

Data Discovery How-to Guide

NSHD Showcase and Condor Interoperability

March 2025

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THE DATA DISCOVERY PLATFORM
NSHD SHOWCASE WORKS WITH THE DATA SHARING
PLATFORM **CONDOR**

This guide describes how the data discovery platform, **NSHD Showcase** works together with the data sharing platform, **Condor**. Users should easily be able to find the variables discovered in the NSHD Showcase on Condor.

It is important to make a distinction between the platforms as they have different features including levels of access.

NSHD Showcase

The NSHD Showcase is a data discovery platform which is also used by UK Biobank for its data sharing processes. The Showcase is available at <https://datashare.ndph.ox.ac.uk/nshd46/>, aims to present the variables available for researchers in a comprehensive and concise way and to provide technical information to those considering applying to use the NSHD resource.

Important points:

1. **The NSHD Showcase is publicly accessible**, no login credentials required. Therefore, not all the NSHD variables are available on the platform. Sensitive variables have been restricted and will only be available on Condor (**more information see below**).
2. **The NSHD is a data discovery platform**. It can be used to locate variables of interest. It cannot be used to create baskets required for data sharing. Please make a note of Field ID's of the variables of interest and enter these into Condor to build the basket. More details on this are available in this guide.

The NSHD Showcase displays variables that have undergone cleaning as part of the LHA's metadata cleaning project. As of January 2025, 14,000 (35%) variables have been cleaned according to the new NSHD metadata standard and are made publicly available. New variables will be added to the platform regularly with the aim of having all variables cleaned and available by the end of 2026.

NSHD Showcase and Condor Interoperability

NSHD Showcase is publicly available so users can access it without any credentials. It is expected that becomes the first port of call for any new users of NSHD data.

NSHD variables of interest can be easily searched in both platforms. For more information on how to search for variables on both platforms separately, see: <https://skylark.ucl.ac.uk/NSHD/access/help-guides/>

Searching NSHD Showcase variables in Condor

This guide will focus on how you can use the search results from the Showcase to find the same variables on Condor.

For example, if we are interested in variables related to standing height and weight, we start by browsing “Body size measures” in the NSHD Showcase.

The of the results for browsing the category “Body size measures”.

Category 11021

[Clinical data](#) ▶ [Physical measures](#) ▶ [Anthropometry](#) ▶ [Body size measures](#)

Description

This category contains data on body composition measures that were taken manually (i.e. standing height, waist/hip circumference, weight, body mass index).

44 Data-Fields | 1 Parent Category

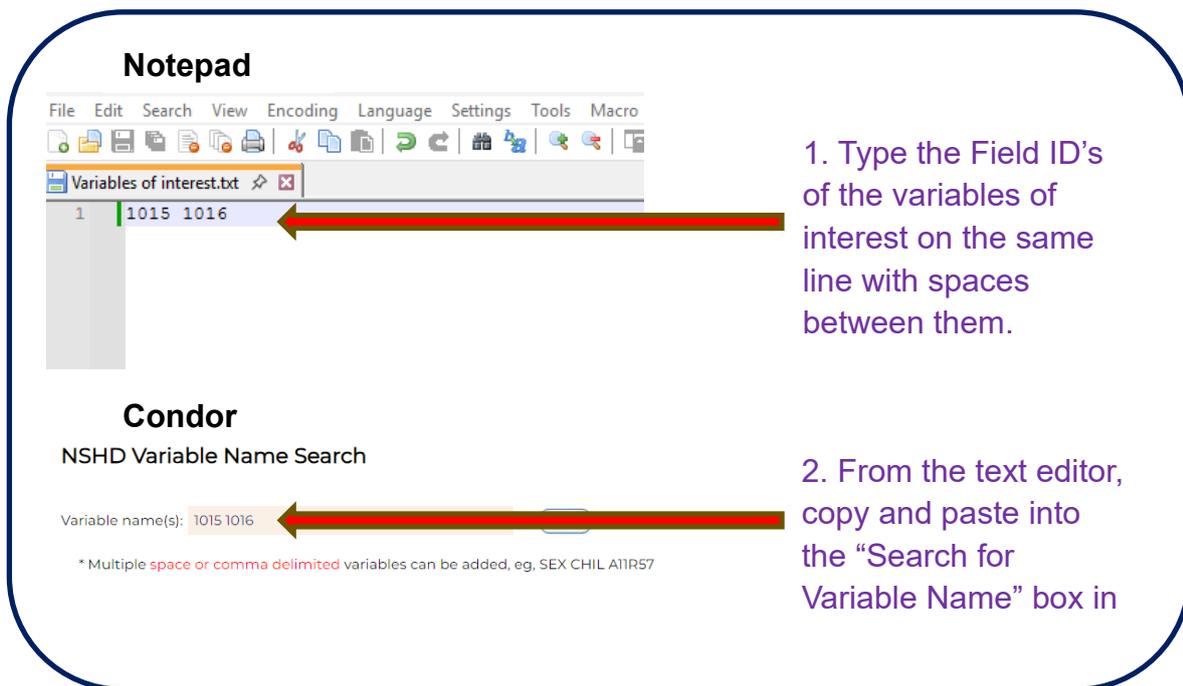
Field ID Description

1015	Weight
1016	Standing height
1017	Body mass index (BMI)
1018	Abdominal circumference - first measure
1019	Abdominal circumference - second measure
1020	Hip circumference - first measure
1021	Hip circumference - second measure
1022	Chest circumference - first measure
1023	Chest circumference - second measure
1024	Expanded chest circumference
1025	Right upper arm circumference - first measure
1026	Right upper arm circumference - second measure

From the search results, you will need to keep a list of the **Field ID's** of the variables of interest. For example, we may be interested in the variables **“Weight”** and **“Standing height”**. We would therefore copy the **Field ID's** **1015** and **1016**.

A couple of useful ways to copy the Field ID's are:

Method 1: Using a text editor i.e. notepad.



The image shows two screenshots illustrating the process of copying field IDs. The top screenshot is of a Notepad window titled "Variables of interest.txt" with the text "1 1015 1016" on the first line. A red arrow points from the text to the right. The bottom screenshot is of the Condor "NSHD Variable Name Search" interface, showing the "Variable name(s):" field containing "1015 1016". A red arrow points from this field to the right. To the right of each screenshot is a purple instruction.

Notepad

1. Type the Field ID's of the variables of interest on the same line with spaces between them.

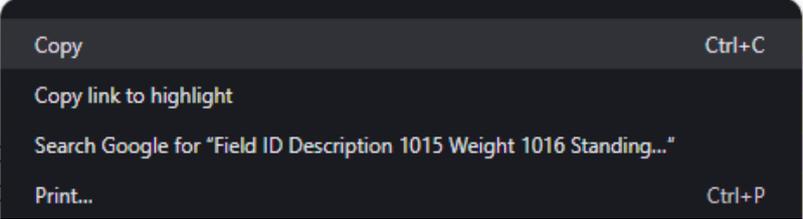
Condor

2. From the text editor, copy and paste into the "Search for Variable Name" box in

Method 2: Using a spreadsheet i.e. Microsoft Excel

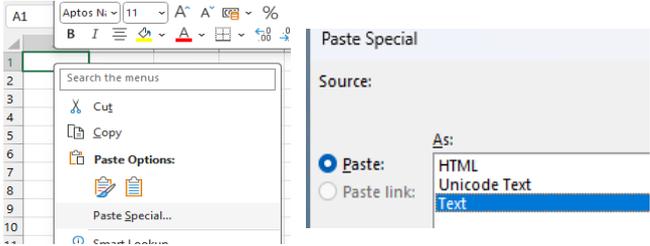
1. Highlight the variables of interest → Right-click → Select “Copy”

Field ID	Description
1015	Weight
1016	Standing height
1017	Body mass index (BMI)
1018	Abdominal circumference
1019	Abdominal circumference



2. Open Microsoft Excel

3. Right-click → Paste Special →



4. Select the Field ID's of the variables of interest

	A	B	C
1	Field ID	Description	
2	1015	Weight	
3	1016	Standing height	
4			

5. Copy and paste the Field ID's into the search bar in Condor

NSHD Variable Name Search

Variable name(s): 1015 1016 *

* Multiple space or comma delimited variables can be added, eg, SEX CHIL A11R57

Condor

[Condor](#) is the data sharing platform designed and managed internally by the LHA team. This platform aims to allow researchers to browse metadata, view technical information of the variables and create bespoke baskets of variables for their research projects. The baskets are converted to datasets by the LHA Team and made available inside the UCL Data Safe Haven.

The platform is restricted for bone fide research only and formal registration process is in place for requesting an account. Full details on the access pre-requisites for NSHD data can be found at:

<https://skylark.ucl.ac.uk/NSHD/access/prerequisites/>

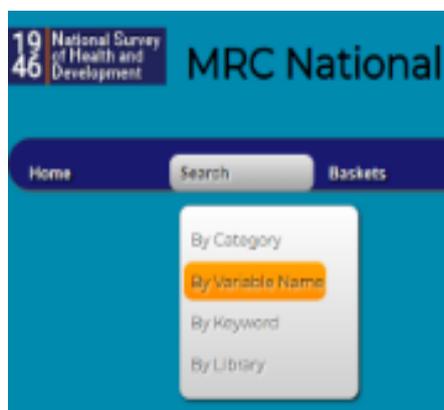
In this guide, we will be looking at the “**Search by Variable Name**” section of Condor. For more information on the other features of Condor, please see the “[How-to](#)” guides page on Skylark.

Search by Variable Name using Field ID

On the Showcase each variable has a unique Field ID. If you have already selected a list of Field ID’s from the Showcase, these can be searched for in Condor and saved to create your basket.

Go to Condor (<https://condor.ucl.ac.uk/Condor>) and log in.

You can search by Field ID’s inside Condor. Click on “search” on the header row. Then select “By Variable Name” from the drop down list.



NSHD Variable Name Search

Variable name(s): *

* Multiple *space or comma delimited* variables can be added, eg, SEX CHIL A11R57

Please note that all the instances of a variable will have the same Field ID on the NSHD Showcase but unique variable names on Condor. When searching by Field ID for such variables inside Condor, all the variables will appear in the search results.

For example, “**Standing Height**” (Field ID 1016) has been measured 14 times and so there are 14 instances. In Condor, if you search for Field ID 1016 then you will get the heights for each sweep.

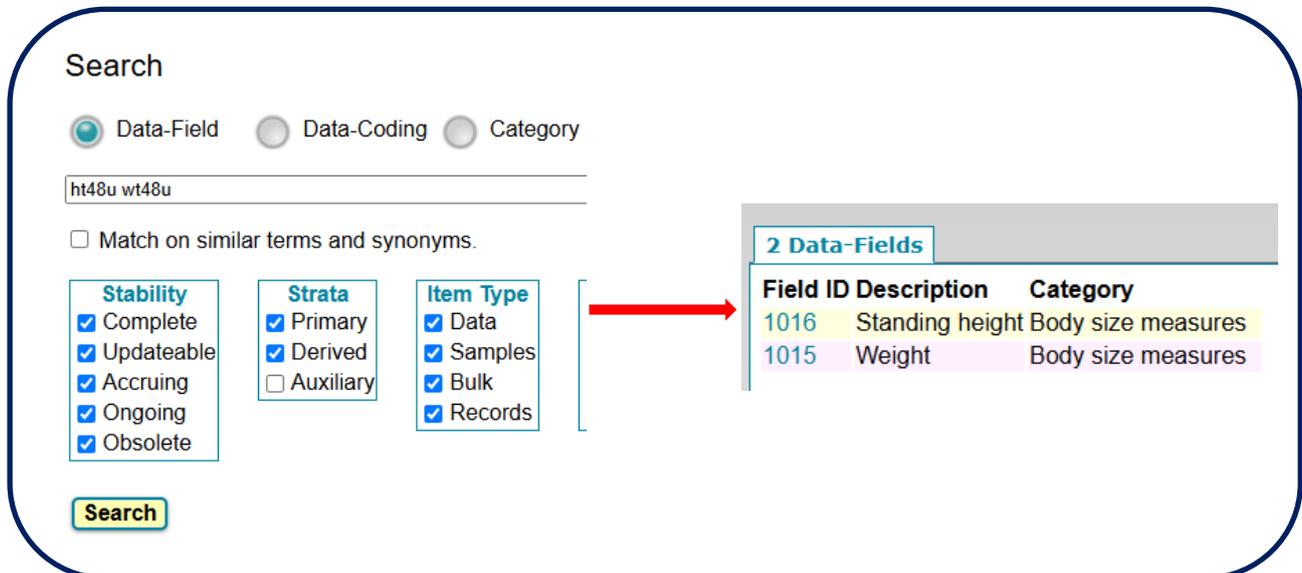
Variable	Description	Year	Form	Question
ht48u	Standing Height in cm - at age 2 years	1948	AN1 - Face to face interview of mother by health visitor	32(b)
ht50u	Standing Height in cm - at age 4 years	1950	AN2 - Face to face interview of mother by health visitor	25(b)
ht52u	Standing Height in cm - at age 6 years	1952	D1 - Examination by the school doctor	19
ht53u	Standing Height in cm - at age 7 years	1953	D2 - Examination by the school doctor	28
ht57u	Standing Height in cm - at age 11 years	1957	D3 - Examination by the school doctor	30
ht61u	Standing Height in cm - at age 15 years	1961	D4 - Examination by the school doctor	28
ht66u	Standing Height in cm - at age 20 years	1966	H2 - Postal questionnaire	19
ht72u	Standing Height in cm - at age 26 years	1972	Section A - Main questionnaire	5(a)
ht82u	Standing Height in cm - at age 36 years	1982	A - Main questionnaire	81 (4)
ht89u	Standing Height in cm - at age 43 years	1989	A - Main questionnaire	96(a)
ht99u	Standing Height in cm - at age 53 years	1999	A - Main CAPI questionnaire	122(b)
htn09_v2	Standing Height in cm - at age 60-64 years	2006-10	Nurse schedule	25
htn15x	Standing Height in cm - at age 69 years	2015	Home visit	10
htn23x	Standing Height in cm - at age 77 years	2023	Home visit	3
mbwtu_v2	Birthweight in kg	1946	Maternity survey	17
wt48u	Weight in kg - at age 2 years	1948	AN1 - Face to face interview of mother by health visitor	32(a)
wt50u	Weight in kg - at age 4 years	1950	AN2 - Face to face interview of mother by health visitor	25(a)
wt52u	Weight in kg - at age 6 years	1952	D1 - Examination by the school doctor	18
wt53u	Weight in kg - at age 7 years	1953	D2 - Examination by the school doctor	27
wt57u	Weight in kg - at age 11 years	1957	D3 - Examination by the school doctor	29
wt61u	Weight in kg - at age 15 years	1961	D4 - Examination by the school doctor	27

Once you have searched the variables of interest, they can be added to a basket. The basket should then be saved and communicated to the LHA Team along with the project ID the basket should be linked to. Please see the “How-to” guides page on Skylark, which details these steps.

Searching Condor variables in the NSHD Showcase

Where a variable has been measured longitudinally, for example height, each sweep measure has a unique variable name, but one overarching Field ID. For example, Field ID **1016** is mapped to the variables **ht48u**, **ht50u**, **ht52u** etc. You can also search for these variable names inside the NSHD Showcase.

If we wanted to search for the variables **ht48u** and **wt48u** inside the NSHD Showcase, we need to enter these in the “Search” page on the Showcase.



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following details:

- Search** section with radio buttons for **Data-Field** (selected), **Data-Coding**, and **Category**.
- Search input field containing **ht48u wt48u**.
- Checkbox for **Match on similar terms and synonyms** (unchecked).
- Filter panels for **Stability**, **Strata**, and **Item Type**, each with a list of checkboxes.
- Search** button.
- Results panel showing **2 Data-Fields** in a table:

Field ID	Description	Category
1016	Standing height	Body size measures
1015	Weight	Body size measures

The instance specific variables names bring up the associated Field ID’s. Clicking on the Field ID’s will bring up the technical information of the variables and show you all the different instances linked with it.

For more information on the technical information available and where to find the instances, see the “[How-to](#)” guides page on Skylark.

About NSHD

The MRC National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD) has informed UK health care, education and social policy for more than 70 years and is the oldest and longest running of the British birth cohort studies. Today, with study members in their seventies, the NSHD offers a unique opportunity to explore the long-term biological and social processes of ageing and how ageing is affected by factors acting across the whole of life.

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