



## Beaver Update

### November 2025

Jonathan Willet (28 November 2025)

#### Beaver Population Summary

Year 1 releases – 18. Year 2 releases – 15

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

Total of 53 (including 1 beaver outwith the Park boundary)

#### Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. Felling of birch trees around the loch, the lodge is increasing in size.
- Wildland 1: Aspen have been felled, around 10% of the total number of trees in this area (n=117) and a further 10% are being fed on. At the nearby loch, 3 mature trees have been felled and 2 are being fed on, there are approx 10 mature Aspen in this area.
- 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: No change on site.
- Insh Marshes. Beavers still active on the site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Wildland 3: No change on site, no sign of a lodge or burrow.
- Wildland 4: Second burrow found, with food cache.
- Inshriach. Beavers are still active on the site.
- Loch Morlich. Beavers are still active on the site, very obvious felling of willows on the yellow trail, beside Abhainn Ruighe Eunachan (inflow to Loch Morlich).
- Aviemore. No fresh feeding signs seen.
- Kingussie Grazings. A beaver was seen on camera on a few occasions earlier in the month.



## Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver. It has have moved back onto this site after the water levels have increased. It is now one and a half years old, so it isn't a kit any longer.
- Garmouth beaver. No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge. Fresh feeding signs recorded on each weekly visit this month.

## 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.
- 5/11/25. At the Lichen and Aspen Group meeting, it was agreed that at Wildland 1, 13 Aspen trees were to be marked for protection with weldmesh. So far 12 have been "wrapped", 5 more mature trees have been wrapped beside the loch.
- Two, mature Aspen trees are to be wrapped at Rothiemurchus, the beavers have felled two, 50cm diameter Aspen close to the river and several smaller diameter ones.
- 5/11/25. Site visit to a croft near Insh.

## Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 25/11/25. 15 students, 1 teacher from Speyside High School High School. Walk along the Beaver Trail, talk about beaver ecology and impacts.
- 26/11/25. 12 students from the SRUC Wildlife and Conservation Management course. 4th Year Students.

**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.