



Appendix 12

Nethy Bridge and Vicinity Community Council response

***Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council
Beaver Consultation Response***

At our Community Council meeting on the 7th September, we discussed the reintroduction of beavers to the area.

Whilst we are aware that their reintroduction can have a positive effect in some areas, to improve habitat and alleviate flooding. Having read the information on your website you recognise that there can also be undesirable negative impacts.

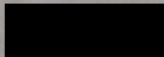
Our first concern is the effect beavers could have on flood defences on the river Spey. This would have a detrimental affect on the local farming community.

Should they appear on any of the three tributaries that pass through the village (Aultmore, Duack and Nethy), whilst there may be areas suitable; any around the hub of the village are more likely to have a detrimental affect and create conflict.

To make you aware, we have developed a substantial path network, which is well used by residents and tourists alike. Any rise in water levels could have a huge impact on this infrastructure. In addition we have sewerage treatment facilities located close to the Duack burn and river Nethy on low lying ground.

We also have playing fields used regularly and they are vital to the continuation of the well known and respected Abernethy Highland Games. Any rise in water levels would seriously compromise the ability to continue using these sites. The B970 could also be impacted when passing through this area.

We see from your website that you have undertaken detailed surveys of suitable locations for beavers to colonise. Would it not be possible and appropriate at this time, to also undertake a more detailed survey of identifying sections of the tributary system, which could be unsuitable due to negative impact as described above. Having this information in advance, would help organisations and individuals to access suitable mitigation as quickly as possible, thus simplifying the process required to readily remedy adverse affects.


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