

AIRLIE ESTATES

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Airlie Estates is a modern agricultural, forestry, residential and sporting Estate, with a rich history spanning 700 years.

The Estate is one of the most significant properties in the Angus Glens and is managed to take account of and adapt to changing environmental and ecological challenges of the countryside and at all times taking account of the wider public perception of its activities.

The Estates extends to approximately 16,000 acres of carefully managed organic and conventional farmland, amenity and commercial forestry together with a portfolio of rented properties and holiday accommodation, sporting lets and traditional farm tenancies.

Wider public access is encouraged on the popular path network, and the Estate hosts the Cortachy Highland Games and Flower Show and participates in the annual Angus Council Doors Open Day by opening the Airlie Monument to the public.

Sustainability and good stewardship of the assets under our management is the key to our approach, and we work with our business partners and stakeholders to support and facilitate activities that protect and enhance the natural environment and limit our environmental impact.

Access – The Estate continues to invest in public access to enhance community use and understanding of the natural environment. We encourage public access by walkers, runners, mountain bikers and horse riders on the Cortachy and Dykehead path network.

Agriculture – Our in-hand farm provides a significant amount of agricultural business on the Estate. The operation prides itself on a diverse approach to modern agriculture across approximately 2813 ha (7900 acres) of the Estate, with approximately 250 acres under organic status and a further 5000 acres under consideration for conversion to organic status in the future. Alongside the careful use of herbicides and pesticides, we follow the Agri-Environment Scheme's guidance for enhanced habitat management for upland wading birds which includes heather management, rush pasture management, careful stocking density and careful management of low ground hedges.

There are a number of tenanted farms on the Estate that have been at the core of the Estates business for many years. Our tenant farmers are encouraged to mirror the management aims of the in-hand farming operation.

Forestry – Airlie Estates commercial and policy woodlands extend to approximately 1260 ha (3113 acres) and are managed in accordance with Forest Scotland's best practice and a 20-year long term plan.

To maximise carbon sequestration and biomass production, commercial spruce is planted where it makes economic and environmental sense. River management and the amenity of the lower glens is enhanced by the planting of native broad-leaved species.

The carbon capture is estimated to be 9,350 tonnes of CO2 captured per year. This equates to 5,600 economy return flights from London to JFK Airport in New York (1.67t/flight) or the equivalent of 1100 typical UK oil heated houses (each generating 8.5t per annum, (3000 litres of oil, 3800 kwh electricity at 227g of CO2/kwh)).

Three further large-scale plantings are being considered which will extend to approximately 240 ha, again to maximise carbon sequestration and enhance the environment at the same time as providing high quality commercial timber.

The estate is currently investigating the possibility of two major natural regeneration schemes in the upper Glen Moy area which would enhance the environment for black grouse as well as adding the scenic quality and the habitat for aquatic birds, insects and the feeder burns.

Red Squirrels and Wildlife – The estate is proactive in encouraging the conservation and enhancement of the red squirrel and wildcat population and the forests are managed in such a way as to control the invasive grey squirrel population through SRDP grant funding but at the same time promoting the habitat for red squirrels and wildcats.

Beavers – In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, beavers on the Tay catchment area are managed in accordance with natural Scotland's best practice.

Angling – Airlie Estates attracts anglers who value both the quality of fishing and the estates attitude toward the sustainable fisheries management of the River South Esk to promote the conservation of Atlantic Salmon, freshwater pearls and sea trout. The River South Esk is one of the foremost seatrout rivers in Scotland and all anglers are encouraged to follow a catch and release code. The local angling club lease approximately 2 miles of fishing's from the estate and at the same time we all aim to encourage new and younger anglers to the sport.

Sporting - Deer stalking and grouse shooting are an integral part of the land use on the Airlie Estates. The Estate and the shooting tenants follow best practice moorland management to benefit upland wading birds, passerines, and red and black grouse. We also encourage ground nesting raptors on the moorland and are active members in the Heads up for Harrier project.

Heather burning, tick treatment and acaraciding of sheep are used to control ticks and the spread of Louping Ill and other tick-borne diseases (Lyme Disease). Sporting tenants are encouraged to play a full and integral part in the local Deer Management Group and the Angus Glens Moorland Group.

The low ground shoot is managed in a way to enhance wildlife with careful planning and siting of game crops and other wildlife cover.

All game shot is used locally through direct marketing or sales to local game dealers.

Residential Buildings – Airlie Estates takes a long-term and sustainable approach to managing our assets to meet the needs of occupiers and users for generations to come. Our principals of good practice include using timber framed windows, natural insulation and locally sourced fixtures and fittings. The preservation and repair of vernacular buildings is a priority for the estate and traditional repair methods and materials are used wherever possible. The estate is working to achieve the Government EPC targets for rented properties where possible.