

# THE SAFEPOD NETWORK



**SAFEPOD<sup>®</sup>**

SECURE DATA ACCESS



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# INTRODUCTION

## **About The SafePod Network**

The SafePod Network (SPN) is a new investment from the Economic and Social Research Council to provide an independent network of safe settings (known as SafePods®) that will provide the secure facilities and services for researchers to remotely access datasets from participating Data Centres across the UK.

For researchers, the major benefit of SafePods is that they will be able to have local access to their project datasets, without the need for long distance travel to a dedicated safe setting provided by a Data Centre.

For Data Centres, SPN provides a low cost, secure and standardised platform to widen access to their datasets for research purposes across the UK. A single accreditation for use of a SafePod by a Data Centre will be all that is required to accredit the full SafePod Network.

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*“The SafePod Network will enable safe public benefit research to be carried out from many more places across the UK, particularly within research institutions historically disadvantaged by being distant from national safe settings.”*

**Professor Chris Dibben  
Director of The SafePod Network,  
University of Edinburgh**

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# WHAT IS A SAFEPOD?

## Design

A SafePod is a small prefabricated safe setting that can provide remote access to sensitive or confidential datasets for research purposes from participating Data Centres across the UK.

A SafePod has two separate areas. A researcher area for dataset analysis and a security cupboard for the storage of IT hardware and service equipment necessary for remote dataset access.

A SafePod replicates a traditional safe setting and has many safety, security and comfort features detailed overleaf.

## Choice of SafePod

A SafePod comes with the choice of two designs:

- **Classic SafePod** – brown timber cladding with three finishes.
- **Contemporary SafePod** – grey cladding with three finishes.





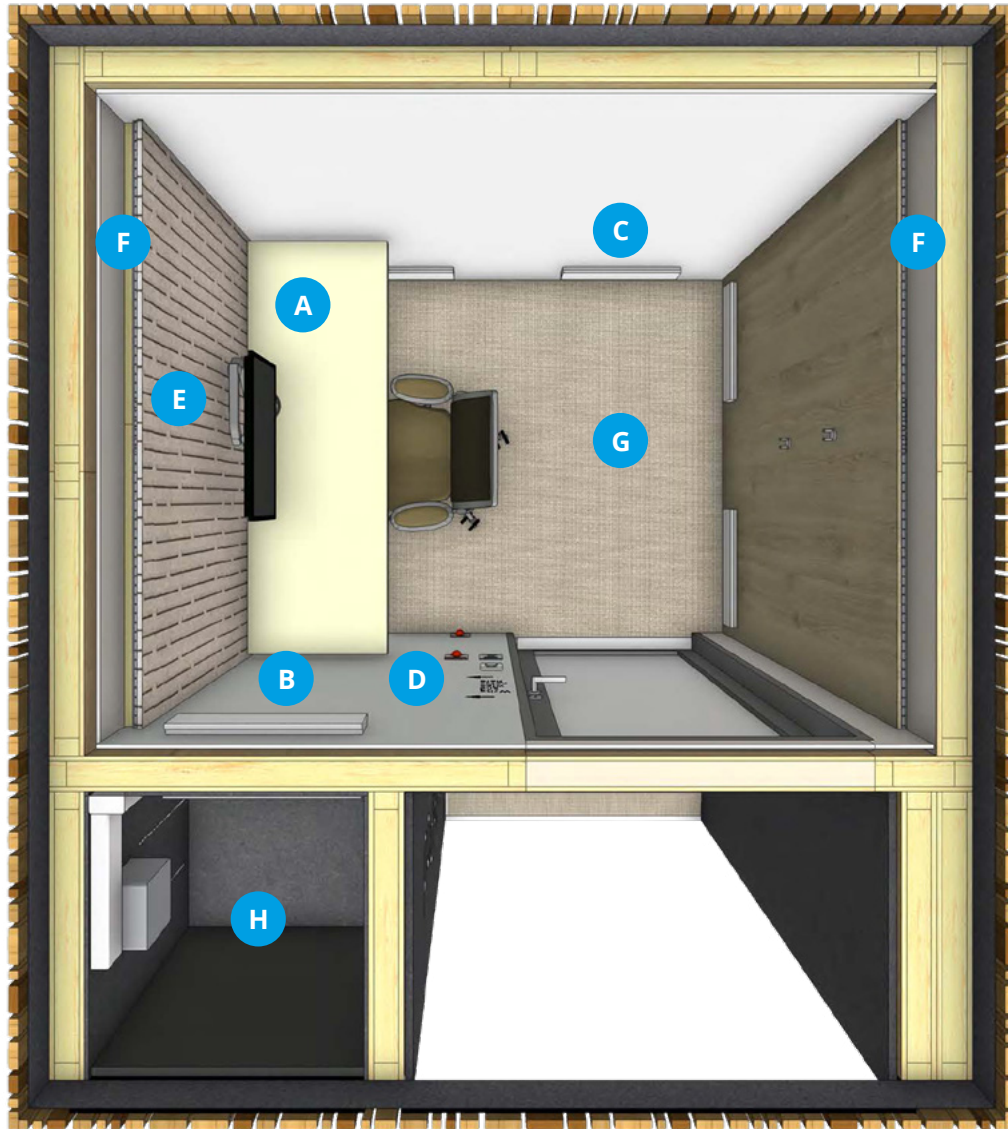
#### AT A GLANCE

- A** Security Cupboard
- B** Researcher Locker
- C** Swipe Card Access to SafePod
- D** Wheelchair Access Ramp
- E** Emergency Alarm
- F** Vertical Timber Cladding in Three Finishes
- G** LED Strip Lighting

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*Left: SafePod design – front view.*

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### AT A GLANCE

- A** Height Adjustable Desk
- B** Whiteboard Panel for Researcher Notes
- C** Ventilation Strips
- D** Control Panel For Lighting and Emergency Alarm
- E** Acoustic Screen With Felt Finish
- F** LED Strip Lighting
- G** Vinyl Floor Finish
- H** Security Cupboard

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# RESEARCHER SAFETY AND COMFORT

A SafePod has been carefully designed for researcher safety and comfort. Some of the features include:

## Safety

- Ventilation: a minimum of 6 air changes per hour and a minimum fresh air supply rate of 16 litres per second.
- Fire Alarm: an activation of the fire alarm will automatically unlock the SafePod door.
- Emergency Alarm: An activation of the emergency alarm will automatically unlock the SafePod door.
- Swipe Card entry and Door Key override: The SafePod door has a swipe card door entry system with a key override unlocking mechanism.

## Comfort

- Height adjustable desk: can be altered from standing to sitting to suit a researcher.
  - Lighting: levels can be adjusted by using a dimmable switch.
  - Ambience and interior: a SafePod has been carefully designed to provide an optimal research working environment.
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# ACCESSIBILITY

SafePod has been designed to support people with accessibility requirements in line with BS 8300.

SafePod complies with:

- Access, exit and manoeuvring spaces for wheelchairs.
  - Ramp access restrictions
  - Contrast of colours/textures for semi sighted.
  - Weight of door operation.
  - Heights of fixtures.
  - Adjustability of desk height.
  - Adjustability of monitor height and angle.
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# MAJOR BENEFITS OF SAFEPODS

The major benefits of SPN and SafePods are as follows:

- A SafePod provides the opportunity, flexibility and convenience for a researcher to have local access to project datasets provided by participating Data Centres.
- The SafePod Network provides Data Centres with an independent standardised secure platform to widen access to their datasets for research purposes across the UK.
- No data is held within a SafePod, instead access is provided by remote connection between a SafePod and a Data Centre.
- A SafePod supports remote data access from multiple participating Data Centres.
- A SafePod provides researchers with a pleasant environment to work in.
- SPN and SafePods will encourage the greater use of datasets for public benefit research.

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*Right: SafePod design – internal side view.*

*“The SafePod Network provides another vital piece in the complex jigsaw of providing access to controlled microdata.”*

Matthew Woollard, Director of the UK Data Archive and the UK Data Service, University of Essex.





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# SECURITY

## Security for a SafePod

SPN is committed to ensuring that SafePods are safeguarded from unauthorised access and information viewed inside a SafePod are protected from misuse.

Researchers can only access a SafePod following authorisation from a Data Centre. A local identification check of a researcher must then be verified by a trained and background checked member of staff before access to a SafePod is granted.

A CCTV camera records activity within a SafePod during a booked session.

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A separate secure cupboard stores the IT hardware necessary for a remote dataset connection. This is not accessible to a researcher.

The SafePod monitor powers down when the SafePod door opens.

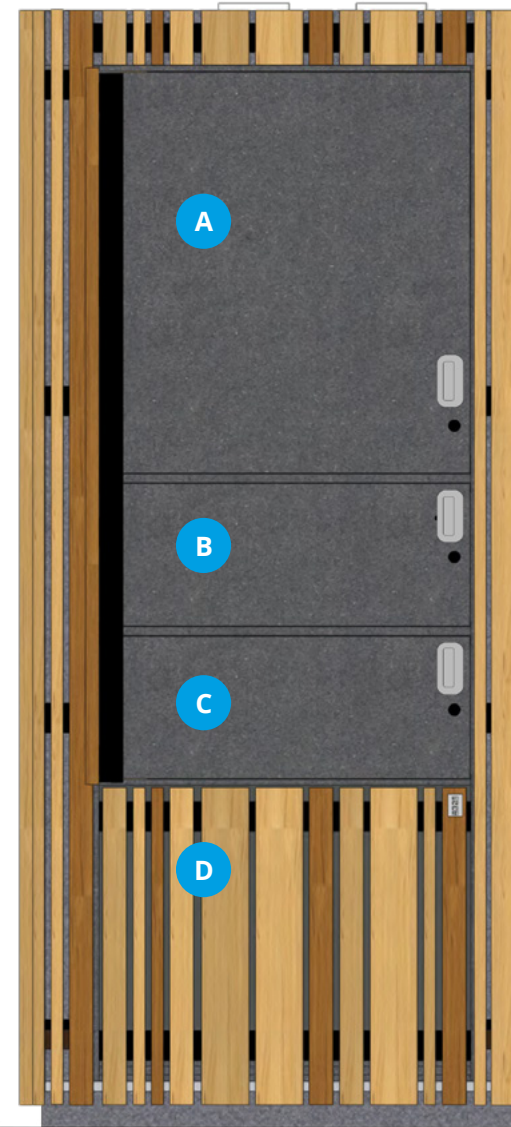
## Security controls and policies

Security controls for information security and the management of SPN are aligned with ISO 27001:2013.

Organisations with a SafePod must adhere to SPN policies and procedures for the security, management and operation of a SafePod.

Researchers that wish to use a SafePod must register with SPN first and agree to SPN User Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions for use of a SafePod.

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## AT A GLANCE

- A** Secure Storage Cupboard for IT Hardware and SafePod Equipment
- B** Cupboard 1 for connecting SafePod IT hardware
- C** Cupboard 2 for connecting Data Centre IT hardware
- D** Researcher Locker

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*Left: Security Cupboard (shown with main door open).*



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# REMOTE DATASET ACCESS FROM A SAFEPOD

There are two options for remote dataset access from a SafePod.

## **1. SPN Dataset Access Service**

This service will facilitate remote access to Data Centre datasets from a SafePod thin client. Researchers will choose which Data Centre to connect to from a menu and then login using credentials issued by a Data Centre to a researcher in advance.

## **2. Data Centre provided IT hardware**

A Data Centre can provide their own IT hardware to provide a remote dataset connection from a SafePod. The hardware is stored securely inside a SafePod and connected when required.

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*“Providing safe, secure access points around the UK for our most sensitive data is vital if we are to drive research and improve society.”*

**Professor David Ford, Health Informatics, Swansea University.**

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# SPN SERVICE PROVISION

SPN will provide the following services to support their key objectives:

- A network of SafePods based within organisations across the UK.
- A web application to provide information about SPN and make SafePod bookings.
- Policies, procedures and assurances for the operation and management of SafePods.
- A firewall service to provide the security boundaries for SafePod services.
- A CCTV service to enable Data Centres to view and monitor activity within a SafePod.
- A User Support Service to assist stakeholders with SPN enquiries.
- An Advisory Board to plan and make decisions on the long term objectives of SPN.



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# SAFEPOD FUNDING AND FURTHER INFORMATION

SPN is an Economic and Social Research Service investment. An initial round of funding is available for eligible organisations to be able to purchase a SafePod.

For more information about a SafePod application and the work of SPN, contact SPN User Support Service by phone on 01334 463901 or email [safepodnetwork@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:safepodnetwork@st-andrews.ac.uk)



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S E C U R E   D A T A   A C C E S S

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