



## Beaver Update

### August 2026

Pete Short and Jonathan Willet (09 September 2026)

#### Beaver Population Summary

Year 1 releases – 18

Year 2 releases – 15

Year 3 releases – 7

Total = 40

2024 wild-born kits – 2 (from 2 families)

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

2026 wild-born kits – 12 (from 7 families)

Total = 32

**Total of 72 (including, possibly, 2 beavers outwith the National Park boundary – Fochabers/ Spey Mouth).**

#### Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. No kits seen during the kit watch period. Annual landscape assessment completed (year 3). Scattered feeding signs upstream of Aviemore along the Spey.
- Kinrara 1: Beavers are still active on this site. The existing beaver dam has been added to, raising Loch Alvie's level, the site is being closely monitored and the landowners kept informed.
- Kinrara 2: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 3: No beavers seen on site this month.
- Kinrara 4: Limited activity on site. A low (4m by 30cm) dam has been built on the outflow of the Bogach and beaver grazing was seen in the wet meadow by the outflow.



- Glen Tromie: Fresh feeding activity upstream from the release site on the Tromie, almost all Rowan trees.
- Insh Marshes: Beavers still active on site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Inshriach: Beavers are still active on the site. Two, well-grown kits seen in August, along with two adults and two yearlings.
- Loch Morlich 1: Beavers are still active on the site. One kit confirmed. All the beavers (two adults, two yearlings and the kit) showing regularly in August, multiple reports.
- Loch Morlich 2: Beavers not seen this month.
- Aviemore area: No reported activity this month. This area will be surveyed on land and by canoe in September.
- Kingussie Grazings: Very little fresh feeding activity, but runs are being used regularly and fresh scent mounds located.

### **Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore**

- Garmouth beaver: One report of two beavers in Fochabers/ Spey Mouth area – still to be confirmed.
- Single beaver seen in the Spey at Cragganmore at the end of August.
- Laggan Bridge: Limited feeding signs seen along the Spey.
- Boat of Garten: No activity seen this month, but three scent mounds were found close to the burrow.
- Grantown between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery: Fresh activity found.
- River Nethy (below the Telford bridge): Single beaver seen on camera. Scent mound, grazing and browsing signs found. Activity in the Spey, close to Broomhill bridge, seen by fishermen. Scent mound and feeding signs found there too.

### **Monitoring and Mitigation Plan Actions**

- Monthly patrols of release sites undertaken.
- Historic beaver dam removal site. No activity.
- One complete dam built on the inflow river to Loch Morlich (10m long and 45cm high) and two other attempts at damming in the area – ongoing bi-weekly monitoring taking place in communication with partner organisations and the landowner.
- Weekly site visits to the Kinrara dam, monitoring the water levels on Loch Alvie.



## Raising Awareness and Understanding

- Day out with local filmmakers to produce a series of educational short films about beavers

**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.*