

WBP ACADEMIC/VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL 11

Project title:	Diffuse pollution impacts and remedies for terrestrial wetland ecosystems.		
Lead Organisation:	Natural Resources Wales	Project leader:	
		Dr Pete Jones	
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Collaborating institutions:	Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, CEH		
Location:	Bangor		
Start date:	Autumn 2013	Completion required by:	Autumn 2015
Project rational/ What is the specific question being asked?			
The consequences of long-term comparatively low-level chronic diffuse pollution for wetland condition (primarily fens and bogs) is poorly understood. There is a suspicion that sites may be accumulating nutrients even though signs of enrichment are subtle. Consequently, the evidence base in support of catchment measures and the necessary size/geometry of buffer zones is poor. There is currently an insufficient understanding of surface water catchments of many of our key designated wetland sites in Wales. Often the site boundary or a larger river catchment is considered and this is not the best approach.			
Can this project be divided into more than one project? If yes, clarify above			
Yes: project 1 to understand the effect of chronic low-level diffuse pollution, and project 2 to define appropriate remedies – particularly with respect to buffer zone widths/geometries.			
Scale of project?	Site-specific? Name site & any designation.	Range of sites? Name sites & any/ designation.	Suggested site/s/locations?
Large	Multi-site	Ideally stratified by country, situation, soil type, wetland trophic status	Cors Bodeilio NNR English/Scottish sites to be identified
Access to previous data/reports on site?	YES	RA¹ attached	NO
Logistics managed by:	Collaborating Organization: ideally CEH	YES	Researcher Prof. Chris Evans?
Opportunity for follow-on student placement with Lead Organisation?			YES
Training element/skills required: Needs to be undertaken by a suitable research centre with proven expertise in hydrochemistry and understanding of nutrient fluxes in peatland soils.			
Expected deliverables: Reports and peer review journal publications covering topics 1 and 2 above.			
Resources required: This is likely to be a significant project requiring post-graduate or post-doc research and substantial soil and water analysis facilities.			
Any special considerations:			

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

¹ RA: Risk Assessment