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**Welsh Beaver Project**

A present with a difference

Beavering away

## People's Postcode Lottery players could help beavers return to Wales



Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, we have employed a new Welsh Beaver Project Officer. Alicia Leow-Dyke will work with the Wildlife Trusts in Wales to help restore habitats for the reintroduction of beavers and other species such as water voles, otters and dragonflies.

Beavers, once native to Britain, have been extinct for hundreds of years, but are often referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' as they can reduce the risk of flooding by creating dams which store rainwater. Beaver dams also trap sediment, which helps to filter the water and reduce the amount of pollution entering river systems. This provides ideal habitats for a range of wildlife from fungi to invertebrates, fish, mammals and birds.

The Welsh Beaver Project started in 2005 and since then it has been investigating the feasibility of reintroducing beavers back into Wales. Beavers can repair some of the damage done to nature as they restore wetlands, open up woodland canopies along a riverbank and create areas of deadwood.

Alicia will examine areas suitable for beaver reintroduction and identify sites which would give visitors the opportunity to see these beautiful mammals.

Follow the project by reading [Alicia's blog](#).

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