

# Special guests

Visit Knapdale Forest, only a two-hour drive from Glasgow, to enter beaver country! Come and search for signs made by these intriguing animals.



Previously extinct for 400 years, beavers were first released in Knapdale in May 2009 as part of a five-year project by the Scottish Beaver Trial. They will be scientifically monitored and their effects on Scotland's environment studied. The findings could help determine if beavers will officially be reintroduced into Scotland.

Beaver release in Knapdale © Scottish Beaver Trial

## Ecosystem engineers

Beavers can fell trees, construct lodges, build dams and create ponds. Beavers also benefit other wildlife – plants, dragonflies, fish, birds and more – by naturally adapting wetland habitats.



Beaver dam and new pond in Knapdale © Scottish Beaver Trial



# Exploring the Trial site



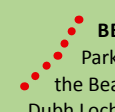
**BEAVER ACTIVITY**  
Signs of beavers include felled and regenerating trees, stripped branches and beaver canals.



**BEAVER SIGHTINGS**  
Beavers are most active at night. Visiting the Trial site at dusk or dawn gives you the best chance of spotting a beaver.



**DUCKS, FROGS AND DRAGONFLIES**  
Beavers' habitats are rich with a variety of wildlife.



**BEAVER DETECTIVE TRAIL**  
Park at Barnluasgan and follow the Beaver Detective Trail to the Dubh Loch (a 20-minute walk away). Continue on to follow a rough path along Loch Coille Bharr.

# A beaver landscape: can you spot the signs?

A trip to Knapdale Forest to the Scottish Beaver Trial provides a fun family day out.

Did you know beavers leave lots of signs of activity wherever they live?



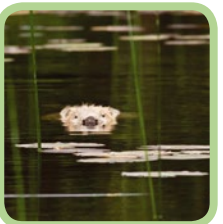
Tree gnawed by two beavers © Scottish Beaver Trial

Begin your trip at Barnluasgan car park and learn more at the Barnluasgan Information Centre. Then try the Beaver Detective Trail, a 2-hour circular walk along a rough path which follows the natural terrain around Loch Coille Bharr.



Branch stripped of its bark by feeding beavers © Scottish Beaver Trial

The best place to see many signs of beavers, including the beaver dam, is the Dubh Loch (see map). Follow the trail of red markers from Barnluasgan for around 20 minutes to get there.



Beaver swimming © Steve Gardner

You might see felled and regenerating trees, stripped branches (look out for teeth marks!), and beaver canals. Also get a close-up of a real beaver dam by walking across the amazing floating pontoon.

Beavers are most active at night, so why not even make your visit at dusk or dawn? **Beavers are shy creatures: remember to be quiet and patient while looking out for ripples in the loch and listening for splashing water and gnawing sounds. Please do not disturb beavers, their lodges or dams.**

Enjoy exploring a beaver landscape in one of the most stunning parts of Scotland.

## Help our beavers

There are a number of different ways to help the Scottish Beaver Trial, and we hope you will consider getting involved.

## Visit the Trial site

Not only will you enjoy a fantastic visit to a spectacular part of Scotland, visiting Knapdale Forest, Argyll is a perfect way to support the Scottish Beaver Trial and bring benefits to the local community. For more information about things to see and places to stay in Argyll, visit [www.heartofargyll.com](http://www.heartofargyll.com). And once you've visited the area, why not tell us all about your visit at [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk)

## Donate or adopt a beaver

Every donation goes directly to help our project, providing resources to track the beavers, complete their health checks, run events in the local community, and provide visitor information. You can also adopt a beaver and receive a personalised beaver adoption certificate and goody bag.

To donate or adopt, visit [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk)



## Five facts about beavers

Did you know?

- Beavers are vegetarian.
- Beavers are native to the UK but have been extinct here since the 16th Century.
- In spring 2010, the Trial's first beaver kits were born.
- They are the second largest rodents in the world.
- Beavers can hold their breath for up to 15 minutes.



Adult beaver with kit in Knapdale © Steve Gardner

## Wildlife and history in Argyll

Knapdale Forest is in one of the most stunning parts of Scotland and a visit offers so much to enjoy, including a number of local attractions.

As well as being the home of the Scottish Beaver Trial, this stunning landscape boasts Atlantic woodlands (containing internationally important mosses and lichens), beautiful coastlines, hills and glens. Beavers also share this landscape with red squirrels, ospreys, otters and eagles. Visible signs of thousands of years of human occupation can also be seen, including renowned mysterious rock art.

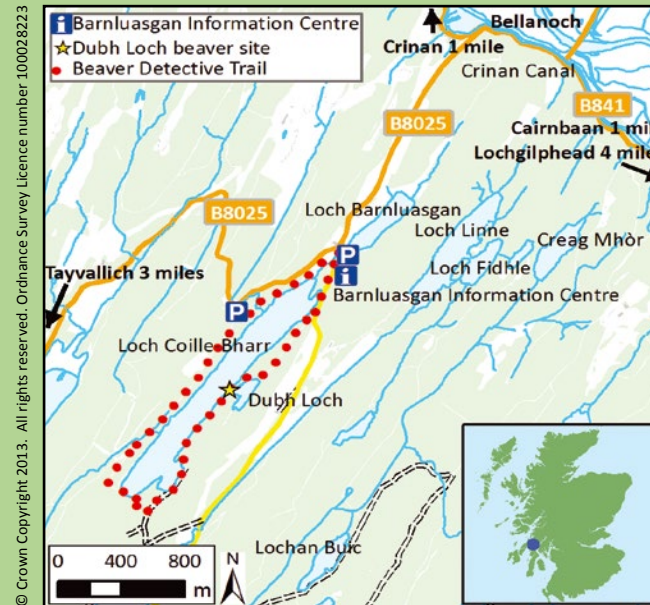
For further information, visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)



View in Knapdale © Laurie Campbell

## Getting to Knapdale

Knapdale Forest is west of Lochgilphead in the Heart of Argyll. From Lochgilphead, follow the road to Oban (A816) for two miles. Take the left fork, through Cairnbaan for three miles, until you see the left turn for Tayvallich. Take this road (B8025) for a mile and then take the fork to the left. The Barnluasgan car park is immediately on the left.



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The Scottish Beaver Trial is a joint partnership between the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and host partner Forestry Commission Scotland. It marks the first formal trial reintroduction of a mammal into the wild in Britain, under licence from the Scottish Government.

Scottish Natural Heritage, appointed by the Scottish Government, is co-ordinating the independent scientific monitoring of the Trial.

To keep up to date with the latest news from the Trial, visit [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk)



RZSS (SC004064) and SWT (SC005792) are registered charities.  
Front cover image: Beaver © Laurie Campbell

# Knapdale Beavers:

## A Visitor's Guide

SCOTTISH BEAVER TRIAL



Welcome to beaver country  
Knapdale Forest, Argyll

[www.scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk)

