



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs Programme

Project Submission Guidance

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs (BEERN) Programme aims to identify and address biodiversity and ecosystem evidence and research needs that will deliver and impact on Welsh policy and delivery priorities.

1. Is there a clear alignment with an NRAP Objective?

Please provide details in the submission template. **Nature Recovery Action Plan Objectives (1-4) and brief descriptions** can be found below. **A full copy of the NRAP is available [here](#) and see [here](#) for more information. *Please note, projects must align with objectives 1-4 only.***

Objective 1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels.

Placing nature at the centre of decision-making is essential to address the underlying cause of biodiversity loss. A lack of awareness, and subsequent valuation of the critical contribution that our nature makes to our well-being and livelihoods, means we often do not account for that contribution in decision-making, at all levels of society, from individuals through local authorities, to businesses.

Objective 2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management. Species and habitats are the building blocks of our ecosystems and their functioning, from which we derive many services and benefits. Sites designated for nature conservation play an important role: for maintaining natural diversity; contributing to ecosystem services and benefits; and protecting and enhancing our rarest natural biodiversity and geo-diversity.

Objective 3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

Degraded habitats are ones that no longer support the full potential of our native wildlife. We need to restore networks of habitats to a healthy condition, on both land and sea, to safeguard species and improve the resilience of our natural environment. Restoration will be based on the four attributes of resilience: Increasing diversity; Increasing ecosystem extent through reducing fragmentation; Increasing connectivity within and between ecosystems; and Improving habitat condition.

Objective 4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Land and marine management practices can have a detrimental effect on habitat and species loss and fragmentation. Key pressures identified by the UK NEA and others include: agriculture; urbanisation; pollution, invasive non-native species; eutrophication, acidification, unsustainable human activity; and climate change. It is vital to anticipate, prevent and mitigate the causes of biodiversity loss at source, using both our legislation, and innovative and holistic nature-based solutions.

2. Is there a clear alignment with a gap identified within the State of Natural Resources Report?

The latest **State of Natural resources Report (SoNaRR)** can be found [here](#). Alignment can be with any gap found within any of the 8 chapters. Gaps are identified clearly within each chapter.

Please provide more detail in the project submission template, as this will be used for prioritisation purposes.

3. Can the project be delivered within a specific timeframe? Be appropriately scaled? And costed?

Please add in more details into the project submission giving estimates where possible. These do not need to be precise at this time, but need to show that the project is deliverable. Please see the example submission form below for more information.

4. Are you, as the project lead, prepared to preserve and share any data that is collected and/or analysed?

Data preserving and sharing are key principles of the programme. Where this is possible, you should consider data sharing as an essential component of the project outputs.

Please provide more details if you cannot adhere to data sharing.

A full data sharing agreement and outline of expectations can be found with accompanying guidance.

Other points to consider when submitting a project

- Findings must be presented at an appropriately timed Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference (where possible this should be the same year as project completion)
- Submission to the programme does not imply funding. Submitted projects will be prioritised on an annual basis and awarded funding on a competitive basis. More information on the prioritisation process can be found on the WBP website (here).
- Projects can be submitted on any topic that meets the submission criteria, at any time of the year. However, there will be specific deadlines per annum to allow for prioritisation of projects that will be available for funding and delivery for the upcoming academic year. These deadlines will be published, but likely occur around spring of each year. Projects will be advertised on the WBP website.
- All submitted projects will published on the WBP website.
- Those wishing to deliver a project will need to request to do so. If there is an intended person/organisation to deliver the project, please make this clear in the project submission template.
- Any formal outputs (not including university /academic publications) will need to comply with the Welsh Language Standards. More information can be seen via the following link: <http://www.comisiynyddygydraeg.cymru/English/Organisations/Pages/What-are-standards.aspx>)

Example project submission template

Title	Habitat permeability modelling of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	
Description (max 500 words)	The project will provide a habitat permeability map, based on least-cost resistance modelling, for the Great Crested Newt in Wales. This will aid the identification and analysis of the resilience of existing populations, the potential for connecting potentially isolated populations and the possibility and opportunities for re-introductions at new sites.	
Links to NRAP Objectives / SoNaRR	NRAP Objectives 2 and 4. Great Crested Newts are a section 7 listed species.	
Potential Impacts / Outcomes	Providing a map of habitat permeability and opportunities for the GCN will directly impact on delivery of species conservation and provide a tool to support practitioners.	
Scale (site specific? location(s)? species?)	Great Crested Newts on a Wales-wide scale.	
Timeframe (seasonal? length?)	Time-bound – project will be desk-based, probably of 6 months or less.	
Cost (informed estimate is sufficient)	Cost will be appropriate to delivery mechanism – most likely one Masters-level project.	
Agreement for data preservation and sharing where appropriate and applicable?	Yes. Happy to share data and will prepare and provide data in the approved format to NBN and others where appropriate. Will ensure the data are appropriately marked as sensitive due to protected species status.	
Lead person / organisation	Angela Watkins – GCN society	
Project delivery* (please include contact details)	Do you wish to undertake the project?	No
	Do you wish the project to be available to be undertaken by others?	Yes
Output (Peer-reviewed paper, tool, guide, etc.)	A habitat permeability map (and GIS package that can be provided with associated underlying data) and underlying data with an executive summary. The aim is also for a published peer-reviewed article in an appropriate journal.	
Delivery Mechanism (undergraduate project, PhD, in-house project with organisation, etc.)	Masters-level summer project or similar	