

Species Recovery in Scenic Landscapes: Are Beavers Making a Mess of Scenery?

Multispecies Perspectives on
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs
National Park and Beyond

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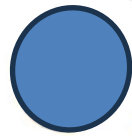




Beaver-themed rewilding garden wins Chelsea flower show top prize

Unconventional garden by Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt features
a dam and sticks pre-gnawed by beavers





[Redacted Name]

May 27, 2022

Yes, but it was a really shit 'garden' and looked a total mess - like an outside toilet shed next to a stream with twigs. Thank goodness sense prevailed with the People's Choice garden - so beautiful and inspiring.



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Messy natures: The political aesthetics of nature recovery

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Abstract

1. Current aspirations for nature recovery to address biodiversity loss and climate change will involve changing what landscapes look like, which can create challenging aesthetic experiences for members of the public.
2. In this study, we interrogate the role of aesthetics in shaping visions of nature recovery, focussing on the construction and contestation of 'mess' and 'messiness' in nature recovery.
3. We examine the political aesthetics of messy natures using a qualitative approach investigating visual and text materials across different sites of production in Britain, from newspapers to social media, paying particular attention to visual materials
4. Our results show how the mediated debate around 'rewilding' urban environments and a beaver-themed garden winning a horticultural show are examples of a backlash against untidy environments through a politicised discourse, linking messy nature with left-wing ideologies, in contrast to the perceived orderliness and conservative ideals of good citizenship associated with tidiness.



SCAN ME

*Contribution to 'Comparative Histories of UK
National Parks'*

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Past



**Present and
future**

Travel writing and art popularising Loch Lomond area in the 18th and 19th century



Horatio McCulloch in 1861
Glasgow Museums Collections



Travel Poster 1921



But where are the beavers?

BLOG

DISCOVER: FAMILY OF BEAVERS MOVE TO LOCH LOMOND.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

- Park established 2002
- 7 individuals officially translocated in 2023 to the RSPB reserve within LLTNP
- Park strategy states to 'Support the return of the beaver to the Park's freshwater bodies.'
- Park strategy to protect and enhance natural and cultural heritage (including scenic landscapes)



Multispecies Futures in Scenic Landscapes

- Beaver landscapes can be **challenging** for the **aesthetic appreciation of Victorian-era scenic ideals** enshrined in various ways of reproducing scenery in poetry to social media
- Nature recovery through ecosystem engineering species such as beavers means we have to **integrate new ways of looking at nature** and what ‘picturesque’ landscapes are
- We need to take ‘the looks’ of beaver landscapes seriously as sources of contention but also to deliver positive cultural ecosystem services

Other talks/posters from this research group:



Poster presentation by **Steph Webb**: ‘Cultural ecosystem services of beaver-modified landscapes’



Friday 15:03 by **Barnaby Fogg**: “Gnawing concerns are not going away” - a media analysis of beaver reintroductions to the Scottish Cairngorms National Park





Thank you for your attention