

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Cutest baby boom is technically illegal

This is an edited version of a story from
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Many wildlife charities are calling for beavers to be released into rivers across England and Wales in the wake of a baby beaver boom.

The Wildlife Trusts, a group of nature charities, says that reintroducing the beaver could bring huge benefits to nature but governments are delaying plans to reintroduce them into the wild.

They want the governments in England and Wales to publish plans for returning beavers to their natural habitats and for wild populations to be allowed to stay.

This summer has seen an increase in sightings of baby beavers. Baby beavers, which are known as kits, have been seen swimming on rivers and there have been births at nature reserves.

Rob Stoneman, from the Wildlife Trusts, says that scientific studies have shown that beavers could improve water quality, reduce flooding, and help other wildlife. He said that "nature needs beavers".

Beavers cannot currently be legally released into the wild, except in Scotland. Beavers disappeared from Britain about 400 years ago, after being hunted to extinction for their meat and fur.



© Derek Otway/Unsplash

But in the past few decades, they have sprung up in fenced enclosures on nature reserves or been found living in rivers because of illegal releases and escapes.

There are thought to be hundreds of wild beavers living "illegally" in English rivers and more than 1,000 in Scotland.

This summer, beavers were born in enclosures from London to Northumberland, and on rivers in Kent and the Highlands.

The government has not announced a plan for reintroducing beavers.

A Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs official said: "We will continue to work with Natural England to develop our approach to beaver reintroductions in England."

But some farmers oppose reintroductions, because wild beavers can damage crops and cause flooding.

Pete Burgess, from the Devon Wildlife Trust, said that successful reintroductions required a process "to support communities to live alongside beavers".

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Beavers live in the dams that they build.



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CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

WHAT
is a kit?

ANSWER:
A baby
beaver

WHO
supports
bringing
beavers back?

ANSWER:
Wildlife
charities and
scientists

WHERE
have beavers
been seen this
summer?

ANSWER:
Rivers and
nature
reserves

WHEN
did beavers
disappear
from Britain?

ANSWER:
Hundreds of
years ago

WHY
do some farmers
not support
bringing beavers
back?

ANSWER:
Beavers could
damage their
plants

HOW
could beavers
help nature?

ANSWER:
It would
benefit
nature

