



Beaver Trail

Stroll through the ancient forest and keep your eyes peeled for signs of reintroduced beavers in the wetland areas. About halfway around the circuit, a small diversion will take you to the shores of Loch an Eilein.

A variety of paths, mostly wide with a smooth firm surface, with around a third of the route on single track road. One short, rough section can sometimes be muddy. The route is undulating with some short and longer moderate slopes.

7km | 4.35 miles | Allow 2 - 2.5 hrs



The Gaelic for beaver is *dòbhran leas-leathann*, meaning 'broad-tailed otter'



Beaver Photos © Beaver Trust

Recent arrivals

Beavers were released here in 2023 as part of Scotland's Beaver Strategy. Learn more as you go round the trail.

Busy beavers

Beavers are most active at dusk and dawn. During the day you can look out for signs of beaver life, such as pencil-shaped tree stumps, flakes of beaver 'chips' and pawprints.

A living landscape

You might see goldeneye duck on the water, red squirrels in the majestic pines overhead, roe deer at the forest edge and, during spring, frogs and toads everywhere!

The Grey Mountains ①

Looking west from the Croft Track, the distant hills form part of the Monadhliath (mon-ah-lee-ah) mountain range. This Gaelic name means 'Grey Mountain' after the colour of the primary rock type.

Beavers are a keystone species because they have such an important role to play in their environment, influencing lots of other plants and animals that can survive in an area. They do this by building and changing the landscape where they live, which is why they are also called ecosystem engineers.

They build water channels, create pools, fell trees and even dam small streams. All of these activities create a wide variety of habitats for other creatures such as dragonflies, or *tarbhan-nathrach* (tar-a-van na-rach) in Gaelic; frogs, *losgannan* (los-gan-an); and fish, *èisg* (aishg).



Beavers are herbivores - eating only plants and tree bark

BEAVER SIGNS



Pencil-shaped tree stumps
Small trees with a pencil-shaped top that have been felled.



Bushy new growth on tree stumps



Beaver chips
Flakes of wood that are left behind when a beaver gnaws at a tree.



Pawprints

Beavers have hand-like front paws and large webbed hind feet for swimming.



A lodge

Beavers build a mound of mud and sticks with room inside where they live.



Channels

Beavers build channels so they can move around without being too far from water.

A LIVING LANDSCAPE Cruth-tìre beò

Illustration © Fiona Gowan



ROTHIEMURCHUS

This picture shows some of the many animals and plants that call Rothiemurchus home. Visit the Barn café to see a big version of this illustration that has all the names of the species shown here.

