

## Workshop – Continuing water vole projects once initial funding has finished?

**Facilitator – Katy Anderson – Forestry Commission Scotland**

### ***Where can we look for additional funding***

Meon

- Achieved funding from conservation grants from EA, NE, National Park, local trusts
- Local company sponsorship

Ratty

- Despite major funding from HLF still have to raise £30k as match funding
- Beer! Receive £5 a keg, 20p per bottle.
- Small grants

Trossachs

- Received additional funding from ZSL, SNH.
- FC and NP pay proportion of project officer salary

Is it responsible to start a project if you can't guarantee full funding needed or is that just the way of funding right now?

### ***How do we support volunteers to carry on the project?***

### ***How do we keep landowners interested?***

Issues with continuing mink monitoring

- Use of MinkPolice <https://www.minkpolice.com/en/> or Remoti <http://www.remotisystems.com/>
  - o Positive feedback from those who have used them
- Ask volunteers to report other things, water quality, other species to keep interest if they are not finding target species,
- Try and keep same point of contact and be in contact regularly
- If suitable volunteer give them more responsibility and include them within the staff team.
- Work with organisations with the same goal – e.g. angling clubs

Issues with continuing mink dispatch

- Some volunteers prefer to use Kania traps rather than fire arms. Approval needed for use by EA. Trial may be useful for it to be widespread. Would GWCT trial?
- Arrange discounted contract with pest control.
- Work with other projects that require dispatch e.g. squirrels

### ***The role of partnerships: spreading the work?***

- Can sometimes access different funding streams
- Have to be careful with branding! Need to plan
- Partnerships with similar end goals
- Can help with volunteer coordination if a partner has systems already set up and in return increase the diversity of tasks they can offer

