



Beaver Update

April 2026

Pete Short and Jonathan Willet (30 April 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.
- Kinrara 1: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Kinrara 2: 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 conducted on the canoe survey.
- Glen Tromie: Beavers are still active on the main site, fresh feeding activity recorded, along with fresh material on the food cache of main lodge and fresh material on the secondary burrow. Investigated feeding sign from nearby River Tromie, lots of winter feeding signs found.
- 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.
- 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). Some of these beavers are visiting the carrot piles at the 2026 release site.
- Loch Morlich 2: Two beavers released on the 19 March, both coming to the feeding piles/ camera.
- Aviemore area: Canoe survey undertaken this month. Burrow and scent mounds found on an island, likely to be a new territory.



- Kingussie Grazings: A beaver is still active on this site, fresh feeding signs recorded. Vigorous willow & sycamore coppicing.

Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver: No fresh beaver activity at this site this month. Likely the beaver has headed onto the main stem of the Spey.
- Garmouth beaver: No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge: New burrow found due to low water levels. Likely to be inactive currently. Not much fresh activity.
- Boat of Garten: A single beaver is occupying a burrow there. Small amounts of fresh feeding signs present. Scattered, fresh feeding signs seen on willow from Boat to Broomhill Bridge.
- Grantown between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery: Burrow and fresh scent mounds found on an island during canoe survey. Fresh feeding sign nearby, indicating a beaver is active in the area.
- Tulloch: Reports of beaver sign here but confirmed on a site visit this was human activity.

Monitoring and Mitigation Plan Actions

- Monthly patrols of release sites undertaken.
- Weekly patrols of high impact areas have been undertaken (not currently active)
- Canoe survey of the Spey around Aviemore, Grantown and undertaken,
- Beaver dam removal site. Surveyed area again in April. No activity seen since single beaver seen on camera in March

Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 24 March. Meeting and site visits with Network Rail to start dialogue about the railway and beavers.
- 28/29 March. IUCN Conflict Resolution course for Beaver Team & other partners.
- 30 March. Sheffield Hallam University Geography group visit to Glenmore beaver site. 53 students.
- 30 March. Grantown Grammar School Junior Rangers canoe trip on the Spey. 15 pupils.



***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.*