

Landscape Statements

Glen Clova © VisitScotland

1 Angus Glens

Ancient glacial activity has created one of Scotland's most atmospheric and unspoilt places, the Angus Glens, where you can explore dramatic wild moorland, high cliffs and rocky crags, as well as the birch woods and waterfalls plunging down hillsides.

Each of the Glens is different in character but is collectively home to a wonderful array of species. The rivers are rich in salmon and provide a refuge for the endangered Freshwater pearl mussel. Archetypal Scottish mammals abound – the elusive wildcat, Pine marten, Otter and Red squirrel, as well as Water voles. Golden eagles, Peregrines and Ravens soar above the crags and Red deer and Mountain hare roam the seasonably colourful hills.

2 Angus Coast

Our Angus coastline extends from Milton Ness in the north to Broughty Ferry Castle in the south. It exhibits a wonderful diversity unparalleled on the North Sea coast. These include volcanic headlands and sandstone cliffs, wide expanses of sand dunes and open bays. There are also muddy estuarine shallows, and sheltered saltmarsh, reedbed and seagrass: all culminating at the mouth of the mighty River Tay.

Abundant coastal and marine species make these habitats their home - roaming whales and dolphins, and our renowned resident and migrant seabirds. Rockpools shine like jewels and summer coastal meadows contrast with the ever-changing sea and sky.

Deil's Heid © VisitScotland



Glen Doll © Angus Council

3 Angus Rivers

The Rivers North Esk, South Esk and Lunan Water, together with their tributaries, meander across the region, shaping the Angus landscape, and are joined by the River Isla, a tributary of the River Tay.

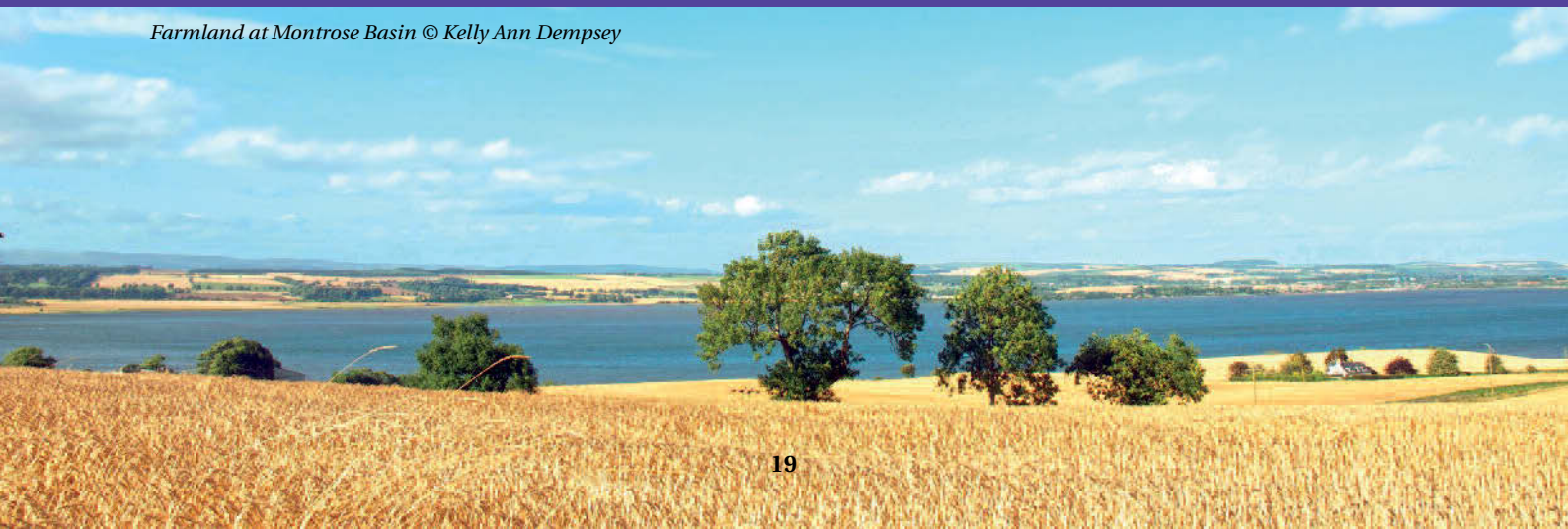
The North and South Esks are amongst the most prolific salmon and sea trout rivers in Scotland, flowing from high in the Angus Glens into the sea. The South Esk has a range of nature conservation designations: it is designated a Special Area of Conservation for its Atlantic salmon and Freshwater pearl mussels. In contrast, the Lunan Water flows out of Rescobie and Balgavies Lochs, both of which have SSSI status.

4 Lowland Angus

Lowland Angus boasts some of the best quality arable land in Scotland and so is intensively farmed, predominantly with combinable crops and potatoes, but also vegetables, soft fruit and grass.

It is broken up by hedges, treelines and drystone dykes, as well as by wooded dens and riparian corridors. Post-war intensification has seen these decrease as field sizes have increased. Spring barley maintains fields in stubble over winter and the area still hosts the rare Corn Bunting as well as other important farmland species such as Yellowhammer, Tree sparrow, Linnet and Brown hare.

Farmland at Montrose Basin © Kelly Ann Dempsey





View across the Carse of Gowrie to Fife © Land Use Consultants

5 Carse of Gowrie

This distinct landscape stretches between Perth and Dundee. Upland heath succumbs to wooded valleys and waterfalls which eventually become pows (drainage ditches) flowing into the Tay. A diversity of hedgerows and treelines line the fields. The area's redwoods were the first to be introduced into the UK by Patrick Matthew, famous also for his evolution theory. Hidden away are ancient orchards with unique local varieties; fabulous for their burst of colour and in enticing bees and birds.

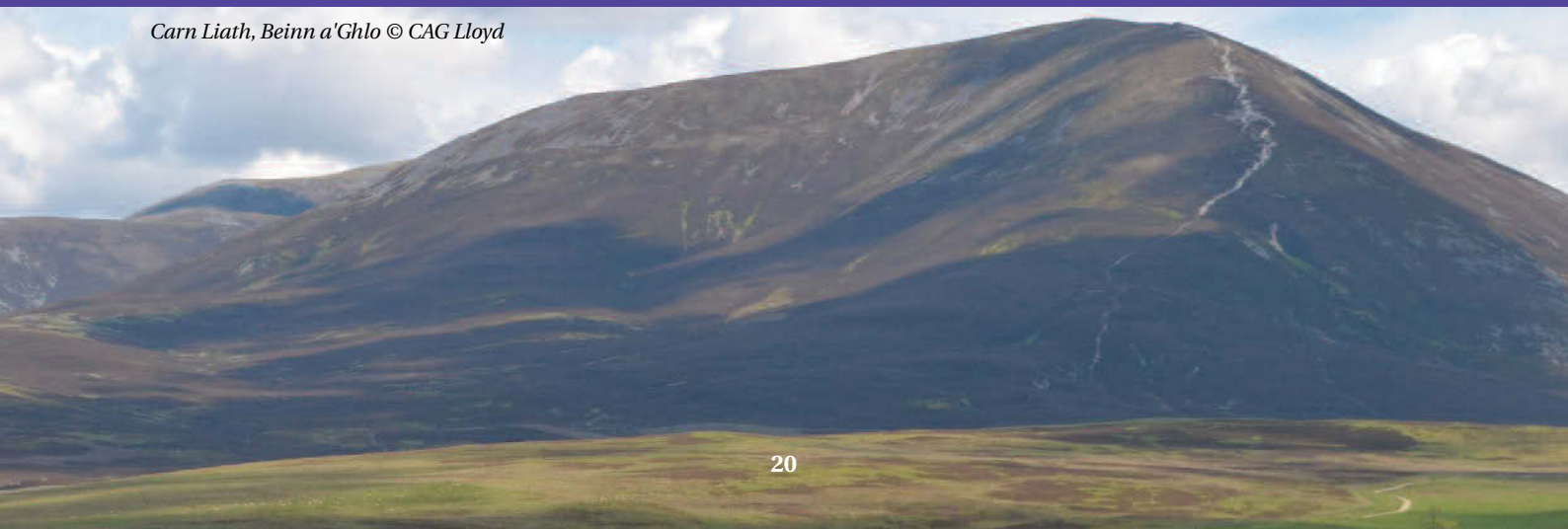
The River Tay is internationally recognised as having the largest continuous reed beds in the UK. With their associated wetlands and mud flats, they support large numbers of rare insects, some unknown elsewhere in Scotland. The reed beds' golden winter hues are critical for overwintering birds.

6 Highland Perthshire

Situated in the geographic centre of Scotland, just north of the Highland Boundary Fault, the landscape is one of steep-sided wooded hills, fertile glens and picturesque lochs. The majestic mountains host unique sub-arctic plants, Mountain hares and Ptarmigan – and beyond lies the vast Rannoch Moor over which one of the world's most scenic railways runs.

The region is known as Big Tree Country because of its iconic trees, one of which is the Fortingall Yew, Europe's oldest living thing. The area is famous for its birdlife, including Golden eagle, Osprey, Capercaillie and Black grouse. The area also abounds with Red squirrels, Badgers, Red deer and Pine martens.

Carn Liath, Beinn a'Ghlo © CAG Lloyd





Loch Rannoch © CAG Lloyd

7 Tay Catchment

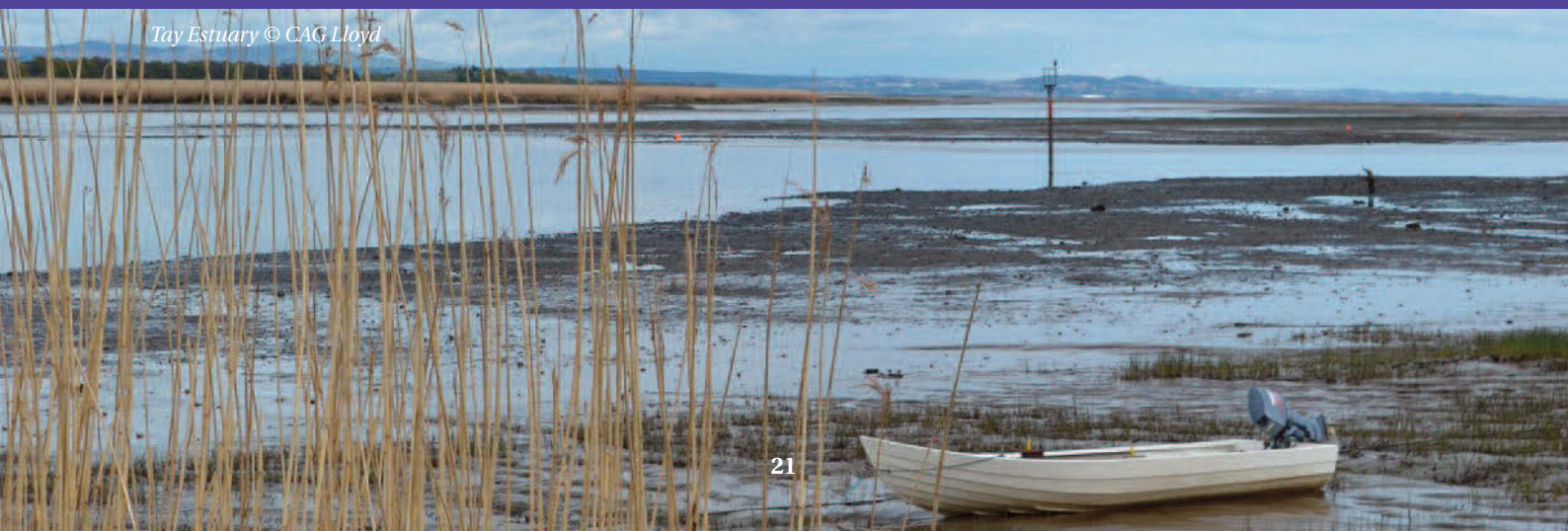
With a length of 193 kilometres, the River Tay is the longest river in Scotland, stretching from Ben Lui to the Firth of Tay near Dundee – and it is teeming with internationally-important wildlife. It encompasses coastal, lowland, upland and transitional landscapes. Picturesque tributaries include the Rivers Garry, Tummel, Lyon, Braan, Isla and Almond. The largest lochs include scenic Loch Rannoch, Loch Ericht and Loch Tay - many of the lochs and rivers are managed to produce hydropower.

The Highland Boundary Fault cuts across the catchment from Glen Almond to Kirriemuir and marks distinct differences in topography, climate and land use. North of the fault the catchment includes forestry, rough grassland, heather and montane habitat. To the south, it is lowland in nature – more settlements and largely arable.

8 Tay Estuary

From the Tay Railway Bridge in the east to the confluence of the River Earn and up to the Queen's Bridge in Perth, the Tay Estuary is one of the largest in Scotland and at its widest, 2.5km across. Inter-tidal sand and mud flats extend seaward out to the estuary's main channel offering Common, Grey and Harbour seals great resting spots from their foraging on the many species found in the tidal waters.

Saltmarsh and Phragmites reedbeds stretch along its shores, providing nationally important habitat for Greylag and Pink-footed geese, Bearded tit, Marsh harrier, Cormorant, Goldeneye and Water rail. The abundance of insect life attracts huge numbers of Swallows and Sand martins on their autumn passage – a sight to behold as the seasons change.



Tay Estuary © CAG Lloyd

Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan

