



Glen Prosen Nature Restoration Fund Project

The River South Esk Catchment Partnership is a consortium of partners comprising: Forestry & Land Scotland, Rottal Estate, Airlie Estates, Clova Estate, the River South Esk Catchment Partnership, Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust and RSPB Scotland, with additional support from Cairngorms National Park Authority, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and Angus Council.

Through this partnership we have secured funding from Nature Scot's Nature Restoration Fund to plant trees along Prosen Water and some of its tributaries in Glen Prosen (riparian planting) between now and end of March 2026. This project will kick-start our plans for river restoration and riparian woodland that are a key component of the Angus Glens Land Management Plan.

The River South Esk Special Area of Conservation (designated for Atlantic Salmon and Fresh Water Pearl Mussels) in upper Glen Prosen is lacking in any significant riparian tree cover. The benefits of riparian trees for Natural Flood Management, climate change resilience, biodiversity and the freshwater habitat, carbon capture, reducing diffuse pollution, soil security, as well as reducing erosion of riverbanks, are well understood.



Prosen Water in upper Glen Prosen



Brown trout parr in Prosen water

We will be planting 8.7ha of trees along the river and burns in Glen Prosen as identified in the 'NRF Project Map.' In order to give these trees the best possible chance of establishing, we will be installing deer fencing with rabbit netting and upgrading existing stock fencing to protect the newly planted trees from browsing by herbivores.

The project will also include fencing 155 ha near to the Kilbo Bothy at Craigie Thieves, with the aim of reducing herbivore pressure to allow natural regeneration of trees and the existing ground flora, creating a more diverse and pollen rich habitat along with reducing soil compaction and erosion.

