



**BEAVER
TRUST**

Strategy to 2027

beavertrust.org

Registered charity number 1185451 in England and Wales

Welcome to Beaver Trust



At Beaver Trust, our team of passionate and knowledgeable staff are on a mission to restore beavers to regenerate our landscapes.

We are focused on the most impactful ways to deliver this and believe there are three fundamental elements that we need in place to succeed. Firstly, we need a healthy genetically diverse population of beavers. Secondly, we need national strategies that underpin and support beavers' return. Thirdly we need co-existence, with people learning to live alongside beavers after centuries of absence. Our strategy underpins these, with three high-level goals of restoration, influencing and communicating, and all of our work addresses one or more of these aims.

We are clear that, to succeed, we cannot and would not want to do this alone and that partnership working is critical to our success.

I am delighted to share this strategy with you and invite you to join us on our journey to restore beavers and regenerate our landscapes.

Sandra King

Sandra King,
CEO of Beaver Trust



About Beaver Trust

Beaver Trust is a nature restoration charity, established in September 2019, run by a small team with a diverse skillset and extensive experience in beaver ecology and restoration. We provide practical solutions to help people co-exist with beavers. We influence legislation that rebuilds ecosystems and strengthens our resilience in this ecological and climate crisis.

Our mission

We restore beavers to regenerate our landscapes.

Our vision

Thriving waterways vibrant with life, where beavers are embraced as a vital part of our biodiverse landscape.



Why beavers?

Beavers once shaped Britain's waterways, creating thriving wetlands and complex river systems brimming with invertebrates, amphibians, mammals, reptiles, birds and fish, before they were hunted to extinction 400 years ago.

Beavers are a keystone species, referred to as 'ecosystem engineers', and removing them has left a gap in landscape evolution. As we must now build resilience toward the climate and biodiversity emergencies, restoring beavers to Britain will help us adapt and restore freshwater habitats and the species that rely on them.

Picture: Beaver Trust supports the first legal release of wild beavers in England, February 2025



Our values

Science led

Our work is grounded in evidence. We set high scientific standards and our integrity builds trust and credibility.

Connected to nature

We believe that nature matters in its own right. We put animal welfare front and centre in our restoration work.

Solutions orientated

We are creative in our approach and take action to deliver results. We share our learning and adapt when we face challenges.

Inclusive and collaborative

We embrace diversity and build partnerships to increase our impact.

Resilient and ambitious

We are passionate about restoring beavers and work with the drive and determination demanded by the climate and ecological crises.

Our goals

Beaver Trust has three headline goals and everything that we do supports one or more of these goals.



Restore

We facilitate the restoration of beavers throughout Britain, maximising biodiversity and ecosystem benefits, connecting and augmenting existing populations and promoting holistic land use practices for long-term coexistence with the species.



Communicate and educate

We mobilise widespread public understanding, and engagement with targeted interest groups, to inform and encourage acceptance of the changes beavers bring and prepare people to co-exist with them.



Influence

We work with stakeholders, politicians and governmental bodies to develop national strategies and policies that enable the restoration and normalisation of beavers and wetlands alongside pragmatic management and mitigation.





The context that we work in

Beaver restoration is at different stages in each of the three countries in Britain and our work and approach reflects those differences. In Scotland, beavers have European Protected Status (EPS), there is a national beaver strategy and a licensing framework for wild releases. In England, beavers have EPS and there is a licensing framework for wild releases, but we await development of a national strategy. In Wales, beavers are recognised as a Native Species and afforded legal protection as a European Protected Species. There is no national beaver mitigation licence nor national strategy for returning beavers to the wild.

Fundamentally, we need clear and consistent beaver policies across Scotland, England and Wales to facilitate the long-term success of the species' restoration.

Key considerations for national policies and for ensuring beavers' widespread return include:

1. Sufficient resources and funding to incentivise land-use change, the re-establishment of natural processes and for beaver management (where needed);
2. Ensuring healthy and genetically diverse beaver populations, with high population connectivity;
3. Making space for water and natural processes, in order to expand habitat and restore ecological connectivity along whole river catchments;
4. Cross-sector collaboration to continue encouraging acceptance of more wild, natural and dynamic landscapes.

The target is to see beavers normalised and accepted back across Scotland, England and Wales as a native wild animal.

What we do

To support our headline goals we prioritise our work in the following ways:

Restore

We translocate beavers to favourable sites, supporting every step of that process, whilst maintaining high standards of best practice and animal welfare.

We implement effective beaver mitigation for a range of sites, stakeholders and issues, including the dissemination of techniques and shared experience.

We share our expertise, collaborating with local and national stakeholders, international projects and research institutes to ensure coexistence by filling knowledge gaps including undertaking research, and designing and delivering training courses.

Communicate and educate

We deliver science-led, engaging communications and high-quality learning and outreach opportunities for young people and their educators, to increase knowledge of and connection with beavers and the natural world.

We support and share the progress and achievements of our beaver restoration, mitigation and management work.

We use multi-channel distribution and collaborative partnerships across our communications to reach new, broad audiences to raise awareness, provide support, to guide and inform.

Influence

We use our unique combination of extensive fieldwork experience and science-led approach to bring key stakeholders and communities together. We work with government bodies to ensure that all three countries in Britain have a national strategy, management framework and licensing scheme in place.

We work with partners to ensure government policies across Britain meaningfully incentivise urgent and widespread uptake of initiatives that leave space for water and wildlife along river corridors to improve ecological connectivity. In doing so, this will help to minimise conflict with beavers.

We develop and maintain a network of key political influencers across political parties and countries. We influence national government policies and specific parties' environmental policies, where these impact on beaver restoration and the long-term role of beavers in improving biodiversity and climate outcomes.

Cross-cutting objectives

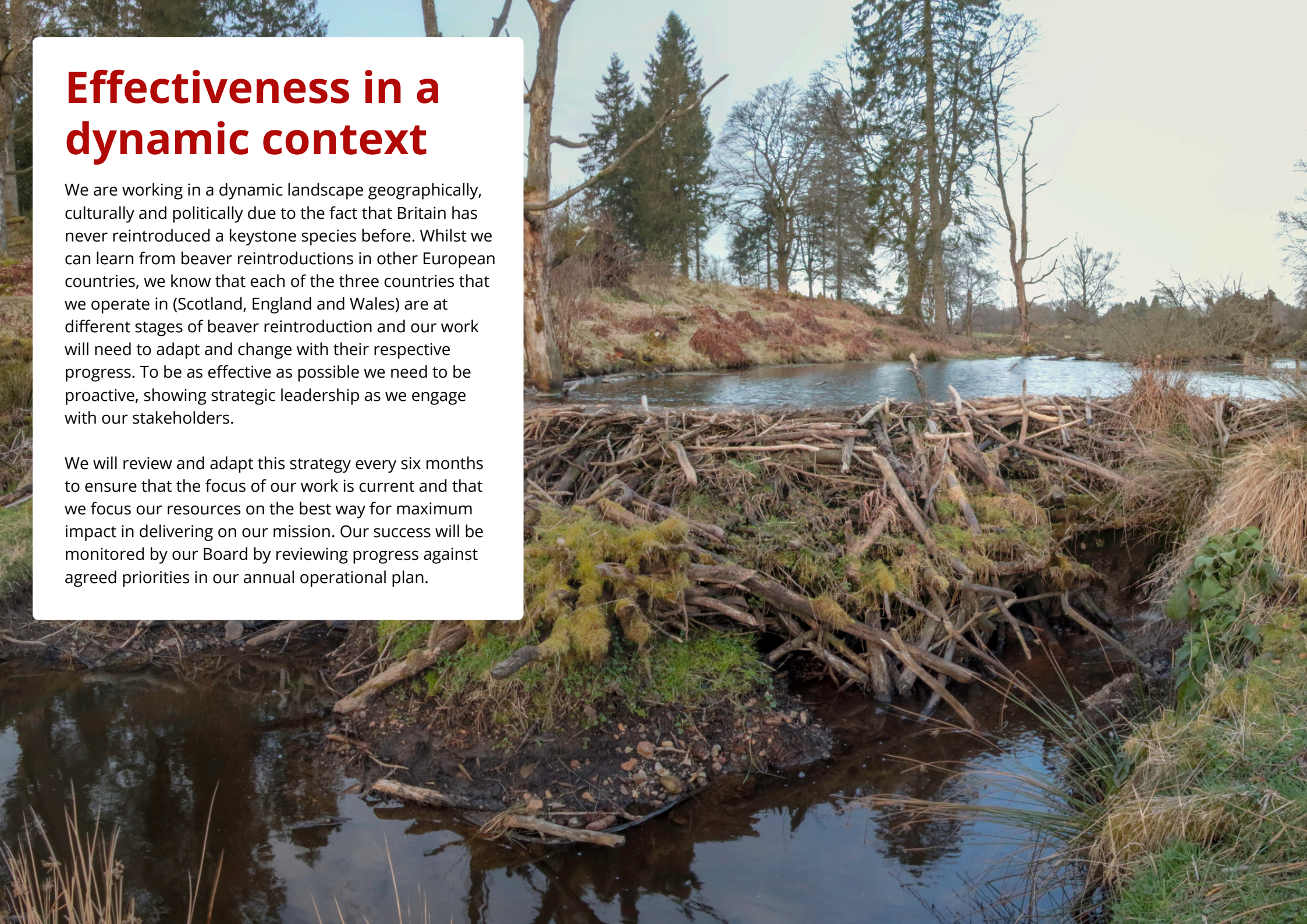
- 1** We work as a team to ensure that the collaboration we strive for externally is mirrored in the way we work together internally.
- 2** We work positively to improve our awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion and to take action that enables real inclusivity.



Effectiveness in a dynamic context

We are working in a dynamic landscape geographically, culturally and politically due to the fact that Britain has never reintroduced a keystone species before. Whilst we can learn from beaver reintroductions in other European countries, we know that each of the three countries that we operate in (Scotland, England and Wales) are at different stages of beaver reintroduction and our work will need to adapt and change with their respective progress. To be as effective as possible we need to be proactive, showing strategic leadership as we engage with our stakeholders.

We will review and adapt this strategy every six months to ensure that the focus of our work is current and that we focus our resources on the best way for maximum impact in delivering on our mission. Our success will be monitored by our Board by reviewing progress against agreed priorities in our annual operational plan.



Working with stakeholders

Strong stakeholder engagement is central to our partnership working model and fundamental to our success as a small organisation without project landholdings. We develop strong working relationships with landowners and managers from large estates to clusters of smaller landowners, connecting riparian corridors to find, assess and manage new and existing beaver territories.

Collaboration with all stakeholders, whether on reintroductions, beaver management solutions or river naturalisation work, ensures the best long-term outcome for beavers, people and other species.

With beavers having been absent for so long, acceptance of their impacts on the landscape is a significant challenge that will be vastly improved through collaborative working. We work closely with governments and their agencies to inform and connect policy frameworks, a critical step towards successful beaver restoration. We also work with the research institutes that underpin our science-led approach to beaver restoration and communications.

We support long-term beaver population growth by connecting with communities surrounding wild and enclosed beaver populations, engaging, supporting and educating about beavers.

