

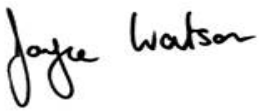


Current distribution of breeding beavers in Wales © OpenStreetMap & Aderyn LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database

Species Champion



Joyce Watson MS
Party: Welsh Labour
Region: Mid & West Wales



More information

- http://www.welshbeaverproject.org/

Lead members

Wildlife Trusts Wales
Ymddiriedolaethau Natur Cymru

Beaver

Description and status

The Eurasian beaver *(Castor fiber)* is a large, semi-aquatic rodent with dark brown or black fur, a paddle shaped tail and characteristic orange front teeth. They live in freshwater habitats such as rivers, lakes or ponds and feed on a wide range of vegetation, including bark from willow and birch trees. The earliest written reference of beavers in Wales dates back to the Laws of Hywel Dda in A.D. 940, and there are cultural links with beavers from placenames to folklore. Beavers were once widespread here with a distribution extending across Britain, Europe and into Asia, but they became extinct in Wales after the Middle Ages.

Threats

Beavers were hunted to extinction for their fur, meat and scent glands and this is a similar story that was echoed across Europe. Beavers have been successfully reintroduced to Scotland and England, where they are now classed as a native species once again, but they are yet to be protected in Wales and an authorised release of beavers into the wild has not yet been permitted. Current threats include:

- Small, fragmentated populations (there are a small number of beavers living in the wild, but many of these animals are isolated from other family groups and they cannot form stable populations)
- Inbreeding (many of the beavers living in the wild will be closely related)
- Misconceptions about the effects of beavers
- Persecution threats
- Pollution to freshwater habitats

The Welsh Beaver Project, led by the Wildlife Trusts in Wales, has been working on the re-establishment of beavers in Wales for over 20 years. This includes addressing any concerns over the activity of beavers and establishing a beaver management system, similar to management systems in other countries.

Actions required

- Provide beavers with protected species status and recognise them as a native species once again to align with policies in England and Scotland.
- Restore beavers to suitable habitats in tandem with a pragmatic management system to support landowners.
- Monitor and evaluate newly established populations.
- Develop a long-term strategy for the re-establishment of beavers in Wales.

Wales Environment Link (Charity No.1022675) © 2025 Wales Environment Link



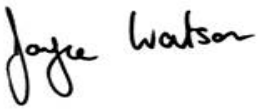


Dosbarthiad presennol afancod sy'n bridio yng Nghymru © OpenStreetMap & Aderyn LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database

Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Joyce Watson AS
Plaid: Llafur Cymru
Bro: Canolbarth a Gorllewin



Mwy o wybodaeth

- http://www.welshbeaverproject.org/

Prif aelod

Wildlife Trusts Wales
Ymddiriedolaethau Natur Cymru

Afanc

Disgrifiad a statws

Mae'r afanc Ewrasiaidd (Castor fiber) yn gnofil mawr, lled-ddyfrol gyda ffwr brown tywyll neu ddu, cynffon siâp rhwyf a dannedd blaen oren nodweddiadol. Mae'n byw mewn cynefinoedd dŵr croyw fel afonydd, llynnoedd neu byllau ac yn bwydo ar amrywiaeth eang o lystyfiant, gan gynnwys rhisgl coed helyg a bedw. Mae'r cyfeiriad ysgrifenedig cynharaf at afancod yng Nghymru yn dyddio'n ôl i gyfreithiau Hywel Dda yn A.D. 940, ac mae cysylltiadau diwylliannol ag afancod o enwau lleoedd i lên gwerin. Ar un adeg roedd afancod yn gyffredin yma gyda'u dosbarthiad yn ymestyn ledled Prydain, Ewrop ac i Asia, ond fe wnaethant ddiflannu o Gymru ar ôl yr Oesoedd Canol.

Bygythiadau

Cafodd afancod eu hela i ddifodiant am eu ffwr, eu cig a'u chwarennau arogl ac mae hon yn stori a adleisiwyd ledled Ewrop. Mae afancod wedi cael eu hailgyflwyno'n llwyddiannus i'r Alban a Lloegr, lle maen nhw bellach yn cael eu dosbarthu fel rhywogaeth frodorol unwaith eto, ond maen nhw eto i gael eu gwarchod yng Nghymru ac nid yw rhyddhau afancod i'r gwyllt gydag awdurdod yn cael ei ganiatáu yma eto. Ymhlith y bygythiadau presennol mae:

- Poblogaethau bach, darniog (mae nifer fach o afancod yn byw yn y gwyllt, ond mae llawer o'r anifeiliaid yma wedi'u hynysu oddi wrth grwpiau teuluol eraill ac yn methu â ffurfio poblogaethau sefydlog)
- Mewnfridio (bydd llawer o'r afancod sy'n byw yn y gwyllt yn perthyn yn agos)
- Camsyniadau am effeithiau afancod
- Bygythiadau erledigaeth
- Llygredd i gynefinoedd dŵr croyw

Mae Prosiect Afancod Cymru, dan arweiniad yr Ymddiriedolaethau Natur yng Nghymru, wedi bod yn gweithio ar ailsefydlu afancod yng Nghymru ers dros 20 mlynedd. Mae hyn yn cynnwys mynd i'r afael ag unrhyw bryderon ynghylch gweithgarwch afancod a sefydlu system rheoli afancod sy'n debyg i systemau rheoli mewn gwledydd eraill.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Rhoi statws rhywogaeth warchodedig i afancod a'u cydnabod fel rhywogaeth frodorol unwaith eto i gyd-fynd â pholisïau yn Lloegr a'r Alban.
- Adfer afancod i gynefinoedd addas ochr yn ochr â system reoli bragmatig i gefnogi perchnogion tir.
- Monitro a gwerthuso poblogaethau sydd newydd eu sefydlu.
- Datblygu strategaeth hirdymor ar gyfer ailsefydlu afancod yng Nghymru.

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