



Species Recovery - Beavers

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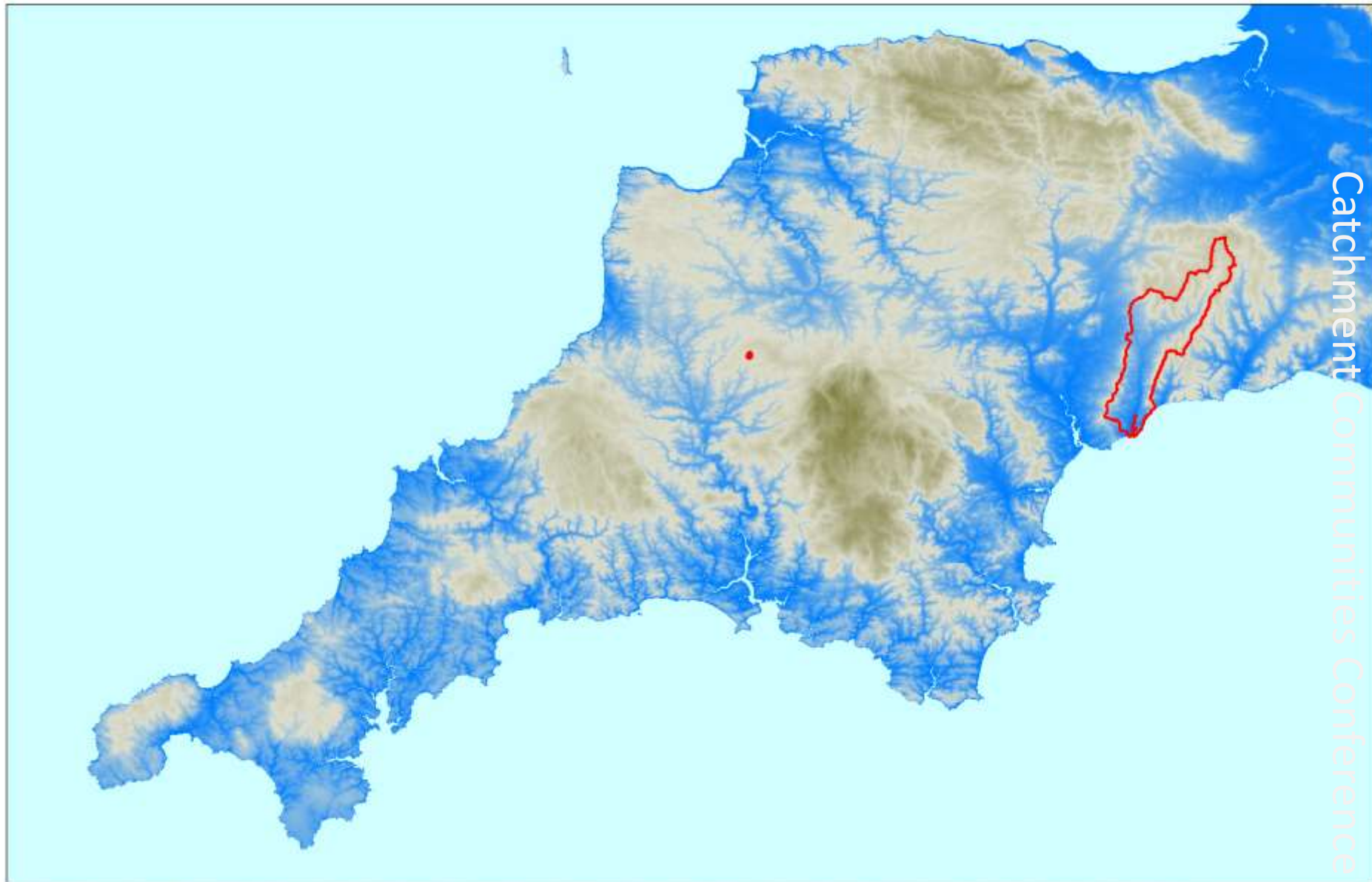
Catchment Communities Conference

East Devon Catchment Communities Conference
19th October 2018

Additional photos by David Plummer, Sylvia Meller, Mike Symes, Alastair Rogers, Francisco Teles, Nick Upton and David White

Eurasian Beaver (*Castor fiber*)

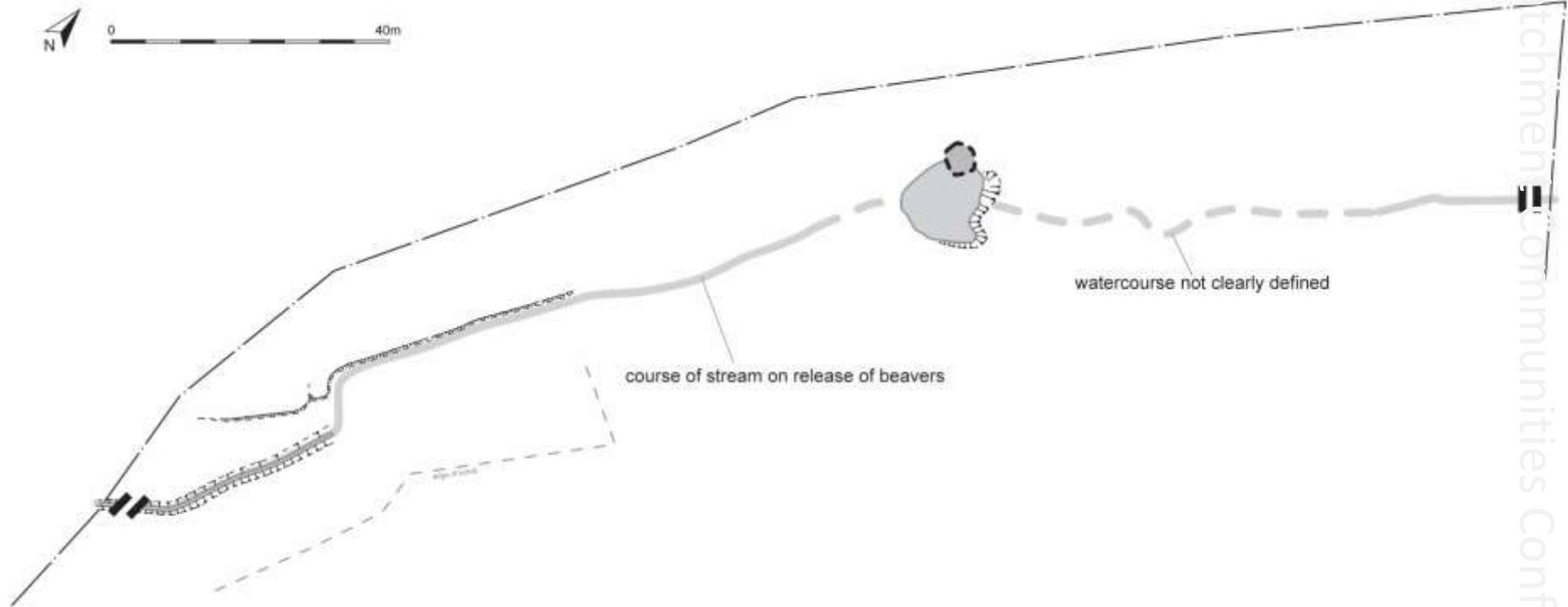
- Large animals – Around 1m long and 18kg
- Native to Britain - hunted to extinction about 400 years ago
- Entirely herbivorous – absolutely no fish.
- Fiercely territorial
- 1 litter a year, with 2-6 kits (average 3)
- Mainly nocturnal and semi-aquatic
- Live in burrows and lodges
- Build dams to create ponds if necessary – keystone species



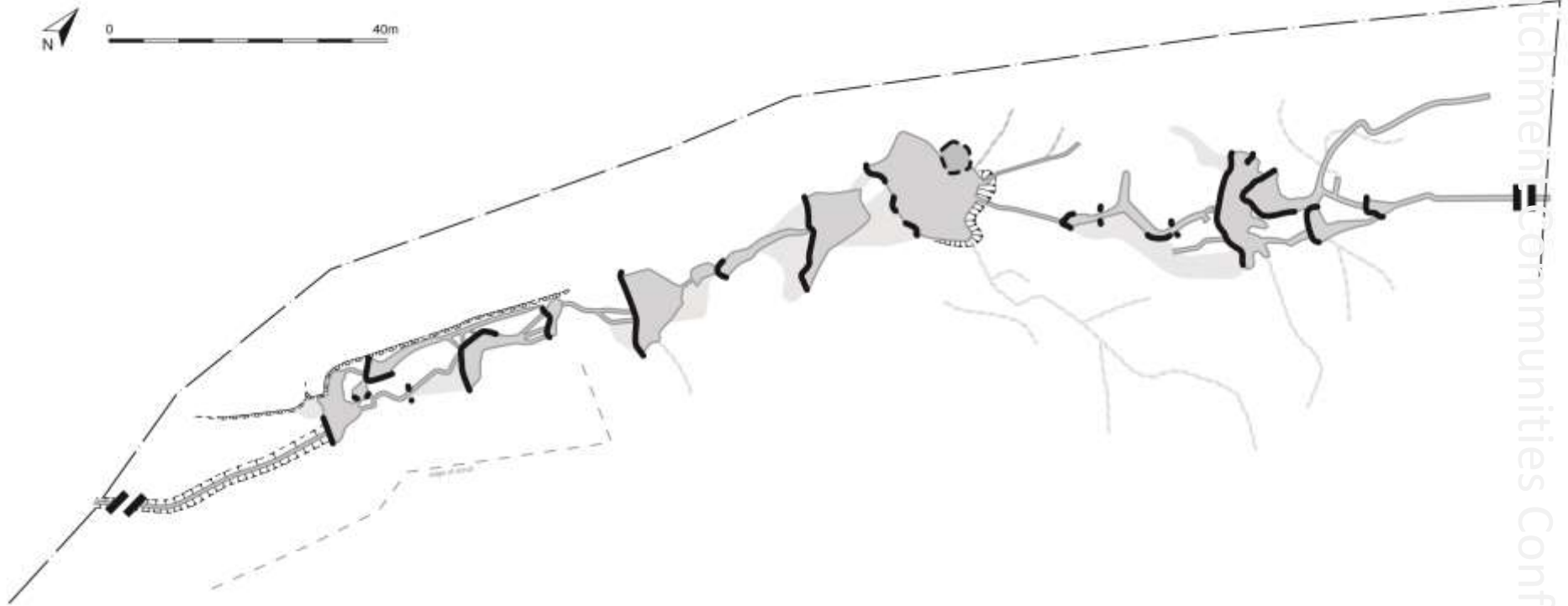
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2011 map of beaver enclosure – at point of release



2012



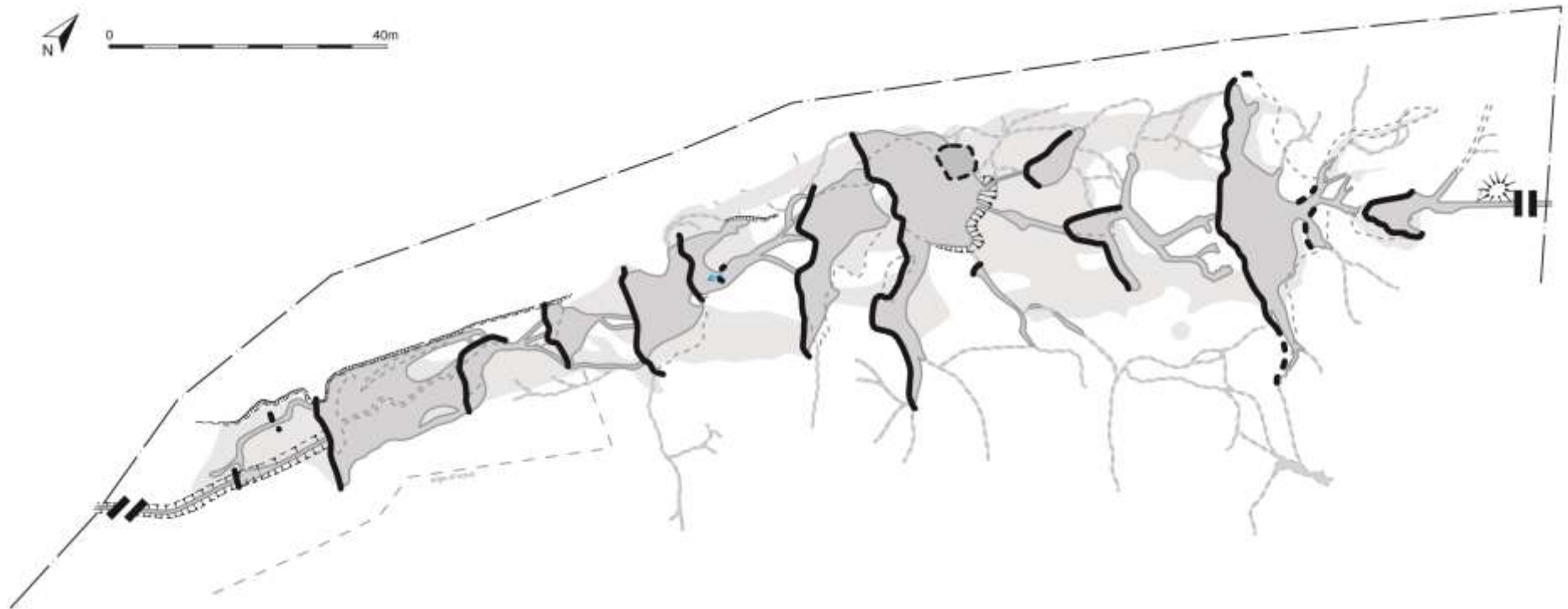
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2013

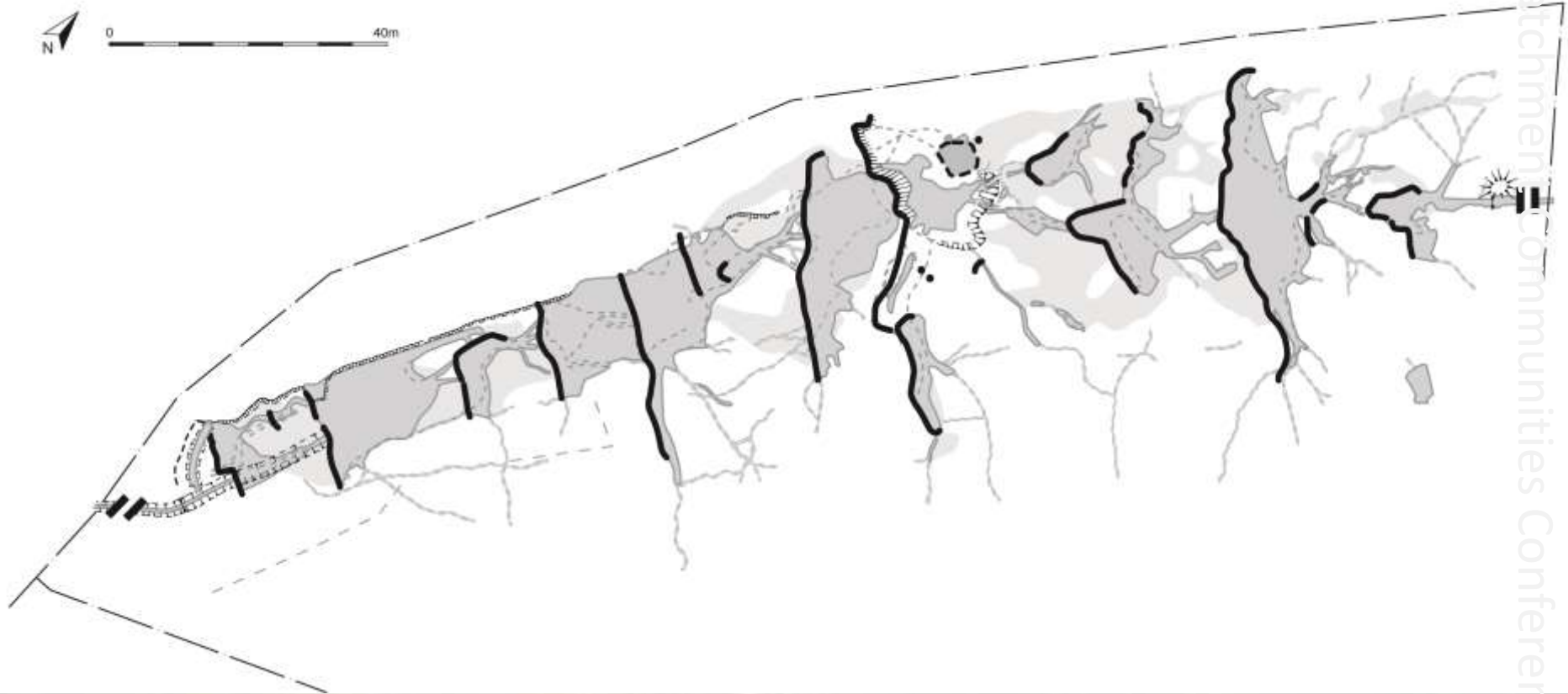


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2014

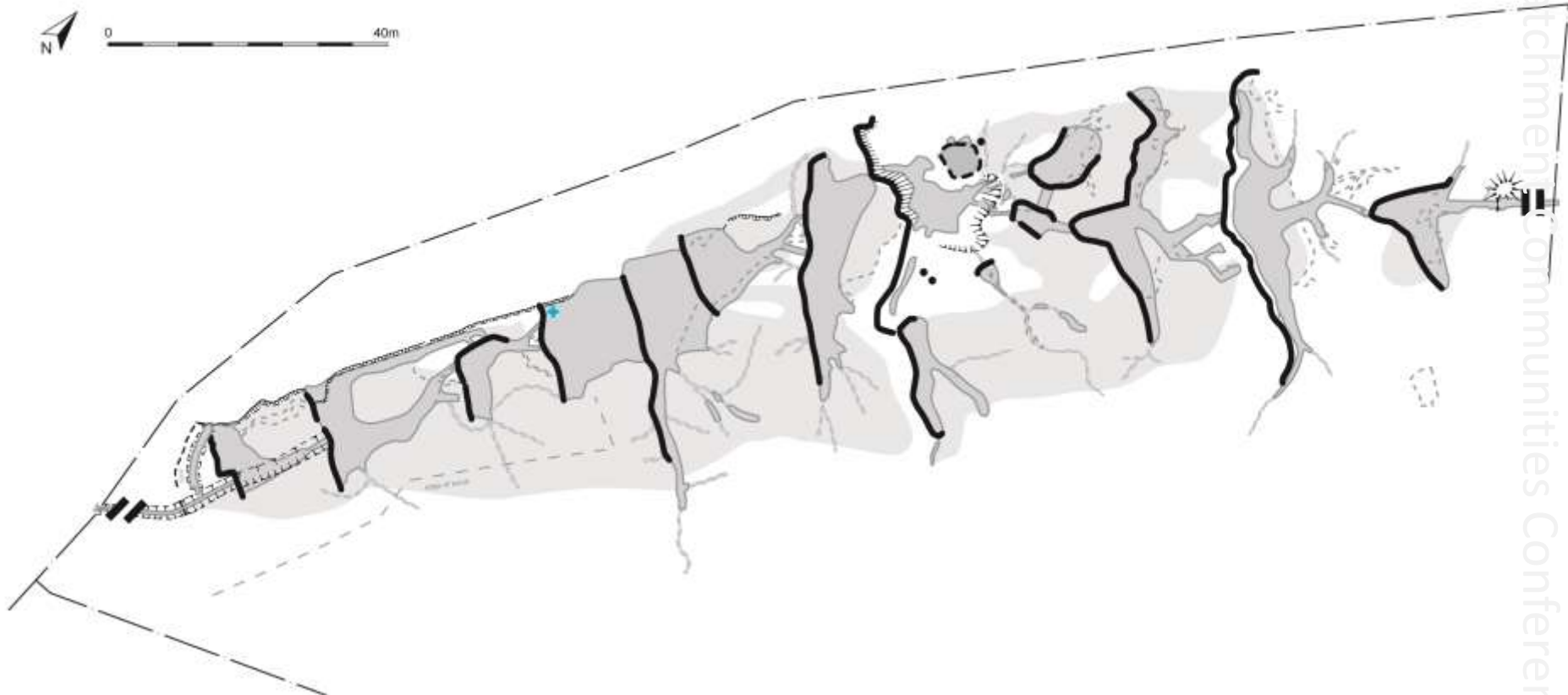


2015



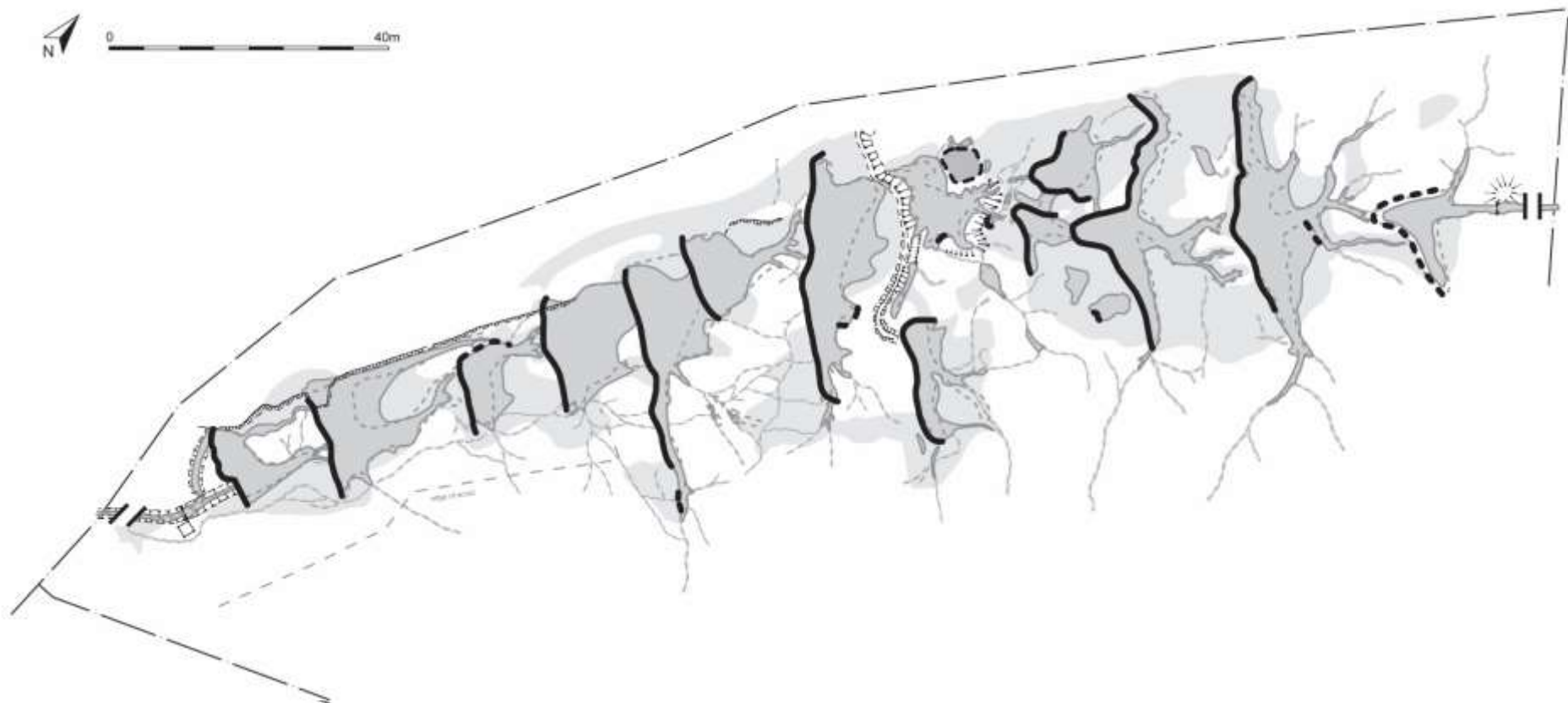
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2016



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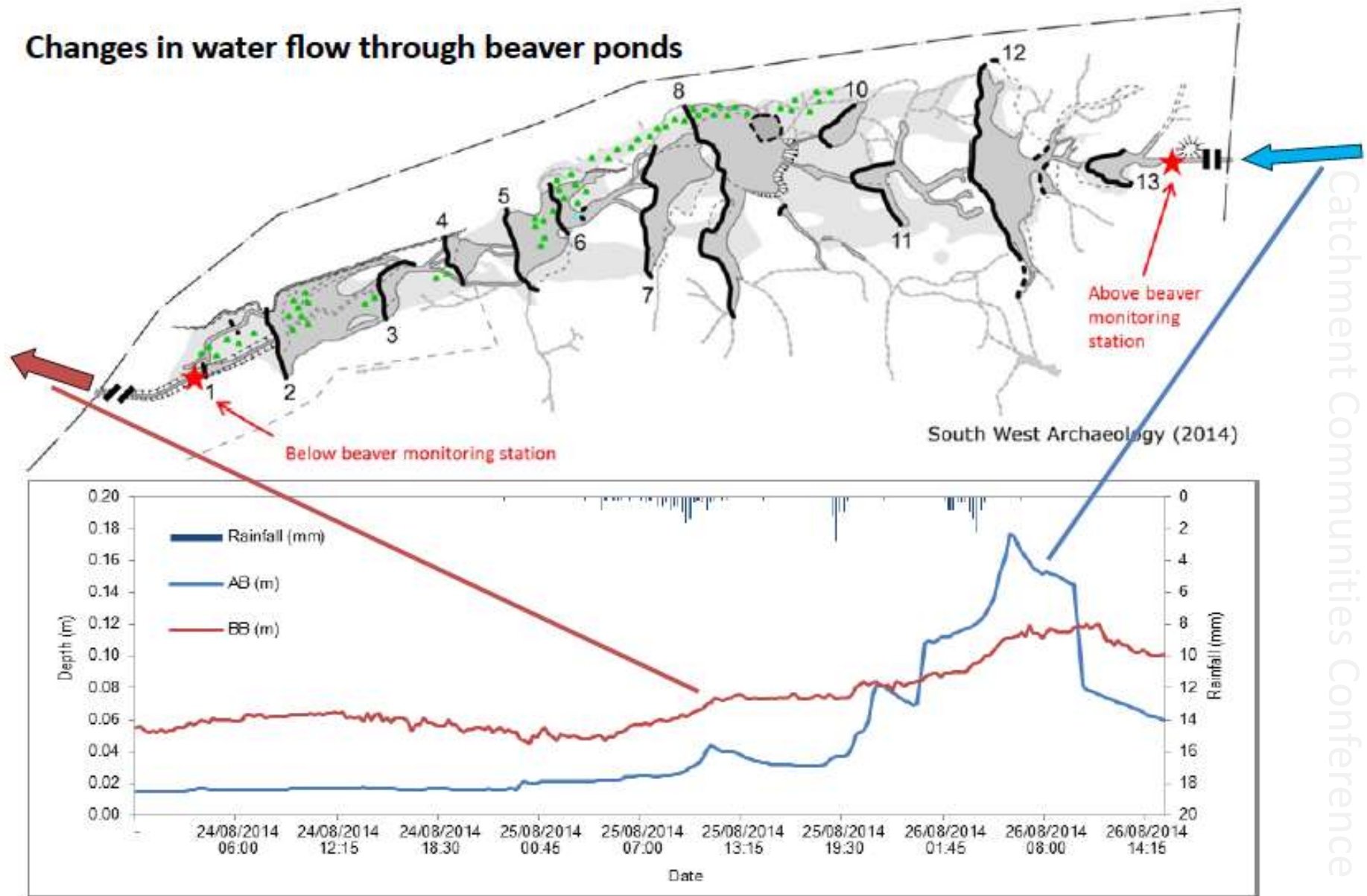
2017

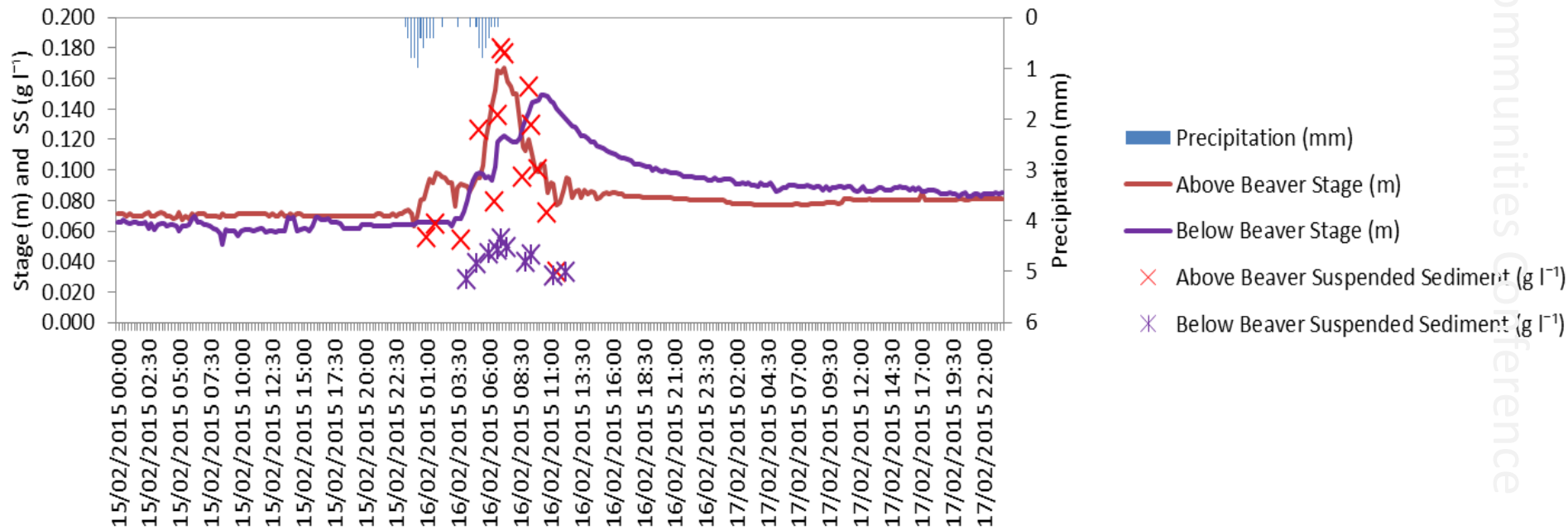
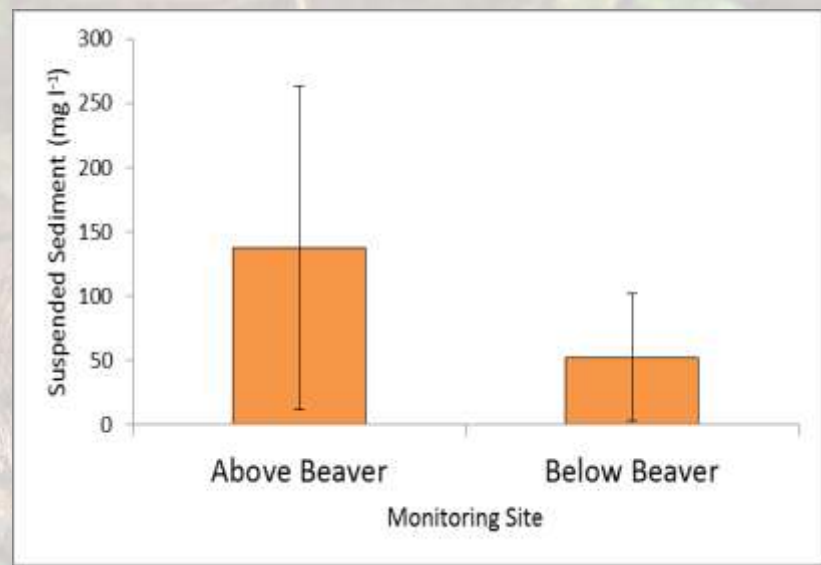




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Changes in water flow through beaver ponds





River Otter Beaver Trial (ROBT)



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- **First licensed trial release of beavers into the wild in England**
 - Trial runs for five years (February 2015 – 2020)
 - Covers entire River Otter catchment – but no further
- **Management Strategy for the trial period to address conflicts**
 - At the end of the Trial, Defra will decide what happens next

Beavers are unlikely to build dams in the main river, but will hold water in headwaters, floodplain ditches and tributaries

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This behaviour will cause conflicts in certain locations.



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The future management of conflicts is an essential component of their reintroduction.

The majority of conflicts with agriculture and fish migration would be reduced by paying landowners to give rivers more space and store water on their land.



In November 2016, the Scottish Government announced that beavers would be recognised as a resident species and protected under the Habitats Regulations.

In December 2017, Defra announced they would now license other wild trials



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Thank you for listening.



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