

Encadrement :

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Titre du stage :

Comparison of 4 beaver families canal building behaviors and field work in a reintroduction trial in Scotland : the Scottish Beaver Trial

Mots clés :

Beaver trial, field work, canal building behavior

Résumé (150 mots maximum) :

The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and host Forestry Commission Scotland to undertake a time-limited, five year long trial reintroduction of the European beavers (*Castor fiber*) to Knapdale, Mid-Argyll. It began in 2008 and four beaver families were released. It was the UK's first formal mammal reintroduction. The beaver was reintroduced because it is known as a 'keystone species' in forest and riparian environments. There are few species which have such significant and positive influences on ecosystem health and function.

The aim of this work experience will be to do various field work to follow the beaver families including field sign survey, animal observations, animal biological sample collection, water chemistry and public health sampling, search effort for missing animals, mapping any land use impact, mink monitoring/trapping, handling-recording and digitising data, camera trap monitoring.

A study will also be done to look at the canal building behaviours of the trial animals and compare the 4 beaver families, involving mapping and measuring all canal and water channels before and after the beavers arrived. The study will try to identify which other species are using these canals.

Deux références bibliographiques:

Harrington, L.A., Feber, R., & Macdonald, D.W. (2011). The Scottish Beaver Trial: Ecological monitoring of the European beaver *Castor fiber* and other riparian mammals – First Annual Report 2010. *Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 450.*

Perfect, C. & Gilvear, D. (2011). The Scottish Beaver Trial: Collection of fluvial geomorphology and river habitat data 2010. *Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 489.*

Techniques mises en œuvre:

Compétences particulières exigées: