



# Beaver

*Castor fiber*

## Quick facts

**Order** Rodentia

## Conservation status

GB *Endangered*

RE CE **E** V NT LC DD

England *Critically endangered*

Scotland *Endangered*

Wales *N/A*

Global *Least concern*

**GB trend** *Increasing*

**Size** body 74 - 90 cm; tail 28.5 - 38 cm; hindfeet 16 - 18 cm

**Weight** 12.5 - 38 kg

**Life span** average 7 - 8 years, maximum 25 years



**Mammal SOCIETY**

The Eurasian beaver is a large, robust rodent with a flattened, scale-covered tail and webbed hindfeet. The incisors are covered in orange enamel. It is larger than the coypu and the muskrat, and differs due to the shape of the tail.

### Habitat

Woodland, slow moving river valley bottoms, floodplains.

### Behaviour

Prefers to use natural holes for shelter or burrows into bank, but will construct lodge from wood and soil. Lives in small family groups consisting of monogamous adult pair, the current year's young, and sometimes the young of the previous year.

### Diet & Feeding

Rhizomes, pond weeds, grasses, water lilies, ferns, leaves in summer. Bark from aspen, willow, poplar, alder in winter. Caches food near lodge in winter in harsh environments.

### Reproduction

Breeds between December - April with 1 - 6 young born between May and June. Sexual maturity reached at 2 years, unlikely to breed successfully before 3 years of age.

### Conservation & Threats

Once extirpated from Great Britain, there have been reintroductions in areas including Scotland, Devon, Cornwall, Kent. Both the population size and range of the beaver is currently increasing. Current threats include persecution due to tensions with people, as beavers can drastically alter rivers, causing flooding which can be damaging to land and crops.

## Range

