



Beaver Update

March 2025

Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lily Loch): Lodge appears to be potentially expanding lodge. Beaver seen 12 March mud packing and adding to lodge. Some active feeding signs on the east bay
- Wildland 1: The camera on the lodge not been picking up any beaver on camera. However, beavers have been consistently present on the camera at a wind-blown Aspen.
- Wildland 2: Lodge is very high (2.5 metres!) and inaccessible from land. Active feeding signs throughout the “cutting yard” area in addition to felling activity on the loch. Lots of distinct beaver canals
- Insh Marshes. Two lodges on the reserve and one just outside the reserve have been identified and continue to be used
- Wildland 3: There has been bark feeding on the human felled tree at the first feeding station, also a fresh scent mound. The last beaver activity recorded camera was on 25 Feb
- Wildland 4: No significant changes to main lodge, although the potentially “practice lodge” has a huge increase in the number of sticks in the water in front of it. The dam on the outflow has had more material added, mostly earth, so the depth of water on the loch side has increased. Land managers have reported further beaver signs away from the release site
- Inshriach. The beavers have been exploring on the Spey and feeding on willows there. Activity is focused on a (sometimes) island on the Spey. Fresh feeding signs present and beaver faeces on the island point. A bank lodge was identified, and landowner is aware of location. One of the cameras placed on an actively being felled tree is consistently picking up beavers on video
- Loch Morlich: Activity focused on the Abhainn Ruigh Eunachan (inflow), with feeding signs from road bridge to point. Scent mound also identified near the foot bridge. The camera trap on the river is infrequently picking up beavers
- Aviemore: No recent activity recorded
- Kingussie Grazings: Beavers not seen on camera since 25.02.2025 when water levels were significantly higher. Overall activity has been limited, but there are the occasional fresher signs of some bark gnawing, snedding and tracks. The site owner found another beaver burrow on his land, this has partially collapsed and a licence to fill in the collapsed portion will be applied for by the Park Authority on behalf of the landowner. Weekly visits are continuing



Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- A single, small, partially gnawed Rowan was found downstream of the A95 bridge over the Dulnain. No other feeding signs seen nearby. It is suspected that the gnawing was by the Fochabers beaver on its journey downstream
- Cromdale beaver kit. Still present on site
- Fochabers beaver. A beaver feeding signs were found on the 2 March on a backwater of the Spey near Fochabers. Park Authority staff visited on the 3 March and the site is being monitored. Camera footage of the beaver's tail indicates that it is an adult beaver. Only one beaver has been seen on camera

Monitoring and Mitigation Plan Actions

- Weekly patrols of release sites and potential high impact areas have been undertaken
- At beaver dam removal site. No activity recorded on camera since the 25 February

Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 29 March. NESBReC Recorders Forum. Bringing Beaver back to the Park talk. 100 attending
- 27 March. Beaver Ranger accompanying Kingussie High Junior Ranger canoe day.