

'...these highland Fir-woods are not fixed to a particular spot, but gradually shift their stances...'

From a 1758 court case about protecting Deeside's forests

Dynamic trees

Since 1945, the estate has encouraged the trees again and the area covered by woodland has grown. Timber is still an important crop, even in the National Nature Reserve. But society now also values woodland for conservation and as a place to enjoy. What will the country want from forests like Glen Tanar in the future? Perhaps a shortage of oil will mean timber becomes a vital resource again, or more tree cover may be needed to moderate the effects of climate change. Managing the estate is partly about what's needed now – and partly about keeping options open for what's to come.

You'll find some fascinating stories next door about the people who've helped shape Glen Tanar's changing forests.

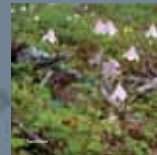
Forests are never the same from one place to the next. On higher ground the mix of trees and the way they grow are very different from down in the glen: there are fewer birch and alder, which can't survive the cold and wind. Individual trees are smaller, becoming just low shrubs on the highest ground.

Forests change over time as well, and with different management. Between 1945 and 1965 Glen Tanar's forests grew by about 40 hectares (100 acres) a year as the estate owner planted new trees to replace those cut down during the Second World War. Planting slowed down between 1965 and 1970, but since then the area of forest has been growing by about 30 hectares (75 acres) a year, mostly by natural regeneration.

Woodland Age Classes



The oldest trees grow in remote parts of the estate, where deer graze. They were never harvested in the 1950s and 1960s, when most timber was cut down and sold. Because it was too difficult to reach the trees, they were left to grow naturally. In 2011, 200 years old, they were still growing. In fact, when the estate was managed for the deer.



Deer grazing helps shape the forest. In higher ground, they prefer to eat the softer, younger trees. In the glen, they eat the older, harder trees. This helps to keep the forest young and healthy. But for the trees that are too old to eat, the deer can cause damage by rubbing their antlers against the bark. This can lead to the death of the tree. The deer also help to spread seeds, which can lead to the growth of new trees. This helps to keep the forest young and healthy.



These are the trees that were planted in the 1950s and 1960s. They were planted to replace the trees that were cut down during the Second World War. They are now growing well and are helping to regenerate the forest. They are also helping to provide habitat for wildlife. This is why it is important to keep them growing. In fact, when the estate was managed for the deer.



Fire is a natural part of the forest. It helps to clear the ground and to spread seeds. This helps to keep the forest young and healthy. But fire can also be dangerous. It can destroy the forest and cause damage to the land. This is why it is important to manage the forest carefully. In fact, when the estate was managed for the deer.



SKIRTING AREA