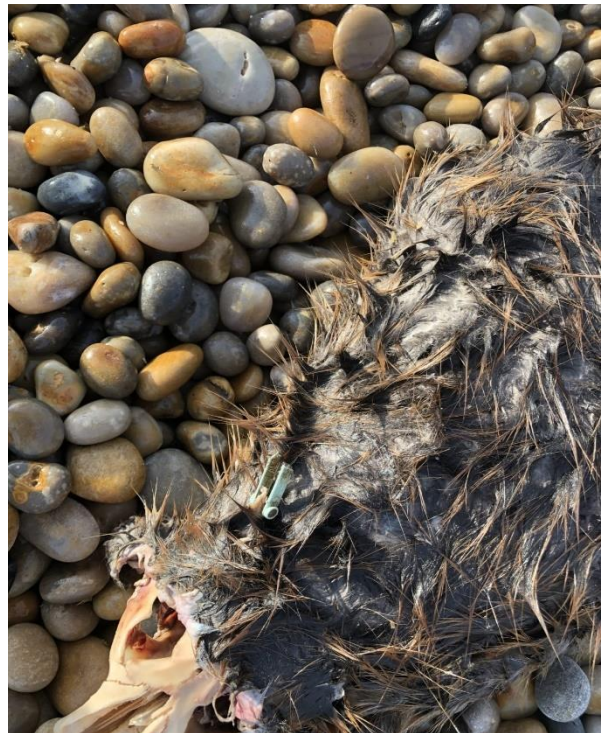


## River Otter Beaver Trial Beaver Mortality – February 2019

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019, DWT was contacted by Marc Kativu-Smith from Dorset Wildlife Trust to report a beaver carcass that had been washed up at the very eastern end of Chesil Beach. Marc is the Weymouth & Portland Visitor Experience Officer at the Fine Foundation Chesil Beach Centre. The body was recovered just west of the centre at Portland at NGR SY 67600 74200 and taken back to the centre. It had an ear tag when it was first spotted on the beach, but the tag didn't make it back to the centre.



The body was then collected by Jake Chant, ROBT Field Officer, at midday the following day and taken to New Street Vets, Honiton where it was scanned thoroughly for a PIT tag

The remains were given a basic post mortem examination (attached) but there was very little of the animal left. The liver was missing, and although lung and heart tissues were collected, they are of limited value. The head was recovered for the skull to be extracted, and the remains disposed by New Street Vets.

From the picture of the ear tag, it has been identified by Roisin Campbell-Palmer as an animal that she has tagged (the corners of the tags are rounded off) and from that we can conclude that it originated on the River Otter. However, with this single tag and the lack of PIT tag we are only able to narrow it down to one of five beavers. F0519, F3102, M6734, F6183, F0000. The width of the tail (125mm) is consistent with a young animal (2yr old?).

Whether the animal swam out of the mouth of the river in an attempt to disperse, or died in the river and was washed out during high flows is impossible to determine.

**Mark Elliott and Jake Chant, River Otter Beaver Trial, Devon Wildlife Trust  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**