

Scary or what?

A workshop on reintroducing key species to Britain – What, Where and How?

Plus option of evening field visits to beaver or wild boar sites in Glos

BANC & Wildland Network, 8 September 2006

The Green Room, Organic Farm Shop, Cirencester, Glos

This event will look at the potential for reintroducing certain charismatic species and the consequences for wildlife and for people. It will conclude with evening field visits to local sites featuring wild boar and European beaver.

Programme

Each presentation will conclude with questions and discussion. Booking form on page 5 below.

10.00 Arrival, coffee

10.30 Welcome and introduction *Adrian Phillips, Chair*

10.40 Restoring key species and ecosystems - issues, examples and lessons from 40 years of bird reintroductions *Roy Dennis*

11.20 Beaver - recent lessons and future prospects *Derek Gow*

11.50 Lynx: Prospects in Britain *David Hetherington*

12.20 Wild boar decision time *Martin Goulding*

12.50 LUNCH and optional viewing of DVDs and displays

13.50 Wolf and brown bear – realistic candidates? *Peter Taylor*

14.10 Wild herbivores – current experience and future candidates
David Bullock and Matthew Oates

15.00 Group discussions, *facilitated by Rick Minter & Alison Parfitt*
Participants opt for small group discussions on one of the following themes:

Ecosystem issues – what are the key effects of reintroduced species on their ecosystems and fellow wildlife? What functional relationships might occur amongst species and habitats? Is the issue about reintroducing natural processes or reintroducing species?

Nature conservation, but not as we know it – what are the implications of reintroductions for formal approaches to BAPs, targets, and wildlife management?

Attitudes – what do the public, politicians and key interest groups feel about reintroductions? What influences them and why?

Income and livelihoods – what income, livelihoods and enterprises can be linked with reintroduced species?

Farming, fisheries and game – what are the opportunities and challenges of reintroduced species to farming, fisheries and game interests? What incentives and what if any compensation measures should accompany key reintroductions?

15.50 tea

16.00 Report back and collective discussion on groups' conclusions

16.45 Reflections on main issues from the day *John Bowers*

16.50 Briefing on evening field visits to Lower Mill Estate beaver project and wild boar woods in Forest of Dean

17.00 Snacks and drinks available at Organic Farm Shop Café

17.30 Depart for evening field visits to Lower Mill Estate beaver site and to wild boar woodland in Forest of Dean

20.30 Optional eve meal in Cheltenham or Cirencester

Fees inclusive of coffee, lunch, tea, eve field visit, & workshop discussion notes:

Individuals: £35

Charities and NGOs: £55

Public, private and academic bodies: £105

Venue location at: www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk

Accommodation lists at: www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/tourism

The British Association of Nature Conservationists (BANC) is a think tank which addresses the different values involved in conservation and land-use issues. It publishes ECOS magazine. www.banc.org.uk

The Wildland Network promotes the environmental and human potential of wild land and wild nature. www.wildland-network.org.uk

Speakers' details:

Adrian Phillips has been Director General of the Countryside Commission, chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and Professor at Cardiff University. He is now a trustee of the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, and a BANC Vice President.

Roy Dennis is an independent ecologist who specializes in advice on reintroductions. His experience ranges from sea eagles to Eagle owls.

Derek Gow is an independent wildlife ecologist. He has participated in a range of native mammal recovery initiatives and now mainly works on water vole and European beaver restoration projects in Britain.

David Hetherington has recently completed a PhD on lynx reintroduction in Scotland and is now the Ecologist at Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Martin Goulding is an ex-DEFRA scientist who has a PhD in wild boar ecology. He is author of the book *Wild Boar in Britain* and runs www.britishwildboar.org.uk

Peter Taylor directs the consultancy ethos UK. He is author of *Beyond Conservation: A wildland strategy*, Earthscan & BANC 2005.

David Bullock is Head of Nature Conservation at the National Trust.

Matthew Oates is Adviser on Nature Conservation at the National Trust.

Rick Minter is an environmental consultant and facilitator who specialises in linking the environment with people's livelihoods and values.

Alison Parfitt is a consultant specialising in participation and local sustainability

John Bowers is a BANC Vice President and retired Reader in Environment Economics.

Booking form on page 5 below

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A linked event on 9 Sept...

9 September, BANC workshop

Big cats and Britain's ecology

The Oak Hall, Keynes Country Park, Cotswold Water Park

Sightings of big cats across Britain total at least 1200 a year. Photographs show forensic evidence of big cat effects, CCTV footage exists, and it is believed that breeding of some species occurs, with numbers increasing in certain regions including southern and SW England. This event will bring big cat researchers together with nature conservationists to discuss the consequences of these top predators in Britain. The meeting venue is close to many sites of wildlife interest and the Lower Mill Estate beaver site. An optional guided walk will visit these sites in the afternoon.

10.15 Arrival and coffee

10.40 **Welcome** and introductions

Rick Minter, ECOS

10.45 **Big cats in Dorset and Wiltshire** – the forensic evidence, the mapped territories, impacts on deer, and the ecological implications

Johnathan McGowan, Head of mammals, Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society

11.30 **Implications of big cats for wildlife and nature conservation**

Chris Moiser, Scientific Adviser, Big Cats in Britain Research Group

Frank Tunbridge, ROAR consultancy

Peter Taylor, ECOS' Big Cats correspondent

11.45 **Discussion on implications of big cats for British wildlife and nature conservation** eg...

Effects of big cats on their prey populations

Relationships between carnivores

Effects of other big cats on lynx

Viable populations

Tourism and visitor income

Public access to the countryside and to wildlife sites

Discussion on these and other topics continues in afternoon – see b below

12.20 **Implications for UK nature conservation?** Reflections on key issues from discussion **Professor Jules Pretty**, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex*

12.30 – 1.30 **LUNCH** and chance to view big cat exhibits
(parallel AGM of British Association of Nature Conservationists)

1.30 – 3-30 pm

Options for:

a. Local field visit to Lower Mill Estate, to see habitat creation, habitat connectivity, and beaver location

b. Further discussion on ecological implications of big cats in Britain

Fee inclusive of coffee and lunch: £12

Accommodation details at: www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/tourism

Location details for Keynes Country Park: www.waterpark.org

Keynes Country Park has many family and children's activities if you wish to travel to the event with your family.

Booking form on page 6 below

Booking form: 8 September 'Scary or What?' workshop
Please reserve... .. place(s) at the 8 Sept workshop

Name(s).....

e-mail: **Tel:**.....

Organisation (if applicable).....

Address:.....
.....

Have you any special requirements for food or access etc?

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I will be attending an eve field visit: Yes... .. /No... ..

If yes, please tick your preference, as numbers are limited for the beaver site:

First choice: Beaver site..... Wild boar location.....

Second choice: Beaver site..... Wild boar location.....

I enclose a cheque for payable to BANC

Please invoice me at the above address for:

Train travel: Tick below if you require a lift from nearby rail stations:

I would like a lift from Kemble rail station at 9.50.....

I would like a lift from Cheltenham Spa rail station at 9.30.....

Car travel:

If you can offer a lift or need a lift, please register under 'car sharing' in the Events section of www.wildland-network.org.uk

Booking confirmations will be sent by e-mail only.

Receipts can be provided at the event.

Send bookings to: alisonparfitt@phonecoop.coop 01242 584982

Alison Parfitt, 152 Hatherley Road, Cheltenham GL51 6EW

