



Beaver Update

February 2026

Pete Short and Jonathan Willet (4 March 2026)

Beaver Population Summary

Year 1 releases – 18. Year 2 releases – 15. Year 3 releases – 5.

2024 wild-born kits – 2 (from 2 families). 2025 wild-born kits – 18 (from 8 families).

Total of 58 (including 1 beaver outwith the National Park boundary).

Activity

- Rothiemurchus (Lochan Mor/ Lily Loch): Beavers still active on the site. Tree with goldeneye box on reported to be fed on by a beaver – 3 boxes on trees located at site on a monthly site check, but none of these had been browsed by beaver. Passed on information to Strathspey Goldeneye Study group. Some nighttime activity recorded on the camera, but very limited. No beaver seen on a beaver watch on the 1 March.
- Wildland 1: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Wildland 2: New material on the lodge food cache, but beavers are regularly feeding on nearby riparian woodland.
- Wildland 3: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Wildland 4: A family of 5 beavers have been released on this site and are settling in. Beavers are regularly visiting the brush piles with live stream cameras are placed this month.
- Wildland 5: Beavers are still active on this site.
- Insh Marshes. Beavers still active on the site and have explored nearly all of the reserve.
- Inshriach: Beavers are still active on the site.
- Loch Morlich: 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). Main site of activity is this month is the meeting point of this river with Loch Morlich.
- Aviemore area: New feeding signs along the Spey above and below the Old Bridge Inn seen/reported this month



- Kingussie Grazings: A beaver is still active on this site.

Sites outwith Kingussie to Aviemore

- Cromdale beaver. The site is still used with fresh feeding signs this month, although it is suspected to be using other nearby sites too.
- Garmouth beaver. No new reports.
- Laggan Bridge. Reduced feeding activity this month at this site, although some fresh sign. Assumed that this beaver has a burrow in the Spey.
- Boat of Garten. A single beaver is occupying a burrow there. Small amounts of fresh feeding signs present, beaver is regular on the trail camera.
- Grantown. Between the A95 bridge and the Cairn Distillery. Site visits this month have included both sides of the river. Burrow location is unknown, but there does not seem to be enough feeding signs to indicate a resident beaver.

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 recent activity on livestream camera.
- Balliefurth – callout to check a recently planted riparian planting scheme. No beaver feeding signs seen on planted trees, although 2 nearby locations had 2-3month old beaver feeding signs present. After consulting forestry colleagues, advice offered on fencing and hare management.
- Tullochgribben - as requested by land manager. No beaver activity (current or historic) seen on the 3km of the Dulnain surveyed there

Raising Awareness and Understanding

- 2 February. Joined by a German ranger, who has worked with beavers, on monthly site visits
- 4 February. Site walk with Cairn distillery staff member, showing local beaver field signs.
- 25 February. Met with a GIS/beaver ecology graduate working in Wales. Morning spent out at two beaver sites along the Spey, she spent 2 hours in the afternoon with Andy Smith on GIS/record mapping.



- 26 February. Met with a local wildlife guide who takes clients to see beavers in the Glenmore area. Discussed general beaver ecology, ethical beaver watching/disturbance, and beaver activity at this site.
- 27 February FLS Site visits with Ross Watson FLS, North Region Environment Advisor and Prof Jill Robbie Chair of the Scottish Beaver Advisory Group.

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.*