



Beaver Update

April 2025

Jonathan Willet (01 May 2025)

Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lily Loch): Two beavers seen on the 14 and three beavers seen on the 24 April during evening watches
- Wildland 1: The beavers have moved on to a tall, 50cm diameter Aspen tree, about 6cm of wood on one side has been removed in two weeks
- Wildland 2: No change on the site, the cut willow is starting to sprout new shoots
- Insh Marshes. No change on site, one dam on site raising water levels by around 60cm
- Wildland 3: No change on site, still no sign of a lodge or burrow
- Wildland 4: Still plenty of activity on the site
- Inshriach. No change on the site, the beavers are felling and feeding on White Poplar.
- Loch Morlich: No change on site. A beaver was spotted in the morning of the 30 April, on Loch Morlich, close to the release site
- Aviemore: No recent activity recorded
- Kingussie Grazings: No fresh beaver signs, one or two videos of a beaver. Awaiting approval for a licence to fill in the collapsed, unoccupied burrow there

Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver kit. Still present on site
- Fochabers beaver. The site was visited on the 17 April, the beaver was still active on the site
- Laggan Bridge. Feedings signs close to Laggan Bridge and the Laggan Kirk were reported to us on the 28 April, the site was visited on the 30 April. Feeding signs more than 3 months old were found on willow and Black Poplar, a few feeding signs about a month old were also found. The older signs indicate the beaver was there a week or two and the more recent signs a day or two. There was no evidence to indicate a beaver is resident. It is likely that this beaver is the one that has been in the Kingussie area and travelled up to the Spey Dam a year ago. A canoe survey of the Spey from the Spey Dam downstream will begin at the end of May

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 activity recorded
- 4 rolls of weldmesh delivered to Kingussie Grazings to protect a new orchard that is being planted there

Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 2 April. Site visit to the Lily Loch and training for the new Rothiemurchus Rangers. 6
- 9 April. Delivered SCRA Grampian Beaver Training Event. 12
- 10 April. Site visit by Sheffield University to Inshriach. 50
- 16 April. Mammal Society Species Reintroduction Q&A - online event. 60
- 23 April. Site visit to beaver release sites with Spey Catchment Initiative staff. 4
- 24 April. FLS North Region Silvicultural Group site visit to Loch Morlich. 14

Other News

- Pete Short, the new Beaver Project Officer, started at the beginning of this month. He will be helping with site visits, drone surveying and most things to do with the Beaver Project