



Newsletter – Autumn 2022

SWEEP cleans up at the University of Exeter Knowledge Exchange Awards



We are extremely proud to announce SWEEP's successes at the University of Exeter's Knowledge Exchange Awards ceremony last night. Dr Roger Auster's PhD on [Renewed Coexistence with Beavers](#) scooped the Bright Futures Award for Student Innovation with Sophie Corrigan's PhD on [Seaweed Farming in the South West](#) narrowly missing out. The whole SWEEP team won the KE Team of the Year, led by Prof Ian Bateman, and represented on the night together with Dr Dawn Scott, Rebecca Abrahams and Prof Melanie Austen, along with some of our key partners.

[SWEEP | KE Team of the Year award winners >](#)

The University of Exeter Knowledge Exchange Awards celebrate the many ways that researchers and professional services teams are taking research into the wider world. Read more below on SWEEP's three shortlisted nominations.

Evaluating and maximising the environmental benefits of seaweed farming in the South West



Image: Seaweed farm in Cornwall

Sophie Corrigan PhD shortlisted for KE Awards

Sophie's work is delivering significant benefits for industry partners, and is informing UK policy and best practice around seaweed farming. This aquaculture PhD project aims to assess the ecological impacts of seaweed farming for fish species of commercial and conservation importance while working closely with farmers to develop sustainable, ecosystem approaches to this emerging UK aquaculture sector.

Key facts

- Informing Government policy – the first comprehensive review of the habitat provisioning of seaweed farming
- Influencing thinking and enhancing operational procedures at three businesses.
- Securing £25k new funding and accelerating licence application approvals

Renewed Coexistence: Human dimensions of reintroducing the Eurasian beaver into England



Roger Auster PhD winner at KE Awards

Roger led on social research for the nationally recognised [River Otter Beaver Trial](#) (ROBT), which delivered a land-mark Government decision to permit England's first wild breeding population of beavers for 400 years to remain permanently. The research defined a new concept – [Renewed Coexistence](#) – and provided a comprehensive evidence-based understanding of the human dimensions of beaver reintroduction, which is now directly contributing to more robust UK policy and practice in this field.

Key facts

- 1st wild beavers granted permanent residency by UK Government in 400 years
- 11 academic publications and reports, with [97 citations](#) to date.
- 2,910 participants including farmers, residents, anglers and 26 diverse national and local agencies engaged including Natural England and Environment Agency

Driving environmental impacts through partnership work - A whole team success story



Prof Ian Bateman at Exeter's Knowledge Exchange Awards 2022

Knowledge Exchange Team of the Year

The real-world benefits developing from SWEEP are truly impressive, which are accelerating rapidly across a broad range of partners and sectors. The scale of SWEEP's impact wouldn't have been possible without the innovative approaches adopted, and the skilled team of researchers, impact fellows and impact facilitation experts.

In this KE Award nomination, we focused on the 'human and social capital' (i.e. KE, skills, experience, attitudes, culture) that has been developed, underpinning success. We believe that the methods adopted, and the skills developed by the SWEEP team (including our partners) are truly pioneering, and the key driver for real world change.



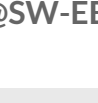
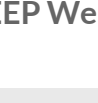
Over the next few months we will be showcasing, celebrating and concluding this ground-breaking NERC funded research programme and hope you will join us at one of our events and for the launch of our new legacy website, coming soon. Please get in touch for further information about any of the SWEEP Team's work. We would also love to hear from you if you would like to nominate a SWEEP initiative, person, project or team for us to highlight in the Winter edition of this newsletter.

The SWEEP Team

For all SWEEP's news and resources, please visit the SWEEP website at www.sweep.ac.uk

We hope you are enjoying our features this month and we always welcome your feedback. Do feel free to share this newsletter widely.

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