

WBP ACADEMIC/VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL 26

Project title:	Effectiveness of pastoral AES options in providing foraging resources for pollinators in intensively farmed landscapes in Wales'		
Lead Organisation:	Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT)	Project leader: Sinead Lynch	
Address: Parc Slip, Fountain Road, Tondur, CF32 0EH		Email: Sinead.lynch@bumblebeeconservation.org Tel: 01656 332960	
Collaborating institutions:			
Location:	Tir Gofal and Glastir farms which have used options prescribed to restore grassland habitats and field edges (hedgerows and ditches)		
Start date:	No set date	Completion required by:	No set date
Project rationale/ What is the specific question being asked?			
<p>Are AES options delivering forage and nesting provision for pollinators in pastoral landscapes? The study could look at different management options at different farms in a defined landscape area. Pollinator diversity could be looked at, although this would depend on competence of individual in terms of taxonomic skills. Could look at a more manageable taxon group e.g. bumblebees.</p> <p>Pollinator factors to consider: Species recorded (how many species/individuals, defined pollinator 'axiophytes'?) How frequently flowers visited (what was being collected?) Variety of forage available.</p> <p>Habitat factors to consider: Habitat assessment, availability of forage resource, availability of nesting/breeding habitat How long has the site been in sympathetic management? Stocking levels and type, chemical/organic input? Is there beneficial pollinator habitat nearby, how much and how far?</p>			
Can this project be divided into more than one project? If yes, clarify above			
<p>The project could be divided in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Divide AES options into different habitat types delivered 2) Divide by stocking type / farm type 3) Divide by different pollinator groups, e.g. Bumblebees, Butterflies. 			
Scale of project?	Site-specific? Name site & any designation	Range of sites? Name sites & any/ designation.	Suggested site/s/locations?
Would need to look at a number of farms for comparison, could be relatively large scale looking at different parts of Wales.			

Access to previous data/reports on site?	NO	RA¹ attached	NO
Logistics managed by:		Researcher	
Opportunity for follow-on student placement with Lead Organisation?			NO
<p>Training element/skills required:</p> <p>Botanical: Species identification/NVC skills</p> <p>Agricultural management: understanding agricultural systems and Agri-environment schemes</p> <p>Invertebrate: taxonomic skills</p>			
<p>Expected deliverables:</p> <p>Written report on effectiveness of AES options</p> <p>Academic Papers</p> <p>Conference and workshop presentations etc.</p>			
<p>Resources required:</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Invertebrate survey equipment – nets, pots, killing fluid, pooter</p> <p>Microscope and reference material for identification</p>			
Any special considerations:			

Return completed form to Tracey.Lovering@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Tel: 01970 631177 / 07779 010580

¹ RA: Risk Assessment