

# On the ground to online: a conservation field course in the time of Covid-19

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## How does the course work?

- Level 3 course for 20-30 students
- Explores the conflicts between conservation and other land uses
- Key topics addressed through site visits around the Cairngorms National Park
- Interact with land managers from government agencies, NGOs and private estates



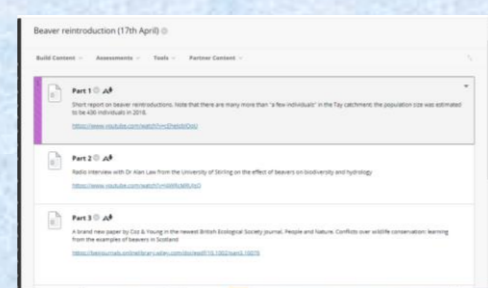
## Case study area:

### Cairngorms National Park



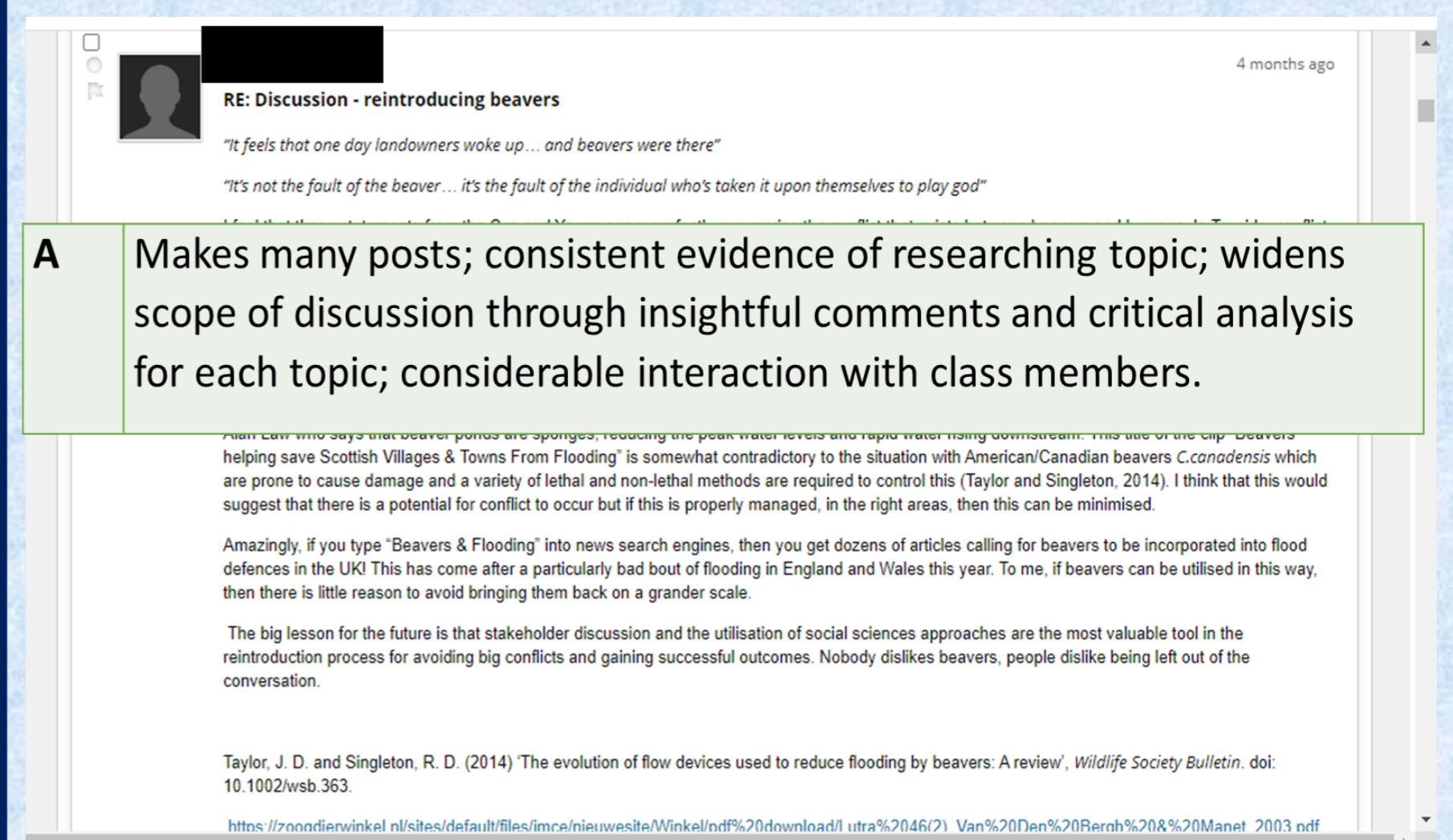
## How do we replicate the field course online?

- One key topic each day
- Relevant materials provided on Blackboard (papers, articles, podcasts, clips)
- Open ended questions encourages deeper reflection and critical analysis
- Posting on a daily discussion board facilitates peer interaction, further research and new perspectives
- Guest speakers from a range of organisations provides opportunities to engage with practitioners online



## How do we assess student engagement online?

### Sample student answer (A grade)



## How can online field courses contribute to resilient learning communities?

- Students gain a detailed understanding of complex interdisciplinary issues
- Discussion boards encourage peer learning and critical thinking
- Variety of media types (video clips, podcasts, journal articles, reports, newspapers) aids engagement
- Posting on discussion boards improves skills in writing and synthesising information
- Online materials can be used in combination with the standard course format in future

