

Cornwall Beaver Project

A collaborative trial project investigating flood risk reduction.

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Woodland Valley Farm



3rd November 2017

CCRF Conference

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Motivation



- Repeated flooding in Ladock
- Requirement (perceived by me at any rate) for using essentially free natural actors to produce or enhance ecosystem services
- Fits right into my philosophy of land management for the widest range of ecosystem services

Partners



- Woodland Valley Farm
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Exeter Uni (at Exeter and at Tremough)
- CoaST
- Southampton Uni
- etc



Timeline

- **2012-13** Ladock flooded twice
- **2013-14** Ladock came within a whisker of flooding twice again
- **Feb 2014** Visit to the farm of EA geomorphologist
- **Jun 2014** First visit of CWT and Derek Gow to discuss suitability of farm for release
- **Jun 2015** Exeter Uni agree to commence hydrology monitoring
- **Sep 2015** Monitoring starts: every 5 min, water depth/turbidity
- **Spring 2017** Crowd fund planned and executed; target and stretch target reached.

Break for BBC clip with Professor Richard Brazier



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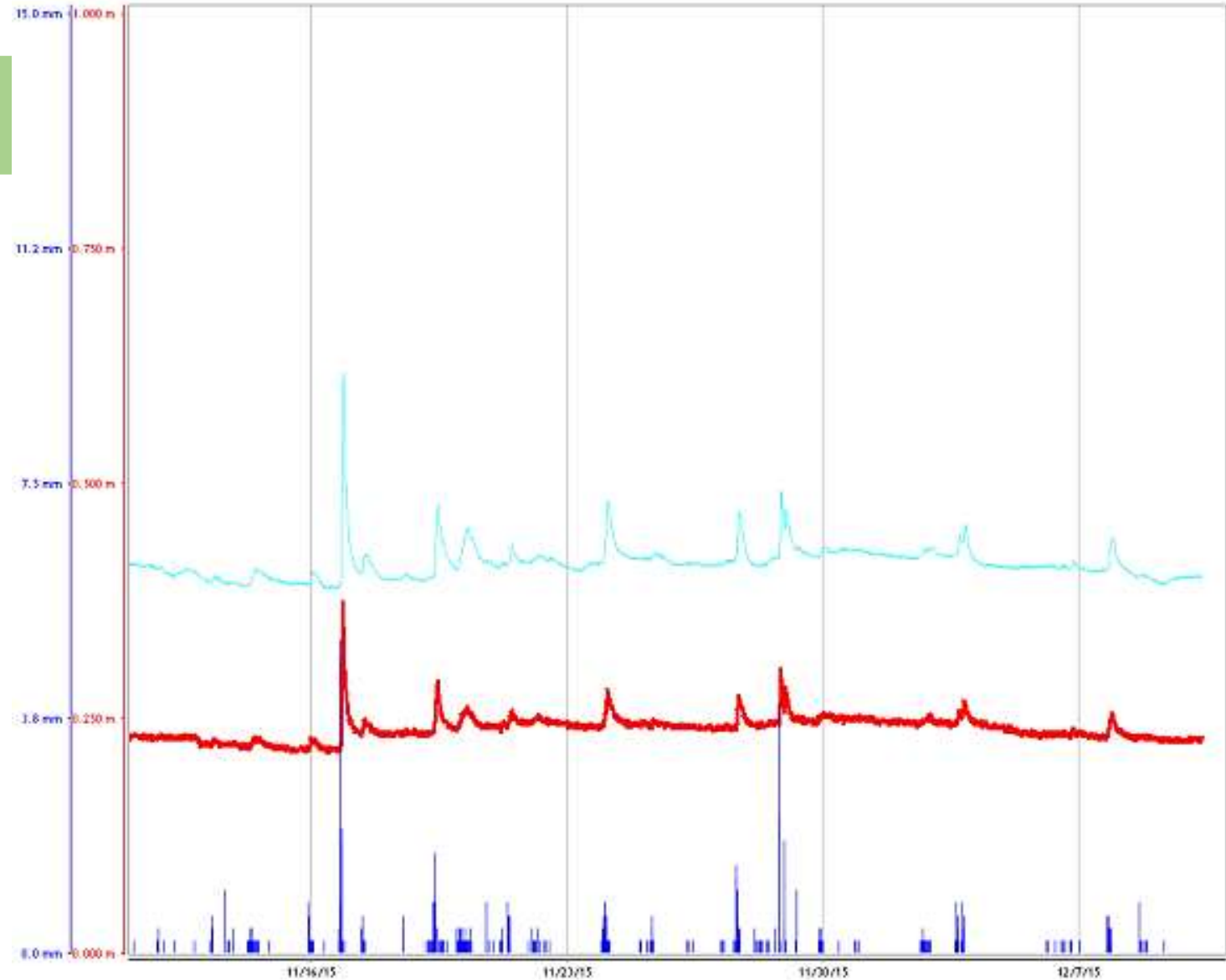
Results 18 weeks in

- 4 dams built
- Original pond now doubled in volume
- 2 further ponds created and inundated wetland
- 2 stream channels where there was once one
- Hydrograph of water leaving the site is now visibly separating from the hydrograph of water entering the site



Hydrograph I

Before beavers



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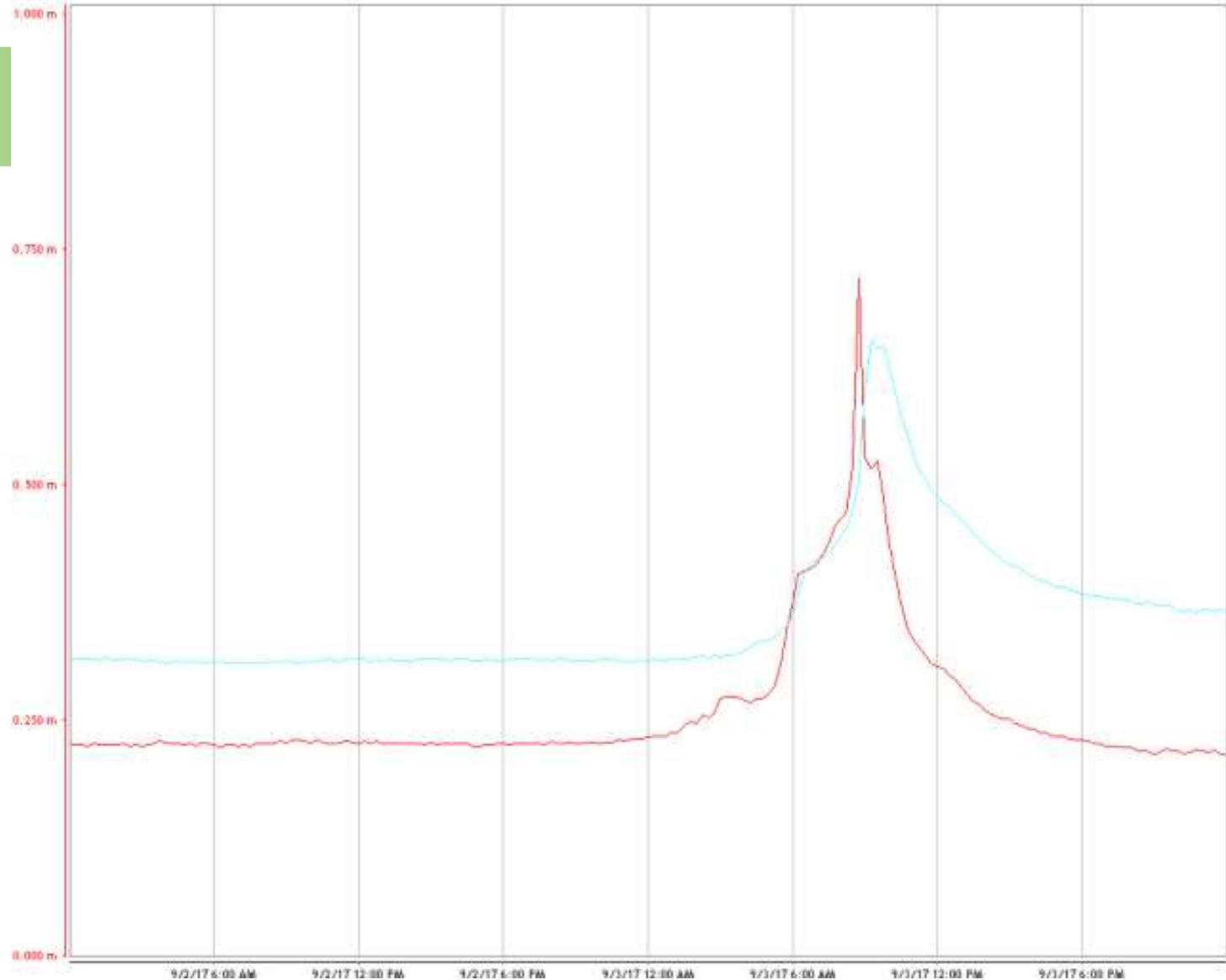
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Hydrograph II

After beavers
(10 weeks)



Future Prospects Short Term



- Dam building and lodge building will progress
- Kits born next spring?
- Rapidly increasing abundance and diversity of wildlife
- Bigger changes in hydrology

Long Term Aspiration

- They become an accepted and vital part of the Cornish Countryside
- They become so commonplace that they are no longer seen as newsworthy



The Beginning

Questions?

