Welsh Beaver Project

YMDDIRIEDOLAETHAU natur CYMRU WILDLIFE TRUSTS WALES

Reintroducing the Beaver to Wales

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Welsh Beaver Project

The Welsh Beaver Project is working to reintroduce wild beavers (*Castor fiber*) back into the Welsh landscape. This work has been led by the Wildlife Trusts in Wales as part of their Living Landscapes strategy and is being delivered in partnership with other organisations.

Why reintroduce beavers to Wales?

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Beavers were once widespread across Wales, but due to hunting by man for their fur, meat and scent glands they became extinct around the Middle Ages. Work to re-establish beavers in Wales is taking place because of the important role they can play in enriching biodiversity and helping to restore and manage wetland areas. Beavers are known as a 'keystone species' because their activities benefit a wide range of other animals and plants that live in wetland habitats. Beaver activity can also help to improve water quality, regulate flow, alleviate downstream flooding, stabilise water tables and reduce erosion in rivers. As people like to see beavers they can also benefit tourism, helping to support local economies.

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Where do beavers live?

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Adult beavers are usually around 1.3m long (including tail) and weigh about 20kg. They live in small family groups on slow moving rivers, streams and lakes within bank-side burrows or in lodges that they build from sticks and mud. They sometimes also build dams to improve their habitat, but usually only where water is less than 0.7m in depth. Over 98% of beaver activity occurs within 20m of the water's edge.

What do beavers eat?

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Beavers do not eat fish as they are herbivores. They eat mostly grass and herbaceous plants in the spring and summer. In the autumn they begin to feed more on tree bark and woody plant material. Beavers do not hibernate and often gather stores of woody vegetation in the bottom of pools as a winter food resource.

Are there any problems associated with beavers?

Beavers bring many benefits to wildlife and people. They have been successfully reintroduced in over 25 countries across Europe without major issues, but they can sometimes cause local problems that require management, such as dam construction in the wrong place, or the unwanted felling of trees. There are well-established simple solutions to these issues that can be undertaken at very low cost.

Where would beavers be released?

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Wales has abundant habitat to support beavers and we have identified many potential release sites. These include enclosed sites where beavers would be used to undertake targeted habitat management. We are currently focusing on potential release sites in the western parts of Wales.

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How to support the project

This project relies on funding from the generosity of private organisations and individuals. You can help support the project by providing a donation. Donations can be made online through our website: **www.welshbeaverproject.org/support-the-project** or through the Just Giving website (search for Welsh Beaver Project).

Your donations really will help ensure the return of wild beavers to the Welsh landscape. Please give whatever you can afford!

Find out more

For more information visit the Welsh Beaver Project website

www.welshbeaverproject.org

Get in touch

If you would like to get in touch, please contact us by phone, email or letter:

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The Bevis Trust for wildlife management

People's Postcode Lottery

Wild Europe

Wildwood

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Prosiect Afancod Cymru

Ailgyflwyno'r Afanc i Gymru

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Prosiect Afancod Cymru

Mae Prosiect Afancod Cymru'n gweithio i ailgyflwyno afancod gwyllt (Castor fiber) i dirwedd Cymru. Mae'r gwaith hwn wedi cael ei arwain gan yr Ymddiriedolaethau Natur yng Nghymru fel rhan o'u strategaeth Tirweddau Byw ac mae'n cael ei gyflwyno mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill.

Pam ailgyflwyno afancod i Gymru?

© Jeremy Usher Smith

Arferai afancod fod yn gyffredin ledled Cymru ond, oherwydd eu bod wedi cael eu hela gan ddyn am eu ffwr, eu cig a'u chwarennau arogli, diflannu fu eu hanes tua'r Canol Oesoedd. Mae gwaith ar droed i ailsefydlu afancod yng Nghymru, oherwydd y rôl bwysig maent yn gallu ei chwarae mewn cyfoethogi bioamrywiaeth a helpu i adfer a rheoli ardaloedd o dir gwlyb. Mae afancod yn cael eu hadnabod fel 'rhywogaeth allweddol' oherwydd bod eu gweithgarwch o fudd i ystod eang o anifeiliaid a phlanhigion eraill sy'n byw mewn cynefinoedd o dir gwlyb. Hefyd gall gweithgarwch afancod helpu i wella ansawdd dŵr, rheoli llif dŵr, lleihau llifogydd i lawr yr afon, sefydlogi lefelau trwythiad a lleihau erydu mewn afonydd. Gan fod pobl yn hoffi gweld afancod, maent yn gallu bod o fudd i dwristiaeth hefyd, gan helpu i gefnogi'r economi leol.

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Ble mae afancod yn byw?

Fel rheol mae'r oedolion tua 1.3m o hyd (gan gynnwys y gynffon) ac yn pwyso tua 20kg. Maent yn byw mewn grwpiau teuluol bach ar afonydd araf, nentydd a llynnoedd mewn tyllau yn y glannau neu mewn gwâl maent yn ei chreu o frigau a mwd. Weithiau maent yn adeiladu argae hefyd i wella eu cynefin ond, fel rheol, dim ond os yw'r dŵr yn llai na 0.7m o ddyfnder. Mae mwy na 98% o weithgarwch afancod yn digwydd o fewn 20m i ymyl y dŵr.

Beth mae afancod yn ei fwyta?

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Nid yw afancod yn bwyta pysgod gan mai llysysyddion ydynt. Glaswellt a phlanhigion llysieuol maent yn eu bwyta'n bennaf yn y gwanwyn a'r haf. Yn yr hydref maent yn dechrau bwydo mwy ar risgl coed a phlanhigion coediog. Nid yw afancod yn gaeafgysgu ac, yn aml, maent yn casglu llystyfiant coediog yng ngwaelod pyllau fel adnodd o fwyd dros y gaeaf.

Oes unrhyw broblemau'n gysylltiedig ag afancod?

Mae afancod yn cynnig llawer o fanteision i fywyd gwyllt a phobl. Maent wedi cael eu hailgyflwyno'n llwyddiannus mewn mwy na 25 o wledydd ledled Ewrop heb broblemau mawr, ond weithiau maent yn gallu achosi problemau lleol sydd angen eu rheoli, fel adeiladu argae yn y lle anghywir, neu dorri coed heb fod angen. Mae atebion syml i'r problemau hyn am gost isel iawn.

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Ble fyddai afancod yn cael eu rhyddhau?

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Mae gan Gymru lawer o gynefinoedd a allai fod yn gartref i afancod ac rydym wedi nodi rhai safleoedd rhyddhau posib. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys safleoedd caeedig lle byddai afancod yn cael eu defnyddio i ymgymryd â gwaith rheoli cynefinoedd wedi'i dargedu. Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn canolbwyntio ar safleoedd rhyddhau posib yn rhannau gorllewinol Cymru.

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Sut mae cefnogi'r prosiect

Mae'r prosiect hwn yn dibynnu ar gyllid drwy haelioni sefydliadau ac unigolion preifat. Gallwch helpu i gefnogi'r prosiect drwy ddarparu rhodd. Gellir gwneud rhoddion ar-lein drwy ein gwefan: **www.welshbeaverproject.org/support-the-project** neu drwy wefan Just Giving (chwiliwch am Prosiect Afancod Cymru).

Bydd eich rhoddion o help mawr i sicrhau dychweliad afancod gwyllt i dirwedd Cymru. Cyfrannwch beth bynnag allwch chi ei fforddio os gwelwch yn dda!

Rhagor o wybodaeth

Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch i wefan Prosiect Afancod Cymru

www.welshbeaverproject.org

Cysylltu

Os hoffech gysylltu, cysylltwch dros y ffôn, ar e-bost neu drwy lythyr:

Prosiect Afancod Cymru

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