



The Welsh Beaver Project Prosiect Afancod Cymru

Return of the Beaver?

CIEEM Welsh Conference 2018

Alicia Leow-Dyke
Welsh Beaver Project Officer



Who we are



PROSIECT
**AFANCOD
CYMRU**

**WELSH
BEAVER
PROJECT**



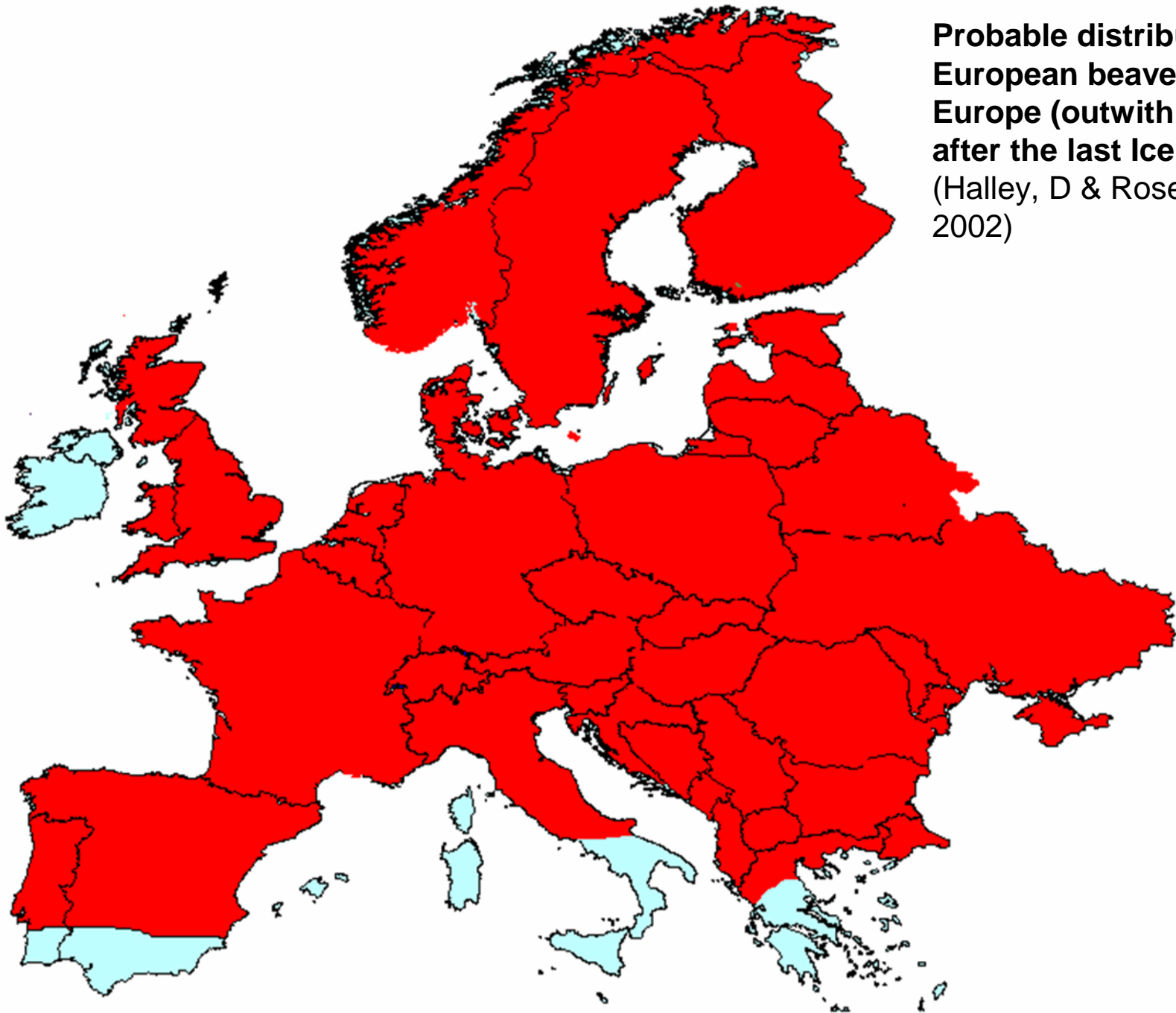
Sir Faesyfed
Radnorshire



South and West Wales
De a Gorllewin Cymru



**Probable distribution of
European beaver in
Europe (outwith Russia)
after the last Ice Age
(Halley, D & Rosell, F. -
2002)**



Beavers in Britain

“The Teify, of all the rivers in Wales and those in England south of the Humber, is the only river where you can find beavers. In Scotland, or so they tell me, there is again only one stream where beavers live, and even there they are exceedingly rare.”

Journey Through Wales, Gerald Cambrensis

1188 AD



Fig. 5.8. Three beaver mandibles from Meare Village East, now in the collections of the Somerset County Council Museum in Taunton. The upper two mandibles have been trimmed, probably for ease of hafting to use as tools.



Fig. 8.3. Beaver-gnawed wood collected during BWP fieldwork, similar to the gnawed wood found at Caldwell.



Fig. 8.7. A beaver mandible from the Fens (E 140), dated to around 1400–1300 BC, now of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge. It has been neatly trimmed at the rear.

Coles, B. (2006).

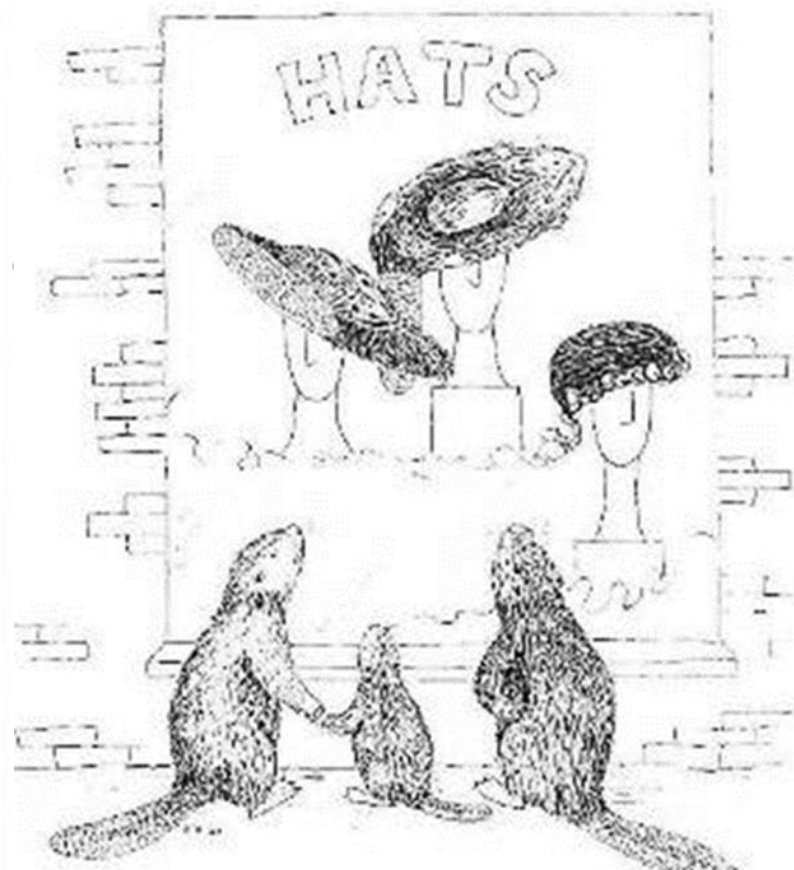
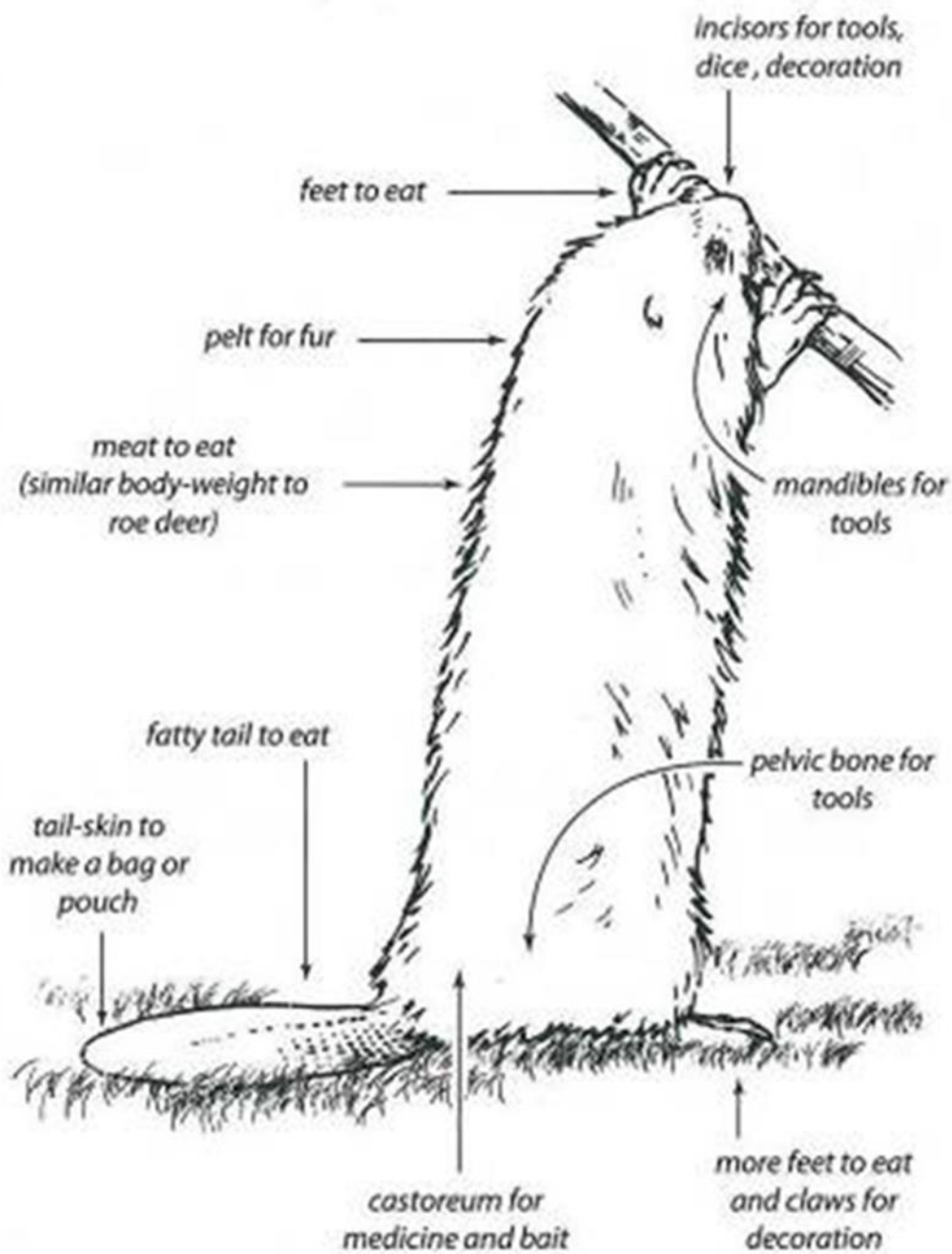


Afanc



Beverley, Yorkshire







Dr. Jones' Beaver Oil

The Greatest Remedy for

**RHEUMATISM
NEURALGIA
and LUMBAGO**



The most eminent physicians believe that these ailments yield more readily to external treatment. Internal medicines go to the stomach first to be digested, and large quantities have to be taken before reaching the diseased parts. In the meantime the patient becomes worse with less chances of a recovery.

Dr. Jones' Beaver Oil is compounded of the Beaver Castoreum, one of the most wonderful medicinal properties, together with other efficacious ingredients, and its marvelous soothing and healing qualities in the severest pain or ache cannot be disputed.

Beaver Oil is harmless when taken internally, but it does the work by external application, penetrating to the seat of pain with but slight rubbing, and expelling the impurities from the system by perspiration.

Relief is often experienced after the first application.
A most wonderful cure was effected in the case of—

Rev. Dr. John McClellan Holmes, 115 Academy St., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., who for six months suffered untold agony from sciatic rheumatism. He says: "I visited Clifton Springs Sanitarium twice without receiving any benefit. I have also had several doctors whose medicines did me little good. Finally a friend who had suffered as I did recommended Beaver Oil, and in one week's time I could stand on my feet. In three weeks I was entirely cured."

For Sale by B. S. BERGEY, Wholesale and Retail, S. W. cor. Ninth and Robeson Sts., and all Druggists. 50c. Per Bottle.

Beaver tail soup

Use the meaty part of the beaver tail from the base forward to the beginning of the scaly part of the tail (about one third of the way from base to tip). The thickest part of the scaly portion of the tail can also be used once the scales are cleaned off. Do not remove the fat. For this recipe, the meat does not require preparatory soaking in water, salt and vinegar as described above. Divide the tail crosswise in smaller pieces, 3-4 cm long.

1.5– 2 litres water
salt

pepper

a little thyme and sage and a lovage leaf

150g celery

a medium large leek

2 large carrots

finely chopped parsley

2 cloves

2 bay leaves

Boil the meat with the salt, pepper and seasonings until it is quite tender. Add the vegetables and boil further until they are tender. The fat, which has not melted, has a jelly-like consistency and a very piquant taste.

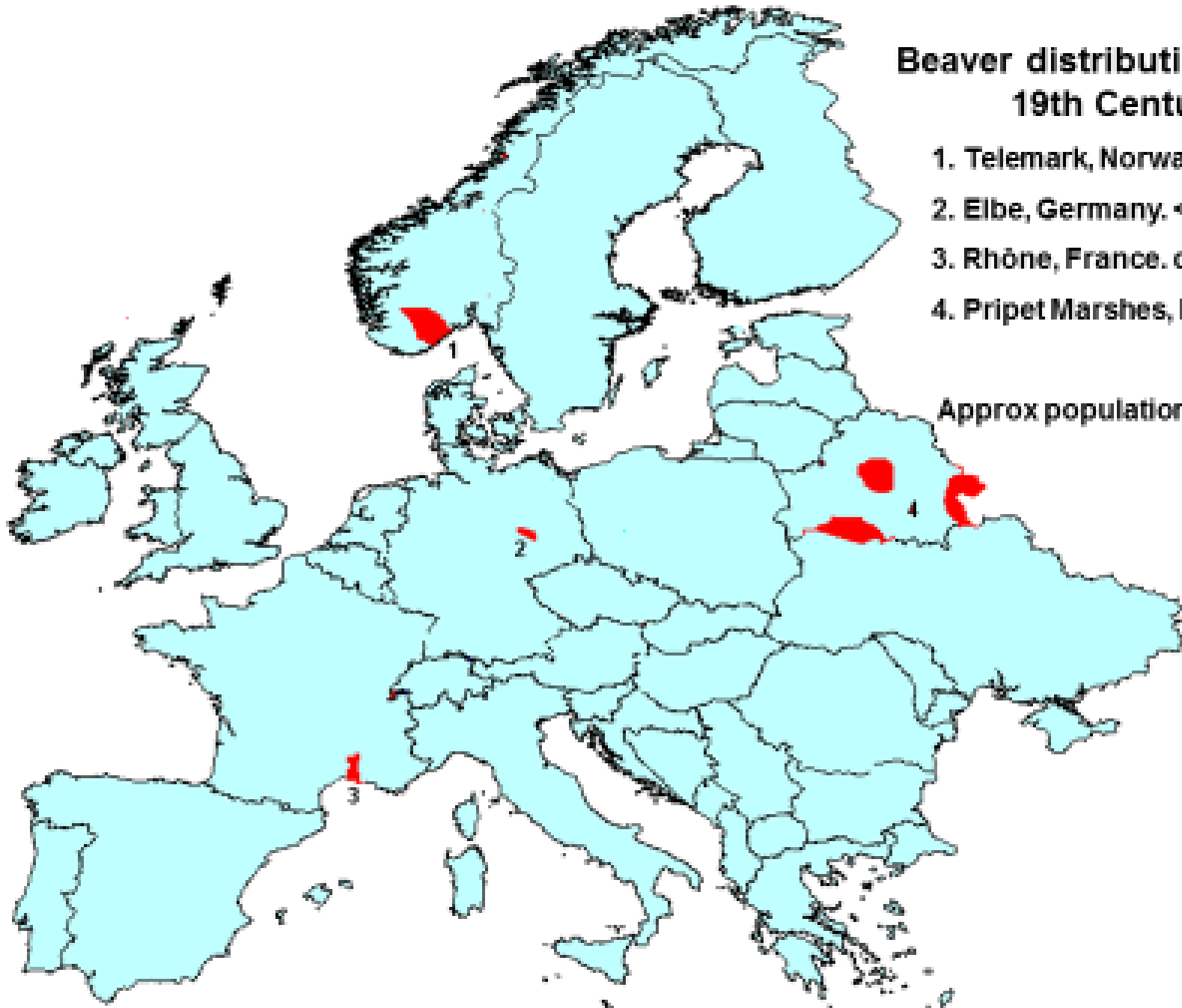
- Pelt (very dense and warm, also for waterproof hats)
- Meat (especially during lent)
- Teeth & claws for jewellery
- Castoreum (general remedy)



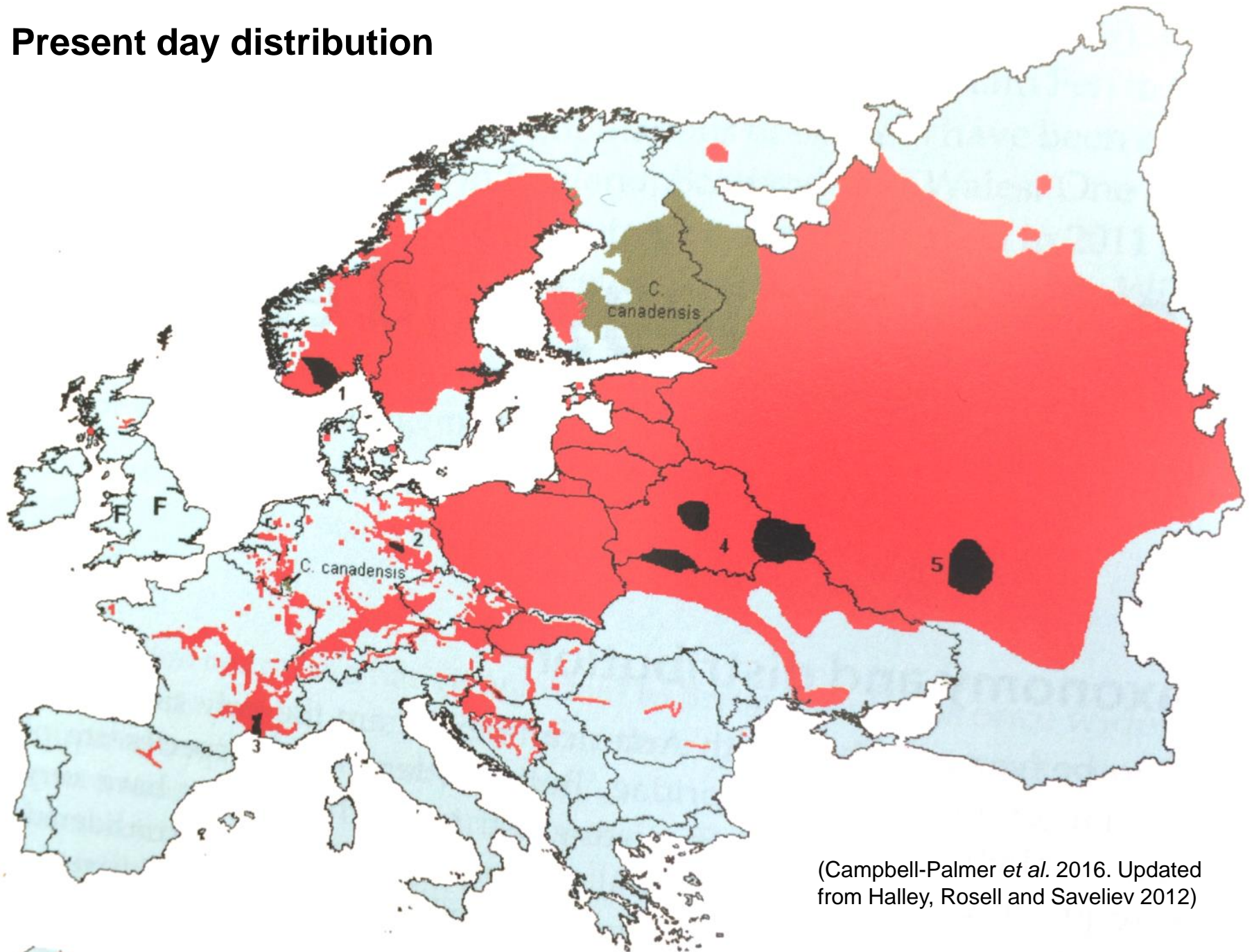
Beaver distribution by late 19th Century

1. Telemark, Norway. c.100
2. Elbe, Germany. <200
3. Rhône, France. c. 30
4. Pripet Marshes, Belarus. <400

Approx population 1200 animals



Present day distribution



(Campbell-Palmer *et al.* 2016. Updated from Halley, Rosell and Saveliev 2012)

Welsh Beaver Project

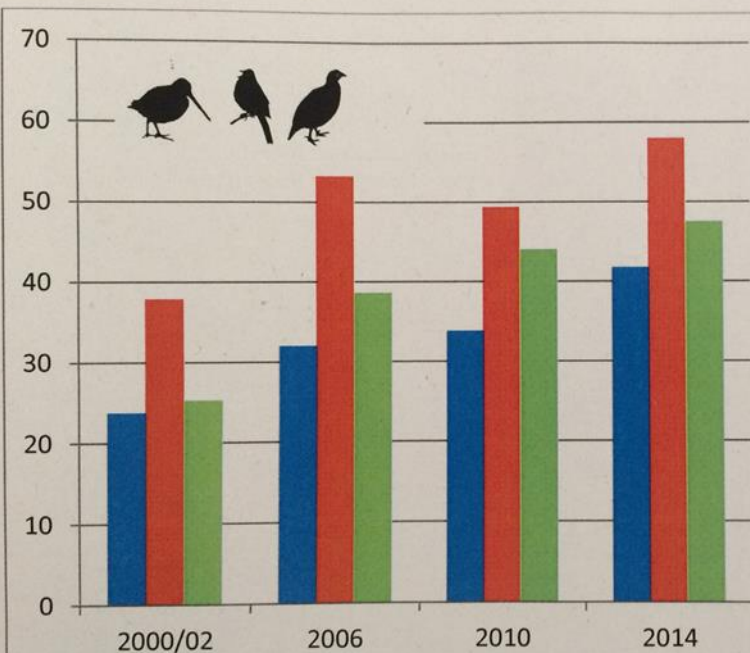


Why reintroduce beavers?



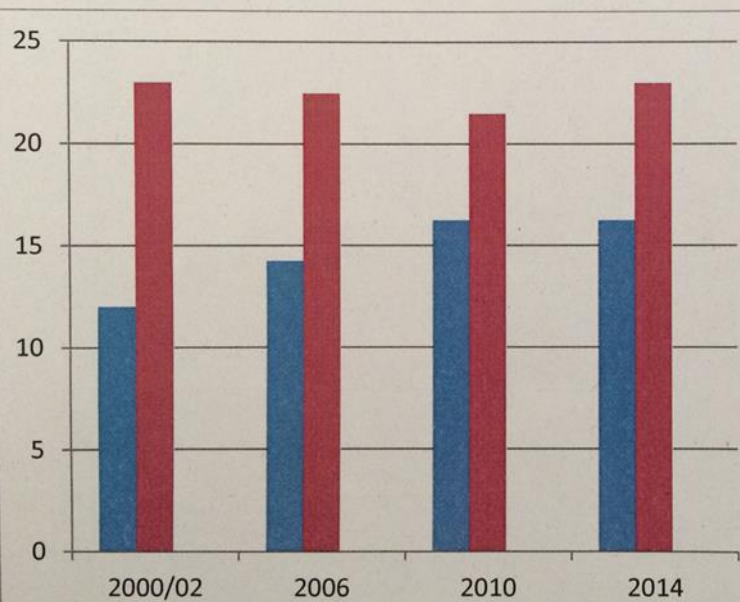
- Legal: Article 22 of the EC 'Habitats Directive'.
- Biodiversity: a 'keystone species' in the ecology of riparian woodlands and wetlands.





Abundance (per 10 ha area) of breeding birds with negative population trend in Germany (SUDFELDT et al. 2013)

- Minor influence of beavers Bibereinfluss (n = 4)
- Huge influence of beavers (n = 2, since 2010 n = 4)
- Beaver dams removed in 2010 (n = 2)



Number of dragonfly and damselfly species in project areas with different degrees of beaver influence

- Minor influence of beavers (n = 4)
- Huge influence of beavers (n = 1-4)



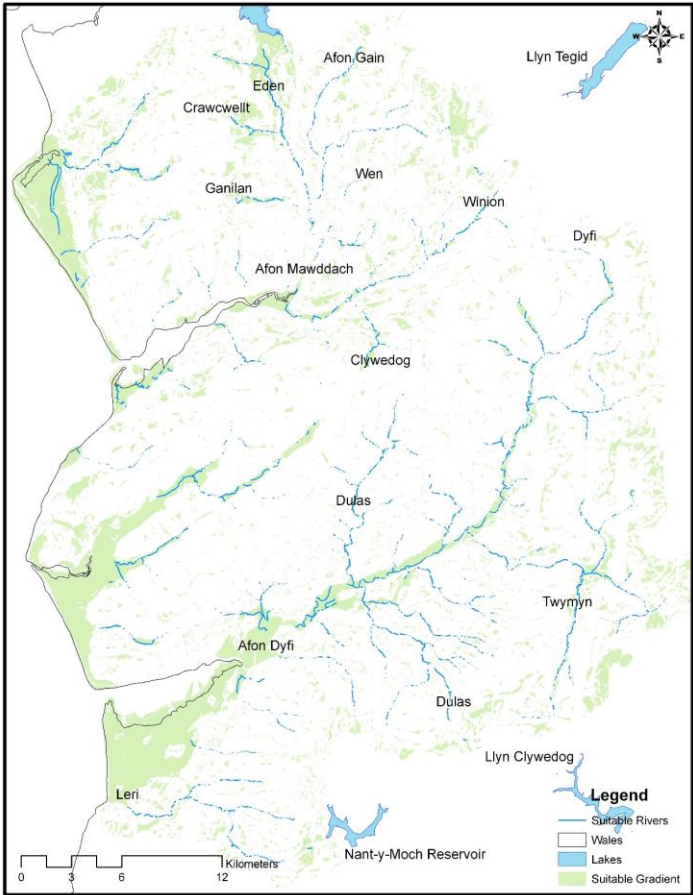
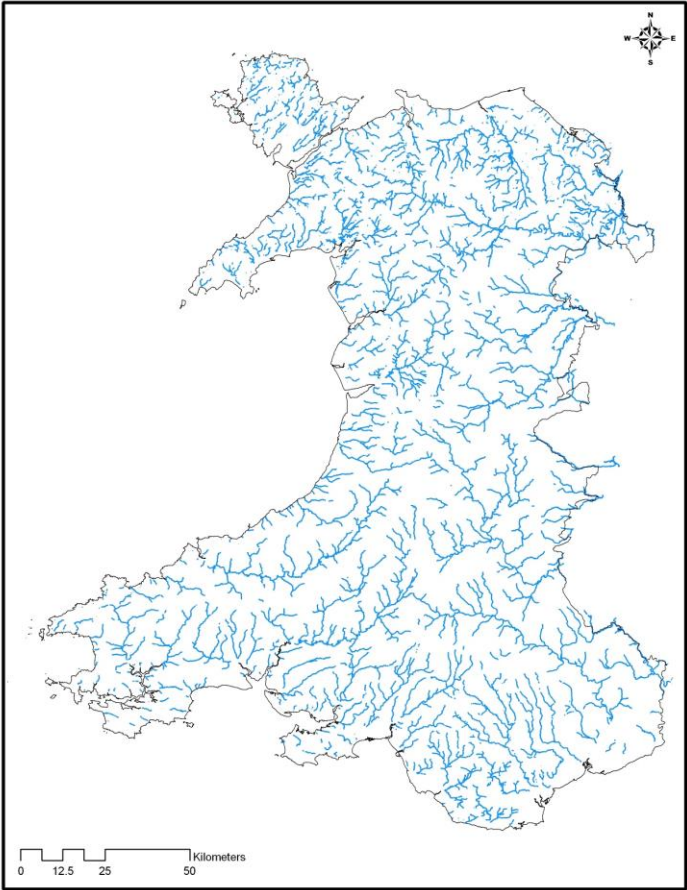
Why reintroduce beavers?



- Legal: Article 22 of the EC 'Habitats Directive'.
- Biodiversity: a 'keystone species' in the ecology of riparian woodlands and wetlands.
- Environmental benefits: water quality & flow management.
- Socio-economic benefits: public interest, education, wildlife tourism.



Feasibility Studies



Reports produced



NINA Report 457

Sefydliad Norwieg i Wath Ymohwll ym Myd Natur
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

All-gyflwyniad yr afanc Ewropeaidd
Castor fiber i Gymru.
Astudiaeth dichonoldeb ecologol

The rein-
beaver C
An ecol

D.J. Halley
Adrian Lloyd Jones
Sarah Chesworth
Chris Hall
Derek Gow
Robert Parry
Jane Walsh



people's trust for
**endangered
species**



TEAMWORK

ENTHUSIASM

Cooperation

REPORT OF THE WELSH BEAVER ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE

An investigation into the feasibility of
European Beaver (*Castor fiber*)

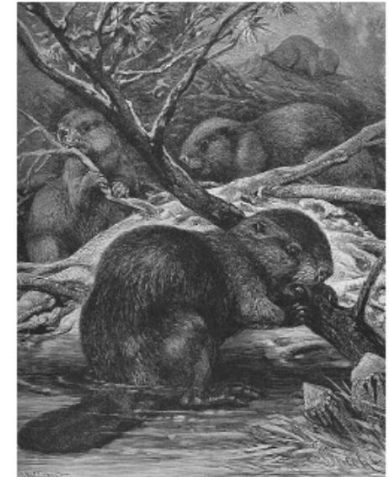
Menter Asesu Afancod Cymru

*Crynodeb o
ymchwiliad i ymarferoldeb
ailgyflwyno'r afanc
Ewropeaidd (*Castor fiber*)
i Gymru*

PROSECT
AFANCOD
CYMRU

Photograph supplied by Ian Sargent

An overview of a site scoping process for
the assessment of potential European
beaver release sites in Wales 2012/2013



February 2013

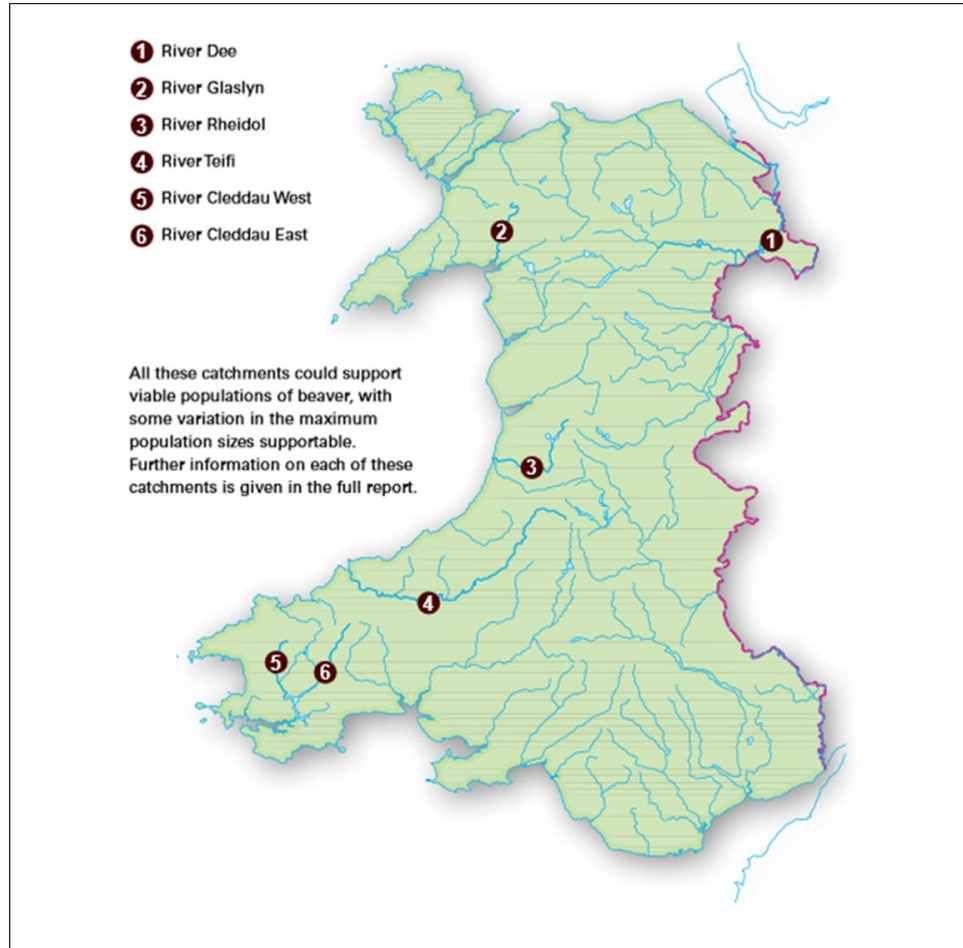
Report compiled by the Derek Gow Consultancy Ltd,
Upcott Grange Farm
Broadwoodwiger,
Lifton, Devon.
PL16 0JS

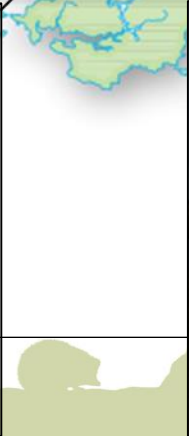
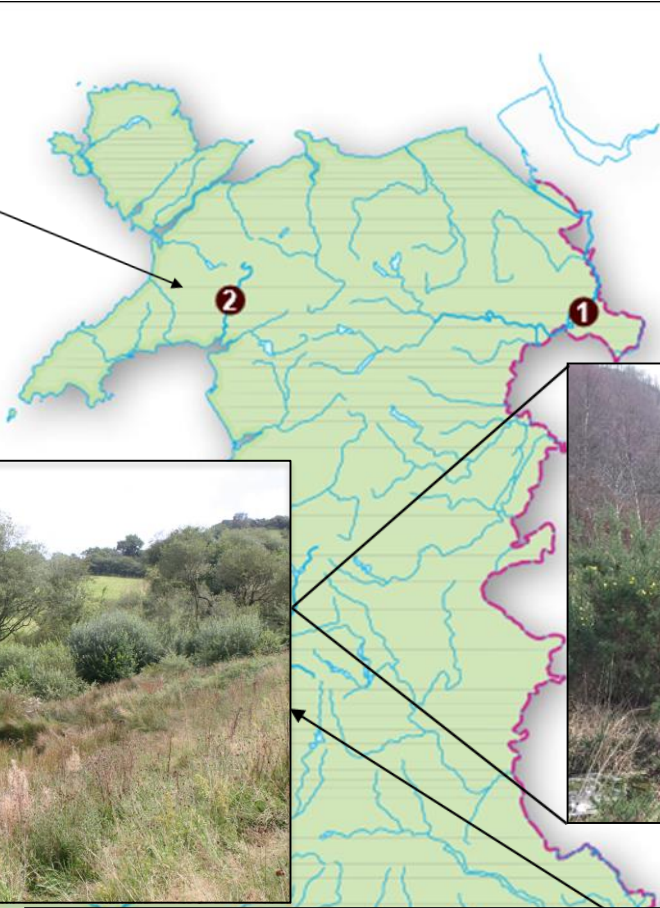
Telephone: 01409 211578, Mobile: 07764 690 867

Email: DerekJGow@aol.com



Six catchments initially selected





A landscape photograph featuring a dense forest of bare trees in the background and tall, golden-brown grasses in the foreground. The text "Management Tool" is overlaid in the center.

Management Tool



ivian

ool



Next Steps



- We are working on a licence application for a managed reintroduction to a small catchment in Wales.
- Licence to be submitted to Natural Resources Wales.
- If successful, the reintroduction will be monitored over five years.
- We will continue to raise awareness of beavers and their benefits.



www.welshbeaverproject.org



PROSIECT AFANCOD CYMRU
WELSH BEAVER PROJECT



[English site](#)

[yr wefan Cymraeg](#)

facebook

twitter

Follow us on Social Media @beverafanc

One Day....



"Something on a floodplain, preferably."



Thank you!



Photography Credits: Laurie Campbell, Gerhard Schwab,
Adrian Lloyd Jones & Alicia Leow-Dyke.

