

A ring of green

The pinewoods are part of a belt called boreal forest that stretches around the northern hemisphere. It's an environment as important as tropical rainforest for its habitats and wildlife. And because Scotland's pine forests are right on the edge, they're particularly valuable as a refuge for animals and plants that depend on them.

Deeside and the wider Cairngorms hold some of Scotland's most heavily forested areas. Altogether, one quarter of the country's native woodland is in the Cairngorms National Park. Forest like Glen Tanar's is especially important: it includes some of the oldest trees, and much of the new planting has used seed harvested on the estate.