



TAYSIDE BEAVER STUDY GROUP

Tayside Beaver Project Officer – (Part-time/fixed term 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2015)

Scottish Wildlife Trust/Tayside Beaver Study Group

Perthshire

£21-25k pro rata

Here is a unique opportunity to take a central role in the monitoring and management of the unlicensed beaver population in the River Tay catchment.

Reporting to the Tayside Beaver Study Group which has been established to provide objective advice to the Scottish Government, we are looking for a practically minded person with excellent communication skills plus experience of wildlife management and working alongside farming and landowning communities.

The post holder will be required to present a neutral stance on the future of the beavers, and will implement the operational delivery of the Tayside Beaver Work Programme including various studies of the beavers and related stakeholder and public information/liaison; beaver impact monitoring and establishment of an advisory service for managing beaver / land use conflicts. Working 2.5 – 3 days a week for the Scottish Wildlife Trust you will report to the Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager and Scottish Natural Heritage's Wildlife Operations Manager.

Professional experience of community engagement and liaison work, experience of working with Scottish wildlife, have local area knowledge and capable of working both alone and in conjunction with several partner organisations. Driving licence essential.

For full application pack see www.swt.org.uk, email recruitment@swt.org.uk or Tel 0131 312 7765.

Closing date: Monday 25th February

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunities employer

Job Description & Summary Terms of Reference



Title	Tayside Beaver Project Officer
Based	Battleby, Perthshire TBC
Line Management	Strategic - Tayside Beaver Study Group Operational – Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager & Scottish Natural Heritage's Wildlife Operations Unit
Status	Part-time (2.5 - 3 days/week)
Period	April 2013 – March 2015
Salary	c.£21-25k pro rata

Overall purpose of the job

To implement the operational delivery of the Tayside Beaver Work Programme with specific responsibility for leading on stakeholder and public information/liaison, beaver impact monitoring and beaver management operations.

Main duties

Monitoring

- Lead on the gathering of data related to beaver impacts, including identification of any potential conflict sites.
- Assist trapping staff from partner organisations with collection of health programme trapping data.
- Assist with beaver survey and monitoring work as required

Management & Mitigation

- Working with key partners and stakeholders, lead on field based beaver management/mitigation works
- Support, train and coordinate local volunteers and partner staff involved in beaver monitoring and mitigation works.
- Responsible for maintenance of project equipment.

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Liaison and Engagement

- Be the main point of contact for Tayside Beaver Study Group.
- The post holder will be required to present a neutral stance on the future of the beavers in Tayside and Scotland.
- Take lead responsibility for community and stakeholder liaison.
- Represent TBSG at local stakeholder forums
- To assist TBSG with VIP / key stakeholder visits

Public Relations and Information

- Assist SNH Area Operations Manager with the provision of public information and media opportunities relative to Tayside beaver population, utilising variety of media (website, press, TV, radio and social media).
- Provide TBSG talks and presentations to stakeholder and community groups in the Tayside area.
- Lead on the provision of site based demonstration events for mitigation techniques.

Reporting

- Produce progress reports to TBSG as required (estimated quarterly).

Key internal & external contacts

- Tayside Beaver Study Group members
- SNH Wildlife Operations Unit
- Scottish Beaver Trial project staff
- Partner PR and Education staff
- Representatives from all media
- Local stakeholders, communities and land owners
- The general public

Personal specification

Qualifications, training, knowledge and experience

Desirable Qualifications

- Degree in ecology or environment-related discipline

Experience

- Community engagement and liaison work in a professional capacity

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife survey and monitoring experience (minimum of 1 year)• Animal handling• Leading public events/activities• Full UK driving licence
Special competencies, skills and abilities
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A working knowledge of Scottish wildlife and environment issues• Excellent communicator• IT competent including experience of GIS systems• Good interpersonal and organisational skills• A proven track record of getting things done
Advantageous <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of Tayside area• Experience of working with Scottish environment organisations• Experience of working in a partnership environment• Experience of working with farming, fishing and forestry managers• Sound knowledge of general mammal ecology and beaver ecology in particular• Skilled at working with the media, websites and social media

Date	21 st January 2013
Author	Simon Jones
Position	Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager

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Tayside Beaver Study Group – Summary Terms of Reference

There is currently a breeding population of beavers living in the wild in Tayside. The Minister for Environment has decided that these animals should be allowed to remain in place for the duration of the official trial beaver reintroduction in Knapdale in Argyll. At the end of the trial period in 2015, the Minister will take a decision on the future of beavers in Scotland – both those in Knapdale and on Tayside.

Aims of the Group

The group has two principal aims:

- To gather additional information and monitor impacts of the Tayside beavers on other wildlife and land uses in the area, to help inform Ministers' decisions on the future of beavers in Scotland in 2015; and
- To help identify a variety of means to resolve any conflicts between beavers and land uses in the area and provide advice and practical help to land owners at a local level, and to consider how these means could be used more widely in the future.

The group will agree a programme of work to achieve these aims.

The group will commence in early 2012 and run until Ministers decide the future of beavers living in the wild in Scotland in 2015.

Membership

The group will be chaired by the SNH Area Manager for Tayside and Grampian.

The group shall comprise one representative from each of the following organisations:

Royal Zoological Society Scotland (RZSS)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government (SG)
Scottish Land and Estates (SLE)
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Scottish Wild Beaver Group (SWBG)
Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
Tay District Salmon Fishery Board (TDSFB)
NFUS
ConFor

The group may invite other individuals to attend to provide advice.

The SG representative would co-ordinate interests across central Government including the Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (RPID), Science Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), and Veterinary Advisors.

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Exclusions

The remit of the group does not extend to the following activities:

- Promotional work designed to increase support for beaver reintroduction
- Compensation to land managers for any loss incurred from these beavers
- Monitoring and regulation of private collections
- Running or monitoring of the Scottish Beaver Trial at Knapdale
- Investigation and management of any beavers found outwith the Tay and Earn river catchments (*precise area to be confirmed*)
- Decision on any licence applications for the release of beavers in Scotland