

Managing the catchment

Who we are

The Dee Catchment Partnership is a collaboration of organisations who have been working together since 2003 to achieve integrated land and water management for the Dee catchment.

Why we exist

The catchment's high quality water resources are a major asset supporting local communities, businesses and wildlife, and underpin the region's rural economy. We are working to embed environmental improvements into the working landscape to improve the health of our rivers and the life they support.

What we do

- Coordinate water-related activities in the catchment.
- Secure funding and deliver projects on the ground.
- Raise awareness of the main problems and available solutions.
- Provide a central source of advice and information.
- Coordinate catchment management planning for the area.

Please get involved

The Partnership needs your input. Everyone has a part to play, from environmental management agencies, to land owners and managers, to schools and community groups. By working together we can achieve far more, for less, and bring about lasting benefits for the Dee catchment.

Dee Catchment Partnership

Partners

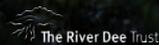
Major General John Barr CB CBE (chairman)
Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Harbour Board
Aberdeenshire Council • Cairngorms National Park Authority • Cairngorms Nature • Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland • Dee District Salmon Fishery Board
Forestry Commission Scotland • James Hutton Institute
Marine Scotland Science • National Farmers' Union Scotland • National Trust for Scotland
North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership
River Dee Trust • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scotland's Rural College • Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division • Scottish Land & Estates • Scottish Natural Heritage • Scottish Water • Scottish Wildlife Trust

Contact

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How do we use the Dee?

Peatlands are important water and carbon stores, support unique flora and fauna, and sustain a range of recreational activities. Restoring peatlands towards good condition is essential for climate regulation and protecting water supplies.



Careful management of the catchment's **forestry** is essential to minimise erosion and protect the river from sediment run off.



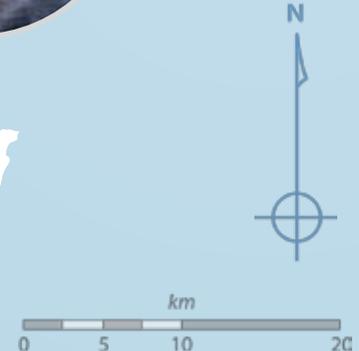
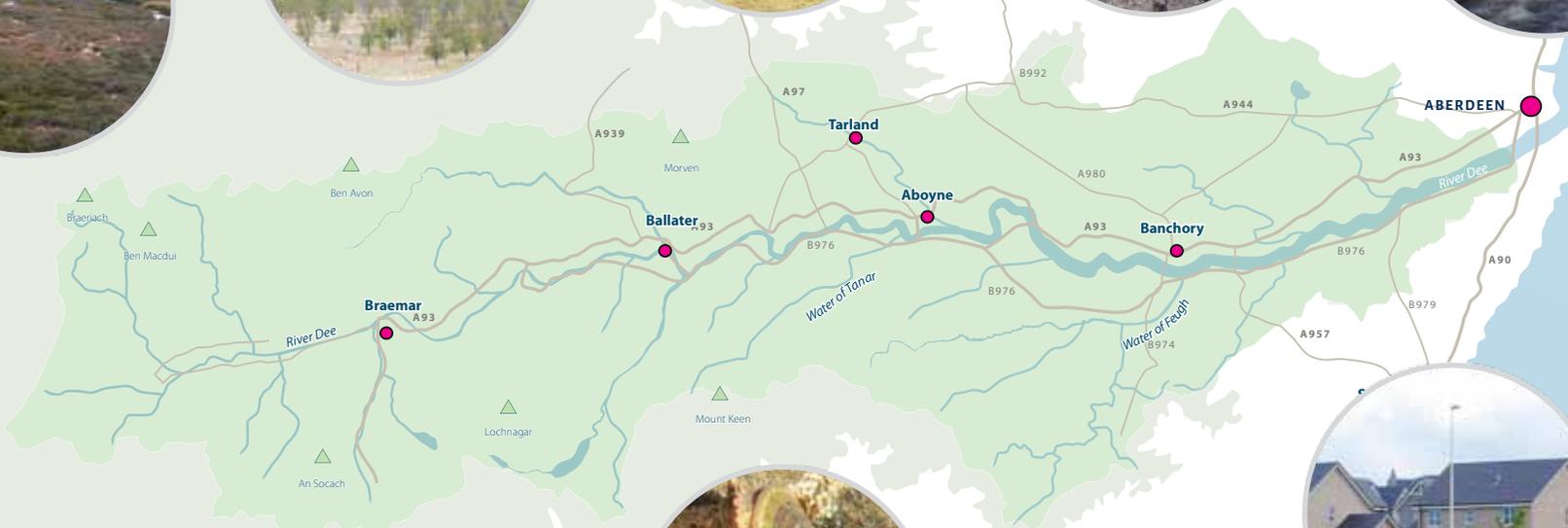
Farming is widespread, especially in the lower catchment. By practising sustainable management, farmers can help to improve water quality, reduce flood risk and provide important habitats for wildlife.



The Dee supplies **domestic water** for Aberdeen and over half of Aberdeenshire as well as bottled water and whisky businesses. These abstractions need to be managed to minimise stress on the river during low flows.



The mouth of the Dee forms **Aberdeen harbour**, one of the busiest in the UK, and home to a range of wildlife including otters and dolphins. Controls on noise, lighting and pollution enable migrating salmon to enter the river all year round.



The River Dee and the surrounding countryside is a vibrant base for **tourism and outdoor pursuits**. Raising awareness of the harm caused by erosion, litter, fires and sanitation helps to reduce their impacts on the river.



The Dee is internationally famous for its **salmon and sea trout fishery** attracting large numbers of visitors each year. Managing the catchment sustainably is essential for a healthy fish population.



The River Dee is home to a wide range of **flora and fauna**, and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation for internationally important populations of freshwater pearl mussel, salmon and otter. Their survival depends on a healthy river system.



We depend on the Dee for **waste water disposal**. Treated effluent is usually discharged but during heavy rain untreated waste can enter the river directly. Septic tank inputs are also an issue.



The catchment's expanding population brings a demand for more **housing**. Associated construction works, sealed surfaces, drainflow and water demand can affect water quality and quantity, and its flow through the catchment.

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How are we working to reduce the impacts of these activities?

