



Beaver Update

January 2026

Jonathan Willet (30 January 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. Activity reduced due to the lochan freezing, open water beside the lodge had been created by the beavers accessing their food cache.
- Wildland 1: Some small diameter Aspen have been felled, the larger felled trees continue to be bark stripped, in the “warmer” weather.
- 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. Water depth gauges will be installed either side of the dam in late March.
- 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. Due to the cold weather after the release, feeding at the camera traps will continue to mid-February.
- 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: No new feeding signs reported.
- Kingussie Grazings: A beaver is still active on this site.



Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver. The site is now used intermittently.
- Garmouth beaver. No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge. The location of feeding signs and the activity of this beaver has remained constant, so site visits will move to a monthly frequency. If the situation there changes then we will review the frequency of visits.
- Boat of Garten. A single beaver is occupying a burrow there. The location of feeding signs and the activity of this beaver has remained constant, so monitoring will move to monthly visits.
- Grantown. Between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery. First feeding signs reported on the 29 December. Feeding signs found from the bridge to The Cairn
- Distillery on the Achnagonalin side of the river. No permanent burrow or lodge found yet, weekly surveying continues. The landowners/ managers have been informed.

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.

Raising Awareness and Understanding

15 January. Attended C2030 Community drop-in event at Boat of Garten Hall. We spoke to 15 people about beavers.

20 January. Met with Simon Crozier, Head Ghillie at Castle Grant, at Boat of Garten to discuss beaver field signs and beavers and Salmon fisheries.

21 January. Attended an Aspen Bristle Moss translocation meeting, looking at suitable sites for the translocation of this moss from a fallen bough to a new site on the estate. Beaver and Aspen were discussed.

21 January. JW gave an online beaver talk to 28 Park Authority Volunteer Rangers.

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.