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**Cyfoeth**  
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Wales

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amphibian and reptile  
**conservation**



## 5. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE BATRACHOCHYTRIUM SALAMANDRIVORANS CHYTRID FUNGUS (BSal)

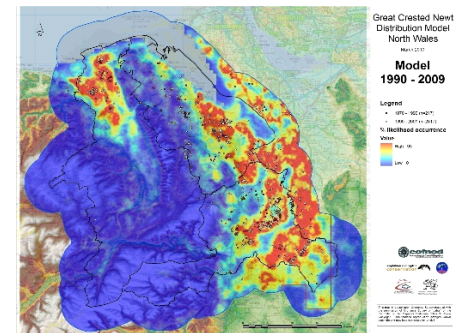


- There are seven amphibian species native to GB including three species of newt: the smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), the palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) and the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). There are two species of toad and two species of frog. In addition, breeding populations of 8 species of non-native amphibians are present in GB.
- All three native newt species are considered at risk in the event of a Bsal incursion, and other amphibian species present at sites are considered potential carriers.
- Bsal has been shown to be present in captive salamanders in GB, but to date has not been detected in the wild here.
- On the basis of current evidence and in relation to Government's national and international obligations to protect amphibian health and biodiversity, Bsal meets the criteria for government intervention with regard to both instigating preventative measures and responding in the event of an outbreak.
- Bsal was made a notifiable disease in Caudata (salamanders including newts) in England, effective from 21 April 2021.
  - If anyone suspects Bsal, they must report it immediately through the Defra Rural Services Helpline.
- Routine import controls are in place, set out in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/320.
- Defra are in the process of finalising a control strategy for Bsal, setting out the disease control measures and policies government would consider and implement if Bsal were suspected or confirmed in one or more wild amphibians in England. This also describes the measures and wider framework in place to prevent and limit and incursion of Bsal into the wild in Great Britain.
- The strategy aims to enable all involved with responding to an incursion or outbreak of Bsal infection in the wild to be better prepared to respond quickly and effectively.
- Defra are also planning to publish biosecurity advice, recommending biosecurity measures for captive amphibians to minimise the risk of overspill to wild populations, and for those accessing amphibian habitats to prevent potential spread of Bsal between sites.

## 7. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER ISSUES TO ADDRESS



1. Surveillance in remote environments and potential for future innovation and collaboration ;
2. Evidence limitations, its implications on informing local public decision making, and potential use and applications of Artificial Intelligence;
3. Developing a collaborative approach for monitoring and records management of incidental capture/killing of herpetofauna;



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