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From: Crisford, Gen
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Subject: Purbeck Beaver Project - National beaver legislation update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi everyone,

Thank you for being patient for some beaver news! I have received an email from the national Natural England beaver team, hot off the press, with links to the consultation response, beaver management guidelines and licence information, which have been published today. I have compiled the links with some background for you below. We will now take some time to look through and to absorb this information in detail ourselves, so that we can work out what it means for Purbeck and how the Purbeck Beaver Project can best support our community. As a project, we will continue to work alongside anyone affected by a beaver reintroduction and will be creating local management plans to fit within this national framework. If you would like to contribute feedback to this process, please do get in touch. I will arrange some opportunities to present this information with a local focus in the coming months and I am of course very happy to discuss topics on an individual basis as well, if you have any initial questions that I may be able to address.

UPDATE:

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the public government consultation into the national approach to beaver management and reintroduction in England, which was launched in the summer last year. Today, Defra has published a summary of the consultation responses on GOV.UK. The response can be found [here](#).

You may have already heard in the news, that in July the government introduced legislation to give beavers a native status in England again. Whilst Eurasian beavers are a native species, they had been removed from this list as they "ceased to be ordinarily resident in Britain", but with this change they are officially making a comeback. Eurasian beaver have also been awarded a protected status, under "Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations act 2017". This will make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, or injure beavers or damage their homes without a licence from Oct 1st 2022, when this change is expected to come into force. Today, Defra and Natural England have published guidance on best practice management and licensing to support their protection. This guidance sets out how beavers are protected and a five-step approach to managing beaver activities (which can be found on GOV.UK [here](#)), as well as when a licence is or is not needed to manage beaver activities and outlines the type of licences that will be available (found [here](#)).

Natural England are continuing to undertake further work with Defra and stakeholders to develop a national approach to reintroductions in England. Further information on this, including on criteria for wild releases, will be published in due course. We are currently hoping to see this over the coming months, but no official timeline has been announced. As a project we will also continue to work with Natural England on the steps needed for a project licence for Purbeck. We are still hopeful to bring beavers to Little Sea in Spring 2023... but I will of course keep you up to date.

Best wishes
Gen

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