

## Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

### LICENCE - Release of non-native species and those listed under Schedule 9

This licence authorises acts that would otherwise be offences under the above legislation.

Any request for information in this licence will be considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as appropriate.



Wildlife Licensing  
First Floor  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6EB  
T: 0845 601 4523  
F: 0845 601 3438

**Natural England Ref:** 2014-4744-SPM-NNR

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Natural England has granted this licence for Non-native species and Schedule 9 (Wildlife and Countryside Act) for the purpose of:

#### Permitting an activity prohibited by section 14, under section 16(4)(c)

to:

**Name (in full):** [REDACTED]  
**Company Name:** Devon Wildlife Trust  
**Address:** Cricklepit Mill, Commercial Road, Exeter  
**County:** Devon  
**Postcode:** EX2 4AB

**Between the dates of:** 14 February 2015 and 13 February 2020

#### At (locations):

Site/Location Name	County	OS Grid Reference
River Otter Catchment	Devon	[REDACTED]

#### For the following species:

Species Common Name (Taxonomic Name)	Number	Activity	Method	Detailed Location	OS Grid Reference
Eurasian beaver ( <i>Castor fiber</i> )	10	Release	Release	River Otter and its tributaries, Devon	[REDACTED]

**This licence is granted subject to the licensee, including servants and named agents, adhering to the conditions and notes specified below.**

Signature: [REDACTED], Director Sustainable Development  
(for and on behalf of Natural England)

Date: 2 February 2015

#### WARNING

- This licence authorises acts that would otherwise be offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Any departure from the conditions relating to this licence may be an offence under that legislation;
- This licence conveys no authority for actions prohibited by any other legislation;
- This licence can be modified or revoked at any time by Natural England, but this will not be done unless there are good reasons for doing so. The licence is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information had been provided which resulted in the issue of the licence.

#### LICENCE CONDITIONS

##### General

- The licensee will follow protocols and processes laid out in their "Application to Natural England" ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED], October 2014 and information provided subsequently ('Response to Natural England request for further information (2/12/2014), January 2015). Any major deviation from these protocols and processes must first be agreed in writing with Natural England.

- A management strategy developed in consultation with major riparian land owners / right holders and statutory bodies that have a role in the management of riparian features must be produced and agreed with Natural England by 30 September 2015.
- The licensee must ensure that all appropriate permissions are in place to undertake the licensed activities and these are in place, as necessary, prior to the licensed activity commencing.

### Beavers

- All beavers to be released must be the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) and have either been taken under licence from the River Otter or sourced from a legally taken and held captive population.
- The release of additional beavers not formerly living on the River Otter may only be undertaken with specific written permission from Natural England.
- Only beavers certified as healthy and fit for release by a qualified veterinary surgeon are to be released. Specifically they must be confirmed as being free from the Taenid *Echinococcus multilocularis*.
- All beavers released must be marked with digital identification chips and an individually identifiable ear tag. This includes any beavers caught subsequently during the project that are found not to have an identification chip.
- Information on sex, genetic profile and approximate age of each beaver released from captivity must be obtained and documented prior to release.
- Information on approximate age and sex must be obtained for all field caught animals.
- Any known deaths of beavers must be reported to Natural England. If the carcass is available a *post mortem* must be carried out by a suitably experienced veterinary surgeon and the report copied to Natural England.
- Any reports of beaver in adjacent catchment areas must be reported to Natural England and followed up by the licensee. If confirmed, all reasonable attempts must be made by the licensee to trap and identify the beaver. Natural England must be involved in the decision of what to do with any captured beavers.
- The release of beavers must be undertaken in accordance with best practice, eg using 'soft release' techniques.

### Release site

- Prior to the release of beavers, written permission must be obtained from the landowner/s of the release site/s.

### Access to land occupied by beavers

- Before any beavers are released, the licensee must satisfy Natural England that it has secured written permission from sufficient relevant owners of land on or adjacent to the River Otter to allow access onto land for the purposes of monitoring impacts and the health of the beavers, carrying out reparations in the event of damage caused by beavers and (if necessary) to remove beavers from the river.

### Monitoring

- Before any beavers are released, a monitoring programme designed to determine and study the positive and negative impacts of the beavers on the River Otter and the surrounding land must be agreed with Natural England. The monitoring programme may be reviewed and amended from time to time with the agreement of Natural England.

### Negative impacts

- Before any beavers are released, a procedure for documenting and dealing with any complaints, as a result of the release must be agreed with Natural England.
- The licensee must inform Natural England, as soon as reasonably practicable, of any complaints received in respect of the beavers or their activities.
- For the duration of the trial, the licensee will be responsible for dealing with reparations and/or damage/flood prevention as a result of beaver activity on the River Otter and its tributaries. Sufficient funds must be identified and ring-fenced by the licensee for these purposes.

### Exit strategy

- Natural England reserves the right to terminate the trial if it deems this is necessary for whatever reason and will make the final decision on any proposal by the Project Management Group to invoke the exit

strategy.

- Before any beavers are released, a written guarantee that the licensee will underwrite the reasonable costs of an exit strategy must be provided to Natural England.
- Before any beavers are released, the licensee must make public to all interested and relevant parties, the existence, criteria and content of the exit strategy.

#### Protected sites

- Any impacts of beaver activity on or adjacent to protected sites must be closely monitored and Natural England kept informed.
- Natural England must be consulted on any proposed remedial or mitigation measures on or in the vicinity of protected sites.

#### Public awareness

- Provision must be made for interested and relevant parties to communicate with the Project Management Group.

#### Reporting

- Natural England must be provided with annual reports providing an update of the progress of the project against its published objectives. This will comprise a six month report in the first year (by 30 September 2015) then annually by 31 March.

#### Standard conditions

- The licensee shall permit an officer of Natural England, accompanied by such persons as he/she considers necessary for the purpose, on production of his/her identification on demand, reasonable access to the site for monitoring purposes and to be present during any operations carried out under the authority of this licence for the purpose of ascertaining whether the conditions of this licence are being, or have been, complied with. The licensee shall give all reasonable assistance to an officer of Natural England and any persons accompanying him/her.
- The licensee is responsible for ensuring that operations comply with all terms and conditions of the licence.

#### **NOTES**

1. The provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (2006) and the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996) must be complied with at all times.
2. Natural England checks compliance with licences and the attached conditions.
3. Amendments to the list of people authorised to act under this licence can be made by completing their details on line or by contacting Natural England. Additional authorised persons must not undertake licensable activities until their name is listed on a valid licence.
4. You are advised to carry a copy of this licence with you at all times whilst undertaking licensed activities.

Additional note(s):

AN1: Nothing in this licence confers a right of entry to any land or property.

AN2: Animals should be released at a location and a time where the risk of injury to themselves, other animals/birds or people is minimised.

#### **Additional Authorised Individuals**

The additional authorised individuals listed below are also authorised to act under the terms and conditions of this licence:

**Nil**