What's happening on Nairn Beach?

A coastal sand study, Summer 2026

Why are we doing this?

Nairn's beach and dunes help protect the town, but erosion has lowered beach levels and weakened the dunes. The Highland Council is exploring 'beach recharge', adding sand to strengthen the beach and its defences. To plan this well, we first need to understand how sand naturally moves along this coast and that is what this summer's study will show.

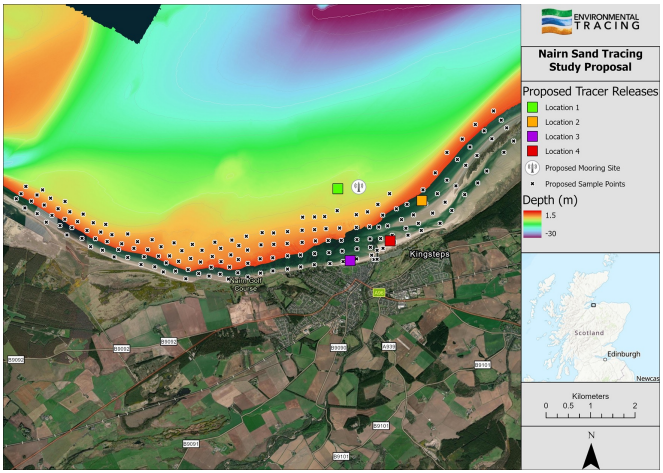
What we're doing

Coloured sand tracer — we place small amounts of specially coloured — and completely safe — sand, then track where it travels.

A seabed sensor — a sensor in a low-profile frame on the seabed measures waves and currents for about 30–45 days.

Sand sampling — we collect small sand samples from the beach and just offshore for anaylsis.

Where — and what you'll see



Study area, sensor site and the four tracer release spots.

You might see:

A small workboat just offshore

Teams on the beach, mostly around low tide

Survey poles and GPS equipment

Temporary patches of coloured sand

Everything is safe and temporary. Please don't disturb any equipment, buoys or markers you see, thank you!