

## Meeting Summary

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Meeting: UKRI-BBSRC Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel

Date and Time: 12.45pm on 2/12/2025 – 3.30pm on 3/12/2025

Venue: Ezra Room, Clayton Hotel, Albert St, Birmingham B5 5JE and Hybrid.

### Attendance

#### *Panel members:*

Carol Wagstaff (University of Reading) – Chair  
Emma Garfield  
Alison Mather (Quadram Institute)  
Lynn Frewer (Newcastle University)  
Jasmeet Kaler (University of Nottingham)  
Angelina Sanderson Bellamy (UWE)

#### *BBSRC office:*

Andrew Hellewell  
Hayley Spearman – Secretariat  
Katie Tomlinson  
Jamie Stone  
Riaz Bhunoo  
Amanda Collis – online  
Ruth Nottingham – day 2  
Mary Jenkinson Finch – day 2

#### *Other attendees*

Julie Gray (University of Sheffield)  
Adam Carson (Diageo) - day 2  
Adie Collins (Rothamsted) - day 2  
Hugh Frost (Glaia) - day 2  
Tom Allen Stevens (BOFIN)- day 2  
Mat Goddard (University of Lincoln) - day 2

#### *Apologies*

Jess Davies (Lancaster University)  
Herve Migaud (MOWI)  
Dan Bebbler (University of Exeter)  
Ian Noble (Mondelez)

## Agenda, summary and actions

### *Chair's introduction*

The chair invited panel members and BBSRC to take part in a brief round of introductions, followed by a review of actions from the previous meeting

### *Roundtable update from the panel*

The Chair invited the Panel to share updates from their communities of particular interest to other Panel members and BBSRC. There was discussion around the future of agricultural research and education as UK universities restructure for financial sustainability.

### *BBSRC update*

BBSRC shared updates from across BBSRC and UKRI. This included news about the spending review, council activity, funding and programme updates. There were discussions around the challenge for funding within the agri-food sector.

### *BBSRC Forward Look – Andrew Hellewell*

The panel highlighted inter-disciplinary, systems-based approaches to support the Forward Look, considering funding models, infrastructure and co-production opportunities. Suggestions for joint SAP discussions in 2026 were made, along with working closely with NERC on the interface of agriculture and the environment.

### *Horizon Scanning – Katie Tomlinson & Hayley Spearman*

The panel highlighted the following areas as having the most potential to deliver impactful solutions for sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems:

- Adaptation to stress in agriculture
- Waste valorisation and circular innovation
- Responsible AI for data integration & research
- Impact of production and manufacturing on food safety and nutrition
- Livestock and animal research
- Engineering biology & phenotyping across crops and livestock for climate resistance and positive welfare
- One Health including livestock innate immunity, AMR, broader welfare issues

### *Nature Positive Agriculture*

The panel discussed the need for standard metrics, and highlighted the influence of external factors on metrics, the need to work with farmers & agronomists, with collaboration across councils.

### *AOB*

Thanks to all for an engaging meeting, with special thanks to Emma Garfield and Alison Mather, for whom this is their last meeting as panel members. The next meeting will be on 19-20<sup>th</sup> May 2026.