

**UK update on national measures to control the spread of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus (bsal) – 26.09.23**

*Sarah Scott – Joint Nature Conservation Committee*

- The Wildlife Disease Policy Coalition was established in August 2021 to enable a co-ordinated approach to policy ownership of wildlife disease within Defra, through cross-department working, joint initiatives and campaigns, and greater sharing of information and best practice; and to undertake or commission any control measures agreed for disease threats. This has led to joint working on a *Bsal* plan for England, which is currently in development, and the supporting structures for a response.
- We have invested in *Bsal* and Bd testing of suspected cases as part of broader amphibian surveillance through the Garden Wildlife Health scheme.
- In the last two years England has had two credible reports of suspected *Bsal* in the wild. Tests resulting from these reports showed a negative result for *BSal* and therefore neither suspected case was confirmed as *BSal*. However, these have been valuable learning experiences which have enabled us to make progress on our *Bsal* plan and relevant supporting structures for England.