

Option A : Questions and discussion on conservation policy issues

Q = Question A = Answer S = Statement

S. The restoration work at Carrifran is taking place in a policy vacuum: the project has its own targets but these do not relate to any formal conservation policy context.

S. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are about setting objectives for conservation policy and targets. But, rewilding points to further products beyond those within a conservation policy context. Rewilding can inform evolving BAP policy.

S. Conservation policy is wedded to a species-specific mindset. It needs to be shifted to embrace a wider awareness of what matters in nature and become more flexible.

S. In their early stages, Trees for Life struggled to have any influence in conservation policy related to their interests. Thus they decided to get on and do it, as a way of actively demonstrating their philosophy. The practical results of Tfl's work have served to influence both policy and practice.

S. Are we humans and policy makers willing to give up control of nature? Rewilding challenges us to explore this.

S. Beavers are a hybrid in policy and organisational terms. How can we learn lessons from the success of lobbying for birds and bird habitats?

S. Can we achieve a mammal-based message about the worth of reintroductions, which matches the relative success of bird conservation?

Q. Who is 'we' in these discussions? When making recommendations and when taking things forward, it will help to be clear who 'we' is.

S. European legislation dictates many of these conservation-related issues and can take 10 years to take effect. Need to recognise this when planning ahead on these issues.

S. What about setting up a large lobbying group to push for the return of key species, especially as a follow-up to this event?

Questions and discussion on access issues

Q. How do we deal with the concept of barriers and boundaries as we pursue species reintroductions: pilot projects have fences and boundaries, as do private landowner projects?

Q. Scottish Government is considering revising the game laws. What implications has this for animals in open landscapes and for animals in enclosed landscapes?

S. How can wildlife conservation and access issues be brought together more? Progress on reintroductions needs to be made while ensuring that conservation and access remain complementary.

S. There are lessons from wild boar – the release of wild boar has accelerated the debate on reintroductions and made some of the issues tangible, including the affects of returned species on access issues.