Appendix 2.2

5.2 Further release site details

Release site 2
Population name RSPB Scotland
Population location (region, country) Insh Marshes
Grid reference / coordinates (including details of coordinate system, datum etc)
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Inside or outside of native range of translocated species or type? Outside
Inside or outside of natural range of translocated species or type? Inside
Date(s) of release Spring 2024 February - April 2024

Landowner name RSPB
Landowner contact details [redacted]
Land manager name (if different to above)
Land manager contact details
Landowner / manager permission granted? (including date permission granted) Yes - 13 October 2023
Conservation protection afforded to the site (if yes, what type) SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar and NNR

Habitat type (e.g. Phase 1 habitat category, NVC or HIS, or general description) The reserve contains a complex of mix habitats including floodplain wetlands (fen, swamp, wet grassland and wet woodland), freshwater bodies (mesotrophic loch and lochans), riparian habitats, woodland (including aspen woodland, mixed broadleaf woodland and coniferous plantation), species rich grassland and dry heath.
Proximity and context to other populations of the focal species Nearest known populations are present in Pitlochry, Tayside and on the River Beauly, both > 50 miles away with no direct and unimpeded connection via freshwater courses.

Which donor populations are being released at this site? Wild Tayside catchment

Distance of donor population(s) to release site ~55 miles
Is the donor population in the same country as release site? Yes
Number of individuals to be released Three pairs (with any dependent offspring)
Nature of released material (e.g. eggs, seeds, larvae, adults, sex ratios etc) Adults 1:1
If multiple donor sources are used, what are the proportions of the mix? All within the Tayside catchment

If an existing population is present at the release site (reinforcement)
Population size of resident population
How population size was estimated (survey method, date(s) of estimate)
Reason for reinforcement
Intra-specific classification of *resident* population (e.g. sub-species / variety / ecotype / race)
Intra-specific classification of *donor* population(s) (e.g. sub-species / variety / ecotype / race)

Release strategy summary (including details of *what* is released *where*)

Site visits to Insh Marsh have been undertaken with RSPB site managers, ecologists and Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer. Three release areas have been identified within the reserve focusing on areas of more stable, open water with highly suitable year round forage. The feasibility assessment is summarised in Appendix 2, given the connectivity of the site and high suitable habitat there is a high expectation that released animals will also reside on the main River Spey in this area.

All beavers will be live trapped and transported by the Beaver Trust according to established best practice protocols via experience gained in other translocations over several years. Following negative health screening results and being signed fit for release by a specialist wildlife vet, each individual will be microchipped enabling permanent identification. Beavers will be crated in specifically designed travel crates at Five Sisters Zoo on morning of release. Each crate will be provisioned with a deep straw layer and apples for food and moisture. Crates will be covered with light sheets to keep animals calm and darkened, but ensuring good ventilation. On site beavers will be transferred to the release points via boat from Loch Insh, or other options such as 4x4 or quad bikes may be used, this will be finalised in discussion with the Beaver Trust. A visual examination will be undertaken before animals are released. Each travel crate will be positioned in close proximity to the water line so that beavers can immediately seek the water. Beavers would be released simultaneously as a pair / family unit. Only a small number of people will be present for the release (10 max) and will be positioned at a distance behind the travel crates. Noise and disturbance will be kept to a minimum. The release date and plans will be kept

strictly confidential to avoid members of the public visiting the site during the release period.

Release site preparation ahead of the release may include the creation of freshly cut brash placed along the shoreline to create immediate shelter, family reuniting and foraging points to encourage site fidelity. Several camera traps will also be placed in likely used areas ahead of the release to reduce disturbance - it is proposed these are baited with food items and used bedding from the beavers again as a temporary monitoring and settling in tool.

Additional information about the release site relevant to the translocation
Additional information is provided in the RSPB release strategy document Appendix 2.1

Release site 3
Population name [redacted], Wildland Cairngorms
Population location (region, country) Upper Spey, near Aviemore
Grid reference/ coordinates (including details of coordinate system, datum etc) [redacted]
Inside or outside of native range of translocated species? Outside
Inside or outside of natural range for translocated species Inside
Dates(s) of release Autumn 2023 – spring 2024

Landowner name Wildland Limited
Land owner contact details [redacted]
Land manager name (if different to the above) [redacted]
Land manager contact details [redacted]
Land owner/ manager permission granted? Yes, 14th July 2023
Conservation protection afforded to site (if yes, what type?) [redacted]

Habitat type (e.g. Phase 1 habitat category, NVC or general description) Complex wetland with extensive areas of open water, reed beds, wet woodland
Proximity and context of other populations of the focal species Nearest known populations are present in Pitlochry, Tayside and on the River Beauly, both > 50 miles away with no direct and unimpeded connection via freshwater courses. Should beavers be released across the multiple release sites in this application, then release sites are all connected via the River Spey and within a range of <15km of each other

Which donor populations are being released at the site? Wild Tayside catchment
Distance of donor population(s) to release site ~55 miles
Is the donor population in the same country as release sites? Yes
Number of individuals to be released 1 pair with any dependent offspring
Nature of released material (eggs, seeds, larvae, adults, sex ratios etc) Adults 1:1 (with any dependent offspring)
If multiple donor sources are used, what are the proportions of the mix? All animals will be sourced from conflict sites within the Tay and Forth catchment

If an existing population is present at the release (reinforcement)
Population size of resident population
How population size was estimated (Survey method, date(s) of estimate)
Reason for reinforcement
Intra-specific classification of *resident* population (e.g. sub-species/variety/ecotype/race)
Intra-specific classification of *donor* population(s) (e.g. sub-species/variety/ecotype/race)

Release site strategy summary (including details of *what* is released *where*) A site visit to area have been undertaken with CNP staff and Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer (further details in the feasibility report in Appendix 2). [redacted] open water [redacted], surrounded by wet complex woodland. All beavers will be live trapped and transported by the Beaver Trust according to established best practice protocols via experience gained in other translocations over several years. Following negative health screening results and being signed fit for release by a specialist wildlife vet. Each individual will be microchipped enabling permanent identification. Beavers will be crated in specifically designed travel crates at Five Sister Zoo on morning of release. Each crate will be provisioned with a deep straw layer and apples for food and moisture. Crates will be covered with light sheets to keep animals calm and darkened, but ensuring good ventilation. On site beavers can be transported

close to the loch shoreline itself via vehicles along an existing access track, with the last distance covered by carrying crates to the shoreline. A visual examination will be undertaken before animals are released. Each travel crate will be positioned in close proximity to the water line so that beavers can immediately seek the water. Beavers would be released simultaneously as a pair/ family unit. Only a small number of people will be present for the release, with further viewing from a distance possible from the access track. Noise and disturbance will be kept to a minimum.

It is proposed that the beavers are released [redacted], away from easily accessible areas to the public and access track lining the loch. This enables the beavers to move away from view and have immediate access to water.

Release site preparation ahead of the release may include the creation of freshly cut brash placed along the shoreline to create immediate shelter, family reuniting and foraging points to encourage site fidelity. Several camera traps will also be placed in likely used areas ahead of the release to reduce disturbance - it is proposed these are baited with food items and used bedding from the beavers again as a temporary monitoring and settling in tool.

Additional information about the release site relevant to the translocation
Wildland Ltd do not want the specific location of the translocation made public at this time. The site must be referred to as Wildland Cairngorms not [redacted].

Note: An additional site 4 was included in the licence application as a potential site for consideration in future releases as per the licence, but will not be part of the first suite of releases.

Release site 4
Population name [redacted]
Population location (region, country) Upper Spey, Aviemore
Grid reference/ coordinates (including details of coordinate system, datum etc) [redacted]
Inside or outside of native range of translocated species? Outside
Inside or outside of natural range for translocated species Inside
Dates(s) of release Autumn 2023 – Autumn 2024

Landowner name [redacted]
Land owner contact details [redacted]

Land manager name (if different to the above)
Land manager contact details
Land owner/ manager permission granted? (included permission granted) Yes, 8th August 2023
Conservation protection afforded to site (if yes, what type?) [redacted]

Habitat type (e.g. Phase 1 habitat category, NVC or general description) The loch and immediate area represent a diverse wetland and wet woodland complex including a large open freshwater body with developed reed beds, aquatic and semi-aquatic plant assemblages, fringes of floodplain wetland, riparian woodland and broadleaf woodland, coniferous plantation (including [redacted]). [redacted]
Proximity and context of other populations of the focal species Nearest known populations are present in Pitlochry, Tayside and on the River Beauly, both > 50 miles away with no direct and unimpeded connection via freshwater courses. Should beavers be released across the multiple release sites in this application, then release sites are all connected via the River Spey and within a range of <15km of each other

Which donor populations are being released at the site? Wild Tayside catchment
Distance of donor population(s) to release site ~55 miles
Is the donor population in the same country as release sites? Yes
Number of individuals to be released 1 pair with any dependent offspring
Nature of released material (eggs, seeds, larvae, adults, sex ratios etc) Adults 1:1 (with any dependent offspring)
If multiple donor sources are used, what are the proportions of the mix? All animals will be sourced from conflict sites within the Tay and Forth catchment

If an existing population is present at the release (reinforcement)
Population size of resident population
How population size was estimated (Survey method, date(s) of estimate)
Reason for reinforcement
Intra-specific classification of *resident* population (e.g. sub-species/variety/ecotype/race)
Intra-specific classification of *donor* population(s) (e.g. sub-species/variety/ecotype/race)

Release site strategy summary (including details of *what* is released *where*)
A site visit to area has been undertaken with [redacted] owner, Park Authority staff, and Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer (further details in the feasibility report attached Appendix 2). [redacted] open water [redacted], surrounded by wet, complex woodland. All beavers will be live trapped and transported by the Beaver Trust according to established best practice protocols via experience gained in other translocations over several years. Following negative health screening results and being signed fit for release by a specialist wildlife vet. Each individual will be microchipped enabling permanent identification. Beavers will be crated in specifically designed travel crates at Five Sister Zoo on morning of release. Each crate will be provisioned with a deep straw layer and apples for food and moisture. Crates will be covered with light sheets to keep animals calm and darkened but ensuring good ventilation. On site beavers can be transported close to the loch shoreline itself via vehicles along an existing private track, with the last distance covered by carrying crates to the shoreline. A visual examination will be undertaken before animals are released. Each travel crate will be positioned in close proximity to the water line so that beavers can immediately seek the water. Beavers would be released simultaneously as a pair/ family unit. Only a small number of people will be present for the release (10 max) and will be positioned at a distance behind the travel crates. Noise and disturbance will be kept to a minimum. It is proposed that the beavers are released [redacted], away from easily from easily accessible areas to the public and access track lining the loch. This enables the beavers to move away from view and have immediate access to water. Release site preparation ahead of the release may include the creation of freshly cut brash placed along the shoreline to create immediate shelter, family reuniting and foraging points to encourage site fidelity. Several camera traps will also be placed in likely used areas ahead of the release to reduce disturbance - it is proposed these are baited with food items and used bedding from the beavers again as a temporary monitoring and settling in tool.

Additional information about the release site relevant to the translocation
Following discussions with landowner a monitoring and mitigation plan has been developed to particularly ensure CNPA via the Beaver Project Manager that the [redacted] is not blocked through beaver activities, that [redacted], along with any future tree planting designed in mind with beaver presence. The project has committed to weekly monitoring over the course of the first year of release, to then be reviewed. The landowner wishes to keep the translocation confidential and does not want the site or their details made public at this time.