

Appendix 1. The six participatory posters used during the workshop sessions.

POSTER 1

Q: What is important to you about the local environment (see map)?
Please write on your post-its and stick anywhere on this poster.



Q: Did this influence your decision to live, work or visit here?
Please stick your dot in the Yes or No box.

YES	NO
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POSTER 2

Q: What comes to mind if we ask you about beavers?

Write on your post-its and stick anywhere on this image.

Write whatever comes to mind.
Choose up to 5 words, phrases or drawings.



Tayside & Grampian Beaver ©Neil Mitchell

Q: Tell us more about why you picked those things?

Please write on your post-its and stick anywhere in this box.

POSTER 3

Q: Have you ever encountered or seen a beaver in the wild?		Q: Would you like to see a beaver in the wild?	
YES	NO	NO	YES
Please write on your post-its and stick anywhere in the boxes			
Q: Where was this?	Q: Please tell us more	Q: Please tell us more	
Q: What did you think / how did this make you feel?			

POSTER 4

The Scottish Government is giving serious consideration to reintroducing beavers to new areas in Scotland.

Q: What do you think / how do you feel about this? Please stick your dot on the scale below.

WHY? Please tells us a bit more about your choice

☹️ ————— ☺️

WHAT? What would need to happen to move from ☹️ ————— ☺️

POSTER 5

One area being considered for beaver reintroduction is here (see map).

Q: Where within this area do you think beavers should be?

I DON'T KNOW / I'M NOT INTERESTED
Stick your dot below

OR I HAVE AN IDEA

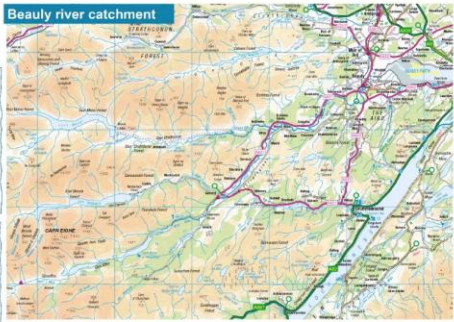


PICK A LOCATION
Stick your dot on the map. You can chose more than one spot, including outside the area shown.

WHY?
Tell us more about why you picked that spot(s).

DON'T KNOW

NOT INTERESTED



SOMEWHERE ELSE IN SCOTLAND

Q: Who should decide where beavers should be? Write on your post-its and stick here.

POSTER 6

Q: If you would you like to know more about beavers, please tell us below what would be helpful?

ANY OTHER COMMENTS
Please use your post-its to leave any other comments

Appendix 2. Coding system

Please tell us a little bit more about yourself by choosing from the lists below with a ✓

Gender	Age Group
● M - Male	● 1 - <16
■ F - Female	● 2 - 16-29
▲ + Plus	● 3 - 30-64
■ P - I'd prefer not say	● 4 - 65+

Where do you live (please see the map)

L - Live locally

H - Live elsewhere in the Highlands & Islands

S - Live elsewhere in Scotland

V - Live elsewhere in the UK

T - International

Do you work locally (please see the map)

WL - Yes

WS - Sometimes

N - No

If you live or work locally, are you involved in land management?

If yes, please describe in two words

Have you participated with us before?

Y - Yes

N - No

If yes, if you can remember your number, please write here _____

Appendix 3. Context information sheet provided to participants during the six community workshop sessions.

Nature's contributions to people - Communities' perceptions of beavers

“Since they were made a protected species in 2019, we have gained sufficient experience in managing beavers in Scotland to allow us to confidently support proactive steps to expand their population. We will continue to provide support and advice to land managers to mitigate any negative impacts, and the additional option of trapping and translocation will further enhance this package of support.”

**Lorna Slater - Biodiversity Minister, Scottish
Government**

“Throughout Scotland, communities are supported in working together to maximise the ecosystem and wider benefits of beavers while minimising negative impacts. The beaver population is actively expanded into appropriate areas; adaptive management and mitigation is used to protect assets and interests.”

Scotland's Beaver Strategy 2022-2045 – Draft July

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET



***Nature's contributions to people – communities' perceptions of
beavers***

Who are we?

We are an independent research team at the Centre for Living Sustainability at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

What is the project about?

Some beaver populations have been resident in Scotland (in Tayside and Argyll) since 2009. There is now serious consideration being given to translocate and reintroduce beavers to other areas in Scotland.

A Scottish Beaver Strategy will be launched this summer setting out the steps required to implement translocations and manage beavers in the short to medium-term (2022-2045). It is appreciated that beavers have an ecological, social, and economic impact and their presence will not be appropriate everywhere. Working with communities is considered crucial and research is therefore ongoing to understand these impacts in more detail.

The purpose of this project is to work with communities to explore views (ideas, opinions, and feelings) about beavers. We would like to invite you to take part in this study.

What are we asking of you?

We are planning to hold a range of community-based consultations within the Beaully area. We would like to explore your views on beavers and their effects on people and the environment using a range of different participatory activities e.g. using posters, questions, images, maps.

We would like to be able to take photos for social media, the UHI website, and academic publications as well as sometimes voice record or film. You will have the option not to participate in this way.

What is going to happen with the information you share?

This research is part of a wider project investigating both socio-cultural and ecological aspects of beavers. The results will be used to inform a NatureScot Commissioned report. The aim is to provide policy recommendations, actions, and ideas regarding the strategy for the reintroduction of beavers in Scotland, considering community views on impacts, management, and mitigation. Your knowledge, ideas and

experience are therefore important, and findings will be communicated at both a regional and national level.

The research will be conducted between May 2022 and April 2023. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time up to the analysis of the data which for this project will be end Sept 2022. Quotes and excerpts of discussions might be used in academic publications and reports, although data will be anonymised unless specifically agreed with participants. Audio or visual data that is not agreed to as identified will be destroyed on project completion.

All personal data will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act (DPA) and will be handled in line with the Data Protection Policy of the University of the Highlands and Island.

What are benefits of participating?

You will help us to deepen our understanding of the socio-cultural and economic effects of beaver presence in the environment, with the aim of improving ongoing management and informing the Scottish Beaver Strategy. By working with a range of people in the community, we can learn from those directly involved and impacted.

Are there any risks in taking part?

You are under no obligation to share any information or take part in any activity which you are not comfortable with. You are free to change your mind and opt out at any point. We will adhere to current COVID-19 regulations and guidelines to minimize risk of spreading the virus. Please contact us directly with any concerns (contact details below) and information about local support services will be available if required.

What happens now?

If you would like further information on the project, we are happy to answer any questions you might have. If you are happy to take part, please complete a **Participant Consent** form.

Contact information

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This project is co-funded by NatureScot and administered by the University of the Highlands and Islands. This project was granted ethical approval by the University of the Highlands and Islands Research Ethics Committee, May 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

***Nature's contributions to people – communities' perceptions of
beavers***

Please tick box

1. I confirm that I have read the *Participant Information Sheet* for the above study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw participation and the data and information gathered about me at any time without giving any reason up until the end of September 2022.

3. I understand that the information collected about me may be shared anonymously with other UHI researchers and support research in the future.

4. I agree to being voice recorded for the purpose of data analysis.

5. I agree to photos/video recording for the purpose of data analysis.

6. I consent to pictures/visuals being used in the production of openly available reports or digital outputs. Note: I can request for my face to be non-identifiable (please speak to one of the researchers).

7. I consent to my data including non-identifiable textualized quotes and excerpts being used in anonymized form for the specific research outlined and for further relevant and related research. Note: non-anonymised quotes would only be used with the expressed consent of participants.

I agree to take part in the above study.

Name of Participant

Date

Signature

Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature

(for participants under 18)

Information Rights

- You have the right to request a copy of the personal data that the University and/or Academic Partner holds and processes about you.
- You have the right to withdraw your consent to the processing of your data at any time by contacting the UHI's Data Protection Officer at: dataprotectionofficer@uhi.ac.uk
- You have the right to restrict the processing of your personal data.
- You can request an electronic copy of your signed consent and a photo or PDF will be provided to you.