

Getting EA Water Quality Data - UPDATED for New API (2026)

Simple Guide for Excel

****Important:**** The old API was retired in December 2025. This guide uses the ****NEW API**** that works as of February 2026.

Many thanks to Alison Matthews of the Rivers Trust for providing this.

Method1: Excel (WORKS GREAT)

Excel can set custom headers, so it works perfectly with the new API

Step-by-Step Instructions

****1. Open Excel****

****2. Go to Data tab → Get Data → From Web****

- Click the "Data" tab
- Click "Get Data"
- Click "From Other Sources"
- Click "From Web"

****3. Click "Advanced"**** (important!)

****4. Enter the URL:****

In the URL box, paste this (change the parts in CAPITALS):

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/sampling-point/YOUR-CODE/observation?dateFrom=2024-01-01&dateTo=2024-12-31&limit=250>

Replace:

- `YOUR-CODE` with your sampling point code (e.g., AN-CORBY)
- `2024-01-01` with your start date
- `2024-12-31` with your end date

****5. Add HTTP request header:****

Click "Add HTTP request header"

- In the first box, type: `Accept`

- In the second box, type: `text/csv`

****6. Click OK****

****7. Excel will connect and show you a preview****

****8. Click "Load"****

The data will appear in your spreadsheet!

Refreshing Data in Excel

To get updated data later:

1. Click anywhere in your data table
2. Go to Data tab
3. Click "Refresh All"

You can also set up automatic refresh:

1. Right-click on your data table
2. Click "Refresh" → "Connection Properties"
3. Check "Refresh every" and set to 60 minutes

Finding Sampling Point Codes

****Option 1: Interactive Map (Easiest)****

1. Go to: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality>
2. Click on the map to find your location
3. Click on a sampling point

4. Look for the "notation" - that's your code

****Option 2: List by Area****

1. Go to the API docs: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/api-docs>

2. Try the "sampling-point" endpoint

3. Use filters to find your area

📊 Understanding Your Data

The data will have these columns:

| Column | What It Means |

|-----|-----|

| ****phenomenonTime**** | When the sample was taken |

| ****determinand.prefLabel**** | What was measured (e.g., "Temperature", "Phosphorus") |

| ****result**** | The actual measurement value |

| ****unit**** | Unit (e.g., "CELSIUS", "MILLIGRAM PER LITRE") |

| ****samplingPoint.prefLabel**** | Location name |

| ****samplingPoint.region**** | Region |

Plus coordinates, sample types, and other details.

🎯 Getting Only Specific Measurements

Add these to your URL (before &limit=):

****Temperature only:****

&determinand=0076

****Phosphorus only:****

&determinand=0348

⚠️ Common Issues and Solutions

Issue: Excel says "Can't connect"

****Solution:****

- Make sure you clicked "Advanced" when entering the URL
- Check you added the HTTP header (` Accept: text/csv`)
- Check your internet connection

Issue: No data appears

****Solution:****

- Check the sampling point code is correct
- Check the dates are valid
- Try a longer date range
- Make sure the dates are in format YYYY-MM-DD

Issue: Only 250 results but I need more

****Solution:**** Make multiple requests with different date ranges:

- Q1: Jan-Mar
- Q2: Apr-Jun
- Q3: Jul-Sep
- Q4: Oct-Dec

📋 Quick Reference

****For Excel:**** Use Data → From Web (Advanced) with the Accept header

****URL:****

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/sampling-point/POINT-CODE/observation?dateFrom=START-DATE&dateTo=END-DATE&limit=250>

****HTTP Header:****

- Header: ` Accept`

- Value: `text/csv`

Need Help?

****Environment Agency Support:****

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/support>

****API Documentation:****

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/api-docs>

What Changed from the Old API?

****Old API (retired Dec 2025):****

- Used `.csv` in the URL
- Used `IMPORTDATA` in Google Sheets
- Used `year=` parameter

****New API (current):****

- Uses `Accept: text/csv` header
- Uses custom function in Google Sheets
- Uses `dateFrom=` and `dateTo=` parameters
- Same data, different access method

Updated: February 2026, *Using: Environment Agency Water Quality Archive - NEW API*