



DAFNI newsletter August 2026

Dear

Welcome to the DAFNI August 2026 newsletter!

It is not long now until our annual DAFNI Conference on 10th September, there is still time to register! I look forward to welcoming you all to Oxford for our exciting speaker line-up and interactive clean energy workshop.

I am delighted to announce a new feature on our website called '[DAFNI Models](#)'. These pages are written by our users, showcasing their research and their models that were created on the DAFNI platform. Here you can explore models from a range of projects and find out from our collaborators what they envisioned for the model and how it can be now used. Each user has included their email address if you would like to contact them for further discussion.

Our featured case study this month is the Water Systems Leakage (WSL) project, led by DAFNI Champion and Strategy Board Member Professor Liz Varga, as part of the data sharing project 'Data Infrastructure for National Infrastructure' (DINI). Almost 20% of water resources in the UK are wasted through seepage and escapes. The WSL project used data to enhance leakage detection in water distribution systems, identify barriers to data sharing, and propose solutions that would facilitate cooperation between stakeholders.

As well as watching our latest webinar on 'Optimise your LinkedIn use for researchers', you can now read a blog outlining all the fantastic [practical guidance and top tips](#) our Media Manager Catherine Dhanjal gave on using LinkedIn effectively to increase impact and engagement of your work.

Dr Brian Matthews, DAFNI Programme Lead

News from our central team

WSL case study - Cath to write

<https://www.dafni.ac.uk/resources/case-studies/wsl-how-data-sharing-can-identify-leakages-in-vital-water-infrastructure/>

CASE STUDY

WSL: How data sharing can identify leakages in vital water infrastructure

Liz Varga, Professor of Complex Systems at Loughborough University Director of the Centre in Artificial Intelligence for the Built Environment (AI4BE) (formerly at University College London)



Introduction

The Water Systems Leakage (WSL) project was led by DAFNI Champion and Strategy Board Member Professor Liz Varga as part of the 2024-2025 data sharing project 'Data Infrastructure for National Infrastructure' (DINI). This exciting programme of work was instigated by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), aimed at better and safer use of data in research and funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)'s Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) programme. The 'DRI' is a £129m initiative aimed at developing a research data system that's interconnected, human, FAIR and sustainable.

With almost 20% of water resources in the UK wasted in seepage and escapes, this project used data to enhance leakage detection in water distribution systems, identify barriers to data sharing, and propose solutions that would facilitate cooperation between stakeholders. The research focused on the importance of consistent data collection and standardisation, the creation of Trusted Research Environments and collaborative platforms for data confidentiality, to enable access to infrastructure data for faster detection of leaks.

The DAFNI-DINI project allowed Professor Varga and her team at University College London (UCL) to further explore the efficacy of water systems, building on an existing project with DSIT, which involved creating algorithms for predicting water systems leakage.



SOFRAMODE

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(Sept/Oct: DINI (Brian) - September; Data Bridge - hold til end of October - check with Sophie?)



DAFNI CONFERENCE 2026

Rhodes House, University of Oxford | Thursday 10th September 2026

Morning Chair - Professor Theo Tryfonas,
University of Bristol

Morning

09:00	Arrival, Breakfast networking
09:30	Keynote- Margaret Read, National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA)
10:00	Technical Talk- DAFNI Team
10:30	Lightning Talks - DAFNI Fellows
11:10	Networking Break

Invited Speakers Session

11:40



- UrbanAIR Project,
Professor Femke
Vossepoel, TU Delft
- CReDO + Programme,
James Daniel, UK Power
Networks and Elliot
Christou, Connected
Places Catapult
- ENSIGN Project, Professor
Campbell Booth, University
of Strathclyde

12:40

Networking Lunch

Afternoon Chair - Professor Asaad Faramarzi,
University of Birmingham

Afternoon

13:45	Keynote - Professor Jim Hall, University of Oxford
14:15	Clean Energy Introduction
14:30	Networking Break
15:00	Government Industrial Strategy, Clean Energy interactive session - EPSRC's Supergen Hub and Industry Partners
16:30	Close - Brian Matthews, DAFNI Programme Lead

Add workshop tile (and if approved on NESO = write a bit about NESO engagement in the workshop)

Book now for the 2026 DAFNI Conference

📌 10th September 2026

📌 [Rhodes House in Oxford](#).

£50 (£25 students)

We would be delighted to welcome you.

Our theme is 'Climate and Security Resilience' with a dual focus on Government Industrial Strategy, and on Clean Energy.

We are pleased to announce that the clean energy workshop led by Supergen Energy Hub will include representation from the National Energy System Operator (NESO) as well as Cadent Gas and Krakenxx . NESO is an **independent, public corporation at the centre of the energy system**. In its [Future Energy Scenarios 2025 \(FES 2025\)](#) presented in webinars last month (July)

Secure your space:

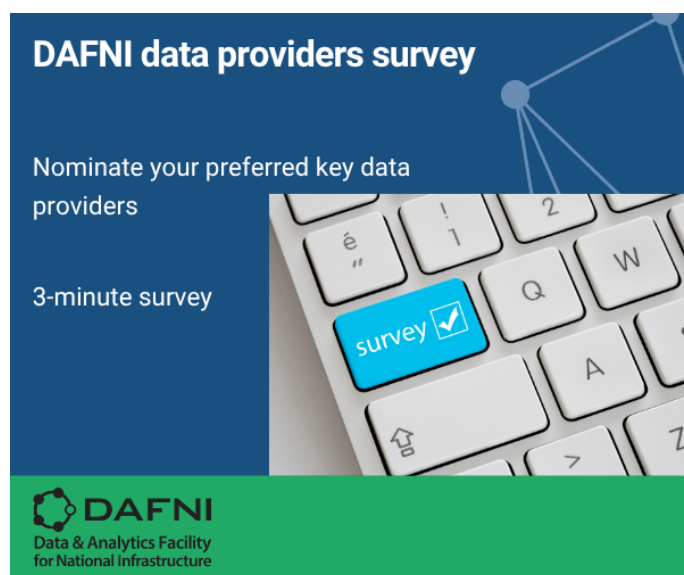
<https://web.cvent.com/event/d63e8935-fa2a-4faa-b11d-10cdb644b062/summary>

User liaison news

Share your data preferences with us!

DAFNI is requesting nominations for key data providers from our user community so that we can investigate ways to better support you.

Take the 3 minute survey now: [Key data providers – Fill in form](#)



Lewis Sampson, Research Software Engineer at DAFNI is attending the Accelerated Compute Infrastructure Training Hub (ACIT Hub) event on 15th September

‘Using Slurm on Kubernetes with Slinky hackathon’ takes place across University of Surrey, Guildford, UK and University of Sheffield, UK.

The ACIT Hub was set up to support people who work with supercomputer hardware, including System Administrators, Research Platform Engineers, and all other Research Infrastructure Engineers (RIEs).

Find out more at: https://acit.surrey.ac.uk/events/2026-09-15_Slinky_Hackathon.html

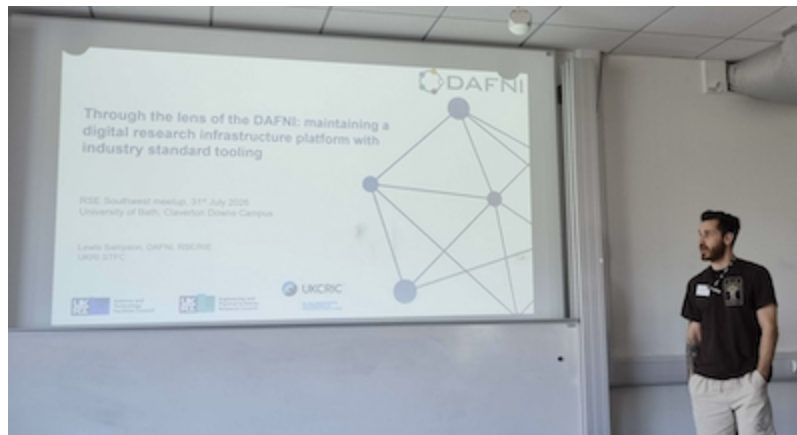


Sharing DAFNI experiences with the Society of Research Software Engineering (RSE) South West community

In July 2026 Elizabeth Mamchits, Software Engineer presented how DAFNI has built and evolved the DAFNIe platform over the past few years, sharing lessons on user engagement, turning feedback into meaningful platform improvements, and the practical realities of learning in a live system. DAFNI Research Software Engineer, Lewis Sampson, gave a talk on Kubernetes, containerisation, and building reproducible production services.

Find out more about RSE South West at: <https://rse-south-west.society-rse.org/>





The London Data Store has nearly completed its work on the connector that pulls metadata from DAFNI into the London Data Store. Elizabeth write for September? I think this would be a great collaboration to highlight, particularly in terms of the potential opportunities for other data hosts once the tool is fully released and integrated.

Add in about DAFNI Models

Partnership news

As we come out of the summer into the autumn there are a number of significant funding opportunities launching from Horizon Europe with deadlines in 2027.

These include:

14 and 15 October online:

Cluster 4 info day is an opportunity to learn about the funding opportunities in this cluster which focuses on digital technologies. With a focus on the development on competitive, digital, low-carbon and circular industry, the cluster offers a wide range of opportunities for innovations in domains from low carbon industries to AI and robotics

Horizon Europe info days—Cluster 4

15 October online:

Horizontal Activities Nature and Bridging Calls. *The session will provide participants with targeted guidance on the policy context, supporting applicants in understanding the objectives and opportunities of the Nature and Bridging calls. Bridging calls are relatively new opportunities to connect research outcomes to market opportunities and new research frameworks* Horizon Europe info day: Horizontal Activities Nature and Bridging calls

19 Nov Brussels (in person) and Live Stream:

Cluster 5 presents funding opportunities for innovators working in the domain of climate, energy and mobility Horizon Europe info days—Cluster 5 This relates to DAFNI's work with projects CROSSEU and UrbanAIR.

Within the DAFNI team we are actively pursuing funding opportunities in these clusters and actions and would be keen to work with members of our community on proposals. Please get in touch with Dr Tom Kirkham, DAFNI Science Lead, if you would like to explore these opportunities with us: info@dafni.ac.uk



Kyle?

DAFNI platform features and updates

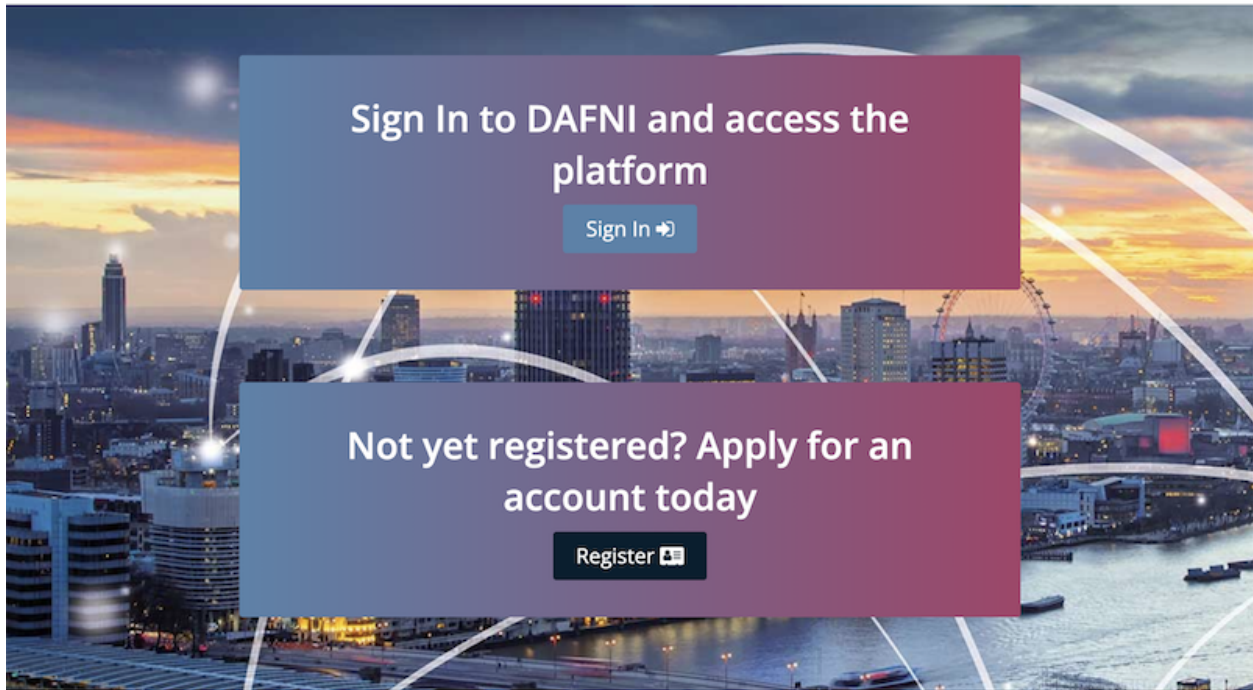
This month has seen the release of our new feature for uploading metadata-only entries into the DAFNI data catalogue as **Reference Datasets**. For anyone who wants to represent a dataset in our catalogue but can't upload the data itself, whether due to licensing restrictions or size constraints, the option is now available to add an entry to our catalogue that links to the original source.

Soon to follow will be our sister feature **Reference Models**, allowing the same metadata-only entries for software models which again may be restricted by licensing or size constraints. This will enable users and projects to represent all of their work on the platform even if some workflow components cannot be run directly on DAFNI.

Looking to the future

We are starting to investigate **bringing parts of the platform outside of our login wall** to enable easier sharing of results and project outputs. If this is something that would be of interest to you please do get in touch, we welcome any feedback from the community as we begin this work. Contact us at info@dafni.ac.uk





Access our help

If you are a user of the platform and have any feedback or platform requests, please contact support@dafni.ac.uk

Standard and expert user accounts are available - find out more at the foot of this email.

DAFNI Technical Training



If you would like to attend a DAFNI Technical Training Event covering how to best use DAFNI to complement your work and projects, please visit our Eventbrite page to register your interest. We plan to run a training session very soon, so now would be an ideal time to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/dafni-31793198351>

DAFNI researchers' news

Dr Mingshu Wang has been invited to give a presentation at the British Cartographic Society Annual Conference on 8-9 September 2026

(<https://www.cartography.org.uk/annual-conference>). The title is: Research-Led Geomatics Education in the Age of GeoAI: From Map-Making to Visual Reasoning. 9th Sept. **Session 2: The use of geospatial technologies and cartography in education** 11:10 - 12.10

The talk is primarily focused on Geomatics education, cartography and the implications of GeoAI, but there is a natural connection with some of the themes I am exploring through the DAFNI Fellowship, particularly around the critical interpretation of data, models and visualisations. I am therefore planning to acknowledge the DAFNI Fellowship and make a brief reference to the wider infrastructure and decision-making context where appropriate. I thought this could also see as a useful external knowledge-exchange and outreach activity for the Fellowship.

Saskia Salwey

The first paper from our [DAFNI: Data & Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure](#) USARIS project has just been published! 🎉

In this paper, we discuss the importance of uncertainty quantification and attribution for infrastructure resilience with two examples from the water and energy sectors. We demonstrate how sensitivity analysis can help identify inputs which have a (sometimes unexpectedly) strong influence on model outputs, helping modelers focus their attention and resources on effectively reducing uncertainty to facilitate more robust infrastructure decisions and designs.

<https://lnkd.in/eR3scubC>

Community news

The latest publication from the Government Office for Science highlights the research and innovation helping build resilience for the future: Climate Adaptation Research and Innovation Programme Inventory

Building on the Climate Adaptation Research and Innovation Framework (CARIF), this inventory provides an overview of Government- and UKRI-funded research and innovation (R&I) programmes that support climate adaptation, mapping current activity against the CARIF system challenges to provide a cross-government picture of adaptation-related R&I activity. It focuses on programmes where adaptation is a core or significant component, recognising that some adaptation-related research is delivered through broader programmes that may not be fully captured here.

Find out more at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-adaptation-research-and-innovation-programme-inventory>

Registration is now open for experts to review the First Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution to IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report.

The Working Group I contribution assesses the latest physical science basis of climate change, including observed and projected large-scale climate changes, climate processes and feedbacks, and regional climate information.

The expert review is the first of multiple review stages and runs from 10 August to 2 October 2026.

Interested experts are invited to register by 23:50 CEST on 25 September 2026:
<https://apps.ipcc.ch/comments/ar7wg1/register.php?q=fod>

The 2025 edition of the annual State of the UK Climate report, led by the Met Office, looks back at last year's long-running drought, emphasises how the UK's climate has rapidly changed in recent years.

It features input by UKCEH hydrologists for the first time. The key change in the UK's climate is the ongoing rise in temperatures; 2025 was the UK's warmest year on record, the sixth time this record has been broken in the 21st Century so far. There has been warming of around 0.25°C per decade since the 1980s. Spring and summer 2025 combined saw less than 40% of 1991–2020 average rainfall in the driest areas.

The total flow of rivers in England during March to August 2025 was the second lowest since 1961, lower even than several summer droughts except 1976.

The report has been published as an open access paper by the Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS) Society: <https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.70470>

Publications

Keep up to date with DAFNI and DAFNI researchers' publications!

Visit: <https://www.dafni.ac.uk/news-and-events/publications/dafni-publications/>



Watch our past webinars

View recordings of past webinars at

<https://www.dafni.ac.uk/news-events/events/webinars/>

Read the blog on our July LinkedIn webinar [Beyond the journal: how researchers can use LinkedIn to increase impact, visibility and collaboration - DAFNI](#)

DAFNI YouTube channel: catch up on conferences and interviews

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@dafnifacility118>

Access our help

Please contact us directly for any assistance on info@dafni.ac.uk



Apply for a DAFNI account

Apply for a DAFNI account

Join our community

If you would like to join the community of DAFNI users, please visit the [DAFNI website](#) for more information.

Current users of DAFNI

Get updated on the latest technical updates and features, visit: <https://www.dafni.ac.uk/my-dafni/>

Apply for a DAFNI account

Interested in working with infrastructure data, models and analytics? Creating an account on the Data & Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure (DAFNI) is the first step.

DAFNI offers two account options depending on how you want to use the platform:

Standard account

Provides read-only access to explore:

- Data catalogue and dataset details
- Model catalogue and model details
- Workflow catalogue and workflow details

Expert account

Includes everything in the Standard account, plus the ability to:

- Upload your own assets
- Run models within workflows and upload results as datasets
- Explore datasets through visualisations
- Create groups to share assets with selected collaborators

Whether you want to explore infrastructure datasets or actively run models and collaborate, DAFNI provides the tools to support research and innovation in national infrastructure.

Visit: <https://www.dafni.ac.uk/my-dafni/>

About DAFNI

The DAFNI platform supports research that aims to provide the UK with a world-leading infrastructure system that is more integrated, efficient, powerful, reliable, resilient and affordable. It is enabling the community to conduct research that is able to generate new insights at a higher level of detail and accuracy than ever before.

DAFNI was originally funded by an £8 million EPSRC investment in the UK Collaboratorium for Research in Infrastructure and Cities (UKCRIC) and a £1.2m grant under EPSRC's Resource Only Strategic Equipment. Its aim has been to become the national platform to satisfy the computational needs in support of data analysis, infrastructure modelling and visualisation, and encourage whole-system thinking for the UK's infrastructure research needs.

In March 2023 UKRI awarded £4m to STFC Scientific Computing to establish a national Centre of Excellence for Resilient Infrastructure Analysis, and move the Data & Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure (DAFNI) into its new phase.

To find out more about DAFNI, visit: www.dafni.ac.uk



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