

Report for IWALC on Beaver Reintroduction Steering Group Meeting January 16th 2026

Please note these are very abbreviated notes and I have not checked for accuracy with the steering group secretary. Official minutes not yet available. Anywhere my notes are unclear I have put a (?)

Intros etc.

Matters Arising from last minutes:

Migratory Fish Assessment received from DEFRA – maps available showing higher/lower risk assessment areas.

LNRS response to reintroduction split for/against.

NW very willing to give presentation if this would be helpful. Also for IWALC and any other body who feels it relevant and wishes for more information e.g. LAF and National Landscapes etc. Cllr Acton can share links to facilitate.

Reservoir Risk Assessment notes will be shared with CK as long as GDPR can be met. As an example the RA done on a single exemplar reservoir shared with the meeting – this reservoir more than 20 metres from watercourse so unlikely to face damage but would be monitored.

Mitigation methods possible for seven higher risk reservoirs identified: could be fenced off. Funding being sought. Licensing Team looking into whether reservoir protection can be included in capital funding. Awaiting response from Nat Eng.

CK asked who would do reservoir inspections (landowner or HIWWT staff) and how frequently. What about exclusion (of walkers?)

MS asked whether there is already routine inspection of reservoirs for rabbit damage etc.

CK Rabbit damage not common but does happen. Most reservoirs below the size that requires strict monitoring.

A Beaver Management Leaflet now on www.

Project up-date

Work on completion of (very detailed) project plan should be done by end of Jan – covering detail on

More mapping of Southern Water infrastructure needed

Ecological Assessment incorporating LNRS measures

Looking at Eco assessment for land use at Medina catchment

Island roads and Highways up to speed and sharing links to RA with them

NE want 5 pairs to maintain genetic balance and to prevent territorial dispute escalating should all come in at once. Possibly 2pairs on HIWWT land / 2 on RSPB land / final pair on Medina catchment.

So'ton Uni keen to engage on studies of flood reduction and ground water storage

Final plan will be presented to trustees before any further stages.

What more needed?

Lots of reaching out to residents and farmers in areas but limited response. (Discussion about this – often there is little engagement until actual work starts/ interest only very localized. 70 letters sent out to riparian owners – 15 responses. Attempts at engagement will continue.

Beaver champions could be recruited an licensed

RoW Risk Assessment sub-group looking at RA's for Squirrel Trail and Cycle Paths. More generic RA for RoW more than 30 metres from habitat.

5 Step approach from Gov

- Distance from waterways
- Topography
- Number of potential dams
- MOU (?) with IWC

Useful Guidance AOB

Beaver Consideration(?) Tool from Nat Eng. Link will be published.

Initial Beaver Hubs will be launched in February

Beaver Dam Family Tool is still awaited.

Hope this is helpful

Cllr Penny Acton