

FAQs: AD|ARC dataset briefing

ADR UK Research Fellowships 2025 funding opportunity

The following frequently asked questions were compiled from questions raised during a dataset briefing webinar on the AD|ARC (Administrative Data | Agricultural Research Collection) – England and Wales dataset, which was held to support the applications for the 2025 round of ADR UK Research Fellowships.

- [Find out more about the ADR UK Research Fellowships funding opportunity](#) – open for applications until 26 February 2026.
- [Find out more about the AD|ARC dataset.](#)
- Watch the [recorded webinar](#) about AD|ARC and access the [slide deck](#).

Dataset Content & Structure

1. **At what scale is farm location information provided? Is it latitude/longitude, county-level, or something else?**

Farm location information is available at [Lower layer Super Output Area](#) (LSOA) level.

2. **What are the main components of the AD ARC dataset for England and Wales?**

The AD|ARC research-ready datasets for England and Wales contain data from:

- Census of Population 2011
- EU Farm Structure Survey
- Rural Payments
- Inter-Departmental Business Register (England only; code is available in Wales for additional linkage)
- Welsh Demographic Service Dataset (Wales only).

The research-ready datasets contain information about farm activity (e.g. (crop area, livestock numbers, labour), payments (e.g. a flag for claimants of the Single Payment Scheme), sociodemographic characteristics (e.g. age, qualifications, household tenure), and business data (e.g. turnover).

3. **How are households and individuals represented in the dataset? Can researchers choose between household-level and individual-level tables?**

Information is available at both household-level, and individual-level. Individual- and household- level tables can be joined together if required.

4. **What is the approximate size of the dataset (number of households and individuals)?**

England - approximately 152,000 individuals; 54,000 households.

Wales – approximately 50,000 individuals; 18,000 households.

Access & Feasibility

5. Will fellowship applications based on the 2021 data be permitted, or is the call limited to the 2011 dataset?

The AD|ARC team are working towards the 2021 data being made available in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Secure Research Service (England) and the SAIL databank (Wales) in early 2026. We encourage potential applicants to contact us in January 2026 for an update prior to finalising applications.

6. If 2021 data becomes available, can comparative analysis between 2011 and 2021 be included?

Applicants will be required to request both the 2011 and 2021 data via the ONS Secure Research Service (England) and the SAIL databank (Wales), following the relevant procedures for each trusted research environment. If approval is given, researchers will be permitted to conduct cohort-level analysis for both 2011 and 2021, but it will not be possible to link individual households present in each Census.

7. Given the time required for data owner and panel approvals, how can researchers plan for fellowship start dates? Are there time limits due to data approvals?

We expect all fellowship projects to start in September 2026, and applicants should plan for this accordingly. For any specific questions about your project or circumstances, please contact ADRFellowships@esrc.ukri.org.

8. Is synthetic data available for training or testing code before accessing the real dataset?

Low-fidelity synthetic data is freely available for the Wales data on the AD|ARC website. With permission from data owners, the team have created a low-fidelity synthetic dataset to represent data from the EU Farm Structure Survey, Rural Payments Wales and ONS Census of Population 2011. Researchers can use the low-fidelity synthetic dataset as a training tool, to familiarise themselves with the AD|ARC variables and how they can be used for research. This gives researchers the opportunity to assess if the synthetic data meets their needs before applying to access the real data via the trusted research environment.

You can explore the synthetic data [here](#). We have not yet led training sessions using synthetic data.

Linkage & Integration

9. **Can AD|ARC be linked to other datasets, such as education records or health data?**
- **For England:** No, the AD|ARC research-ready datasets cannot be linked to other datasets but researchers could request additional datasets be made available and linked.
 - **For Wales:** Yes, the AD|ARC research-ready datasets can be linked to other datasets. Researchers will be required to seek permission through the relevant trusted research environment's approvals process.
10. **Regarding health data linkage, which datasets can researchers tap into? Is there anything available on mental health?**
- For details regarding data availability in England, please see the [ONS Metadata Browser](#). or details regarding data availability in Wales, please see the [Health Data Research Gateway](#).
11. **Are there differences in linkage possibilities between England and Wales?**
- See Q9.

Research Design

12. **Could a research proposal cover two out of the four research themes, or should the focus be on one theme? How feasible is comparative analysis across themes?**
- Yes, researchers are welcome to prepare applications covering one or more themes.
13. **What are the four broad research themes identified for AD|ARC?**
- 1) Socio-Demographic:** Socio-demographic characteristics of farmers and farm households. For example, do part-time and full-time farmers have different socio-economic characteristics?
 - 2) Health and Wellbeing:** Investigating acute and chronic farmer and farm family physical and mental health. For example, how does farmer and farm household members' 'general health' or 'long-term illness' compare with that of rural control households?
 - 3) Prosperity and Resilience:** Understanding the importance of farm and non-farming income, subsidies and farm diversification to household economic security. For example, how dependent are farm households on farm income and subsidies?
 - 4) Environment and Place:** Investigating the interplay between farmers, farm households and business characteristics in the farmed landscape. For example, is the type and frequency of off-farm employment correlated with farm location?
- All research topics and questions listed are illustrative only and intended to demonstrate the research potential of the dataset.