



Appendix 13

All comments received through the online formal engagement survey

Do you have anything else to say about our plans to bring beavers back to the Cairngorms National Park? Please detail any positives, concerns or queries. (250 words max)
I think this is a good idea, that should be done sensitively with the involvement with as many stakeholders/organisations/communities as possible that are relevant. Conflict management approaches should be planned and taken if necessary to ensure reintroductions can go ahead fairly. Small compromises may help the project in the long-run. However, culling of unwanted beavers should not be in the management plan.
Please send me an email contact. I have been doing some work on beavers for a rewilding exhibition at the Landmark Park and need to send you an attachment to clarify my concerns
This species has every right to be here, and despite the challenges presented to farmers, hopefully with time and guidance, farmer, locals, and wildlife will prosper from their presence.
This is for Me as a nature lover and also a local Business owner and also Someone interested in ecological studies a no brainier. These animals will bring much needed and welcome visitors and resources with that to the area all year round and they're natural behaviour will protect wetland areas from flooding and droughts. It's a win win for the animals themselves and the areas in which that are introduced.
I consider it to be a very positive and considered plan and fully endorse it.
It makes absolute sense to bring beavers back to the National Park. The Cairngorms host a variety of life, and introducing a keystone species could help knit together disparate management techniques. Politically beavers would help demonstrate that nature has its own laws and through we try to maintain our will upon the earth, natural processes are the most successful at creating a diverse habitat.
Eco engineers! The best Nature Based Solution to issues of flooding, biodiversity loss and carbon storage. I'm behind this project 🙌
Beavers overwhelmingly enhance the environment they inhabit to the benefit of a multitude of other species, including our own. The enrichment of national parks and the



<p>return of natural processes should be a primary driver. The benefits to a national park far far outweigh minimal impacts to landowners</p>
<p>Please bring beavers wherever possible, we love them and know they are ecologists</p>
<p>Just do it - beavers will revitalize the countryside for free given the chance. Be tolerant and see what happens.</p>
<p>I think they will benefit the area, and assist in increasing biodiversity. I hope I live long enough to see them.</p>
<p>Could the Beavers be considered for release across the River Dee catchment too</p>
<p>It is time to re-address the failures of our ancestors to bring back the wildlife we have lost to its rightful place.</p>
<p>Look at the damage caused to trees where they have been re introduced along the Garry and Tay</p>
<p>Beavers are the best ecosystem engineers we have. This would not only be great for beavers, but also a multitude of other species and the overall environment. As a regular visitor to Scotland with my family beavers in the cairngorms would be a major factor in my holiday destination decisions on the future.</p>
<p>I am thrilled about the plans to reintroduce beavers to my local area, and very supportive. This is such a positive move for wildlife, biodiversity and landscape restoration.</p>
<p>We are concerned that if beavers end up in particularly sensitive sites for aspen, hazel, willow etc that the trees can be protected or the beavers moved elsewhere. This doesn't seem to be in the plans currently. As well as felling trees such as aspen, beavers also strip the bark, so the benefits for aspen hoverfly are lost. Two examples of our concerns are: Kinrara is the best site locally for rare lichens and mosses on aspens, so we have concerns about this as a release site; and the water course between the Bogach and Loch Alvie would be a likely place for dams with an important aspen stand near the road. The locations of the important woods are known, with NatureScot's Aspen Vulnerability Maps showing the locations of potentially vulnerable woodlands.</p>
<p>As a visitor to the park to see wildlife, beavers would be a further reason for me to come and stay, to try and see them.</p>
<p>Concerned about the long term impact of artificially expanding the territory of a protected re populated species that is quite invasive, especially in a small country with varied degrees of intensity and expectations of land management in close proximity</p>
<p>This is long overdue and an essential part of restoring the natural function of the area. There will undoubtedly be some issues along the way but the long-term benefits of these plans far outweigh any of these difficulties.</p>
<p>Looking at the damage beavers have caused on the Tay catchment any new introduction is utter madness. I can see no benefits what so ever.</p>



Please be aware there is a significant cost to living with beavers. We have beavers on the river Tay & Lyon: Last winter they ate an acre of forage kale grown to feed livestock. The damage was over a greater area but equated to a full acre removed. There is no current way of compensating for this loss. An acknowledgement of the contribution of farmers in standing this loss would be appreciated.

Don't do it, after seeing the damage and problems caused by the beavers in Angus and on the Tay system I can see NO positive outcomes.

Truly fantastic to see real rewilding and public engagement, well done

Would love to see beavers back here

I will answer later.

Beavers could have a hugely positive impact on the local area leading to greater biodiversity and reducing local flooding.

I think that the benefits will be fantastic for the ecosystem and landscape. Really excited.

Great idea.

Well, the Wildcat plan hasn't given me much faith in the 'experts' The CNPA has done little to maintain the integrity of the natural environment So little faith in you to get this right But no doubt it's jobs for middle-class ecologists

My house is adjacent to the Insh Marshes and I believe it is an ideal site for beavers. I am however aware that local farmers are concerned of the impact on their land. Hence a lot of close working, consultation and support will be needed for this to really work with the local community.

I think this is an incredibly important and positive step in the Cairngorms for improving biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and as many other cases of beaver reintroduction have shown, beavers can offer many many benefits to the Spey and surrounding area.

After driving them to extinction in this country we have a duty to bring them back, this is where they should be living. They help to prevent flooding and droughts but mostly they turbo charge wildlife recovery.

I think it is really exciting that this is being explored. We need to re-introduce key species like the beaver to create natural habitats that will favour many other species and increase biodiversity. I am quite sure this will attract visitors to the area; benefitting the local economy. Large, remote areas are perfect for re-introductions and the fact that beavers can be re-located means that any problems for landowners can be managed.

This project will be key in proving the viability of reintroductions into other catchments across Scotland. It is therefore key that the framework that NatureScot has put in place does work for both the beavers and the communities amongst which they live.

Beavers are a keystone species and should be right across Scotland. I'm very supportive of the National park bringing them back



<p>I would love to see them back in the Strath. We need to be able to control them when problems arise.</p>
<p>My farm is on the Spey flood plain at Newtonmore and I am worried about my fencing being washed away in floods by debris from Beaver Dams. I have been told this will not happen but I am told alot of things by people who have very little practical knowledge of land management and do not suffer the consequences when things do go wrong. I have seen the damage done to old riverside trees and te damage done to agricultural fields. Scotland is not the Yukon, it is a modern working environment.</p>
<p>Farming and beavers find it difficult to coexist. Fishing on the Spey is deteriorating and anything new such as beavers may impact upon this further. I am against re introductions in principal but supported Capercaillie and note it has been utterly mismanaged by RSPB. Further protection of species, particularly predators has severely affected my bird life populations. Beavers disappeared for a reason.</p>
<p>I think this is extremely helpful for climate adaptation.</p>
<p>I think it is a very good plan and that it will benefit the surrounding area and nature.</p>
<p>Well proven ecosystem engineers with positive effect on biodiversity</p>
<p>In regard to angling concerns we should remember that beavers successfully coexist with salmon and trout through most of their natural range and used to do so in Scotland too - and salmon were plentiful then.</p>
<p>Any return to a more natural balance has to be beneficial.</p>
<p>Having recently attended an event discussing how to rewiggle river channels through human intervention, and the positives of doing this, it will be interesting to see the impact of beavers on our waterways, lochs and landscapes.</p>
<p>In general, I am supportive of the proposal. The full scale of the impacts cannot be known but, for the benefit of creating diverse habitats which will support a range of species, I think that the risks of local adverse effects are acceptable.</p>
<p>A negative move for the area</p>
<p>I would welcome the return of this native mammal and the resulting increasing biodiversity associated with beaver activities. Also flood mitigation may be achieved. Wholeheartedly support the proposal.</p>
<p>Great idea, fully support the project</p>
<p>Brilliant idea to have beavers back!</p>
<p>About time. Beavers will restore, maintain and create habitats desperately needed in Scotland.</p>
<p>How will the damming of watercourses impact on the salmon returning to breed.</p>
<p>Beavers will enhance the ecology of the NP and provide countless benefits for people too.</p>
<p>I think it is fantastic that you are actively working to address the biodiversity crisis, improve Scotland's poor Biodiversity Intactness Index, and use nature solutions to address</p>



<p>the climate crisis. It is great to see attempts to improve our natural habitats and support species that share our living spaces.</p>
<p>Beavers are great.</p>
<p>Scotland has a drastically failing Atlantic salmon population and all should be fine to protect them not hinder and restrict their access to the spawning grounds for a species that have been absent for so long.</p>
<p>Really pleased to hear about plans at aberlour event tonight. Friendly informative event presenting well considered plans. I look forward to beavers becoming reestablished on the Spey. Glad to see Nature Scot providing mitigation for when impacts arise, expect these will not be seen for several years. We farm and manage a small wood close to the Spey and don't see beavers causing any significant issues for us. We graze the land close to the river which often flood in winters. We may plant more suitable trees ready for their arrival.</p>
<p>Great for the ecosystem and environment. Will be a real benefit to the area. I fully support the project.</p>
<p>A great initiative to bring back a key stone species that will help create and restore wetlands.</p>
<p>This is long overdue</p>
<p>I believe that the re-introduction would greatly increase biodiversity and benefit local wildlife and potentially help alleviate flood risks in localized areas. With all the rare insect species recorded within the area such as Northern Damselfly, I believe that the wetlands created by Beavers would greatly benefit many species which are currently under threat. I think that the fishermen in the area are the biggest obstacle to a re-introduction due to a lack of knowledge. If a campaign were to be ran during which the benefits of Beavers and falsehood of their negative impact on fish species were explained then this problem could be greatly reduced.</p>
<p>I fish on both the Tay and Spey catchment areas and having seen the damage caused already on the Tay by beavers I am not supportive of them being released on the Spey. I am not convinced that the salmon population has not already been adversely affected by beavers released on the Tay and fear a similar occurrence on the Spey.</p>
<p>cant stop them coming</p>
<p>I think that bringing beavers back to the CNP makes perfect sense - the ecological conditions are right and beavers will help enhance the already important habitat further. There is also likely to be significant support and understanding from residents and landowners and the reintroduction of beavers sits well alongside other ongoing projects e.g. wildcats and gives a powerful message re multi-species, landscape scale partnership working for ecological restoration</p>
<p>Don't want them at all</p>



It would be a very positive step to improve habitat, biodiversity and water quality. Will also help reduce flooding.

My first Highland encounter was in Dunkeld and I was thrilled to this these industrious creatures on the river, and shaping the river Bank...Such a treat to strengthen our ecosystems with missing species

We can show you the destruction they have caused 1st hand in the Tayside area!

I fear the decision has already been made, and that the consultation is only a box ticking exercise

Beavers are crittical for effective water management through slowing the flow - this is a great initiative!

NatureScot seem to have an abundance of ££££££ to waste on many projects and introducing beavers is one. When we are in a cash crisis - potholes galore/libraries being closed and NHS on their knees / schools crumbling - shortages of ££££ in councils and Nature Scot are concerned about BEAVERS !!!!!

There have been too many arguments put forwards about the benefits of beavers but precious little about the harm they do to the aquatic environment. The riparian owners of the Tay and Isla are only too aware of the destruction caused by beavers to riverbanks, flood defences, drainage channels and forestry. Put simply, beavers are very destructive rodents. Most river bank owners and land managers do not understand why the CNPA wishes to pollute the headwaters of 7 of Scotland's major river catchments (Dee, Don, Deveron, Lossie, Spey, Findhorn and Nairn) with this animal and what they fear is that once beavers have been released, it will be impossible to close Pandora's Box or put the genie back in the bottle. In these days of severe climate change, it makes absolutely no sense to artificially introduce yet another variable into the land management equation for what appears to be superficial reasons. The proposed mitigation measures do not appear to have been considered properly and nor do they provide the very necessary compensation on an ongoing basis.

I will wait and follow the outcome of this survey and further developments.

We desperately need to rebuild keystone & apex predator species including the beaver but also lynx to help control roe deer numbers which are out of control in our area.

Another idea proposed by those who do not require to make a living from the countryside.

Like sea eagles, badgers and pine martins this will be a disaster. Beavers will damage farm land, will block culverts which will have to be cleared at tax payers expense. There will be no effect control just platitudes and no effective mitigation. All for some airey fairy plan to return the Highlands to a distant past without thought to the damage caused.

I think this is a fantastic idea and one that is long overdue. The fact that beavers bring so many ecological, economic, social benefits and more maybe believe that is is essential we bring back beavers as soon as possible,



I would like to see beavers returned to the park and their long term expansion as a network of populations secured. Intervention should be minimised at all costs to allow beavers the opportunity to deliver maximum ecological benefits. This would include their establishment at a catchment scale. Landscape change can have a tendency to shock some people used to the landscape looking a certain way. These people should be reassured that a transitional period of their activity in reshaping the landscape is necessary before the full transformation that beavers will bring to the Cairngorms can be realised. I welcome all partners working with land owners to see the return of beavers to these landscapes in the very near future.

I understand the decision has already been made no matter what this consultation brings up

We are disappointed that this space does not allow for our full response. A paper copy of our full response will be handed in to the Office in Grantown-on-Spey.

Amazing - the quicker the better - we have no time to waste - although we don't live in the park we live 6 miles from the edge of it and so are closely affected.

Several issues. Firstly, trees are under threat from deer and rabbits. Introducing the beaver as another threat to trees, which are central in terms of flood prevention and soil stabilization, is problematic. Without a predator, populations will likely rapidly increase, as happened in Chile. Also, freedom to migrate, essential for beavers, is unlikely. Most importantly, waterlogging around beaver dams will lead to a significant increase in methane, a very significant greenhouse gas. While this wasn't a problem 400 years ago when beavers were last here, it is a very different situation currently. It therefore does not seem ecologically responsible to be doing this re-introduction currently. The Biosphere Research institute would be delighted to work with you on these issues if you are interested. Please feel free to contact us. [REDACTED]

Cant see any negatives to bringing back an extirpated species to its native habitat in such low numbers compared with other countries (cf. France for example). Benefits to habitat diversity and biodiversity. Will they threaten what little Aspen we have however?

Only positive feedback from me. It strikes me as unusual that this is a bone of contention for a native species when millions of non-native "game" birds are released every year without issue and land is still allowed to be managed for unnatural levels of red grouse for people to kill for amusement

As someone who grew up in Canada I'm pro-beaver but aware that there have been incidents & they are large rodents in reality. Beavers seem like one of the better options for re-wilding in Scotland.

Mostly the impact that beavers will have on what is currently a fairly fragmented ecosystem with species that should be more widespread now at risk of localised extinction due to their unnaturally fragmented occurrence in the park.



I am enthusiastically supportive. I think it would be a great draw for visitors to the park and align with the vision for the CNPA moving forward. It would be important to have very simple and accessible information about beavers and their impacts for laypeople (the website page you directed us to was fairly wordy, I struggled to read it all). Community engagement is difficult on such a divisive topic, but family days or school engagement would be cool.

I grew up in the Park and most of my family still live there - we would love to see beavers back. I expect that some landowners and residents will resist these proposals, but hope that education about mitigating any negative impacts of beavers (and even their basic ecology) will persuade them that beavers belong in the Cairngorms as much as people do.

Having beavers in the Cairngorms National Park would encourage me to visit the area more often on day trips during holidays/weekends - there would be more wildlife to see where beavers have been introduced, with more natural ecosystems and interesting habitats. My only concern is the worries of those who live closer to the project area. It is important that the concerns of local farmers/fishermen etc. are sensitively addressed, and that these stakeholders are cooperated with in order for the project to be a success and conflicts to be avoided.

I think that this is an excellent initiative and the positives of bringing back beavers to the area will have a great effect on the ecosystem

Returning beavers to the upper Spey catchment will have huge benefits for downstream communities in terms of mitigating climate change related flood risk. Beavers will also help to restore the area's biodiversity creating new areas of interest for people who live in or visit the Cairngorms National Park.

I believe this to be a crucial project. The presence of beavers in the Cairngorms National Park will be of huge benefit to the area.

It would be wonderful!

I believe this would be a fantastic asset to the park and attract visitors to experience these creatures in the wild. Apart from that, their role as ecosystem engineers has been absent for too long and in the current climate and biodiversity emergency, this is the right step.

The plans are robust and well-thought through. It is great to see the CNPA prepared to bring beavers back, but particularly to do so with real care for the potential effects they might have.

Really exciting. Lots of water sports users will be very interested and come to the area to spot beavers or evidence of them

Absolutely superb plan. Great for nature wild life and people. Returning a missing species that is key to a more healthy ecosystem. Excellent



No concerns or queries but would like to see more info around their natural place in the food chain and how that may be addressed i.e. what are their natural threats elsewhere from predation.
Beaver are a keystone species and will benefit the whole ecosystem by their return.
I am concerned that beavers will be subject to persecution in the same way raptors are. There seems to be two polarised mindsets in the Cairngorms between some great areas/organisations involved in very good nature recovery and driven grouse shooting intent on destruction and profit. I tend to avoid visiting most of the Cairngorm area because of concerns over my dog potentially coming into contact with poisoned bait. I would not put it past those in DGS areas to try to kill any beavers they find
Start young, keep engagement with the schools and community. Cost benefit of economic arguments important, as well as ecological and philosophical. Also regional and national identity.
I no more wish to see beavers introduced to this country than I would wish to see Bengal tigers, or any other wildlife without which our farmers and residents are managing quite happily.
Go for it!
It is long overdue.
Very happy to hear that beavers are coming back. They are so important to our river systems and to other species.
Anything to restore the natural wildlife is a job well done!
Fabulous idea, the land is managed for the benefit of too few people currently.
Beavers are a native species and part of creating and maintaining a healthy balanced ecosystem. With the UK being one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and in the midst of both climate and biodiversity crisis, these vital ecosystem engineers and keystone species are crucial in boosting biodiversity and reducing effects of climate change. They will benefit anglers / fishers by creating optimal conditions for fish to lay their eggs, create necessary riparian habitats, creating shade, shelter and food sources for fish and ant potential dams will not impede on fish migration. As a National Park there are too many sporting estates which impact on the health of the environment and biodiversity including driven grouse shooting and deer shooting which is essentially intensive farming practises that are detrimental to the landscape. Beavers will create a more sustainable, healthy and biodiversity rich habitat which is how our National Parks should be. Any land which is impacted by Beavers can be very simply mitigated against such as Beaver deceivers, tree wrapping and open and honest conversations and support to land owners.
Having a dedicated beaver officer is a strong move. For landowners to have a known, trusted and easily accessible person to help and quickly respond to any potential issues as



they are arise, or even helping to plan for and mitigate before they arise, will help people to coexist with beavers. Beaver activities can present challenges and those are likely to impact on a small number of people, and it is important to support them.

As a visitor to the Cairngorms National Park over many years I value and love the landscape, people and wildlife of the area. I believe beavers will have a long term beneficial effect on the landscape and ecology with benefits for those that live, work and visit the area. The long term common good should be what determines this decision, alongside the ability to help and support those that are or feel they are adversely effected in the short term. Overtime we will learn to live with beavers and be thankful for what they do for us and the natural environment.

We have attended 2 of the public meetings and have found them most informative. Partner agencies are well informed with well presented documentation. Thank you.

As a farmer, very concerning if they are reintroduced, we have enough problem trying to keep our land drained in winter nevermind if rivers/ditches are damned. With not being able to dredge the rivers anymore, many riverbanks around the park have become very eroded past few years and beavers burrowing into them will only make this worse. Also all we hear now is plant trees, thousands of deer have been shot for this, so why introduce a animal that destroys them

I have a concern over migratory fish access to spawning streams past beaver dams.

I have had a meeting with Andy Ford and Jonathan Willett on 23/8/23 and there is email correspondence with them highlighting my and others concerns.

I fear they will come anyway. This project will only accelerate the arrival.

It will all get out of hand as usual.

In a world of ever increasing problems food shortages are one of them. How will you deal with the damage to the fields? The beavers will eventually damage river banks etc and flood fields most fields along the Spey are highly productive agricultural land. The beavers will also over time head downstream where the land is some of the best barley growing areas in Scotland. How can you consider that beavers come ahead of feeding the nation? Who is going to compensate the farmers for the loss of grazing or the loss of valuable crops?

Returning beavers feels very much like an ecological obligation. Why would you not do it? Beavers (and lynx for that matter) should be reintroduced as a matter of course. Anybody economic affected by their reintroduction should be compensated in the short term until they transition to living with these animals.

You can release beavers where you want them to be but you can't control where they spread to

Concern about damage/flooding in farmland

Please do not be so stupid, this will irretrievably ruin our beautiful countryside.



Beavers will dam up all natural rivers
I believe that the issues that will arise from this have been underestimated
I'm not against the reintroduction of beavers, I just think you need to engage more with local farmers and land managers. You have failed to do this elsewhere, can't see you will do this here.
Having experienced there damage and problems this would be a disaster to the area
The damage beavers can cause hugely overrides any possible benefit eg the flooding of Alyth Town Centre.
I have seen the destruction they have caused to my local area and the conflict that has arisen between people who previously lived in relative harmony. I can see no positives.
My concern is that in my area they have devastated the tree population, blocked water courses and caused farmland to flood ruining crops
Concerns due to the damage that can be caused - we have had this happening to us recently.
I think taking significant, tangible steps towards ecological restoration like this is hugely important. I'm so pleased that a native species is being reintroduced and would like to see more of this. It seems clear that there will be issues to mitigate, but understanding that beavers are natural to this area, and have a right to be here is the most important factor to me.
Lack of suitable mitigation, lack of protection for land class 3.2 or higher, lack of understanding by authorities on how drainage of land works, beavers move large distances so will clearly work their way down the spey. Once there the people releasing them will take little or no responsibility for ongoing costs and problems
Those who think they will benefit are usually not the same as those who will end up paying the bills for them.
As you release more and they breed quickly they will spread down the whole Spey valley and be out of control very quickly causing havoc to farm drains and damage to all sorts of habitate
I would be in support of this insative if I could see the end game but as it stands there is no plan for managing the beavers when they inevitably end up it distributive location like with the sea eagle not enough though as gone in to the long term impact and management of their reintroduction
Hugely supportive of initial release areas and of the release of beavers in general. However greatly concerned that farmers and land managers further downstream in the catchments area and into its tributaries are marginalised and where there are serious consequences, their situation is not taken seriously.
There does need to be a mechanism to compensate in the event of damage to commercial forestry or interruption to hydro schemes



Any process of re-wilding is essential if we are to support /bring back wildlife to all areas in UK. Much damage has been inflicted on our natural environment in the UK. The introduction of beaver communities is a major part of re-wilding which is beneficial to both wildlife and people communities.

There are far better ways of helping nature than bringing back beavers. You're going to create a far bigger monster further down the line if you do this.

We should be doing this everywhere

It would be excellent

The beavers will cause untold damage to the fish population and trees along large sections of the river. Most of the trees in question have been around longer than the folk making this outlandish decision.

Beavers are destroying lots of old hardwood trees in Perthshire and land owners show have more say on how to manage them on their land.

ridiculous idea bringing back beavers, as proved down here in Sussex, they dont stay where they are put, cause untold damage to lots of other areas, they became extinct for a reason and should remain that way.

If beavers become a problem there are no plans to solve the problems caused by beavers.

I am very much in support of the reintroduction of beavers to the cairngorms. I am in favour of species introduction that is appropriate to the habitat and will enrich and diversify the environment. I believe we need to remediate the lack of wetlands we have and beavers seem a good way to mediate this

Having seen the damage done by beavers in North America I think the idea needs more thought

Beavers help to improve fish and salmon habitat and assist with salmonoid recovery which I am very much in support of.

How to tip the balance yet again, beavers do untold damage to trees and waterways

I personally don't know much about them other than watching the usual hunting programmes and from what I've seen they are a pain in the ass and offer nothing but hassle for land owners and woodlands? They are hunted overseas and still their numbers explod so what's the plan for controlling numbers in the future and are any rights put in place to protect your land's and property from them? We've been given the kites and buzzards over the past few years and they are currently more common than sparrows in some places now and still numbers grow 🐿️ this will eventually have an impact on our wildlife and the species them self. They can't just keep introducing animals with no actual plan for the future of our own wildlife and countryside

Problems for fish migration, dams in wrong places can cause flood damage. Inevitability of need for population control / culling in future years. Benefits overhyped.



We seem to be haphazardly releasing beavers across the country without really understanding our effects on the wider eco system, this will have massive implications across the uk

Why.

In a time when we continue to battle climate change through the planting of trees and heavily relying on the mature trees in the catchment as carbon sinks, we are proposing to release a species that is of a detriment to all of this? I've seen first hand the damage these animals do to mature trees, some of over 200 years old, in places along the river Tay and throughout Canada. The beauty of Speyside includes flourishing trees and the latest framework provided by the Spey fishery board who are trying to prevent the Atlantic Salmon species from extinction in our river, who many rely on for jobs and income show support now more than ever with the increase in Temperatures and direct sunlight on our river spawning grounds we need the shade of the trees to stop the juveniles from being wiped out to rising water temperatures. Introducing beavers into the Speyside region would be a disaster. Once it's been done, you then see the devastating effects they will have on the area that so many people travel to visit.

No point in saying what I think as the Park never listens to public opinions

Various species die off for a reason. We really don't want some of them back.

I've seen first hand the destruction caused by beavers in and around Loch Tay and along the river itself, the land has been doing quite well without beavers we do not need them.

Please stop playing games with our environment

Foolish plan, which flies in the face of all the advances made in forest and land management and good drainage practices. A lot of which have been diminished since the adoption of the waterways framework. Complete backwards steps, and green washing for superficial purposes.

This is a good idea to bring beavers back as having seen the beavers at Argaty, I believe that the beavers will greatly enhance the area.

It will happen regardless of what I say.

Beaver became extinct due to humans but it doesn't mean our ecosystem which has also evolved can cope with them. Having seen results and issues elsewhere, I believe it's the wrong thing to do.

Why try to re introduce a species that is detrimental to this environment, you cannot and have a proven record of not being able to look after capercaillie/ black cock ' / predator control in your parks . What on earth are you guys going to destroy next with beavers !

You are idiots. Look at America where they cause hectares of damage and have thousands of hectares of human free land to relocate them to. They became extinct in the uk for a reason, humans, and our numbers are 10 x that now so completely In compatible



<p>Good luck. This is a small step in the right direction for holistic integrated land management in Scotland.</p>
<p>Equilibrium restored</p>
<p>It's long overdue and very welcome. Natures engineers have proven to restore habitats to how they should be and it benefits all kinds of plants and other animals</p>
<p>Just do it</p>
<p>I'm eager for beavers</p>
<p>Why introduce an animal that eventually will need culled in the future..</p>
<p>We live close to the original illegal release of beavers who's actions have caused major problems on the Ericht and Tay through bank erosion</p>
<p>It'll be a total disaster for the area, the farmers and landowners in the area and for visiting anglers and visitors to the area who enjoy walking along the banks etc.</p>
<p>long overdue, they'll create a better habitat for many other species including salmon, they create dead wood which is vital ecologically and their dams will create firebreaks and alleviate both flooding and drought. Their activities could very well help breeding waders at Insh Marshes.</p>
<p>Whilst it is a reintroduction, they are a native species that should be in our landscapes but for past human intervention. Of course it is right to reset this.</p>
<p>I've witnessed firsthand the devastation beavers have caused on the Tay and don't want to see the same</p>
<p>Over the past 20 years I have been watching Perthshire beavers, and am very aware of a variety of local antagonisms. Hence I was very impressed by the detail of your pre planning ... but ALSO very aware that the beaver will likely surprise you in where they succeed in living on Speyside.</p>
<p>They may start in remote areas but will spread to forestry and farmland</p>
<p>Excellent initiative, well planned and carefully monitored.</p>
<p>Another essential piece to the ecological restoration jigsaw!</p>
<p>A worthy concept from a wildlife and re-wilding POV, but just like all the other re-introduction sites, it is just another excuse for farmers, gamekeepers and landowners, and their equally psychopathic clients to maim and kill wildlife, lay poisons and generally conduct reckless and brutal slaughter under the guise of 'conservation' I would rather they werent introduced than have to listen to the guns blasting them to pieces every time I go a walk.</p>
<p>It's a fantastic initiative</p>
<p>Unless you have plans to control the population by culling when the numbers get out of control I feel it will be a nightmare somewhat down the line.</p>
<p>A NP like the Cairngorms must lead the way on returning biodiversity by such means as reintroductions. Certainly local interests and commercial considerations need</p>



<p>protection/mitigation but biodiversity is not a luxury in the state of Scotland's depleted nature. Finally, sustainable wildlife based tourism is a growing economic tool to sustain the countryside and should be supported by the NP.</p>
<p>Very good. Excited about it!</p>
<p>Increasing biodiversity is critically important. It will increase visitor numbers and hence jobs</p>
<p>My only concern is that beavers will end up being percecuted again by certain people, as they will see them as pests. Their protection needs to be at the forefront of any proposed release. If it is not in place beforehand and proper laws in place are not going to be enforced effectively then any planned release would be irresponsible and not in the beavers best interest</p>
<p>I think it's essential to bring beavers back and Cairngorms is an ideal place. Beavers are key stone species and vital for flood and great for woodland regeneration and management. Beavers will also add to tourism.</p>
<p>I live in Knapdale where beavers were introduced in Scotland and have experienced the positive benefits. I come from Aberdeenshire and have spent many days walking in the CNP. The CNP needs to increase biodiversity and beavers are an important enabling species.</p>
<p>Please ensure there's enough aspen for them to nibble on in riparian areas. We do not want them to starve as numbers increase.</p>
<p>It is well established that beavers have a positive impact in these type of settings & help to mitigate some of the negative impacts of human activity.</p>
<p>I work with a lot of Norwegian people, they are surprised at our lack of understanding of beavers, and assure me that beavers are harmless and that fish stocks are sheltered and helped by beaver ponds.</p>
<p>I will be so happy to see Beaver back in Cairngorm area where they should be. Everyone and everything will benefit hugely. Thank you everyone involved</p>
<p>The possible small conflicts with landowners are outweighed both by the ecological damage that land managers/farmers have inflicted on the land and the biodiversity benefits that beavers bring. Beavers have been around for 10 million years; we made them extinct for 400 years during which time we industrialised farming.</p>
<p>An essential step in increasing biodiversity</p>
<p>This is not a consultation to decide whether beavers are released. It's a done deal and they will breed and move to areas where they are not ready for beavers and to land holdings and businesses who do not want them. What then?</p>
<p>As vastly effective eco- systems engineers, beavers will be of great benefit to the Cairngorms National Park.</p>



<p>The population density along this river is too large to accommodate changes to habitat at this extreme level.</p>
<p>As soon as possible please</p>
<p>Fully support it and wonderful to see this happening, I would love to hear more about the benefits this will bring to the area.</p>
<p>Great idea. They were once part of the landscape and should be again</p>
<p>I am convinced it will be a positive step. 1. Beavers will build dams which will improve fish spawning; especially in conjunction with riparian habitat improvements. 2. Beaver reintroduction will increase eco tourism business opportunities. 3. Having wiped them out, it's the right thing to do and would to habitat restoration which should surely be a primary objective of a national park.</p>
<p>As Ecological Engineers, I think Beavers can only enhance the biodiversity of the Park . To also create and sustain the area for young Salmon.</p>
<p>This can be only a good thing to improve water retention and prevent water run off and flooding down stream.</p>
<p>I think it's incumbent on us, having changed this planet for the worse over the last couple of centuries, to start returning it to a better balance.</p>
<p>This matter has not been handled well as far as informing locals of the possible impact of importing this animal. I am in favour of the Park over seeing this, rather than letting RSPB, Rothiemurchus et al try and further their own aims, without proper regulation.</p>
<p>Cant happen soon enough. Worth establishing baseline now to capture early change eg drone surveys</p>
<p>It is ridiculous not to re-introduce them</p>
<p>An excellent initiative as regards rewilding.</p>
<p>I have concerns because beavers have been introduced elsewhere and when they become too successful they end up being culled. Why should we introduce an animal that hasn't been around for a very long time only to kill them later when they successfully do what comes natural. Humans like to interfere and then kill when it no longer suits the original plans as proven with other introductions.</p>
<p>Great for increasing biodiversity</p>
<p>Thank you for taking this initiative, as beavers should be in all Scotland's river systems, bring massive benefits to people, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.</p>
<p>I did not read 100% of it, but I was disappointed not to read of examples where beaver introduction did not go so well and indeed has caused ecological damage. The most relevant example I know of is in Southern Patagonia near Uschia. Beavers were introduced into densely forested area of Argentina, I think, and multiplied rapidly spreading over the border to Chile. I was told that the estimated beaver population was</p>



<p>well over a million and that attempts to control the population had become unsuccessful. I did witness devastating changes to the landscape.</p>
<p>Sensible to consult with those who may be affected, as you are doing.</p>
<p>Beavers would enormously benefit this area, multiplying biodiversity and bringing a range of vital ecosystems services. They will bring delight to local wildlife watchers and tourists alike. They will not negatively impact fish stocks.</p>
<p>I would definitely be more likely to visit the park if there were beavers</p>
<p>I think that it is a wonderful idea. I live on the Argaty Estate near Doune in Perthshire where beavers have been introduced back into the wild very successfully and they are a joy to see.</p>
<p>Better today than tomorrow. Better tomorrow than the day after. Get on with it!!</p>
<p>Agree significant benefits all round could result - ecosystem functioning and wildlife enhancement, landscape, climate change resilience, awareness & eco-tourism, etc. Release programme is a huge step in the improvement of our environment and sits well with the realignment of farming and wildlife management and future farming policy, as long as farmers believe in the process. Comment above on mitigation plan is not negative, much appears to be in place to mitigate but more detail and guarantee of financial support/time will build confidence among land managers. Maintaining land managers and relevant others as a core part of the process will greatly improve the success of the programme.</p>
<p>Beavers deliver a huge number of benefits to people and planet from flood/drought prevention to massively boosting biodiversity. The Cairngorms needs more life. Beavers will help bring back what has been lost.</p>
<p>In an era of climate and biodiversity crisis beaver reintroduction seems a small but obvious step</p>
<p>This work is important. Please make people outside the cairngorms-especially those in Scotland's cities more aware!</p>
<p>Beavers are being brought back to many places around the UK so to make them part once again in the Cairngorms where it is quite remote would give them a wonderful chance - and hopefully mean no one can complain about them coming back.</p>
<p>The conservation of other species that are in decline such as Atlantic salmon should be the chief priority before reintroducing another species that can cause negative impacts to their habitat.</p>
<p>I absolutely support the reintroduction of the beaver throughout Britain.</p>
<p>Fantastic for biodiversity and drainage projects</p>
<p>Beavers will spread into the Park naturally but slowly. Better to introduce them where they won't be a nuisance. Introduce them where they will do most good (hydrologically speaking).</p>



Great idea.
I strongly support the translocation of beavers to the Spey catchment, and to other areas of Scotland. Beavers are a natural part of our ecosystem who bring tremendous value to biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and climate change mitigation. The evidence strongly indicates that beaver induced habitat change (ie the building of dams, creating of wetlands) supports the survival numerous other species including plants, insects, mammals and fish including the iconic Atlantic salmon. Their creation of wetlands and damns create carbon stores that help protect us against climate change. They also help mitigate flooding downstream, providing security for land, home and business owners in the area. The addition of beavers will also bring new wildlife watchers, photographers and tourists to the area. This is a brief summary of the many, many benefits that reintroducing beavers can have to a community as well as the wider ecological health of the country.
Fully support the idea
They will fan out over a wide area after a few years
I think it can only be good for the area, there might be issues for a small percentage of land-mangers but overall it will be positive and the animals are going to eventually appear there anyway.
Great news! A step in the right direction.
Makes sense. Definitely should proceed
The plan to translocate Beavers into the National Park Appears to be being handled sensitively given the multiplicity of stakeholders. As a mountain and wilderness user, I am highly supportive of a broad range of rewilding activities and having previously lived in "beaver country" in the US, it's clear to me that the benefits outweigh the negatives.
It is exactly the sort of thing the national park should be encouraging. Beavers are essential to healthy ecosystems and there are many suitable habitats for beaver
This can only be considered a positive move; climate change is happening, meaning we see more drought, and flooding. Beavers are natural land managers and will absolutely have a positive impact on the area. Yes it will mean change, but it's change for the better, and bringing back and animal that was here well before anyone living and working in the area now.
This is what National Parks are for - wildlife and environment should have a high priority.
Will this impact any communities along this river? or farmers? or game reserves? only because the beavers may be illegally harmed due to a lack of survalience on rual areas
Beavers are an incredible asset to any ecosystem, and their proven success in both the Devon and Cornwall Beaver Projects is testament to this. There should be no delay in reintroducing beavers to the landscapes that they historically colonised.



<p>Beavers have been of great benefit in the Tay where they are allowed to settle, would love to see them throughout Scotland!</p>
<p>This will supercharge the area for wildlife and help alleviate flooding and drought issues in the future it seems an absolute win for people and wildlife.</p>
<p>Extremely keen to see beavers back in their natural habitats in Badenoch and Strathspey</p>
<p>I very strongly support bringing beavers back to Scotland and think they will bring massive benefits for nature and people.</p>
<p>I feel this proposal is rushed and paying lip service to over eager "rewilding" with zero thought to the long term effects. The upper Spey catchment simply does not have enough trees to support beavers, and will be adversely effected by their introduction.</p>
<p>Very much in favour of this proposal as part of wider ecological restoration of the park.</p>
<p>Will create many more niches for wildlife to thrive. Will be a draw for tourists.</p>
<p>Keep up the good work.</p>
<p>'Bringing back' means they were here before being eradicated so all that is happening is a reversal of that eradication. Times may be different but trees still exist, waters still flow and other creatures not fully eradicated despite the best attempts of 'sporting' estates still inhabit the area. This simply rights a wrong.</p>
<p>Beavers are a major threat to mature trees which support well-established but fragile biodiverse communities of lichen abd invertebrates</p>
<p>Get on with it.</p>
<p>CNPA Dr Sarah Henschell just been in touch by email</p>
<p>Beavers should never have been driven out in the first place, lets help rebalance nature as it was intended. Beavers always belonged.</p>
<p>I think it's amazing!!! Well done to all those involved getting it this far! I really hope it happens</p>
<p>Hurry up</p>
<p>Keystone species, they will play an essential role in riparian health. As they do in Tayside</p>
<p>Absolutely shocked that the decision is being imposed by one individual ,namely Lorna Slater, making a complete fool of CNP and so called consultation</p>
<p>Who are/were beavers natural predators? If their predators are no longer present, how will numbers be controlled to maintain an ecological balance?</p>
<p>Looking forward to seeing beavers back in both Scottish national parks.</p>
<p>I wonder why it has taken so long.</p>
<p>Environmental land management like this translocation of beavers is essential to nature recovery and combating the breakdown of our life support systems ie our environment. We need to accelerate our relationship of working with nature and not against it.</p>
<p>I believe there could be an economic as well as the ecological benefit to the region</p>



<p>As with Sea Eagles, the NFU need to be re-educated as to what actual issues are that they may see as a negative, rather than blanket canvas their members to say 'no' en masse</p>
<p>I am a believer in the need to reintroduce species that restore the health of wild ecosystems, and am strongly supportive of this effort. As a tourist who has recently considered traveling to Cairngorms, this would make me significantly more likely to plan a visit!</p>
<p>Wholly support it - we need beavers to rewild our landscape and mitigate the impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Wish you luck</p>
<p>Will there be a management plan when populations increase above manageable levels? What will be done to guarantee migratory fish and eel routes are still viable?</p>
<p>I think it is our moral obligation to bring species back to where they historically lived. We need to learn to coexist with nature...we cannot survive without it.</p>
<p>Shouldn't need to debate it - just bring them back, they deserve to be here, they were probably here before us humans came and trashed everything, they have every right to be here and people should stop thinking of themselves as so superior, selfish and controlling and just let nature back.</p>
<p>Worried that wildlife plans (not exclusively beavers) are going to continue to squeeze out humans and detrimentally affect our ability to enjoy the area with our families. We're important, and need the freedom to roam, too. Sometimes, one could almost believe that schemes are devised to inexorably exclude humans - already happened at Loch Morlich..</p>
<p>I think it would a wonderful thing to have them back and would relish the opportunity to see them in the Cairngorms!</p>
<p>I fully support this initiative</p>
<p>Brilliant! Proven benefits.</p>
<p>a win, win for all</p>
<p>The damage they will do in the Nethy area will cause more flooding. Keep them away from here.</p>
<p>I think you are rushing into this. All the modelling in the world isn't the same as real life. Tay side is now overrun with beavers and quite a lot of damage. Perhaps wait and see. I would think a 10 year delay to see what happens in the other areas of Scotland. Then review again.</p>
<p>Nature needs to take "front seat" more often within the Cairngorms National park's management.</p>
<p>While consultation, an adaptive approach, and mitigation are important the positive benefits of beavers to both the climate and biodiversity crises should be the focus. Since</p>



<p>the loss of beavers in the UK there has not been many positive trends for species or ecosystems and the benefits of reintroduction are well recorded</p>
<p>Fantastic for the local habitat where correctly placed within the area.</p>
<p>Beaver hydrology engineers improve habitats fact</p>
<p>Canadian expat well aware of havoc they cause</p>
<p>Please do! There is too much attention paid to the rights of people (landowners) and not enough paid to the rights of animals to be there, creating their own perfect habitat</p>
<p>Fantastic to bring back native species to Scotland. Great to rebalance the ecology after centuries of harm from humans.</p>
<p>Happy that the park intends to bring beavers back to the park where they should be.</p>
<p>Just a visitor here from Ireland but fascinated with beavers and the positive impact they have on the environment. Having hiked the Cairngorms it would be extremely exciting to see their effect in a location like Derry Glen and how they could stimulate further regeneration.</p>
<p>Very positive, good for ecology and tourism.</p>
<p>Public consultation should have happened BEFORE the CNPA drew up plans to bring back beavers.</p>
<p>I have worked extensively on Tayside where beavers are now well established. They cause catastrophic damage to native broadleaf trees growing in the riparian areas. This is completely at odds with the goal of projects sug as Cairngorm connect which aims to establish wooded corridors along our water courses. It is unreasonable to shoot deer because they eat young trees but to then introduce another mammal which destroys mature trees.</p>
<p>They belong here and insh marshes should be restored to a properly functioning wetland</p>
<p>I'm worried they'll drink all the Whiskey ;-P</p>
<p>More broad leaf areas need to be developed, for future expanding populations. Supporting and encouraging estates to opt for diverse woodlands now will secure the future of Scotlands wildlife. I was/am very disheartened to see that RZSS has not been consulted given their successful work, being the trailblazer for beaver reintroduction in Scotland and being based in strathspey. It would of seemed to be the obvious partner to work with.</p>
<p>I am an arboricultural consultant, with a keen interest in flood-plain woodlands. I am fully supportive of the reintroduction of beaver into the Caingorms National Park.</p>
<p>Why has it taken this long? Can we have lynx next please?</p>
<p>I think that it's a brilliant opportunity for some natural ecological restoration in the CNP, and hope that other river catchments in the Park can see the return of the beaver sooner than later.</p>



I think this will be wonderful for the local area, both for our natural environment and through eco-tourism. It's also a very positive step forward for addressing issues of flooding and the climate crisis.

Beaver reintroductions have proven positive impacts elsewhere & it would be good to see those benefits take effect in the Cairngorms too.

Natural habitat regeneration is needed across Scotland and beavers are one part of this process. It should be accompanied by other land management that supports rewilding and nature.

Long overdue, so delighted it's close to being realised. It's an open goal opportunity to enhance flood mgmt measures, increase biodiversity and actively engage with landscape scale restoration.

I hope that the bid will be successful, and look forward to the benefits that beavers will bring to the area.

The Cairngorms National Park surrounds where I live to the West, North and East. We already have beavers in my local rivers - the Ardlie and the Tay. I am aware that some people have concerns around these animals, although it strikes me that the alleged concerns about their potential impacts on riparian woodland are rarely matched by equivalent concern about ash dieback which is doing infinitely more damage to riverside trees. Really, if we are serious about ecosystem restoration, the sooner we re-establish beavers across the CNP and can begin to benefit from the multiple benefits they offer, the better. The Spey would be a start. Indeed, their return to this catchment appears long overdue.

I think this is an excellent project which is being well managed, and has public consultation at the heart of the process.

Reintroducing beavers not only helps mitigate the risk of down-stream flooding, it helps meet UK biodiversity and climate commitments. This is the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration after all!

As a frequent visitor to Cairngorms National Park, I have noticed a drop in river levels over the years, which is concerning for the Salmon and Sea Trout migration along with non migratory river populations, and also the Whiskey industry. I believe reintroducing Beavers will help restore the natural balance and increase diversity to ensure a long and sustainable future environment.

I would be very pleased to see the release of beavers back into the Cairngorms National Park area, as they have been successfully in Knapdale and Devon. There are more positives in releasing Beavers than there are negatives, and the negative issues can be minimised with Education and with counter measures in place, as I saw on the video on the Bringing Beavers back to the Cairngorms video. We also can learn from the successful release of Beavers in Knapdale and in Devon and this should help reassure



landowners, the fishing industry etc , along with the consultation taking place. I think a general lack of knowledge in the public and private sector is mostly the reason for negative issues being raised which are exaggerated often or just not true (such as beavers eating fish, when they actually do not eat fish).

Beavers will be fantastic addition to the local wildlife

Man made climate change is the greatest scientific fraud in history. Even if it were true, only China & India could make any meaningful difference. So stop using climate cultist scares mongering to support the release of beavers, they will make zero difference to the climate.

So many benefits such as helping with flood management, regenerating riverbanks, benefits to other local wildlife.

I live in the Tay catchment area and have extensive experience of beavers in the waters in my area. They damage the riverbank, the trees around the watercourses, the crops in adjoining fields, and block the salmon ladder downriver from me. In a very benign situation with no predators they are multiplying at an alarming rate. They are costing landowners money time and resources with no recompense and their hands tied. They are Europe's largest rodent and will always migrate away from the rewilded area to the easier Arab,e areas. area to

It seems very rushed, some of the answers to how you will monitor post release have clearly not been thought through. I do however want to see beavers returned but I think more robust pre-release monitoring and research and what happens post release needs to be considered

I have real concerns that this project is not looking at a wide enough landscape scale or considering the critically endangered and internationally rare species that may be negatively impacted by the beaver introductions resulting in the loss of their habitat. We have a duty to care to these species. I also have concerns that the reintroduction is more about how it may benefit humans rather than how it may benefit beaver or wider biodiversity. I would like to see extensive monitoring done if these reintroductions go ahead so that their true impact is recorded.

I support anything that helps biodiversity and encourages nature to take care of the impacts of climate change.

I think it will be wonderful to have beavers in the Cairngorms, as I have seen what they can bring from visits to Canada and Sweden. Not only will it be lovely to see the animal, I'm excited about the potential hydrology, habitat and landscape benefits. One concern I have is how the introduction of beaver will be combined with managing deer and sheep numbers within the surrounding area so that any trees nibbled or felled can regenerate as part of a natural system (ie, not introduce fences so the habitat is unnatural and the beavers are essentially part of a 'wildlife park').



The benefits of beavers for nature, climate and people are well documented. With a shortage of receptor sites and ongoing delays in rolling out the expansion of beavers to avoid unnecessary further culling, this reintroduction takes on extra significance. Embarrassingly, Scotland lags behind many European countries in its ambition to counter the biodiversity crisis - returning beavers to the Cairngorms is a crucial and symbolic step to address this.

Concern about beavers burrowing into the railway line and disrupting rail services otherwise fully supportive of their release into Badenoch

I am very excited about this project, it has been a long time coming and very much needed. The Strath is a great location for this. It will be great to see beavers in the area, one step closer to rewinding Scotland. The positive impact they will have on biodiversity within the area will be extraordinary. It will be great to see more wetland areas develop, creating more suitable habitat for many declining wetland species, helping increase flood prevention, and reduce carbon loss. I feel the RSPB have been a huge support throughout this process for many people within the community. Holding public drop in sessions are a great way to speak openly about issues and concerns. They have reassured me about concerns I had. So thank you for their support.

I really appreciate the steps being taken to gather community feedback and educate the community about the project.

I believe it is an excellent idea which will enhance wildlife diversity and encourage wildlife to flourish

Sounds like a brilliant plan, environmentally and by bringing more tourists.

Very encouraging

Nature is in crisis and we need more of this kind of work!

I think it is great and that if there are problems, they will be resolved and a lot of learning would happen. It is great to see how biodiversity could change and improve.

The project is really exciting and something I feel will bring a lot of benefit to local wildlife, people and tourism for the area

Glad to see the benefits are recognised and outweigh the concerns of local land managers. But they need more support, advice and need to be heard to create a positive image around the beavers

Wonderful to see beavers returning to a landscape that has been bereft of their presence for far too long. I look forward to seeing them return to all suitable catchments throughout the national park.

I think is just another of the CNPA's money making scams to get money to support more non jobs. Stop fiddling about with nature and let the funds be used to feed and support those in need.



I'm really pleased to hear that Beavers could be brought back to the Park. Beavers are great for re-wetting and retaining water in the uplands, thus slowing the release of water which will have a positive impact on flood management. It has been shown that all sorts of creatures benefit from the changes that Beavers make and this is crucial in the current biodiversity crisis.

I am 100% supportive of the proposal to reintroduce a species that should be resident here.

Fantastic project.

My comments are based on my views and observation of areas where beavers already are in Scotland. I find it hard to see the benefits when all I have seen is swathes of trees chopped down by beavers, and existing engineered paths (NCN) impacted by nearby beaver building. All I've seen is large scale destruction. However, I will try and attend one of your events to find out more about the benefits.

It is a great idea and if this is delivered as proposed then it will become an exemplar of best practice of beaver management, that can become the model for future beaver management in Scotland.

As a visitor and keen walker to the National Park and Spey Catchment area I wholeheartedly support the re-introduction of beaver to the area. I think their benefits as ecosystem engineers far outweigh any localised negative impacts, which I believe can be mitigated through proper monitoring and management and working with local landowners and partners. I think we need as many innovative solutions to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises and beavers should very much be part of that solution.

Would be lovely to restore natural habitats

I think they will be amazing for biodiversity and as a tourist attraction

I am supportive of the release but concerned that there might not be a "plan b", if there conflicts with other stakeholders. I have quite a lot of experience with beaver, in Europe and Scandinavia and I'm keen to watch the progress of the release.

Welcome the plans, huge potential to restore biodiversity and help mitigate climate impacts. Great opportunities for eco tourism too! Glad to see the National Park and supporting landowners. Look forward to attending a Blether.