

**Title: WBP Research & Development (R&D) Requirements**

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***Background/Progress***

As Defra manage the England and Wales R&D budget, WAG officials regularly liaise with Defra colleagues to ensure that Welsh research priorities are considered at both a strategic and programme level.

An internal R&D network has been established which is managed by the Technical Services Division. This enables WAG to determine ongoing research activity and influence future Defra R&D programmes from a Welsh perspective. An example of Defra R&D programmes with BAP related research is outlined below.

The tables in Annex 1 are examples of the type of R&D that is being (or has been) carried out to meet biodiversity knowledge gaps under the various Defra programmes:

***Plan/Proposals***

Encourage DEFRA and other research institutions to undertake research which meets the needs of the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership steering group (WBP SG).

- WAG (linked to the WBP SG) to identify key R&D priorities from a Welsh perspective.
- WAG to liaise with Defra to ensure that Welsh research needs are considered within the relevant England and Wales R&D programmes.

***Action Requested***

- Ask all WBP members to
  1. Liaise with TSD to identify R&D needs to meet Welsh BAP requirements and to feed back project proposals for consideration within Defra managed R&D programmes on a 6 monthly basis. Contact should be made through the WPB Secretariat to either Richard Evans or Nina Prichard, Technical Services Division.
  2. Consider where do WPB see their BAP objectives fitting into the current Defra R & D programmes highlighted above?