



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Approach to beaver reintroduction and management in England

Consultation document

Date: August 2021

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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Part 1 - Introduction

Background

1. Over the last 50 years, much of England's wildlife-rich habitat has been lost or degraded, and many of our once common species are in long-term decline. We want not only to stem the tide of this loss, but to turn it around and leave the environment in a better state than when we found it, with a renewed emphasis on nature's recovery.
2. The [25 Year Environment Plan](#), published in 2018, sets out what the government will do to improve the environment within a generation. As part of this Plan, the government is committed to providing opportunities for the reintroduction of formerly native species, including beaver, where the environmental, social and economic benefits are clear.
3. A reintroduction is the translocation and release of an organism into an area from which it has been lost. It aims to re-establish a viable population of the focal species within its natural range. Decisions on the reintroduction of formerly native species in England are made based on the principles set out in the Government's code of best practice for reintroductions: [Reintroductions and conservation translocations in England: code, guidance and forms – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (hereafter referred to as "the Code").

Beaver ecology

4. Eurasian beavers (scientific name Castor fiber) are semi-aquatic rodents which live in rivers and streams, ditches, lakes and other wetland areas. They live in small family groups with a territory normally ranging of around 2-4km along the watercourse and catchment.
5. Beavers are herbivores and eat aquatic and riparian plants, alongside woody species in the spring and summer. In the autumn and winter, they favour woody species, such as willow, birch and aspen. They do not eat fish. Beavers can fell large trees, but most will be up to 10 cm diameter. Such activity can result in coppicing (coppicing means felling or removal of branches which stimulates re-growth of the tree).
6. One of the most characteristic structures associated with beavers are dams. Made from trees, mud and rocks, dams raise water levels and create pools that submerge the entrances to their burrows and provide safe access to food and ease the transport of building materials. Dams are not always built and will vary in age, structure and longevity.
7. Beavers are referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' as their activities such as dam building and coppicing trees can change the landscape around them. The building of

dams can redirect water flows and, as well as burrowing, can create wetland habitats. The scale of these activities will depend on location and whilst they bring ecological benefits there may also be negative impacts, such as localised flooding. As land-use alongside rivers has changed significantly since beavers were last present in England it is vital to manage the benefits the species can bring with negative impacts on other land uses.

Beavers in England

8. Beavers were once widespread across Europe and became extinct in England in the 16th century because of overhunting for their meat and fur. Because of the potential benefits this species can bring and, given reintroduction projects in Scotland, there has been increased interest in reintroducing this species to England.
9. As beavers are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, a licence is required to release this animal; this includes releases into the wild as well as into enclosures. A moratorium on issuing licences for wild releases has been in place since August 2020.
10. The first release in England, to an outdoor fenced enclosure, occurred in the early 2000s and since then releases into enclosures have taken place at a further 24 sites. At the time of publication, beavers were present in enclosures at 20 of these sites.
11. Escapes from these enclosures as well as unlawful releases (releases into the wild without a licence) have resulted in at least five and possibly up to 6 wild-living beaver populations in England.
12. Natural England has undertaken an assessment of current distribution of beaver in England: [Beaver reintroductions in England 2000 - 2021](#)
13. In 2015, Natural England issued a licence to allow a five-year trial reintroduction to take place on the River Otter in Devon. Wild-living beavers which were found to be already present in this area were captured, health-checked and screened for disease, before being re-released as a trial.
14. Natural England assessed the River Otter Beaver Trial and concluded it was a success: [The River Otter Beaver Trial: Natural England's assessment of the trial and advice on the future of the beaver population.](#) In August 2020, the government announced that the trial on the River Otter had been a success and that the wild-living beaver population would be permitted to remain permanently and expand their range naturally. In May 2021 it was announced that the government was looking positively towards further reintroductions of beavers in England.
15. This consultation sets out our proposed approach for further releases and management of beavers in the wild.

Scope

16. The scope of this consultation covers beavers in England. Wildlife policy is devolved so decisions about reintroductions of species in Scotland and Wales are made by the Scottish Parliament or the Welsh Parliament.
17. The consultation covers potential future releases into the wild, current and future releases into enclosures, and mitigation and management of beaver activity or impacts in the wild, including the River Otter population and all other existing wild-living beaver populations.

Audience

18. Anyone may respond to the consultation. Those who have an interest include:

- conservation organisations
- farming or agricultural organisations
- farmers and landowners
- Risk Management¹ Authorities
- fisheries organisations
- other river users
- organisations with significant riparian infrastructure
- local authorities

Responding to the consultation

19. This consultation starts on 25 August 2021 and closes on 17 November 2021. This is a 12-week consultation.

20. Please submit your consultation response using the online survey provided on [Citizen Space](#) (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool).

21. Alternatively, responses could also be sent to Defra by email or post. Please state:

- Your name
 - Your email address
-

¹ Environment Agency, Local Lead Flood Authorities, District Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, Water Companies, Highways Authority

- Your organisation (if any)

22. Enquiries and responses by post or email should be directed to:

- By email, to beaver.consultation@defra.gov.uk
- In writing to Consultation Coordinator, Defra, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

23. If you need a hard copy of this consultation, please email beaver.consultation@defra.gov.uk:

After the consultation

24. Responses to this consultation will be used to inform decisions on an approach to the reintroduction of beavers in England. Applications for licences to release beavers in to the wild will not be considered until such national decisions have been made.

25. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

26. Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (for example, home address, email address).

27. If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public and other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

28. If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your

response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

29. There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data, with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.
30. This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "[Consultation Principles](#)".
31. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Consultation Coordinator, Defra, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Part 2 – Evidence

32. Natural England has reviewed evidence on the interactions of beavers and the natural and human environment with a focus on the situation in England: [A review of the evidence on the interactions of beavers with the natural and human environment in relation to England.](#)
33. The report considers peer-reviewed evidence and builds on assessments produced previously by Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot). It also considers experience of the River Otter Beaver Trial, the assessment of the River Otter beaver trial, and wider international experience and evidence.
34. The key conclusions from the evidence review are summarised in the sections below. Broadly, Natural England concluded that:
 - on balance there is evidence that Eurasian beavers are a suitable candidate for further reintroductions into England; and can bring substantial benefits, including by increasing biodiversity, restoring wet woodlands, enhancing natural river processes and attenuating water flows.
 - there is acknowledgement that there is insufficient evidence to fully evaluate the impact of beavers in some areas and that further research would be helpful to further our understanding over time.
 - there are some circumstances where beaver activity will need to be managed to avoid negative impacts. Measures to address any potential emerging issues will be crucial to reducing conflict.
 - if managed correctly, quantifiable benefits from beaver reintroduction in terms of natural capital and societal benefits could be much greater than financial costs incurred. It is recognised that costs and benefits will not always fall in the same place.

Interactions with water

35. Beaver activity can enhance natural functions of rivers, however the extent of this depends on the characteristics of the watercourse and level of modification. The results of beaver activity can store water, create ponds and wetland habitats, and create more diverse in-stream habitats. This in turn can result in an increase in biodiversity, as the additional complexity of the habitats support more species, thus increasing biodiversity. Such areas may also help improve resilience to drought.
36. Dams can trap sediment and diffuse pollution in areas of intense farming to improve water quality although management of pollution at source is essential.
37. Beaver activity can contribute in a beneficial way to water storage and can also naturally attenuate flood flows in rivers to reduce downstream flood risk. The River Otter Beaver Trial found that a series of beaver dams built upstream of properties at risk of flooding resulted in a reduction in peak flows.
38. In some locations, beaver activity may increase the risk of localised flooding and increase wetted areas, while burrowing may exacerbate erosion. The impact of these activities will depend on surrounding land-use, infrastructure and river users.
39. Given that the water environment and surrounding land use has changed substantially since beavers were last present in England, it is essential that guidance is put in place to enable stakeholders to manage any significant negative impacts should they occur, including protection of vulnerable infrastructure. Early pro-active action should also be taken to reduce or eliminate the risk of potential negative impacts.
40. Management such as notching dams or installing flow devices can lower water levels where flooding may be a concern. For example, a flow device was successfully used in the River Otter Beaver Trial to reduce water levels impacting grazing land on a floodplain. Application of management methods may adapt as further research is undertaken.

Interactions with woodland and forestry

41. Beavers may affect woodland through felling or coppicing trees and flooding. Felling can create more heterogenous and open woodlands. An increase in the diversity of conditions in woodlands has subsequent positive impacts for biodiversity. Beaver induced flooding can also result in increased deadwood, in turn resulting in increase in habitat availability, for example for those invertebrates, e.g. saproxylic beetles, which live in dead and decaying wood.
42. Wet woodlands have been affected by modifications to hydrological processes which have led to loss of wetland features and associated declines in diversity. Beaver dams can increase standing water which can help to restore these features, likely at a much

lower cost than some existing restoration programmes which use heavy machinery and large capital works programmes to bring about changes.

43. Most of the trees felled by beavers are within 10 m of the watercourse, and beavers tend to coppice, resulting in a mixed canopy. If trees of value are present then protection, such as tree guards or fencing, can be put in place to mitigate any damage.
44. Forestry management practices often require buffer zones along watercourses, therefore the forestry sector is likely to be able to accommodate impacts from beavers feeding. In some circumstances, flooding caused by beaver damming may have a negative impact on commercial crops of trees or on forestry infrastructure such as roads.

Interactions with fish and fisheries

45. The impacts of beavers on fish assemblages are complex, with evidence supporting both benefits and negative impacts. When considered at the catchment scale more diverse habitats are likely to sustain fish populations in a way that is more likely to be sustainable in the face of climate change.
46. Habitat diversity can support different fish species at different lifecycles and increased water quality would have positive impacts on spawning grounds for those species which require clean gravels. On balance, a survey of fish experts from Europe and North America concluded that the majority considered beavers to have an overall positive impact on fish populations leading to increased abundance and productivity.
47. In some circumstances, particularly for some migratory species, there is also the potential for negative impacts, including the passability of dams, local changes in habitat structure, prey availability, predation and thermal regimes.
48. Improved understanding is needed to evaluate the impact on commercially important fish species, in particular sea trout and salmon, populations of which are generally in a poor state in England. Consideration should also be given to fish species such as shads, smelt and river and sea lamprey where there may be potential loss of connectivity between feeding and spawning grounds.
49. Potential influences on fish populations will need to be fully considered in any approach to future reintroductions and management of beavers, in particular to avoid exacerbating the significant pressures on sea trout and red-listed species such as Atlantic salmon.

Interactions with other species (excluding fish)

50. The impacts of beavers on different species groups varies depending on the species, the life-stage of the organism and characteristics of surrounding habitats but, generally the overall effect is positive.
51. As beaver activity generally results in an increase in habitat diversity this can in turn have positive impacts for biodiversity including increased abundance and diversity of species. The River Otter Beaver Trial found that water voles responded positively to increased aquatic habitat created by beaver ponds, and increased waterfowl, such as snipe and teals were recorded at some sites, due to increased standing surface water as a result of beaver damming. Groups including vascular plants, bryophytes, vertebrates, fish and birds are also likely to increase in diversity due to beaver activity.
52. Increased diversity and abundance of certain prey species can have knock on positive effects for those species which feed on them. For example, amphibians are likely to benefit from increased numbers of invertebrates present in the ponds created by beavers, and grass snakes in turn benefit from increased abundance of amphibians.
53. For all species groups there are cases where risk assessments at a local level are required to understand potential risks of impact on rare or threatened species or those with a limited distribution e.g. the fresh-water pearl mussel and the white-clawed crayfish.

Interactions with agriculture

54. Beavers can both positively and negatively impact agricultural land, with factors like topography, soil structure and texture, hydrology, type of agriculture and proximity to watercourses effecting the likelihood of impacts. Evidence shows low lying arable land on floodplains is likely to be where potential conflict is greatest, and it would be important to manage any conflicts that might arise.
55. At the river catchment scale, beaver activity has the potential to benefit agricultural land through flood attenuation, slowing the flow of water and maintaining baseflow. It is important to acknowledge that those benefitting from beaver activity may not be those who bear the cost, which may result in conflict.

Interactions with public and animal health

56. Beavers can potentially pose disease risks to human and animal health. However, resident beavers are not considered to pose any more of a risk to public health than existing native wildlife. There is a greater risk if beavers are imported for release projects, particularly in respect to the tape worm parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Current policy does not permit release projects to source wild

beavers from countries where this parasite is endemic and this has been the case since 2018. Therefore, the risk of introducing this parasite into England via releases of beavers is very low.

Part 3 – Consultation

About you

Q1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

- Yes (if yes, please give your reason).
- No

Q2. What is your name?

Q3. What is your email address?

Q4. What is your organisation? If you are responding as an individual, please state 'individual'.

Q5. Please briefly describe your interest in the consultation.

National approach to reintroductions

57. Evidence shows that the reintroduction of beavers can have a positive benefit for nature and society. However, there are, in some instances, risks of negative impacts if reintroductions are not carried out appropriately or where there is insufficient management.

58. It remains unlawful to release a beaver into the wild without a licence, in line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Our national approach will be to permit further wild reintroduction projects where the licence applications demonstrate clear benefits and where risks of negative outcomes are avoided, mitigated for, or managed.

59. This approach will allow the benefits of beaver reintroduction to be realised with limited risks and will provide an opportunity to generate more evidence to help address the evidence gaps identified. It will also provide opportunities to learn from different projects in different circumstances and to adapt or develop management approaches and maximise biodiversity and societal benefits as appropriate.

60. To ensure that only high-quality projects are permitted to take place, proposals for reintroductions will have to apply for appropriate licences, follow the Code and meet strict criteria:

- A project proposal must provide evidence that the project has funding to cover all aspects of the reintroduction, including provision of advice and management of impacts. This funding must be in place for at least five to ten years. The specific time period will vary by project but this range reflects how long it might take for beavers to colonise a catchment and therefore how long support is needed by the public and different stakeholders to become accustomed to living alongside beavers.
- A project proposal must provide evidence of substantial stakeholder engagement at all stages of project development, including landowners, land managers and those working in or using the water environment along with clear working relationships between the project and these relevant organisations and authorities.
- A project proposal must demonstrate significant benefits and that the risk of conflict is low, including consideration, and mitigation as appropriate, of:
 - Area of and proximity to low-lying agricultural land
 - Flood risks to people, infrastructure and environment
 - Risk to protected areas, heritage sites and protected species
 - Costs and benefits to the local economy
 - Level of support locally
 - Opportunities to fill evidence gaps.
- A project proposal must include a Project Plan including funding streams, roles, responsibilities and planning and feasibility study for all aspects of the reintroduction. These Plans will run for a minimum of 5-10 years.
- A project proposal must include details of a Project Steering Group to support the project and must consist of a range of stakeholders with strong local ownership.
- The proposed project must appoint a Local Beaver Officer to act as a local contact point, and support to stakeholders, including risk management authorities and others operating in the water environment.

61. Once the Project Plan concludes (after 5 to 10 years), the partnership will no longer be required to be financially responsible for managing impacts of beavers as landowners, those operating in the water environment and river users become more accustomed to living alongside beavers and understanding how to manage impacts appropriately. This is an important step towards beavers being accepted like other native species in the wild.

Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to beaver reintroductions? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

- Agree
- Disagree

Q7. What criteria, in addition to those listed above, do you think projects should meet to be granted a licence for wild release? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence.

Existing wild-living beaver populations

62. As well as the wild-living beaver population on the River Otter in Devon, which has been permitted to remain and expand naturally, there are records of wild-living beavers elsewhere in England. These beavers have either been unlawfully released or have escaped from fenced enclosures (or are descendants of such beavers).

63. The data we have suggests that it is likely that there are populations of beavers confirmed to be breeding on sections of the following river catchments:

- River Tamar in Devon
- River Stour in Kent
- River Avon and River Brue in Somerset and Wiltshire
- Little Dart in Devon.

64. There is also a potential emerging population in the River Wye catchment in Herefordshire.

65. Further details on the status of beaver populations in England, both wild-living and in enclosures, can be found in Natural England's report: [Beaver reintroductions in England, 2000-2021.](#)

66. Under our proposed approach, these existing beaver populations in England will be permitted to remain and will be subject to management in the same way as other beaver populations when not covered by a Project Plan (see Management section below).

67. We are aware that for some existing wild populations, local stakeholders have started to set up management groups to support the public and provide advice. We encourage such partnerships to form around these populations to enable stakeholders and the public to become used to living alongside beavers.

Q8. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to existing wild-living beaver populations? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

- Agree
- Disagree

Current and future beaver enclosures

68. Current government policy allows beavers to be released under licence into secure enclosures. At the time of publication there are beavers present in enclosures at 20 sites in England.

69. We propose to continue permitting releases of beavers into enclosures; however, conditions of licences will be tightened to focus on the clear benefits of a project.

70. A project should contribute to the knowledge base for beavers. This could include research on a specific impact or a particular management technique. An enclosure might be used to pilot a reintroduction in a particular area, allowing the project to gather relevant information and build support and engage with the local community.

71. It is important to note that the licensing of an enclosure project **does not** provide any guarantee that a licence will be granted subsequently for a wild release. If a current or future enclosure project wishes to move towards a wild release, they will be expected to demonstrate how they meet the criteria for wild release, including demonstrating that a wild release at the location would bring substantial benefits with a low risk of conflict.

72. Once the process for licensed release to the wild has been developed, we anticipate the demand for licences to release to enclosures will reduce.

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to licensing of future beaver enclosures? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

- Agree
- Disagree

Q10. What criteria do you think should be taken into consideration when determining whether or not to issue an enclosure licence?

Management

Legal protection

73. We intend to make beavers a European Protected Species by listing them in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This change is to implement legal obligations under the Bern Convention and does not form part of the proposed approach that is being consulted upon.

74. While we intend to give beavers legal protection please note we are beginning a review of species legislation with a view to enhancing and modernising it. We intend to publish a Green Paper and seek views later this year.
75. Giving beavers this protection means that it will be an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or injure beavers. It will also be an offence to damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places.
76. Therefore, if an individual wants to undertake management activities which would otherwise be prohibited, they will be required to apply for a licence from Natural England. We will develop guidance to help stakeholders to understand when a licence is required and how to apply for a licence.

Management principles

77. We believe that effective and proportionate management of beavers will play a key role in any successful future reintroductions.
78. Natural England will publish a Management Framework, which will outline solutions that can be employed to manage different impacts from beavers, where such actions might require a licence and where stakeholders can go to seek support and advice with beaver management. Management needs of different populations of beavers are likely to vary over time and the management framework will reflect this.
79. The Management Framework and licensing regime will work together to provide clear processes, providing solutions to situations encountered where action is required.
80. It is recognised that there are a number of organisations and authorities that carry out necessary operational activities in the water environment and riparian zone. Guidance will be provided to ensure that these roles can be carried out within the proposed national approach and framework.
81. In line with government principles on wildlife management, landowners are free to manage wildlife on their land, within the law. Defra supports the following stepwise approach to address wildlife impacts:
- avoidance and tolerance
 - using legal methods
 - licensed action
82. This process should proceed stepwise from avoidance or tolerance of impacts, to least to most harmful actions, with interventions such as moving beavers to other areas (translocation) or lethal control considered only as a last resort. This is called a management or mitigation 'hierarchy'.

Management hierarchy

83. A management hierarchy for beaver could include the following steps:

- Avoid or tolerate negative impacts, such as:
 - allowing space for potential impacts, for example by creating buffer zones along the side of watercourses where valuable crops or trees are not planted.
 - exploring financial incentives available for landowners to make space for environmental benefits provided by beavers.
- Use legal management or mitigation methods if negative impacts cannot be avoided, including:
 - protecting trees of value from felling with tree guards or anti-beaver paint.
 - fencing to exclude beavers from undesirable areas.
 - protecting banks from burrowing impacts.
- If unavoidable and other solutions are not satisfactory, apply for a licence to undertake actions including:
 - destruction or modification of dams, lodges and burrows,
 - translocation or
 - lethal control

84. Some mitigation and management may require permitting from the relevant authority and all must be undertaken in compliance with existing legislation.

85. Translocation of beavers or lethal control must only be considered as a last resort, however in circumstances where this is unavoidable, licences may be obtainable.

Q11: Does the management hierarchy cover management actions you would expect? Are there additional aspects that you think should be included in the management hierarchy? Please provide further details.

Government policy and support

86. Government policy is that it is the responsibility of landowners to cover the costs of managing impacts of wild animals on their land. In line with this, Defra will not provide direct payments for management of negative impacts of beaver activity or pay compensation. However, we recognise that beaver reintroductions are unique circumstances. Therefore, Defra will consider facilitating the creation of management groups around existing beaver populations to help manage impacts and provide management advice to landowners and stakeholders for beaver populations outside of a Project Plan.

87. Consistent and accessible advice and guidance is essential to successful reintroductions. Natural England and Defra will host advice through gov.uk which will cover applications for reintroduction projects as well as management. Natural England

will provide further advice and engagement to guide stakeholders and liaise with local projects and management groups.

88. Any project applying for a wild-release licence will be required to have a Local Beaver Officer for the duration of the Project Plan. Local Beaver Officers will act as a focal point, providing advice and undertaking management as required, to support local landowners and river users.

89. We are working with stakeholders and end users to determine the specific land management actions that will be paid for through the Sustainable Farming Incentive, the Local Nature Recovery scheme and the Landscape Recovery scheme. [‘The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024’](#) sets out examples of the types of actions that we envisage paying for under the schemes, including creating, managing and restoring habitats such as wetlands and freshwater habitats. In March, we published more details on the [first phase of piloting the Sustainable Farming Incentive](#), including the actions we will pay farmers to take to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable way. On 30 June, we also published an [update to the Agricultural Transition Plan](#), which included information on the elements that we will include in the Sustainable Farming Incentive itself, from 2022.

Q12: Excluding direct payment for management activities, what other support do you think should be available and to whom?

Q13. Are there any specific areas where guidance is required? Please provide details.

Q14: How would you prefer to access advice and guidance (e.g. information on website, via email, focal point for enquiries etc)?

Additional questions

90. We want to understand more about the appetite for undertaking a beaver release project, and locations that may be being considered. This will help us to understand the likely scale of interest in such projects.

Q15. Would you (or an organisation you are involved with) consider preparing an application for wild release, if the approach proposed in this consultation became national policy? If yes, please provide the general location where you might consider applying for such a release.