



Beaver Update

May 2025

Jonathan Willet (2 June 2025)

Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lily Loch): Single beaver seen on the 23 May. Kit watches starting in mid-June
- Wildland 1: Single beaver regularly seen on a camera at the lodge. Lodge being added to. Aspen continuing to be gnawed, it will likely hang-up in the adjacent trees when felled, providing good habitat for Aspen Hoverfly
- Wildland 2: Two adult beavers seen on three visits this month, possibly also a 1 year-old seen. Recent lodge adding-to activity
- Insh Marshes. No change on site. One pair with a territory just outside the reserve have a lodge and were seen taking leafy branches into it on the 15 May. It is highly likely this was to feed kit(s)
- Wildland 3: No change on site, still no sign of a lodge or burrow
- Wildland 4: Plenty of activity on the site, feedings signs showing exploration 6km from the release site. This is normal behaviour
- Inshriach: No change on the site. Beaver seen on the 8 May pulling leafy branches through the water to the burrow. It is highly likely this was to feed kit(s)
- Loch Morlich: No change on site. A beaver was spotted in the morning of the 21 May and evening of 27 May, on Loch Morlich, close to the release site. A beaver was seen grazing on a bank of the inflow river to Loch Morlich at 8.45pm on the 31 May
- Aviemore: No recent activity recorded
- Kingussie Grazings: Licence to fill in the burrow granted. Burrow filled in by the owner on the 27 May

Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver kit. Still present on site
- Fochabers beaver. The site was visited on the 29 May, there are still signs of very recent beaver activity
- Spey Dam. Feedings signs close to the dam spotted during scrub clearance in March. The feeding signs correspond with the estimated age of the signs found at Laggan at the end of last 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. No activity recorded
- Kingussie Grazings orchard fence completed using the weldmesh supplied by the Park Authority
- The canoe survey of the Spey from the Spey Dam downstream was postponed due to the very low water levels. It has been rescheduled for the end of June and July
- All release sites, outwith RSPB Insh Marshes, are having weekly kit watches over this month undertaken by the Beaver Project Manager or Officer and some volunteers

Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 5 May. Beaver update for RZSS Staff. 18
- 14 May. Beaver introductory talk to new intake of Park Authority Volunteer Rangers. 29
- 15 May. Cairngorms Connect, skill sharing event at Kinrara. 20
- 30 May. Site visit to Spey Dam with Jahama Estates, Jonathan Hart. 3

Meetings

- 28 May. Monitoring and Mitigation Group meeting to discuss flood embankment high impact criteria