



## Beaver Update

### March 2026

Pete Short and Jonathan Willet (25 March 2026)

#### Beaver Population Summary

Year 1 releases – 18. Year 2 releases – 15. Year 3 releases – 7.

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

Total of 60 (including 1 beaver outwith the National Park boundary).

#### Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. Some nighttime activity recorded on the camera, but very limited. No beaver seen on a beaver watch on the 18 March.
- Kinrara 1: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 2: New material on the lodge food cache, but beavers are regularly feeding on nearby riparian woodland.
- Kinrara 3: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 4: Limited activity on site, but a dense area of scent mounding was found upstream on the Spey, close to the downstream extent of the Inshriach beaver territory, indicating a territory boundary. Further site investigation required.
- Glen Tromie: Beavers are still active on this site, fresh feeding activity recorded.
- Insh Marshes. Beavers still active on the site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Inshriach: Beavers are still active on the site.
- Loch Morlich 1: Beavers are still active on the site, with extensive felling of willows and a few birches on the yellow trail, beside Abhainn Ruighe Eunachan (inflow to Loch Morlich). Main site of activity is this month is the meeting point of this river with Loch Morlich.
- Loch Morlich 2: Two beavers released on the 19 March, both coming to the feeding piles/ camera.
- Aviemore area: New feeding signs along the Spey above and below the Old Bridge Inn seen/reported this month. Further survey planned in April.



- Kingussie Grazings: A beaver is still active on this site, fresh feeding signs recorded. Multiple burrows found on a small island in the Spey.

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

- Cromdale beaver. The site is still used with fresh feeding signs, trails and a food cache recorded this month, although it is suspected to be using other nearby sites too.
- Garmouth beaver. No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge. Fresh feeding signs seen and a suspected beaver heard submerging.
- Boat of Garten. A single beaver is occupying a burrow there. Small amounts of fresh feeding signs present, beaver is regular on the trail camera.
- Grantown. Between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery. Site visits this month have included both sides of the river. Burrow location is unknown, but there does not seem to be enough feeding signs to indicate a resident beaver.

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

- Monthly patrols of release sites undertaken.
- Weekly patrols of high impact areas have been undertaken.
- Beaver dam removal site. Single beaver seen on camera this month.
- [Cairngorms National Park | River Spey beaver report 2025](#) this was published on the website on the 23 March.

### **Raising Awareness and Understanding**

- 2 March. Site visit to Delbog to meet the new owners.
- 4 March. Site visit to Spey Bridge woods (Achnagonalin) to look at ancient Aspen Trees.
- 6 March. Spey Sediment management & Transfer meeting
- 10 March. Beaver Talk for “Not the Rural”, Kingussie. 19 in attendance.
- 12 March. Beaver Walk for Kingussie High Junior Rangers. 18 in attendance.
- 12 March. Beaver watch with two local Primary 7's. 4 in attendance.
- 18 March. Highland Council Ecologist - Beaver Training. 7 in attendance.
- 20 March. Monitoring and Mitigation meetings. Cancelled.
- 24 March. UDC Site visit to Glenmore. 15 students and Lecturers.
- 25 March. Cairngorm Beaver Group meeting.



**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.*