



## Beaver Update

### May 2026

Pete Short and Jonathan Willet (01 June 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).

2026 wild-born kits – 1\* (from 1 family)

Total of 61 (including possibly 2 beavers outwith the National Park boundary).

\*running total, population monitoring is underway in June/July to confirm 2026 breeding

#### Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. No fresh felling. Plenty of coppice regeneration. Fire site 200 metres north of the loch.
- Kinrara 1: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 2: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 3: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 4: Limited activity on site.
- Glen Tromie: Some fresh feeding found, lots of birch coppicing.
- Insh Marshes: Beavers still active on site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Inshriach: Beavers are still active on the site. Vigorous coppicing/regrowth, particularly of White Poplar. This is the only site where some Hazel has been felled.
- Loch Morlich 1: Beavers are still active on the site. Two reports of a kit this month from a local. A tiny kit was seen in the mouth of an adult both times. It was being retrieved after being a bit too adventurous! Kits tend to be kept in the burrow for a month after being born, until they are big enough to dive.
- Loch Morlich 2: Beavers not seen this month.
- Aviemore area: Camera to be deployed in June – area relatively inaccessible.
- Kingussie Grazings: Very fresh felled sycamore found – no other fresh activity.



## Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver: Canoeing instructor reported fresh feeding signs in the area.
- Garmouth beaver: One report of two beavers at Garmouth – yet to be confirmed.
- Laggan Bridge: Fresh feeding on Scots Pine (sap licking) found.
- Boat of Garten: No recent activity. Beaver not seen on the trail cam this month.
- Grantown between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery: Fresh scent mounding found 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. Surveyed area in May. One beaver video on a camera trap reported in the last two months.
- Wrapped two veteran aspen trees with weld mesh at Boat of Garten.
- Monitoring and Mitigation meeting, 24 June.

## Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 20 & 21 May. Beavers Across Britain conference in Newcastle – delivered presentations and workshops, and engaged at a display stand. All four of the Beaver Team were in attendance.
- Beaver and Aspen Group meeting, 10 June.
- Cairngorms Beaver Group meeting, 23 June.

***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.*