

Information for Participants

ARISE

Thank you for your interest in the ARISE Project (Advancing Resilience and Innovation for a Sustainable Environment) being conducted by the University of Essex. The aim of ARISE is to create conceptual and methodological tools and recommendations to build sustainable resilience policy in UK coastal communities. As part of ARISE, we hope to learn about the lived experience of coastal residents. We plan to publish and share the information we learn from this project as reports and research articles, for use by public health services, researchers, and others. This leaflet provides you with information about the research and your rights as a participant.

What is the purpose of the study?

In ARISE, we hope to learn about the lived experience of coastal residents and learn how people think, feel, act, and make decisions about their community life. ARISE runs until September 2028, and involves several activities in coastal communities in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Kent. Our goal is to co-develop and share a better understanding of the needs and priorities of coastal communities in the ARISE area so that the entire UK can benefit from the work we all do together.

Why have I been invited to participate?

ARISE aims to explore what resilience means for community members like you in your local context, what helps build resilience and what gets in the way of it. You are being invited to participate in this study because we want to include you and learn about your thoughts and feelings regarding resilience and group resilience-building activities in your community.

How will the information from this part of the research be used?

We plan to use the understanding we gain from you and the other project participants to inform our assessment of personal and community resilience along the coast. The results of this research will be written up in a variety of ways, including as academic publications, reports, creative writing, and conference presentations.

Do I have to take part?

Naturally, there is no obligation to take part in this research. If you do decide *to participate* in this research, you will be asked to give consent to take part. If you decide to participate in the research and then change your mind in the future, you can withdraw at any point, even after the data has been collected. If you wish to withdraw from the research at any time, please contact the researcher on the details below. If publications or reports have already been disseminated at the time of your request, these cannot be withdrawn; however, these will only contain anonymised or aggregated data that cannot be linked to you personally.



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What will happen to me if I take part?

As part of the ARISE project, we are inviting community members to take part in local environmental monitoring activities. These activities focus on observing and recording the condition of local rivers and surrounding natural environments. The aim is to improve early awareness of potential environmental concerns, support timely responses where issues are identified, and encourage shared care for local natural spaces.

The research involves two parts: a Training & Data Collection day, and ongoing monthly data collection activities.

On the Training & Data Collection Day, you will be invited to:

- Take part in a training session to become an official Riverfly Monitor
- Complete a short questionnaire about the environment and river flies and share reflections on your experiences
- Collect data from your local river

After the training day, you will be invited to:

- Continue collecting monthly data as a group, to contribute to monitoring the health of your local river
- If you choose, share ongoing reflections on your experience as a Riverfly Monitor

As part of the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative, you will be invited to take part in activities in or near a river or other watercourse, including collecting environmental data. You should only take part in these activities if you feel comfortable and consider it safe for you to do so. You are free to decide not to enter the water or to stop taking part at any time, without giving a reason. Entering or working near water carries some personal risk, including slips, trips, falls, cold water, uneven ground, changing water levels, and other hazards associated with outdoor fieldwork. By choosing to enter or work near a river or other watercourse, you understand that you do so at your own risk. The University of Essex, the Riverfly Partnership, and project partners cannot accept liability for injury, loss, or damage arising from your decision to enter or work near water, except where liability cannot legally be excluded.

This work is carried out alongside relevant environmental agencies, who may review information where pollution or significant environmental issues are observed. The equipment to conduct this activity will be provided. No prior expertise is required. Guidance and simple tools will be provided.

What information will be collected?

The group tutorial about river flies will be audio recorded, and the researchers may also take notes during your discussion. Written or recorded information will be transferred into a secure database that is only accessible by project workers. Information to be translated or transcribed will be stored, transmitted, translated, and transcribed by secure University-approved channels and vendors.

Photographs and/or videos may be taken during the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative. These may be used for project reporting, training, publicity, presentations, websites, social media, and other communications

relating to the project. You will be asked separately whether you consent to being photographed or filmed. You can choose not to be photographed or filmed, or ask for photography or filming to stop, and this will not affect your ability to take part in the research.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While we cannot guarantee any specific benefits, we hope that working with us will be a pleasant experience, and that you will enjoy learning about river flies and what they can tell you about your community resilience. During our project, you may also benefit from keeping in touch with others taking part of with us, learning about our findings, and meeting and learning from other communities in our area. We also welcome you to join our Community of Practice, which is a group of people dedicated to coastal community resilience that meets regularly to learn and share and collaborate.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Taking part in these activities will involve giving up some of your time. We know your time is valuable, and while there are no financial costs to you, we want to acknowledge the commitment involved. We've kept the tutorial length to less than a day to make sure it's manageable, but please only take part if you feel comfortable setting aside that time.

While participating in research can be an uplifting and rewarding experience, it may also cause anxiety or trigger unexpected emotions. If you do experience any adverse reactions, you should feel free to stop step out temporarily or permanently, and you do not have to tell us why you are doing so.

How will my data be stored and who will have access to it?

The information we collect from you will be accessible to our research team, and only the research team will have access to any of your personal data. Every effort will be made to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of participants. Any recordings such as notes, photos, and videos will be transcribed and anonymised and any identifying information will be changed. No personal information will be reported in any published research. We will archive the information with the UK Data Archive, and it will be anonymised so that no one will be able to link any of your information to your name or identity.

How long will my data be stored for?

The research data will be coded and stored in password protected files and personal data will be stored separately from the research data in encrypted files. Audio recordings and personal data will be destroyed at the end of the project and the research data will be archived for 7 years. A copy of the information that we record about you, but not other participants, will be provided, free of charge, on request.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

The nature of this type activity is that it is not fully confidential; although participants are asked not to share information disclosed during the workshop or when in the field, or once work has ended, this



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cannot be guaranteed. While you are free to withdraw from the group at any time, it will not be possible to remove your contributions from the memories of other participants.

Withdrawing my data

While you are free to withdraw from the group at any time, it will not be possible to remove your contributions from the analysis after the activities, as doing so would compromise the context and integrity of the research.

What is the legal basis for using personal data and who is the Data Controller?

The University processes personal data for the primary purpose of research under the lawful basis of processing set out in Article 6 (1)(e) of the UK GDPR, 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller'. The University's lawful basis for processing Special Category data is Article 9 (2), (j) 'processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1)'. Using this lawful basis requires the University to also meet a substantial public interest condition as set out in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018. The condition that the University will use is 4. Research, etc. Under UK data protection legislation, the University acts as the Data Controller for personal data collected as part of the University's research. For more information on data protection legislation and your rights visit the University's Data protection and research activity webpage. For any queries, email dpo@essex.ac.uk.

How will my data be used and in what form will it be shared further?

Your activities in river fly monitoring, as well as ongoing comments about it, will be analysed as part of the study. The results of this research will be written up in a variety of ways, including as academic publications, reports, and conference presentations. Data used in publications will be anonymised. Your contributions will be made available in anonymised form to other bona fide researchers by sharing it in an access-controlled data repository. Users will need to request access to the data and satisfy the repository's access requirements.

Who has reviewed the study?

The ARISE project and these activities within it have been granted a favourable ethical opinion by the University of Essex Ethics Committee.

What happens if something goes wrong?

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the study or you have a complaint, in the first instance please contact the principal investigator of the project, Professor Gina Yannitell Reinhardt, using the contact details below. If are still concerned, if you think your complaint has not been addressed to your satisfaction, or you feel that you cannot approach the principal investigator, please contact the departmental Director of Research in the Department of Government at the University of Essex, [Professor Han Dorussen (hdorus@essex.ac.uk)]. If you are still not satisfied, please contact the

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University of Essex REO Research Integrity Manager (reo-integrity@essex.ac.uk). Please include the ERAMS reference which can be found at the footer of this page so that the study can be identified, details of the name or description of the study, the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

Contact details

Principal Investigator

Prof Gina Yannitell Reinhardt, Department of Government, University of Essex, Email: gina.reinhardt@essex.ac.uk.

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This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Essex Ethics Sub-Committee 3.