

ANNEX

BEAVER REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

Licence Conditions

- 1) The licence allows the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to release up to four families of beavers (each family to comprise not more than two adults and their kits) into the wild at the Knapdale release site as defined in the application.
- 2) The release of the beavers will not take place until 2009.

SNH Role

- 3) SNH to 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.

- 4) SNH to report to the SG on whether the conditions of any licence are being fully addressed on the ground.

Beaver management

- 5) We would recommend the collection and quarantine of a fourth family as a useful back-up, in case of any mortality during the quarantine period. Beaver mortality during quarantine is not uncommon.

- 6) We would strongly recommend that all animals are 'soft released', with all precautions taken to limit the risk of individuals dispersing away from the trial area, and details to be agreed with SNH.
- 7) We would strongly recommend one simultaneous release of all the animals at the start of the trial, rather than a series of phased releases. This will help to ensure that the animals have the opportunity to establish territories at the same time, and it reduces the risk of animals dispersing away from the trial area.
- 8) Consideration should be given as to whether all animals which move outwith the proposed trial area should be removed, or just those where the land owners request it.
- 9) Localised mink control should be considered during the initial establishment of the population to protect beaver kits. The details of any mink trapping must be agreed with SNH to take account of SAC qualifying interests and European Protected Species

Project management

- 10) The European beaver is included within the Species Action Framework (SAF). All species identified on the SAF have an implementation plan which sets out objectives, actions and tasks which need to be undertaken. It identifies also lead partners for each task and sets out resourcing issues. The European beaver is the only one of the 32 SAF species for which a plan has not yet been drafted because a project has not yet been approved. SWT/RZSS to draw up an implementation plan with its partners and SNH, and the plan must be made publicly available (e.g. on the SAF web pages).
- 11) SNH should be represented on the "Beaver Steering Group" and a "Beaver Project Team" as observers.
- 12) The licence applicants should ensure they have in place a forum to allow the views of the local community, including local businesses and property-owners, to be fed into the decision-making processes for the project.
- 13) The length of the collection and quarantine element of the project is one year, and the fieldwork element of the project is five years. The applicants need to plan for work extending into year seven to allow time for all monitoring work to be completed, and analysed.
- 14) Once the beavers are released, the licence applicants must be able to ensure that they can implement the key elements of the trial, as set out in their application, and address any conditions set by the SG. If resourcing is insufficient to continue the trial as agreed, then the exit strategy will need to be implemented.
- 15) The role of the Field Officer should include regular monitoring of 'sensitive' areas to ensure potential problems are avoided. This to be discussed and agreed with relevant adjacent land owners and relevant public bodies (including British Waterways, Historic Scotland, FCS, and SNH).
- 16) A training event should be held in the Knapdale area immediately prior to the release of animals. This will ensure relevant project staff and local people are fully aware of,

and prepared for, practical beaver management issues which may arise during the project.

- 17) Discussions, involving the project group members and SNH, to be held with the local FES District to ensure future management of woodland takes into account beaver issues.
- 18) Arrangements must be put in place by the licence applicants to ensure that local businesses and properties have a clear route to pursue compensation claims for damage caused by the beavers during the period of the trial.
- 19) The exit strategy must be implemented at any time if this is considered necessary by the SG. The SG will consult with the licence applicants and with the monitoring team led by SNH before deciding that the exit strategy should be implemented.

Research, Survey and Monitoring

- 20) A suite of tracking methodologies should be employed, rather than relying too heavily on radio-tracking techniques, which may have a number of practical and animal welfare limitations. This will be addressed through the monitoring programme to be led by SNH.
- 21) Argyll and Bute Council to lead on public health monitoring (in discussion with Scottish Water), with relevant veterinary advice from RZSS. SNH's role would be to ensure that any monitoring is effectively and efficiently coordinated with other elements of the overall monitoring programme.
- 22) SNH to discuss with the licence applicants the potential role of the full-time Field Officer in collating data for some aspects of the scientific monitoring work.

Mitigation of impact on protected sites and species

- 23) Beaver dam construction on burns to be carefully monitored and SNH to be informed immediately once new dams are created. An assessment will then be made by SNH on a case by case basis and, if judged necessary, management of the dam will be required.
- 24) Beaver dam construction on loch outflows to be carefully monitored and SNH to be informed immediately once new dams are created. If beaver dams are constructed on the outflows of oligo-mesotrophic lochs within the SAC, then the natural water levels of the lochs must be maintained, either through the use of beaver-specific devices which can be incorporated to manage water flow, or through removing the dam. The details to be discussed and agreed with SNH.
- 25) No dam building by beavers in outflow burns of Loch Clachaig to be permitted during the period April to July inclusive. Any dams being built during that period should be removed without disturbance to the divers.
- 26) Outflow burns of Loch Clachaig to be checked for beaver activity annually in March before the return of divers; if a dam is present consult SNH to determine whether it needs to be removed

- 27) Stands of hazel, which hold significant communities of 'typical species' of lichens, should be protected where necessary using appropriate methods and following discussion and agreement with SNH.
- 28) The methods, and the location, design and construction of structures, required for the 'soft release' of beavers (e.g. artificial lodges and fencing) must take into account local otter activity. The same applies to the erection of fencing for any other purpose during the trial (e.g. the exclusion of beavers from sensitive areas). This must be discussed and agreed with SNH.
- 29) If divers are breeding on Loch Clachaig in any year then checking for beavers must be carried out without any disturbance to the breeding birds. Black-throated diver is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended, therefore, prior to any survey work, relevant project staff must apply for a licence from SNH.
- 30) A visitor management plan must be agreed and implemented prior to the release of beaver and during the lifetime of the project (addressing issues such as signage, interpretive information in existing buildings, provision for self-guided and guided walks etc.). This plan and the design of associated facilities must be discussed with and agreed with SNH.
- 31) *Brachytron pratense* to be monitored within the SSSI and the trial site as a whole. *Calopteryx virgo* should be monitored along specific sections of enclosed and open burns. This can be done through the monitoring programme for the project.

Landscape and Habitats Division
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