



## 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)** - leading on public health monitoring associated with the trial.

**Argyll Fisheries Trust (AFT)** - leading on fish ecology and monitoring associated with the trial.

**British Dragonfly Society (BDS)** - leading on dragonfly and damselfly monitoring associated with the trial.

**Historic Scotland (HS)** - leading on archeological monitoring associated with the trial.

**Macauley Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)** - leading on woodland habitat monitoring associated with the trial.

**Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Sciences (Dick Vet)** - advising on beaver health monitoring associated with the trial.

**Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)** - leading on water chemistry monitoring associated with the trial.

**University of Oxford – Wildlife Conservation Unit (WildCru)** - leading on beaver ecology and riparian mammal monitoring associated with the trial.

**University of Stirling – School of Biological & Environmental Sciences (US)** - leading on aquatic plants, river habitat and hydrological monitoring associated with the trial.

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](http://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](http://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 29/7/10 by S. Jones (SBT Project Manager)