO, led by scientists at the University of Leeds, pioneered the first UK detection and mitigation of a methane leak from space. Using high-resolution GHGSat satellite data, NCEO researchers identified a major leak near Cheltenham emitting over 200 kg/hr while studying greenhouse gas measurements. They coordinated with partners to validate findings and triggered rapid industry action. Continued satellite monitoring tracked emissions up to 1,400 kg/hr before repairs halted the leak. NCEO's intervention prevented significant emissions, demonstrating how Earth observation can deliver timely, actionable insights to reduce greenhouse gases and support climate mitigation efforts globally.

160

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI NERC

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER AND OTHER UK-WIDE UNIVERSITIES

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

National Measurement Laboratory

NML
UK NATIONAL MEASUREMENT LABORATORY FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT HOSTED AT LGC

WHAT WE DO

The National Measurement Laboratory (NML) provides the UK's resilient chemical and biological measurement infrastructure across health, food, security and sustainability. Our trusted data, standards and expertise underpin innovation, regulation and trade—delivering reference methods, materials, calibration services, expert advice and specialist training. We support government, industry and healthcare, ensuring measurements are accurate, comparable and internationally recognised.

Through world leading measurement science, we safeguard medicines, accelerate diagnostics, protect food authenticity and safety, and reliably monitor the environment. We help businesses innovate more effectively and with less risk through fit for purpose measurement solutions and represent the UK's measurement interests internationally. Our expertise provides the confidence that public health, product safety and innovation rely on now and in the future.

OUR IMPACT

The NML enables trade by delivering trusted, internationally recognised measurement standards and data that ensure compliance, support harmonisation and give global markets confidence in UK goods and services. We shape global standards and contribute to international metrology systems, strengthening UK influence and competitiveness.

We drive economic growth, helping businesses innovate, commercialise new technologies, improve productivity and compete confidently. We strengthen national resilience through sovereign measurement capabilities that support food systems, biosecurity, healthcare and supply chains.

We improve healthcare, environmental and food outcomes through accurate diagnostics, effective monitoring and trusted testing, providing the independent evidence government needs for sound policy and regulation.

CASE STUDY

Diagnostic tests are critical for managing health crises. Working with UK government agencies, WHO, and global standards networks, our advanced nucleic acid measurement capabilities provide the high accuracy reference methods and materials that enable earlier access to accurate diagnostics, ensuring systems can respond rapidly and confidently at the onset of an infectious disease outbreak.

Building on this, we are developing sovereign high accuracy DNA synthesis capability, grounded in measurement science and delivered with government partners. Enhancing vaccine development, enabling rapid and secure production of critical materials, reducing reliance on international suppliers, this capability strengthens the UK's ability to respond quickly, safely, and effectively to health and biosecurity threats.

90

PRIMARY FUNDER:
DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

GUILDFORD, LEEDS, STRATHCLYDE, LIVERPOOL AND BELFAST

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

National Oceanography Centre

National Oceanography Centre

WHAT WE DO

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) exists to deepen our understanding of the ocean in order to address some of the most urgent environmental and societal challenges of our time. From climate change and biodiversity loss to rising sea levels and the future of ocean-based economies, these global issues demand world-class science and innovation.

Working in partnership across the UK and internationally, we translate advanced research and technology into trusted knowledge, supporting evidence-based decision making, shaping policy, and enabling real-world impact.

NOC operates the Royal Research Ships James Cook and Discovery and develops technology for coastal and deep ocean research. Working with its partners NOC provides long-term marine science capability including: sustained ocean observations, mapping and surveying; data management and scientific research and advice.

OUR IMPACT

To gain a deeper knowledge of the ocean, we deliver world-leading science and the capacity (including engineering, digital and laboratory) for ourselves and others to deliver that science. The evidence and knowledge we provide is used in decision-making processes and to help inform and educate the public and tackle some of societies biggest challenges.

CASE STUDY

In the Atlantic Ocean, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) drives warm water northwards along the surface and sends cold, deep waters back southwards. This process delivers vital heat and nutrients to colder latitudes and transfers carbon down to the ocean depths. Because of this heat transport, the AMOC is critical for regulating the climate in Europe, for example, the mild winters we experience in the UK and north-western Europe.

The RAPID project, delivered with the University of Miami and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is designed to continuously monitor and improve understanding of how the AMOC changes over time. Since its launch in 2001, it has revealed that the AMOC is far more variable on short timescales than previously understood, providing insight into the difference between natural variability and longer-term climate change.

The programme continues to evolve through RAPID-Evolution, which is developing more sustainable, cost-effective and innovative approaches for future AMOC monitoring.

750

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI NERC

SOUTHAMPTON AND LIVERPOOL

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

National Physical Laboratory

NPL National Physical Laboratory

WHAT WE DO

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is the UK's National Metrology Institute (NMI), developing, maintaining and disseminating the national primary measurement standards. This includes collaborating with NMIs around the world to maintain the international system of measurement as well as providing consultancy and calibration to industry and publicly owned bodies.

OUR IMPACT

As a public sector research establishment, we deliver extraordinary impact by providing the measurement capability that underpins the UK's prosperity and quality of life. We develop the metrology required to ensure the timely and successful deployment of new technologies and work with organisations as they develop and test new products and processes.

CASE STUDY

NPL supports and enables growth in the private sector. For example, Quantum Motion, a UK company developing scalable quantum computing systems, used NPL's Measurement for Quantum programme (M4Q) to test high-frequency integrated circuit components for cryogenic quantum systems. By isolating key performance indicators and testing components in realistic conditions, NPL helped them accelerate development from nine to three months, reduce costs, improve testing capability, and gain confidence in design reliability and faster evaluation of new components.

NPL also supports innovation in public services. For example, NPL supports safe, consistent implementation of advanced radiotherapy in the NHS by developing measurement standards and auditing treatment delivery. This improves treatment accuracy, accelerates uptake of new techniques, and boosts confidence in achieving equitable, high-quality cancer care outcomes.

1,500

PRIMARY FUNDER:
DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

TEDDINGTON, GLASGOW, HUDDERSFIELD, CAMBRIDGE, GUILDFORD AND SOLIHULL

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

The Pirbright Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Pirbright Institute underpins global food security, protects economies, and safeguards human health. A world-leading UK centre of excellence, it researches, surveys, and controls viral diseases affecting livestock and those transmitted from animals to humans. Strategically funded by UKRI-BBSRC, Pirbright provides critical national capability through global disease surveillance and detection of high-consequence threats. It hosts 10 International Reference Laboratories that identify virus strains and advise governments during outbreaks. Pirbright develops diagnostics, reagents, and advanced vaccines, including RNA platforms, and operates high-containment laboratories for pathogens such as foot-and-mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, and Avian Influenza while advancing One Health research.

OUR IMPACT

Pirbright research delivers significant impact. Over the past decade, it has generated £471 million for the UK economy, with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) research helping prevent potential multi-billion-pound agricultural losses. Its surveillance and diagnostic tools contributed to the global eradication of rinderpest and have helped the UK remain free of FMD since 2007. The Institute bridges basic research and product development through facilities such as the Centre for Veterinary Vaccine Innovation and Manufacturing (CVIM). Research on virus mutations informed UK government responses during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a vital National Capability, Pirbright supports more than 1,000 high-skilled jobs annually and contributes around £50 million to the UK economy each year.

CASE STUDY: PREVENTING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) remains one of the UK's highest animal disease risks. In 2025, outbreaks in Germany and Hungary/ Slovakia highlighted its potential economic impact, with costs likely exceeding €1 billion. As the UK's National Reference Laboratory for FMD, Pirbright provides year-round diagnostic capability and expert advice to Defra. With over 80 years of experience, Pirbright researches how FMD virus spreads and causes disease, translating this knowledge into improved vaccines, diagnostics, and surveillance tools. As FAO and WOAH reference laboratories, Pirbright manages the world's largest FMD sample archive and supports disease control, training, and data sharing globally.

400

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

SURREY

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Plymouth Marine Laboratory

WHAT WE DO

Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) is a world-leading independent marine research charity, globally recognised for pioneering science addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and marine pollution.

OUR IMPACT

PML delivers impact by turning world class science into real world change in policy, practice and behaviour. We co-develop research with users, align with stakeholder needs and respond to external drivers to ensure outputs are adopted and scaled. This strengthens national and international decision making while supporting UK growth. Our work has influenced policy at the highest levels, including recognition of the ocean in the Paris Agreement and informing Sustainable Development Goal 14.3; reduced plastic pollution by underpinning microplastics bans; guided marine protected area designation; and supported approval of the UK's first carbon capture hub, unlocking £1.5bn in contracts and thousands of jobs.

CASE STUDY: THE WESTERN CHANNEL OBSERVATORY – A UNIQUE NATIONAL CAPABILITY

The Western Channel Observatory (WCO) is one of the UK's most important long term marine evidence platforms, providing high resolution measurements of physical, chemical and biological change through regular sampling at two stations. Its sustained datasets underpin national climate assessments, ecosystem understanding and regulatory reporting. The WCO also serves as a trusted testbed for UK industry, offering high quality reference data to validate emerging marine technologies. Its long running ocean acidification measurements form the UK's most detailed carbonate chemistry time series, supporting national and international coordination and informing policy responses to a changing ocean.

160

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI NERC

PLYMOUTH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Quadram Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Quadram Institute is a UK science national capability delivering frontier bioscience focused on human health, the gut microbiome, food innovation and safety, and nutritional data. The Quadram Institute brings together researchers from across disciplines and organisations, nationally and internationally.

Our science programmes, Future Food, Safer Food, and Healthier Lives, are focused on making societal impact through fundamental and translational research. Our programmes aim to help improve the health of the nation by making the food we consume safer and more nutritious, and to develop therapies to make us healthier in early childhood and in older life.

OUR IMPACT

The Quadram Institute's mission is dedicated to enhancing human health by uncovering how food, gut physiology, microbes, and the microbiome influence disease and healthy living.

Working with national and international partners we use this knowledge to develop evidence-based strategies to maximise positive impacts of food on health, from early life to the extension of a healthy lifespan in old age, and to reduce the economic and societal costs of chronic diseases.

We manage the UK's national dataset on the nutritional content of food, the McCance and Widdowson 'Composition of foods integrated dataset' (CoFID), which was first published in 1940.

Our researchers bridge industry and government to work collaboratively on real-world problems through hosting or co-hosting key national networks including the UK's Food Safety Research Network, the AntiMicrobial Resistance in Agrifood Systems Transdisciplinary Network (AMAST), and BBSRC's Biofortification Hub.

During the Covid pandemic, for two years our scientists used genomic sequencing to generate and analyse large scale SARS-CoV-2 datasets to track the evolution and spread of the virus in the UK for the national government and public health agencies.

CASE STUDY

Professor Lindsay Hall's research at the Quadram Institute transformed the clinical care of preterm babies by leveraging the power of the gut microbiome. Her work, notably through the BAMBI Study, demonstrated routine probiotic supplementation with *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus* can halve the rates of life-threatening conditions like necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) and sepsis. By "reprogramming" the infant immune system with beneficial bacteria, vulnerable babies resisted multidrug-resistant pathogens. These findings influenced World Health Organization recommendations and encouraged Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) to adopt probiotics as a standard of care to ensure the healthiest start for at-risk infants.

180

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI BBSRC

NORWICH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

The Rosalind Franklin Institute

WHAT WE DO

The Rosalind Franklin Institute is a UK national research institute that develops pioneering technologies at the interface of the physical and life sciences to transform understanding of biology and improve human health. Its mission is to create and apply disruptive tools—particularly in imaging, chemistry, data science and engineering—that enable new insights into how biological systems work. Bringing together highly interdisciplinary teams, the Institute works with universities, industry and international partners to address major life science challenges, support early-stage drug discovery, and translate cutting edge methods into wider scientific and societal impact.

OUR IMPACT

The impact of the Rosalind Franklin Institute's work lies in transforming how scientists study biology and develop new medical interventions. By advancing pioneering technologies in imaging, chemistry and artificial intelligence, the Institute has enabled previously inaccessible insights into biological structures and processes. The Franklin's collaborative, interdisciplinary model strengthens the UK's research capability, contributes to growth in technology and life sciences, and establishes international leadership in methods that underpin healthier lives.

CASE STUDY

By combining instrument development, advanced workflows and open collaboration, the Franklin is transforming how biological structures are studied in their native cellular context. Working with academic and industry partners, the Institute has pioneered new approaches to cryo-electron microscopy and cryo-electron tomography that enable routine, high throughput imaging of whole cells at near atomic resolution. The researchers reported the first pseudo atomic structure of the human ribosome within plunge frozen HeLa cells, using a new approach involving cryo-plasma Focused Ion Beam and Scanning Electron Microscope prior to imaging with a Transmission Electron Microscope they were able to reveal molecular detail in its functional environment. By integrating hardware innovation, automation and shared protocols, the Franklin is lowering technical barriers and accelerating life science discovery.

200

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI EPSRC

HARWELL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CAMPUS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

The Roslin Institute

WHAT WE DO

The mission of The Roslin Institute is to achieve sustainable agriculture, control diseases and enhance health through pioneering animal bioscience. It studies the genomes of farmed terrestrial and aquatic animals and how these encode the functions of cells, tissues and body systems, as well as genetic variation underlying traits relevant to production and welfare. This informs breeding decisions at global scale. It offers unique national capability in genome editing and to study key animal and zoonotic pathogens in their natural hosts to devise disease control strategies. Such resources are also used to model human diseases and evaluate candidate medicines.

OUR IMPACT

It was independently estimated that research at The Roslin Institute contributed £18.9Bn gross value added to the global agriculture and aquaculture sectors in 2019/20 alone. This is driven largely by its work to understand the basis of heritable traits in farmed animals and selective breeding in collaboration animal breeders with global reach, including via novel theory and tools for genomic selection and genome editing. It is also driving genetic gain in farmed animals indigenous to low- & middle-income countries alleviate malnutrition and poverty. Roslin also achieves impact via its research on animal and zoonotic disease, and advice to Government on their control.

CASE STUDY

Roslin offers unique national capability for precision breeding of farmed animals, both via genomic selection informed by knowledge of the basis of heritable traits and genome editing. It recently produced pigs that are completely resistant to devastating viral diseases by precision editing of host factors required for viral replication. It has collaborated with a UK-based breeder (Genus) supplying a substantial share of the global market to bring these to market and alleviate the welfare and economic burden of porcine diseases. Together, CD163-edited pigs resistant to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus were recently approved for production by the Food and Drug Administration in the US.

400

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI BBSRC

EDINBURGH

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Rothamsted Research

WHAT WE DO

Rothamsted Research is a world-leading agricultural research institute founded in 1843 and funded by the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Our mission is to improve food security, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience through cutting-edge science. We translate agri-science into farming practice and evidence-based policy, working closely with farmers, industry, and policymakers. Our research spans genes to landscapes — from lab, to plant, to farm — supported by state-of-the-art facilities, three research farms across Southern England, and three National Bioscience Research Infrastructures (NBRIs).

OUR IMPACT

Our work delivers impact across agriculture, the environment, and public health. We improve crop productivity and resilience, helping farms adapt to climate pressures while maintaining profitability. By advancing soil health, biodiversity, and sustainable practices, we support long-term ecosystem stability. Our research helps reduce emissions to air and water, contributing to cleaner environments and net zero goals. Through innovations in crop nutrition and farming systems, we enhance food quality and production efficiency. By translating science into practice, we provide the evidence and tools that shape policy, support industry innovation, and strengthen resilient food systems.

CASE STUDY

Rothamsted translates advanced bioscience into practical tools that strengthen crop resilience, reduce environmental impacts, and support global nutritional security. A key example is engineered Camelina sativa, developed to produce long-chain omega-3 fatty acids as a sustainable, land-based alternative to fish oils for aquaculture and human diets. This innovation has progressed through field trials in the UK and North America, gained regulatory approval from the USDA via Yield10 Bioscience, and has been licensed to Nuseed, generating its first revenue in 2024/25. It demonstrates how science can help meet global omega-3 demand while reducing pressure on marine ecosystems.

350

PRIMARY FUNDER:
UKRI BBSRC

HARPENDEN, NORTH WYKE, BROOMS BARN AND WOBURN

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Science and Technology Facilities Council – National Laboratories

WHAT WE DO

Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) National Laboratories is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and is responsible for the UK's large-scale multidisciplinary research facilities, including the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source and Central Laser Facility, as well as its space, astronomy and particle physics programmes. STFC also manages UK membership of major international research facilities, such as CERN, and is the primary funder of Diamond Light Source, which operates as a separate legal entity.

OUR IMPACT

STFC's multidisciplinary facilities and departments support fundamental and applied research across the UK and international research community, including many other NRO Group members. Each year, more than 5,000 researchers use STFC's National Laboratories to help address major societal challenges, including healthcare, clean energy, climate change, national security and artificial intelligence. STFC also supports innovation and economic growth by providing industry with access to world-class facilities and expertise and is helping to develop the UK's scientific and technical workforce by supporting students, early-career researchers, engineers, technicians, apprentices and graduates, and inspiring the next generation through school outreach and public engagement.

CASE STUDY: EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN AIR POLLUTION AND BRAIN HEALTH

Scientists from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) used STFC facilities to investigate how air pollution may affect brain health at the cellular and molecular level.

The interdisciplinary study examined how pollutant particles interact with the blood–brain barrier (BBB), which regulates what passes between the bloodstream and central nervous system. Using advanced microscopy at the Central Laser Facility and neutron scattering at the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, the researchers analysed the structure and behaviour of model BBB cells exposed to environmentally relevant pollutants.

The findings provide new insight into how air pollution may disrupt the brain's protective barrier and highlight the value of combining complementary techniques across STFC facilities to better understand complex public health challenges.

3,000

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI

OXFORDSHIRE, CHESHIRE, EDINBURGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

Scottish Association for Marine Science

WHAT WE DO

Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) scientists have been exploring and studying our changing global ocean for over 140 years. We study the fundamental function of the marine environment from molecular to planetary scales and how to conserve and restore different habitats. Our investigations also support the sustainable development of marine food, energy, health, environment and education sectors.

As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, we train 200 undergraduate, Masters and doctorate students and provide ocean literacy education and engagement throughout schools, communities and the digital domain.

SAMS' commercial subsidiary sells novel instruments and software to environmental managers, provides professional training to industry, and delivers consultancy for blue economy businesses.

OUR IMPACT

SAMS delivers internationally significant marine research while driving regional development across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. SAMS science covers a wide range of topics, allowing us to quickly respond to policy and societal needs, including climate-driven ecosystem change and the potential impacts of deep-sea mining to advances in aquaculture, renewable energy, and blue carbon. As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, SAMS brings world-class academia to a rural region, widening access to higher education, skills, and innovation. This model strengthens the regional economy, supports sustainable use of marine resources, and positions Scotland and the wider UK as a global leader in ocean science and nature-based solutions and resilience.

CASE STUDY: CULTURE COLLECTION OF ALGAE IN PROTOZOA

The Culture Collection of Algae in Protozoa is Europe's largest and most diverse collection of living microalgae, seaweed, and protozoa isolated from marine, freshwater and terrestrial source environments. It is supported as a National Capability by UKRI-NERC.

The facility includes advanced research infrastructure for scaling up the cultivation of individual strains to hundreds of litres and for metabolomic and genomic analysis to support algal biotechnology.

CCAP further provides patent strain deposit services, biological identification services and confidential contract research, and hosts practical in-person and online training courses in algaculture, algal cryopreservation, and algal biotechnology.

SAMS is also a host for robotics instrumentation that is part of the National Marine Equipment Pool Capability including gliders and autonomous underwater vehicles.

165

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI

OBAN

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

UK Dementia Research Institute

UK Dementia Research Institute

WHAT WE DO

The UK Dementia Research Institute's goal is, through research, to transform the lives of people affected by dementia and related neurodegenerative conditions including Alzheimer's, frontotemporal dementia, Huntington's, Lewy body dementia, motor neuron disease, Parkinson's, and vascular dementia. Our multidisciplinary approach aims to target scientific discoveries that will lead to more effective therapies, faster more accurate diagnosis, and better quality of life for people living with, and at risk of, dementia and neurodegenerative conditions. The majority of our research is focused at fundamental, mechanistic biology. We have a dedicated Centre for Care Research and Technology which is clinically focused, using technological innovation to advance diagnosis and care for people living with dementia right now.

OUR IMPACT

The UK Dementia Research Institute has made discoveries about the causes and progression of neurodegenerative disease, including breakthroughs that are leading to the development of the first disease-modifying therapies for Alzheimer's. Researchers are using data science expertise to identify polygenic risk, helping to provide the evidence base for prevention strategies. Through analysis of electronic health records researchers have shown that sustained blood pressure control independently decreased dementia risk and that sleep disruption can double risk in later life.

UK DRI researchers also lead MND-SMART, the largest ever UK trial for Motor Neuron Disease. The trial is an innovative multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) platform design which cuts average trial time in half. Working with the NHS, our Minder zero-burden monitoring system is supporting people with dementia to live independently in their own homes.

CASE STUDY

Early diagnosis is key and the UK DRI Biomarker Factory is leading the development of scalable, accurate and non-invasive diagnostics through undertaking novel biomarker discovery, developing diagnostic approaches that work in a community setting including finger prick blood tests and using sleep mats for digital biomarker development. Researchers are collaborating with clinicians to accelerate adoption into the NHS.

1,000

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI MRC

CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, EDINBURGH, LONDON AND OXFORD

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

UK Atomic Energy Authority

UK Atomic Energy Authority

WHAT WE DO

UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is the largest, most experienced single fusion organisation in the world, and is responsible for the research and delivery of sustainable fusion energy in the UK.

UKAEA leads the world in fusion research with a wide range of programmes covering robotics, materials testing and development, and tritium science. Our scientists and engineers are working with partners around the globe to develop fusion as a new source of clean energy for tomorrow's power stations.

OUR IMPACT

As a publicly funded organisation, UKAEA has a responsibility to maximise the value of its activities. Both the long-term and short-term economic opportunities associated with fusion are increasingly clear, with UKAEA programmes already delivering significant benefits:

- Between 2020-2025, an average of 6,000 jobs per year were supported in the UK economy by UKAEA Group activity, 60% of which were in the UK supply chain rather than within UKAEA Group.
- Within 2024/25 alone, UKAEA's Fusion Opportunities in Skills, Training, Education and Research (FOSTER) programme has supported 31 PhDs, secured partnerships with 2 leading UK universities to expand Masters-level training for fusion, and engaged nearly 50,000 school students.

Technologies from fusion R&D are already benefitting wider industry in areas including robotics, materials, medicine, and artificial intelligence.

CASE STUDY

In an innovative collaboration, scientist and engineers from UKAEA and the University of Bristol have developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery – a revolutionary energy source capable of powering devices for thousands of years.

UKAEA and University of Bristol scientists and engineers collaborated to design and build a plasma deposition rig capable of growing a diamond under low-pressure conditions. This rig successfully encased a semiconducting carbon-14 isotope within a thin diamond layer.

The resulting battery harnesses the decay of carbon-14 – which has a half-life of 5,700 years – to generate continuous, low-level power. Unlike solar panels that convert photons into electricity, this battery captures fast-moving electrons from within the diamond structure to power devices. This carbon-14 diamond battery opens up possibilities for long-term, low-maintenance power in extreme or inaccessible environments.

2,600

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

OXFORDSHIRE, WEST BURTON, CUMBRIA AND ROTHERHAM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

UKCEH
Our planet. Decoded.

WHAT WE DO

The UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) is a world leading research institute for environmental science that accelerates the understanding of how land, water and air systems are changing and what those changes mean for people, policy and the economy. We support academia, Governments, businesses and NGOs to understand the challenges across growth, resilience, climate and nature and determine the best ways to tackle them. We possess unique wide area research, monitoring and data science capabilities and a breadth of expertise that means we can advise at a system level. Independent and impartial, UKCEH believes applied science can ensure that today's choices lead to a more resilient tomorrow.

OUR IMPACT

UKCEH provides the robust research and evidence base that underpins policy development, implementation, and review for the UK government, Devolved Governments, and international bodies. Its experts contribute to advisory and technical panels, strengthening strategic relationships across government.

Economic analysis shows that every £1 of public funding generates around £6.80 in value. UKCEH also delivers major sectoral benefits: its work on offshore wind contributed an estimated £400 million in value, while the UK's Invasive Species Monitoring System helps avoid £225 million in eradication costs and prevents more than £13 billion in potential losses to pollinator services.

CASE STUDY

Our large scale research infrastructures generate high quality scientific evidence that supports decision makers, industry, regulators, and the wider research community.

The National Capability for UK Challenges (NC UK) programme is transforming how the UK monitors and manages land, freshwater, and air systems. By integrating digital infrastructure, co designing solutions with partners, and building a future ready environmental monitoring network, NC UK delivers unified data and tools that improve forecasting, track emissions, assess ecosystem health, and support biodiversity recovery.

This collaborative, data driven approach strengthens national resilience, enabling government, businesses, and communities to plan, adapt, and thrive in a changing environment.

750

PRIMARY FUNDER: UKRI NERC AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

WALLINGFORD, LANCASTER, BANGOR, EDINBURGH AND ACCRA (GHANA)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

UK Health Security Agency

UK Health Security Agency

WHAT WE DO

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) exists to protect people from health threats. We prevent and reduce the harm caused by infectious diseases, chemicals, radiation, the health effects of climate change and a range of environmental hazards including air quality. UKHSA provides scientific and operational leadership, working with local, national and international partners to protect the public's health and build the nation's health security capability.

For most of UKHSA's work, our remit covers England as health protection is largely a devolved policy area. We hold some UK-wide responsibilities on reserved matters where the UK government has retained policy responsibility.

UKHSA recognises the cross-border nature of health threats and works in close partnership with the governments and public health bodies of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on common challenges.

We are a science-led, data-driven, operationally excellent executive agency sponsored by the Department for Health and Social Care.

OUR IMPACT

Our experts work across vital areas such as genomics, epidemiology, environmental research, radiation protection sciences, toxicology, microbiology, vaccine development, public health programmes, emergency preparedness, behavioural insights and data science. We maintain the UK's essential health security scientific infrastructure including advanced laboratories, key data systems and national health datasets and medical resources needed to enable research. Our experts work collaboratively with partners in the NHS, academia and industry to maximise the impact of our research and scientific activities, for example through the National Institute for Health and Care Research Health Protection Research Units.

UKHSA's scientists work across three principal scientific sites housing laboratories capable of studying the most dangerous pathogens, a network of regional and reference laboratories, and local health protection sites.

CASE STUDY

UKHSA research on C. difficile, a diarrhoea-causing bacteria causing hospitalisation and, in some cases, life-threatening sepsis, informed the design of a new surveillance programme for English hospitals. A small number of hospitals acted as 'sentinels' providing rapid genetic sequencing of new strains, quickly allowing treatments and control methods to be adapted. Network analysis of patient connections between hospitals (using existing routinely collected data) was used in computer simulations of inter-hospital spread of a theoretical new strain. This enabled the quickest detection of a novel strain - no matter where it first appears. This surveillance design is applicable to many other pathogens which spread primarily between contacts within hospitals.

6,000+

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

PORTON, CHILTON, COLINDALE AND OTHER LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

UK National Nuclear Laboratory

United Kingdom National Nuclear Laboratory

WHAT WE DO

The UK National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL) is the UK's lead civil national laboratory for nuclear fission. We occupy a unique position in the nuclear innovation environment, working closely with Government to drive forward the nation's nuclear ambitions.

Our purpose is Nuclear Science to Benefit Society. Our mission is to enable and deliver nuclear outcomes for Government, and to support growth of the UK nuclear sector. To do this, we will:

- Be a custodian of national capabilities and infrastructure critical for national and energy security
- Become government's lead civil technical and strategic advisor for nuclear fuels and nuclear materials
- Carry out research to continue securing the safe operation of nuclear plants domestically and internationally
- Deliver practical nuclear research and enable decommissioning programmes
- Provide expertise and facilities to be a platform for the private sector to accelerate the deployment of technology to market
- Champion and nurture advanced nuclear skills

OUR IMPACT

UKNNL's work delivers impact across energy security, national security, and the clean energy transition. It supports EDF's nuclear power plants, helping generate electricity for millions of UK homes, while providing technical expertise to the Royal Navy's submarine fleet. UKNNL collaborates with the NDA Group to safely decommission the UK's earliest nuclear sites and manages nuclear waste responsibly. As a key enabler of new nuclear capacity, it supports the government's clean power mission. Internationally, UKNNL facilitates collaborative research partnerships for mutual benefit, sharing expertise and best practice with global counterparts to advance nuclear science worldwide.

CASE STUDY

UKNNL's Active Handling Facility (AHF) at Windscale, supported by Workington and Central Laboratory, provides purpose-built caves and specially adapted equipment for handling and examining highly active materials.

Our scientists and engineers provide a unique blend of skills. The AHF is capable of forensic post-irradiation examination of full-size nuclear fuel rods, reactor core components and a range of high-radioactivity items.

It is here that we support programmes of national importance, supporting EDF's power plants in keeping the nation's lights on and our submarine fleet operating safely.

1,500

PRIMARY FUNDER: DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

WINDSCALE, WORKINGTON, PRESTON, WARRINGTON, CULHAM AND STONEHOUSE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANISATION

CONTACT US

GET IN TOUCH

We'd love to hear from you. Whether you're interested in collaboration, have questions about our research, or want to learn more about joining our network, don't hesitate to reach out.

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