



BioFAIR Pathfinders: Supporting FAIR Journeys Across the UK

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Culture change

To drive adoption of FAIR principles and open data across the UK life sciences to provide high quality FAIR datasets ready for uptake and reuse.



Defragmentation

To increase the coordination, collaboration and cohesiveness of the UK's life science related data landscape, enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency.



Access

To enable democratised access to data and data methods within UK life sciences via a national capability.



Skills

To attract, develop and retain excellent research data management skills and capacity for UK life sciences.



Data reuse

To improve the efficiency of research and enabling new research by increased re-use of data in the life sciences.

Phase 1 Launch

- Recruit core staff
- Establish governance
- Finalise Monitoring & Evaluation Plan
- Continue Stakeholder engagement

Phase 2 Set-Up

- Develop and deploy Minimum Viable Product Infrastructure
- First Pathfinder projects
- First Community of Practice
- Establish outreach
- Initial evaluation report

Phase 3 Establish

- Establish operational infrastructure
- Delivery training programme
- Expand Communities of Practice
- Further Pathfinder projects
- Full evaluation
- Future investment strategy developed and agreed

Phase 4 Expand

- Maturation of operational infrastructure
- Review coverage
- Expand training and outreach
- Future strategy polished

BioFAIR: Joining up the dots

BioFAIR is a UK-wide initiative that connects existing services, communities, and expertise to build a cohesive national ecosystem for FAIR data. By coordinating and aligning existing activities across the UK into four key capabilities - Data Commons, Methods Commons, People Commons and Knowledge Centre - BioFAIR will streamline infrastructure, enable better data stewardship, and empower researchers with the tools and training they need to make life sciences research more open, interoperable, and impactful.



Commons
Services
Platform

The BioFAIR Commons

BioFAIR brings together four interconnected Commons, each designed to support the UK life sciences community in embedding FAIR principles into everyday research.

Data Commons: Make datasets easier to find, access, and share through national catalogues and trusted data services.

Method Commons: Provide tools, workflows, and computational resources to support high-quality, reusable research.

People Commons: Build communities and train champions to embed FAIR practices across the research landscape.

Knowledge Centre: Deliver practical guidance, templates, and training to support FAIR research data management.

All of these services will be accessible through the **BioFAIR Portal**—your gateway to the full range of national resources, services, and communities. For tailored support, researchers can also access our Concierge Service, a personalised advisory offering to guide users to the most relevant tools and help them implement FAIR practices at any stage of their project.

Bridging the FAIR Gap

BioFAIR is working to close the gap between the challenges of data sharing and the promise of truly FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data. By supporting practical, community-driven initiatives, we help the UK life sciences community move from good intentions to real-world FAIR implementation.

By supporting practical, community-driven initiatives, BioFAIR provides the tools and spaces needed to turn ambition into action. We work with researchers, data stewards, and infrastructure providers to tackle common barriers, share best practices, and create solutions that work across disciplines.



Data sharing is difficult

Data sharing, interoperability and reuse improve

Get Involved – Upcoming Opportunities



BioFAIR Pathfinder Projects

Launching in Autumn 2025, BioFAIR Pathfinder Projects will fund research teams to address real-world FAIR data challenges. These projects offer space to test and develop FAIR tools, workflows, and approaches that work across disciplines and infrastructures.



Methods Commons Call

The BioFAIR Methods Commons Call will be looking to fund a consortium of established teams in the UK that have proven expertise to deliver the workflow discovery and execution requirements identified by the BioFAIR Architecture Working group to serve the life sciences community, nationwide.

For more information visit opportunities.biofair.uk

Building a FAIR Future Across the UK

BioFAIR is transforming ambition into action across the UK life sciences community. We have established our Architecture Working Group, made the Hub team fully operational, and are now concentrating on developing the Methods Commons. Alongside this, we are driving forward the launch of the Pathfinder Projects call, creating opportunities for collaboration and FAIR practice adoption nationwide.



BioFAIR Fellowships

The inaugural BioFAIR Fellowship cohort was appointed in September 2025, Fellows join a national cohort of changemakers and contribute to a growing community of FAIR leadership.

Further Fellowship opportunities will be announced in 2026.

BioFAIR is about more than platforms—it's about building trust, collaboration, and people-powered change.

BioFAIR is growing—and we want you with us. Visit our website to find out how you can shape the UK's FAIR future, including becoming a BioFAIR Fellow!



BBSRC
and MRC

BioFAIR is a joint Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Medical Research Council (MRC) project. It has received funding through the UKRI Infrastructure Fund and UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Programme.



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