

## Response ID ANON-W16X-PETX-Q

Submitted to Consultation on approach to beaver reintroduction and management in England  
Submitted on 2021-11-17 21:35:10

### Introduction

1 Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If yes, please give your reason:

2 What is your name?

Name:  
Jason Reeves

3 What is your email address?

Email:  
jasonreeves@cieem.net

4 What is your organisation? If you are responding as an individual, please state 'individual'.

Organisation:  
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

5 Please briefly describe your interest in this consultation.

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

CIEEM is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Our Vision is of a healthy natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

### National approach to reintroductions

6 Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to beaver reintroductions? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

Agree

Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.:

No comment.

7 What criteria, in addition to those listed above, do you think projects should meet to be granted a licence for wild release? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence.

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

We agree with the proposed approach with additional criteria:

1. A project-specific impact assessment on migratory fish species, such as salmon. Such an assessment may be required in any case for rivers designated as a Special Area of Conservation which have migratory fish species as qualifying interests, so our suggestion is to make such an assessment applicable to all rivers to which it is proposed to reintroduce beavers. The potential conflict with migratory salmon is identified in the consultation paper (paragraphs 48 and 49) and in the scientific literature for example Virbickas et al. 2015.

2. A statement about the genetic diversity of the animals to be released and their origins to ensure there is adequate and appropriate genetic mixing, avoiding an inbreeding depression in specific catchments.

Virbickas, T., Stakėnas, S., & Steponėnas, A. (2015). Impact of beaver dams on abundance and distribution of anadromous salmonids in two lowland streams in Lithuania. PLoS One, 10(4), e0123107.

### Existing wild-living beaver populations

8 Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to existing wild-living beaver populations? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

Agree

Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.:

No comment.

### Current and future beaver enclosures

9 Do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to licensing of future beaver enclosures? Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.

Agree

Please state your reasons and supporting evidence. If you disagree, please provide any suggested alterations or alternatives and supporting evidence.:

No comment.

10 What criteria do you think should be taken into consideration when determining whether or not to issue an enclosure licence?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

We suggest that to be licensed the enclosure release would need to:

1. provide a research benefit, as described in the consultation paper
2. provide a specific conservation benefit, for example, by providing wetland management within and around the enclosure
3. be a reintroduction pilot, as described in the consultation paper; or
4. be part of a captive breeding programme to promote genetic diversity or supply animals for release elsewhere.

The welfare of the animals in the enclosure is an obvious consideration, including what may happen to the animals should a release not be licensed at the site e.g. is there funding in place to maintain high welfare standards for the lifetime of the animals.

### Management

11 Does the management hierarchy cover management actions you would expect? Are there additional aspects that you think should be included in the management hierarchy? Please provide further details.

Yes

Please provide details of any additional aspects you think should be included in the management hierarchy:

### Management

12 Excluding direct payment for management activities, what other support do you think should be available and to whom?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Funding for local groups wishing to set up a beaver reintroduction project.

13 Are there any specific areas where guidance is required? Please provide details.

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Specific guidance could include a strategic overview including Natural England's view on appropriate locations and timing for beaver reintroduction. As we understand it, it is for local groups to form, create projects and apply for licences to release beavers after doing their background research and stakeholder engagement. This could be described as a bottom-up approach which has clear benefits. However, it may lack strategic focus and lead to piecemeal and patchy outcomes, with a potential for duplication of effort in the same catchment. An overarching strategy document would seem appropriate, to guide the formation and work of local groups which aim to release beavers.

14 How would you prefer to access advice and guidance (e.g. information on website, via email, focal point for enquiries etc)?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

No comment.

### Additional questions

15 Would you (or an organisation you are involved with) consider preparing an application for wild release, if the approach proposed in this consultation became national policy? If yes, please provide the general location where you might consider applying for such a release.

No

If yes, please provide the general location where you might consider applying for such a release.: