



Beaver Update

December 2025

Jonathan Willet (22 December 2025)

Beaver Population Summary

Year 1 releases – 18. Year 2 releases – 15. Year 3 releases – 5.

2024 wild-born kits – 2 (from 2 families). 2025 wild-born kits – 18 (from 8 families).

Total of 58 (including 1 beaver outwith the National Park boundary).

Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. Lots of recent felling of birch trees around the loch building a large food cache in front of the lodge. The lodge is now 6m long, 5, wide and 2m high at the water level.
- Wildland 1: The Aspen felling in this area has ceased this month, the felled trees continue to be bark stripped.
- Wildland 1: The dam on the loch's outflow burn has remained intact and has not been added to since it was first constructed in September 2025. Normal winter water levels have been maintained, with a fluctuation of around 30cm depending on rainfall. The loch continues to drain.
- Wildland 2: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Insh Marshes. Beavers still active on the site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Wildland 3: A family of 5 beavers have been released on this site and are settling in.
- Wildland 4: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Inshriach: Beavers are still active on the site.
- Loch Morlich: Beavers are still active on the site, with extensive felling of willows on the yellow trail, beside Abhainn Ruighe Eunachan (inflow to Loch Morlich).
- Aviemore area: Fresh feeding signs found on a willow tree at the confluence of the Milton Burn (Rothiemurchus) and the Spey. This is close to where a beaver was seen during the canoe survey in August.
- Kingussie Grazings: A beaver is still active on this site.



Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver. New burrow and food cache on the site.
- Garmouth beaver. No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge. Fresh feeding signs recorded on each weekly visit this month. No permission for camera trapping has been received from the landowners yet. However, the amount of feeding seen on site points to a single beaver being present.
- Boat of Garten. A beaver burrow has been found on the Spey. The landowner has been informed and weekly monitoring has commenced. A camera trap has been set up.

Monitoring and Mitigation Plan Actions

- Monthly patrols of release sites undertaken.
- Weekly patrols of high impact areas have been undertaken.
- Beaver dam removal site. No recent activity. Livestream camera installed at the land managers request after a site visit on the 16 December.
- Wildland 1. All the trees on this site have been wrapped.
- Rothiemurchus. The two Aspen trees have been wrapped, all tree protection installed in 2023/24 was checked and is intact.
- 3 December. Monitoring and Mitigation Group Meeting.
- 4 and 5 December. Pilot Licencing Dam Removal Training delivered by NatureScot to Park Authority staff.

Raising Awareness and Understanding

10 December. Attending a Q&A session at the Scottish Parliament after a showing of Balancing the Scales Film. Hosted by Arianne Burgess MSP, the Beaver species champion. 20 attendees.

N.B. *If beavers are found in an area where the landowner was not previously aware of their presence, the Park Authority will contact that landowner. The Park Authority does not routinely contact landowners with general updates; this monthly update does that. There are WhatsApp Groups for landowners around releases sites and also in any high impact areas, which have beavers present e.g. Laggan.*