

This leaflet is designed to enlist the opinions of people who live or work within the Mid-Argyll area only.

Please complete the following form in block capitals.

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to see beavers in Scotland?

Yes  No  Undecided

Would you support a trial reintroduction of beavers to Knapdale?

Yes  No  Undecided

Please provide any additional comments below

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of: Scottish Wildlife Trust  Yes  No

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland  Yes  No

Please tick if you would like to receive regular updates on the Scottish Beaver Trial

Please tick here if you are happy to receive information on other aspects of SWT's or RZSS' work

Return to: Scottish Beaver Trial, c/o Forestry Commission,  
West Argyll Forest District, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RS  
An electronic version of this form can be submitted online  
at [www.swt.org.uk](http://www.swt.org.uk) or [www.rzss.org.uk](http://www.rzss.org.uk)

Your views will be collated by the Scottish Beaver Trial Project Team and used as part of the consultation process that will inform the licence application.

Your details will be kept confidential and not distributed to any third party.

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## WHY REINTRODUCE BEAVERS TO SCOTLAND?

Beavers were once widespread in Scotland. There is strong evidence that they were here until the 16th Century when they were hunted to extinction for their fur. As a keystone species they would bring many benefits to a range of other native species and habitats, and have already been successfully re-established in 24 other European countries. Extensive work conducted by Scottish Natural Heritage in 1998 indicated that 64% of the public is in favour of the beaver returning. We believe that this is the right time to reintroduce this missing part of our native wildlife. The Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) are proposing a trial reintroduction of a small number of beavers to Knapdale Forest near Lochgilphead to assess the effects of beavers on the Scottish environment.



## WHAT DO BEAVERS NEED?

Beavers are about the same size as a large otter. They live in small family groups and have two or three young each year. They inhabit slow moving, freshwater streams or small lochs and sometimes build dams, rarely venturing more than 50m from the water's edge.

Beavers are vegetarian; they tend to eat grass and other plants in the summer and small shrubs and tree bark in the winter.



## WHY KNAPDALE?

Knapdale is the right kind of countryside for beavers. The proposed site is owned by the Forestry Commission and managed as a wildlife reserve by Forest Enterprise in partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Once released, the beavers will be radio tagged to allow their movements to be monitored.



## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

SWT and RZSS are keen to hear your views and comments on the proposal. Finding out what local people think about this proposed trial is extremely important.

# RETURN OF THE BEAVER

PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION OF BEAVERS TO KNAPDALE, ARGYLL





## WHAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS APPLICATION IN 2002?

We are confident that the technical issues raised last time round can be resolved. Other European countries have successfully tackled similar issues in their beaver reintroduction programmes.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

We will take any local concerns and opinion into account before we apply to the Scottish Government for a licence to undertake a trial reintroduction. If the application is successful, 15 – 18 beavers will be brought over from Norway in 2008, quarantined for six months and then released at Knapdale in spring 2009.



## WHEN CAN WE SEE THE BEAVERS?

The beavers will need time to settle into their new home and establish their territories before they'll be ready to meet their neighbours. They will need a bit of peace and quiet for this. We'll keep you up to date with how things are going and will, when the time is right, develop appropriate visitor facilities and information.



## HOW LONG WILL THE TRIAL TAKE?

The reintroduction in Knapdale would be the first in Scotland and the UK. We'll keep a very close eye on how things are going. It will take three years of fieldwork and study to properly assess the trial and to decide on the future of the reintroduction programme.



## HAVE YOU ANY QUESTIONS?

We are keen to hear what local people think about this trial. Come along to one of our events outlined below if you can or contact us. If you have any questions or want to send us your comments, please let us have these by **Friday 30 November 2007.**

### Thursday 18 October (7.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

Talk – *The return of the beaver*  
Simon Jones, SWT Reserves Manager  
Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, near Oban  
Contact Harry Powell, Tel. 01631 710376

### Saturday 20 October (10 am – 5 pm)

Public drop in day – *Beavers in Argyll?*  
Cairnbaan Hotel, Crinan Canal  
Tel. 08700 742449



#### For further information:

Scottish Beaver Trial  
c/o Forestry Commission, West Argyll Forest District  
Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RS  
Tel. 08700 742449 or 0800 0640745  
Email: [beavers@swt.org.uk](mailto:beavers@swt.org.uk)  
[www.swt.org.uk](http://www.swt.org.uk)  
[www.rzss.org.uk](http://www.rzss.org.uk)

The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). SWT and RZSS are registered charities.



THE ROYAL  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF SCOTLAND



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## SCOTTISH BEAVER TRIAL



## RETURN OF THE BEAVER



PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION  
OF BEAVERS  
TO KNAPDALE, ARGYLL

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