



Scottish Beaver Trial Organisational structure and roles

Scottish Beaver Trial: Partners

The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between The Royal Zoological Society, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and host Forestry Commission Scotland to undertake a time-limited trial reintroduction of the European beavers to Knapdale, Mid-Argyll.

Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) is a registered charity. It is the largest voluntary body working for all the wildlife of Scotland, representing more than 30,000 members who care for wildlife and the environment. SWT seeks to raise public awareness of threatened habitats and species and manages over 120 wildlife reserves Scotland-wide.

The **Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)** own Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park and are a registered charity, number SC004064. RZSS was founded by visionary lawyer Thomas Gillespie. The Society was set up 'to promote, facilitate and encourage the study of zoology and kindred subjects and to foster and develop amongst the people an interest in and knowledge of animal life'. RZSS has been involved in several successful species reintroduction programmes in the past. These include native species, such as the Canna mouse, as well as global initiatives including reintroducing the Socorro dove back to the Socorro Islands, off the Mexican coast.

Scottish Beaver Trial: Hosts

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) manages the trial site of Knapdale Forest as part of the national forest estate. Forestry Commission Scotland serves as the Scottish Government's forestry directorate and is responsible for the protection and expansion of Scotland's forests and woodlands. FCS manages the national forest estate for a range of public benefits – economic, social and environmental. It works closely with a range of national and local stakeholders and partners to deliver the Scottish Government's goals vested in the Scottish Forestry Strategy. In relation to the beaver trial, FCS will host the trial on their land and lead on on-site visitor management and interpretation.

Scottish Beaver Trial: Monitors

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) advises the Scottish Government and works to secure the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage, foster understanding and facilitate enjoyment of it and encourage its sustainable use. In relation to the Scottish Beaver Trial, the role of SNH, as laid out in the Scottish Government license conditions (3 and 4) is to:

Licence Condition 3 - Coordinate a monitoring programme in collaboration with the project partners through an appropriate group, and involving SNH's Scientific Advisory Committee. The group, chaired by SNH, will maintain a suitable level of scientific independence from the other project groups.

SNH, in collaboration with the group will:

- Collate information on behalf of the Scottish Government (SG).
- Assess and approve all research, survey and monitoring projects associated with the project (including those projects which SNH will not necessarily lead on, e.g. public health), thereby ensuring limited resources are directed at addressing the core objectives of the trial.
- Coordinate research, survey and monitoring projects to ensure collaborative opportunities are identified, data is collated in compatible formats, disturbance to beavers minimised and detrimental effects to nature conservation interests avoided (e.g. SAC, SPA, species etc.) .
- Ensure all data and information collated during the trial has joint ownership and is made publicly available.

- Produce a pre-release monitoring programme and a post-release monitoring programme by the year of the release, both plans to be submitted to the SG.

SNH will also lead, in collaboration with other partners where appropriate, on specific projects relating to the monitoring and modelling of the beaver population, and the monitoring of the effects of beaver.

Licence Condition 4 - SNH to report to the SG on whether the conditions of any licence are being fully addressed on the ground. SNH are directly involved in a significant number of these license conditions.

Scottish Beaver Trial: Independent Monitoring Partners

Argyll & Bute Council (ABC) will ensure that public health is an integral part of the project and that adequate controls are in place to protect public health. The Councils' Protective Services will review and audit the management arrangements which SWT will have in place for monitoring water quality of surface waters and private water supplies in the area. In addition the Council will seek to foster the potential economic benefits of the project and to encourage any economic development opportunities, for example in tourism initiatives, that may be compatible with the project.

Historic Scotland (HS) is an Agency within the Scottish Government and is directly responsible to Scottish Ministers for safeguarding the nation's historic environment, and promoting its understanding and enjoyment. HS acts for Scottish Ministers in regards to Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the trial area.

British Waterways Scotland (BWS) is a public corporation which has statutory duties to maintain safe navigation along Scotland's canals, including the nine mile long Crinan Canal, which is also a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. BWS owns one and has rights to abstract water from nine of the operational water supply reservoirs and their feeder streams to the canal within the trial area.

From time to time a range of other independent monitoring partners (public and non-public) may be involved in the monitoring of the Scottish Beaver Trial. See www.snh.org.uk/scottishbeavertrial for further details.

Scottish Beaver Trial – Group Terms of Reference:

Scottish Beaver Trial Steering Group

Terms of reference:

- To actively promote the aims of the Scottish Beaver Trial.
- To design the framework for the project.
- To direct the Project Team through the Project Manager.
- To maintain a channel of communication with the Scottish Government for the exchange of information and for the resolution of issues that may arise.
- To receive and respond to feedback from all groups written into the organisational structure of the Scottish Beaver Trial via the Project Manager.

Scottish Beaver Trial Project Team

Terms of reference:

- To be responsible for the detailed planning, implementation and reporting of the Knapdale beaver trial.

Research & Monitoring Coordination Group

An independent group, reporting to the Scottish Government (SG), chaired and coordinated by SNH.

Remit as laid out in SG license conditions:

- Collate information on behalf of the Scottish Government.
- Assess and approve all research, survey and monitoring projects associated with the project (including those projects which SNH will not necessarily lead on, e.g. public health), thereby ensuring limited resources are directed at addressing the core objectives of the trial.

- Coordinate research, survey and monitoring projects to ensure collaborative opportunities are identified, data is collated in compatible formats, disturbance to beavers minimised and detrimental effects to nature conservation interests avoided (e.g. SAC, SPA, species etc.) .
- Ensure all data and information collated during the trial has joint ownership and is made publicly available.
- Produce a pre-release monitoring programme and a post-release monitoring programme by the year of the release, both plans to be submitted to the SG.
- See www.snh.org.uk/scottishbeavertrial for further details.

Fundraising Working Group

Terms of reference:

- To coordinate and implement the procurement of external funds required for the Knapdale beaver trial.

Education & Interpretation Working Group

Terms of reference:

- To oversee and implement the educational, interpretation and visitor management aspects of the Knapdale beaver trial.

PR & Communications Working Group

Terms of reference:

- To coordinate and manage PR and media issues and enquiries at a national level.
- To advise project team on local PR and communications matters.

Knapdale Beaver Trial Local Stakeholder Forum

Terms of reference:

- To provide a clear, transparent line of communication between the project partners and local stakeholders.
- To allow local stakeholders views to be fed into the decision making process for the trial.

Knapdale Beaver Volunteers

Terms of reference:

- To allow volunteers to become actively involved in the implementation of the Knapdale beaver trial.

Updated on 27/08/09 by S. Jones (SBT Project Manager)