

# Job Profiles



In this section you will find 10 job profiles of people involved in the Scottish Beaver Trial. Each profile includes information about the person, their qualifications and experience, the best parts of their job, the worst parts of their job and either a brief explanation of a typical day or tips for people wanting to get into the same field of work.

**Capture and release scientist— Professor Frank Rosell**

**Communications Officer—Clara Govier**

**Education Officer—Amy Cox**

**Field Officer—Christian Robstad**

**Field Operations Manager—Roisin Campbell-Palmer**

**Project Manager—Simon Jones**

**Quarantine Co-ordinator—Derek Gow**

**Ranger—John Taylor**

**Vet—Romain Pizzi**

**Zoo Keeper—Nick Dowling**

**NAME** Professor Frank Rosell

**JOB TITLE** University Professor

**COMPANY** Telemark University  
College



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- Many years as a chemical engineer
- PhD Behavioural Ecology
- Has worked with beavers since 1990

### **BEST BITS**

- Being out in nature
- Meeting a lot of interesting people with the same interests
- Travelling the world
- Seeing all the beaver behaviours in the wild

### **WORST BITS**

- Too much work sometimes
- Can be stressful to get everything done

### **TYPICAL DAY**

- As I am based at Telemark University I do a lot of teaching and have a lot of discussions with students. On top of that I will organize the next beaver (or mammal) project. As a scientist it's really good to keep up to date with what is happening so I read lots of scientific papers, I also write my own papers and have them published



**NAME** Clara Govier

**JOB TITLE** Communications  
Officer

**COMPANY** RZSS (Royal Zoological  
Society of Scotland)



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BA Hons in Media Studies and History
- CIPR Post Grad in Public Relations
- CIM Advanced Certificate in Marketing
- Many years of work in communications at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and then at the Scottish Wildlife Trust

### **BEST BITS**

- Variety is the best thing
- I'm lucky to be able to get into areas and meet people that not everyone can like David Attenborough, Chris Packham, Danni Minogue and the Vice Premier of China

### **WORST BITS**

- Your day is sometimes not your own – all it takes is someone to criticise zoos or to put out a press release about the plight of tigers and then your day is taken up dealing with requests for interviews etc. You rely on the support of others to help and understandably it is not always top of their agenda so you can often feel a bit of a nag.
- Working for charity means the pay packet is never the best

### **TIPS**

- Get volunteering – there are lots of people with the right qualifications but if you want to get ahead it is all about on-the-job experience
- Make sure you are up to speed with other areas of communication activity – online, social media, print publications as all this can bring added value to your job prospects. Twitter is a big thing for releasing news to journalists in particular at the moment



**NAME** Amy Cox

**JOB TITLE** Education Officer

**COMPANY** RZSS (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland)



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BSc (Hons) Zoology
- 3 years as an Education Officer at Edinburgh Zoo
- 2 years as an Environmental Instructor at a Kingswood Outdoor Education and Activity Centre
- 1 year as senior warden at an outdoor activity hostel
- Volunteering with various conservation and wildlife organisations

### **BEST BITS**

- Inspiring people to protect the natural world
- Working in an area that I am passionate about
- Seeing the first beavers in Scotland for 400 years

### **WORST BITS**

- Working some unsociable hours
- Not getting paid very much
- Midgies

### **TYPICAL DAY**

- There's not really a typical day in my field. The working day starts at around 9am when I set up for any lessons that day, the teaching tends to be in the mornings. Afternoons are filled with managing websites, meetings, developing new lessons, creating new resources, organising events, whatever has to be done really. Luckily when I have time I get out and about and help with native species field work and conservation



**NAME** Christian Robstad

**JOB TITLE** Scottish Beaver  
Trial Field Officer

**COMPANY** Scottish Beaver Trial



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BSc Ecology and Natural Resources
- MSc Environmental Health Studies which involved leading the trapping, handling and tracking of European beavers in Norway
- Service in the Norwegian military

### **BEST BITS**

- Working with beavers
- Lots of time outside in the woods walking, canoeing and boat driving
- Seeing lots of other wildlife eg. Pine martens, birds of prey, deer, badgers and foxes

### **WORST BITS**

- The weather conditions, it's very often raining heavily and the temperature drops below zero
- Working nights

### **TYPICAL DAY**

- A normal day for me is usually, divided up into 20% office work and 80 % fieldwork. The fieldwork can be field sign surveys, water chemistry sampling, moving and repairing equipment, searching for beavers etc. Office work is usually digitising of data and planning the next weeks fieldwork with other staff or volunteers

**NAME**           Roisin Campbell-Palmer

**JOB TITLE**       Field Operations  
                          Manager

**COMPANY**    Scottish Beaver Trial/ Royal  
                          Zoological Society of Scotland



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- ANC in management of zoo animals
- MSc in Applied animal behaviour and animal welfare.
- BSc (Hons) Zoology
- 6 years as a zookeeper
- 5 months in Norway working with Prof. Frank Rosell as part of their long-term beaver study programme
- 5 months field work as Phd field assistant in Trinidad
- Worked and volunteered with animal rescue centres and veterinary clinics

### **BEST BITS**

- Spending time in Norway working with such experienced people
- Carrying out beaver research
- Working outdoors with wild animals

### **WORST BITS**

- Beaver anal gland secretions can be pretty smelly

### **TYPICAL DAY**

- No real typical days. If I'm out catching beavers I usually arrive at the river at around 8pm and am out until about 5am. Other days can be spent in the lab, at meetings, writing up results, out at Knapdale, beaver monitoring, collecting data like field signs and behaviours and going to more meetings



**NAME** Simon Jones

**JOB TITLE** Scottish Beaver  
Trial Project Manager

**COMPANY** Scottish Wildlife  
Trust



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BSc Geography and Geology
- 1 year as a BTCV volunteer
- 15 years managing wildlife reserves for wildlife trusts and local authorities

### **BEST BITS**

- Sitting in a canoe in nice weather watching beavers
- Being outdoors

### **WORST BITS**

- Sitting at a computer

### **TIPS**

- Get a variety of experience across the conservation sector, ideally in different parts of the UK or abroad
- Remember that you don't have to work in the field to work in conservation there are IT, fundraising, marketing, PR, education and administration positions, lots of different ways you can be involved
- It takes more skill and experience to work with people than with wildlife

**NAME** Derek Gow

**JOB TITLE** Founder and manager

**COMPANY** Derek Gow  
Consultancy Ltd



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- Managing Director of a specialist wildlife consultancy
- Project manager for 3 successful British wildlife parks since the 1980s
- 5 years as a wildlife warden at Palacerigg Country Park
- 2 years seasonal countryside ranger
- Published many papers and articles about conserving British mammals

### **BEST BITS**

- Going to see lovely beaver sites up and running in Europe and working with colleagues in Europe
- Being close to nature

### **WORST BITS**

- Licences
- Administration

### **TYPICAL DAY**

- I can often be found travelling the UK countryside looking for beaver and water vole release sites and working on projects. I advise on beaver and water vole reintroduction programmes as well as being one of the lead advisors on water vole habitat improvement and teaching on the water vole training course for IEEM (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)

**NAME** John Taylor

**JOB TITLE** Wildlife and  
Conservation Ranger

**COMPANY** Forestry Commission  
Scotland



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BSc (Hons) Environmental Science
- HND Game and Wildlife Management
- 4 years as a Wildlife Ranger
- Lots of volunteering with local conservation bodies

### **BEST BITS**

- The privilege of getting to work very closely with some iconic and in some cases rare species
- Hopefully making an improvement in breeding/conservation success

### **WORST BITS**

- Rain
- Midgies

### **TIPS**

- Do lots of work
- Volunteer and build up knowledge in your own time
- Do something that makes you stand out from the crowd in some way, there are a lot of people wanting not very many jobs



**NAME** Romain Pizzi

**JOB TITLE** Specialist Wildlife Vet

**COMPANY** RZSS (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland)



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BVSc (vet qualification)
- MSc Wild Animal Health
- Membership of the ACVSc by examination in surgery
- Royal College of veterinary Surgeons Diploma in Zoological Medicine
- Worked with wildlife and zoo animals on 5 continents
- TV presenter for animal series on the BBC, Channel 4, Five and Animal Planet

### **BEST BITS**

- Working with all sorts of interesting animals, from tarantulas to tigers
- Working outdoors
- Contributing to important conservation work
- The mental challenge of trying to figure out what is wrong with some unusual, and quiet unco-operative animals patients

### **WORST BITS**

- Working outdoors in the sleet and snow

### **TIPS**

- At school work as hard as you can to get the good grades.
- Read as much as you can about wildlife
- Spend a lot of time outdoors watching animals, rather than believing wildlife is like it appears on TV
- Above all keep a fascination and wonder with our natural world throughout your life

**NAME** Nick Dowling

**JOB TITLE** Zoo Keeper

**COMPANY** RZSS (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland)



### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- BTEC first diploma in animal care
- ANC zoo keepers course
- Currently studying for the foundation degree in zoo resource management
- 8 years as a zoo keeper at Bristol and Edinburgh
- Work experience at Bristol Zoo, Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, other farms and veterinary practices

### **BEST BITS**

- Breeding successes
- Getting to do something that is my passion
- The first time I saw one of the beavers in the loch and hearing the tail slaps in the water

### **WORST BITS**

- Being covered in poo on occasions
- Being out in all weathers
- The amount of midges that cover you when you're out tracking or catching beavers

### **TIPS**

- Be prepared to volunteer and give up free time to take part in any kind of work in this field, it shows you're serious and is a great way to prove yourself to potential employers and get a foot in the door

