



Press Release

Date: 26th October 2011



Sarah with Bruce

Scottish Beaver Trial announces winning beaver name

The Scottish Beaver Trial, in Knapdale, Argyll, has announced the winning name of a beaver born last spring after a competition for schoolchildren across Scotland.

The board of Biffaward, a major funder for the Trial chose the name **Barney**, suggested by Sarah Bell, aged 6 from Airdrie.

Barney was one of the first beavers born as part of the Scottish Beaver Trial, making him one of the first beaver kits born in Scotland for over 400 years.

A picture of Barney the beaver, now a year old, is attached, along with a picture of Sarah meeting the Scottish Beaver Trial's mascot, Bruce the Beaver and Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager Simon Jones.



Barney

Sarah has won a beaver safari at the Trial site in Argyll, where hopefully she will spot Barney and the other beavers, along with evidence of beaver behaviour like dams and felled trees.

The competition was launched by Environment Minister Stewart Stevenson in August.

Gillian French, Biffaward Programme Manager said:

“As well as being of significant importance to our natural environment, projects like this also bring great benefit to the communities around them. In terms of the Scottish Beaver Trial, it has had an impact on communities across the country, developing people’s understanding and awareness of these wonderful creatures.

“Biffaward is proud to be involved with projects like this and hope that the trial will continue to go from strength to strength. “

Simon Jones, Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager said:

“The name a beaver competition has been a great way to get kids excited about the Scottish Beaver Trial.

“I hope many of the young people who entered will come down to Knapdale to try and spot the beavers for themselves.

“The beavers are settling in well to their home in the heart of Argyll. So far three beavers including Barney have been born in Knapdale and are thriving.”

Ends.

Notes to Editors

1. For high resolution versions of the photographs, please contact Greg Tinker at the Scottish Wildlife Trust press office.
2. The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and host Forestry Commission Scotland, to undertake a time-limited trial reintroduction of the European beaver to Knapdale in mid-Argyll. For more information on the Scottish Beaver Trial visit the SWT and RZSS site at www.scottishbeavers.org.uk
3. SNH is working with a number of independent organisations to carry out the monitoring work. They are Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Fisheries Trust, Historic Scotland, British Dragonfly Society, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Oxford Wildlife Conservation Research Unit and University of Stirling. Each organisation is contributing resources towards the monitoring of the trial, along with SNH who is contributing £275,000. For information about the monitoring go to www.snh.gov.uk/scottishbeavertrial.
4. The Scottish Government approved the application of the trial reintroduction in May 2008. This followed a two-month long consultation period with local residents and key stakeholders. The results of this consultation showed that 73% of respondents were in favour of the trial reintroduction.
5. Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) serves as the Scottish Government's forestry directorate. FCS is the host partner in the project and manages the Trial site at Knapdale. www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
6. Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park are owned by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), 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. www.edinburghzoo.org.uk
7. The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a registered charity. It is the largest voluntary body working for all the wildlife of Scotland, representing more than 35,000 members who care for wildlife and the environment. The Scottish Wildlife Trust seeks to raise public awareness of threatened habitats and species and manages over 120 wildlife reserves Scotland-wide. www.swt.org.uk
8. Scottish Natural Heritage advises the Scottish Government on conserving, enjoying, understanding and sustainably using our natural heritage. For further information on SNH, please visit www.snh.gov.uk.

9. Funding for the Scottish Beaver Trial has been gratefully received from Biffaward.
10. In 1997 Biffa Waste Services agreed to donate landfill tax credits to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to administer under the fund name Biffaward. Grants made from the fund currently amount to £100 million, supporting many worthwhile projects. Biffa Waste Services Limited is one of the largest single suppliers of waste management services in the UK. It collects, treats, recovers and disposes of municipal, commercial and industrial waste nationwide. It is ultimately owned by a private equity consortium comprising Montagu Private Equity, Global Infrastructure Partners, Uberior Co-Investments Limited and other co-investors www.biffaward.org
11. The project has also received financial support from a range of sources including the People's Trust for Endangered Species, People's Postcode Lottery, the John Ellerman Foundation and the Albert George & Nancy Caroline Youngman Trust