



East Kent Beaver Advisory Group

The presence of beavers on the Hacklinge Marshes (and now wider areas), has become increasingly evident over recent years; to help understand their number, their spread and to assess the risks and benefits posed by them, the East Kent Beaver Advisory Group (EKBAG) was recently set up. This advisory group involves representatives from Natural England, Environment Agency, Kent Wildlife Trust, Wildwood Trust, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and the River Stour (Kent) IDB.

It should be noted that this collective advisory group is not itself involved in the keeping or release of beavers, nor is it there to promote their reintroduction. The IDB has joined this group in order to help establish and highlight some of the risks to water level management and local flood risks and to try and identify and capture sources of expert advice to offer to local landowners in trying to manage local populations. Others are involved to assess the ecological impacts.

To help understand the number and spread of beavers, and their impacts, the EKBAG set up an email address where all beaver related activity and issues can be reported and recorded: beavers@wildlifegateway.org.uk. The more information gathered the better, so all reports appreciated.