

Wild Release Process

For our project we are preparing a wild beaver release licence application, which will be considered by Natural England.

As part of our project, we want to speak with local stakeholders and landowners to understand any potential impacts or concerns.

We are collecting data across the catchment to understand the impact beavers could have and we are preparing a Beaver Management Plan to support landowners with any necessary issues that might arise from a wild beaver release.

How to have your say

As part of our project, we want to understand how you could be impacted, and if you have any questions or concerns.

We are organising in-person site visits to local community members and landowners.

We want to speak to local stakeholders focused in the [Par and Fowey catchment areas](#). If you live nearby and are interested in finding out more or organising a site visit, please contact the project team:

Email: beavers@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tel: 07946 042 756



Credit: J Yarrow (2023)



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



Contact us

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www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/beavers-wild

Rewilding Helman Tor

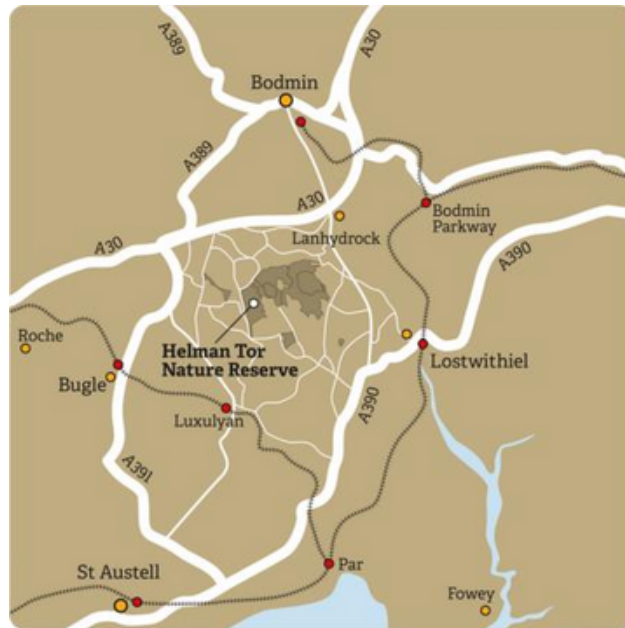
Wild beaver release project

What are we proposing?

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is exploring the potential to release wild beavers into the Par and Fowey catchment area, with a focus on our complex of nature reserves around Helman Tor (see map below).

Our vision is to achieve a healthy, self-sustaining population of beavers, bringing benefits for people and wildlife.

As an integral part of this process, we will be seeking the views of local communities as well as statutory bodies and groups representing farmers, landowners and fisheries.



Map highlighting the location of our Helman Tor Nature Reserve

Why beavers?

Beavers are native to England but went nationally extinct due to hunting pressure.

We want to see wild beavers back in Cornwall because of the huge benefits they can bring for wildlife and people:

- Beavers are a keystone species, creating wetland habitat for other species through activities including building dams (on smaller streams), coppicing trees and building lodges.
- Beavers have positive impact on biodiversity.
- Beaver dams slow the flow of stream after heavy rain which prevents flooding downstream.
- Beaver dams create ponds that can help to keep streams flowing in times of drought.

Living alongside beavers

Beavers have been reintroduced into 27 European countries, and are becoming more widely spread in the UK. Beavers are now living wild in Devon, on both the river Tamar & river Otter; wild releases are also being approved in Scotland.

Beavers will sometimes build dams and coppice trees where we do not want them to and this can create problems for land managers. We can use the experience of other countries to help people prepare and manage unwanted impacts. New farm schemes will be offering financial incentives to encourage farmers to make space for beavers.

FAQs

What is a beaver?

Beavers are the largest rodent native to Europe. They have thick brown fur, leathery tails and webbed hind-feet. Adults can measure over a meter from head to tail-tip. They are semi-aquatic, so are adapted to live in water and on land.

What do beavers eat?

It is a common myth that beavers eat fish. Beavers are herbivores, they feed on grasses and herbs in summer and rely more on tree bark in winter.

Do beavers fell trees?

Beavers coppice trees. This means they cut the tree down but it quickly re-grows from the base. This re-growing habit is an adaptation to living alongside beavers. However, in some cases, trees may not re-grow. We can protect individual trees from beavers where they are particularly important or valuable. More information on management techniques can be found here: beavermanagement.org

Is there any training available for beaver management?

Yes. In preparation to make England beaver-ready, Natural England run Beaver Class Licence Training for landowners. Visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/beavers-how-to-manage-them-and-when-you-need-a-licence