

# Ranger Services within the Dee Catchment

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## River Dee Trust

Jamie Urquhart, Biologist  
River Office, Mill of Dinnet, Aboyne, AB34 5LA  
Tel: 01339 880 411  
Email: [jamie@riverdee.org](mailto:jamie@riverdee.org) or [info@riverdee.org](mailto:info@riverdee.org)

The IntroDee Education Programme offers a free service to schools including riverbank visits to experience fun hands on activities including stream dipping, identifying fish caught by River Dee staff during electro-fishing (May - September weather permitting) and a trip to Raemoir Trout Fishery to try trout fishing. For more information visit [www.riverdee.org.uk/introdee.asp](http://www.riverdee.org.uk/introdee.asp)

## Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service

Helen Rowe - Marr / Cairngorms National Park Ranger  
Burn O' Vat Visitor Centre, Dinnet, Aboyne, AB34 5NB  
Tel: 01339 880 868  
Email: [marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Helen Young - Kincardine and Mearns Ranger  
Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ  
Tel: 01569 768 292  
Email: [kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Alison Sutherland - Garioch Ranger  
Bennachie Centre, Chapel Of Garioch, By Inverurie, AB51 5HX  
Tel: 01467 681 470  
Email: [garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Aberdeenshire Council Rangers offer a free service to schools, supporting delivery of outdoor learning in the Curriculum for Excellence. For more information visit [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/rangerservice/SupportforOutdoorLearning.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/rangerservice/SupportforOutdoorLearning.asp)

## Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service

Ian Talboys, Countryside Officer  
Housing and Environment, Environmental Services, Aberdeen City Council, 38 Powis Terrace  
Kittybrewster, Aberdeen AB25 3RF  
Tel: 01224 897 400  
Email: [lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or [italboys@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:italboys@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers offer a free service to schools within the City for outdoor learning opportunities. They can offer a range of 'traditional' activities such as pond dipping, minibeast hunts and environmental games but also things like Forest School programmes with shelter building, camp fires, storm kettles etc. These are offered on their countryside sites or in appropriate school grounds. For more details and a list of sites visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice). Where possible the Rangers like to work with the teachers to develop a programme for their session(s) that delivers what the teacher wants and not what Rangers would like to offer. They can also assist with skill sharing and development for teachers and other staff to help build skills and confidence to take learning outdoors on their own.

### **Balmoral Estate Ranger Service**

Glyn Jones, Head Ranger  
Balmoral Estate Office, Crathie, Ballater, AB35 5TB  
Tel: 01339 742 556  
Email: [glyn.jones@balmoralcastle.com](mailto:glyn.jones@balmoralcastle.com)

Balmoral Rangers offer guided walks along the River Dee, Loch Muick and the bogs and rivers in Glen Muick and can visit schools. For more information visit [www.balmoralcastle.com](http://www.balmoralcastle.com).

### **Forestry Commission Scotland**

Neil Taylor, Recreation and Communities Ranger  
Forestry Commission Scotland, Portsoy Road, Huntly, AB54 4SJ  
Tel: 01466 794 161 or 07833 436 676  
Email: [emily.holmes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:emily.holmes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Forestry Commission Scotland can offer visits to forests and explain how forestry is now designed to take into account recreation, access and water course protection as well as growing trees. For more information visit <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland>

### **Glen Tanar Charitable Trust Ranger Service**

Eric Baird, Head Ranger  
Glen Tanar Visitor Centre, Glen Tanar, Aboyne, AB34 5EU  
Tel: 01339 886 072 or 07506 279 500  
Email: [ranger@glentantar.co.uk](mailto:ranger@glentantar.co.uk)

Glen Tanar is a private estate which currently works with primary school children on the River Dee; river dipping, identifying and assessing water quality. They use a simple chart/binary key developed for the Water of Tanar, and a simple visual scale of 'pollution'. It is a whole morning activity for P6 upwards and has also been used with older groups. The Rangers also do a hydrology activity, modelling depth velocity profiles, using simple kit. There is also the

opportunity to look at geomorphology and study how river channel changes have enabled regeneration. Glen Tanar also works with secondary pupils, using the Water of Tanar to study catchment characteristics, stream water quality and quantity, and human/nature interactions.' Glen Tanar makes no charge, but asks for a donation.

### **Leys Estate Ranger Service**

Thys Simpson, Countryside Ranger  
Leys Estate, Banchory Business Centre, Burn O' Bennie Road, Banchory, AB31 5ZU  
Tel: 01330 826 506  
Email: [thys.simpson@leysestate.co.uk](mailto:thys.simpson@leysestate.co.uk)

Leys Estate is a privately owned ground with farm, woodland and river habitats, and offers schools an insight into private land ownership and farming in Deeside. Leys Estate mostly work with local schools Crathes, Drumoak, Banchory and Torphins.

### **National Trust for Scotland**

North East Ranger Service Based at Crathes Castle  
Fiona Milne, Senior Ranger  
Tel: 0844 493 2167  
Email: [fmilne@nts.org.uk](mailto:fmilne@nts.org.uk)

Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland is available which allows up to 60 children from any school free access to one property any day of the year. The annual fee is dependent on school roll and there may be an additional charge for staff assistance. The Ranger Service can deliver a wide range of topics to fit with curriculum needs from nursery to tertiary. Early booking is recommended.

### **Scottish Natural Heritage**

Catriona Reid, Reserve Manager at Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve  
Burn O'Vat Visitor Centre, Dinnet, AB34 5NB  
Tel: 01339 881 667  
Email: [Catriona.Reid@snh.gov.uk](mailto:Catriona.Reid@snh.gov.uk)

Scottish Natural Heritage offer free Ranger-led activities to schools at Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve. Their education pack has more information on the site and activities and can be read online at [www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/muir-of-dinnet/visiting/education/](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/muir-of-dinnet/visiting/education/)