

WBP ACADEMIC/VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project title:	Assessing and exploiting species and breed differences in diet selection and grazing behaviour		
Lead Organisation:	IBERS, Aberystwyth University	Project leader:	Dr Mariecia Fraser
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		Tel: 01970 823081 Mob:	
Collaborating institutions:			
Location:			
Start date:		Completion required by:	
Project rationale/ What is the specific question being asked?			
<p>Appropriate management through grazing is essential for delivering many of the ecosystem services associated with the uplands. The 2012 Upland Evidence Review conducted by Natural England highlighted a key knowledge gap relating to the comparative diet preferences of different breeds of sheep. This has particular resonance for Wales given the predominance of sheep over cattle within Welsh upland farming systems. Research is required to address these unknowns and produce a sound scientific base for policy development in relation to grazing in the uplands. This should generate comparative data which reflect both traditional breeds and practices and the evolving sheep industry. Likewise, while some evidence exists of inter-species differences in grazing behaviour and related impacts with regards to cattle and sheep, there is little comparative information available regarding other species of grazer, including ponies.</p> <p>Question/Aims: 1) To quantify the extent to which the foraging strategies of different types of stock differ when grazing vegetation types of conservation interest; and 2) to assess the extent to which such differences can be linked to vegetation change.</p>			
Can this project be divided into more than one project? If yes, specify below.			
<p>Comparative diet selection and grazing behaviour of different breeds of sheep when grazing vegetation types of conservation interest.</p> <p>Comparative diet selection and grazing behaviour of cattle and ponies when grazing vegetation types of conservation interest.</p>			
Scale of project?	Site-specific? Name site & any designation.	Range of sites? Name sites & any/ designation.	Suggested site/s/locations?
Access to previous data/reports on site?		RA¹ attached	
Will logistics be managed by Lead Organization or Researcher?			
Opportunity for follow-on student placement² with Lead Organisation?			YES or NO

¹ RA: Risk Assessment for sites specified, or type of work to be undertaken as available from Lead/collaborating partners

Training element/skills required (specify):
Expected deliverables (specify):
Resources required/ resources available (specify):
Any special considerations? (specify):

Return completed form to: tracey.lovering@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk Tel: 01970 631177 / 07779 010580

² *Please consider whether you are able to offer a work placement. This can be with lead/collaborating partners, or with a data end user e.g. Local Record Centre, Local Authority*