



FROM HIGHLANDS TO LOWLANDS

The waters of the River South Esk flow through Angus, a beautiful corner of Scotland that feels like an undiscovered treasure. Near its source, alpine flowers cling to the rocks in Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve. Near its end, Montrose Basin empties and fills with the flow of the tide – a unique place where thousands of birds shelter on their long journey between summer and winter homes.

In between, there are moorlands watched over by eagles, tree-lined river corridors, and rich farmland where wildlife has lived alongside people for thousands of years.

FIND OUT MORE

Our website www.WildSouthEsk.org has lots more about the wildlife of the River South Esk.

Check out www.VisitAngus.com for information on accommodation and other attractions.

Wild South Esk is a project run by the River South Esk Catchment Partnership.

Find out about the partnership and our work at www.theriversouthesk.org or get in touch.

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**WILD
SOUTH
ESK**

EXPLORE THE WILD SOUTH ESK

Discover the wildlife along this beautiful river – home to many of Scotland's iconic species.

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Wildlife needs our protection and sometimes a bit of help to thrive. Two nature reserves in the South Esk catchment are home to sensitive species and internationally important populations of birds.

CORRIE FEE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

“a paradise to the lover of alpine botany”

Corrie Fee is a bowl carved out of the Cairngorm mountains by a glacier some 12,000 years ago. When it melted, it left behind a cold, stony landscape. Gradually plants began to grow, but they needed to survive the harsh conditions. Some of them are still there: plants like dwarf willows and blue sow thistles that you’d normally find in places like the Alps.

There’s a fine walk to Corrie Fee from Glen Doll (number 1 on the map overleaf). To find out more about the reserve, visit www.nature.scot and search for ‘Corrie Fee’.



MONTROSE BASIN

Just before the river South Esk meets the sea, it flows into a wide, shallow basin on the edge of Montrose. This fascinating place is a mix of mudflats that are exposed at low tide, saltmarsh, and reed beds.

The shellfish and worms that live here offer rich feeding for birds. The basin is so important for them that it’s one of the European Union’s Special Protection Areas, and is listed under the international Ramsar scheme for wetlands. It’s also a Local Nature Reserve.

The Lurgies (number 9 on the map overleaf) is just one place where you can experience this mysterious environment. The Scottish Wildlife Trust run a visitor centre where you can find out more, and use telescopes and remote cameras to watch for the birds. For details, visit www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk and search for ‘Montrose Basin’.



The waters of the South Esk catchment link the Highlands with the Lowlands. We've chosen some beautiful places that all have different wildlife to discover. Start your exploration here!

You'll find maps of how to get to each site and more about the wildlife of the River South Esk at www.WildSouthEsk.org.

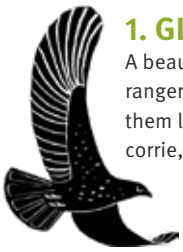


Share your Wild South Esk experience.
Tag us at @WildSouthEsk and #WildSouthEsk

WALKING AND CYCLING

Most of these sites have attractive walks nearby. Our website www.WildSouthEsk.org has full details. Check out www.walkhighlands.co.uk/angus for even more routes.

The country roads make good cycling routes, while hill tracks and forests offer great outings for mountain bikers. The Visit Angus cycling page www.VisitAngus.com/cycling-and-mountain-biking has details.



1. GLEN DOLL

A beautiful glen close to the river's source. There's a ranger centre here, and lots of walking routes. One of them leads to a National Nature Reserve in a dramatic corrie, where alpine plants grow.



2. LOCH BRANDY

Climb up to a remote mountain loch from the car park of the Glen Clova hotel. Mountain hare live on the moorland and wildcat hunt in thin woodland nearby.



3. GELLA BRIDGE

A picnic site on the riverbank makes a charming spot to spend some time. Look out for dippers, wee birds that dive underwater to catch their food.



4. GLEN PROSEN

The Prosen Water is the South Esk's main tributary. In the remote hills near its source you might spot red deer or golden eagle.

5. TULLOCH HILL

The monument to the 11th Earl of Airlie crowns a hill draped in heather and blaeberry. It's a well-known local landmark, and there are wonderful views.



6. CORTACHY

The river rushes through a rocky gorge here, surrounded by open beech woodland where red squirrels scamper. There's a beautiful walk through a plantation of exotic trees and along the river.



7. ABERLEMNO

Close to the famous Pictish stones there's a view across the farmland of the river's wide strath. The people who carved the stones would have known the same shapes in the hills.



8. INCH PARK, BRECHIN

A popular park in the centre of Brechin. Bats feed on insects that rise from the river, and wildflowers grow on its banks. There are several easy walks along the river and around the town.



9. THE LURGIES

Just before it reaches the sea, the river flows into the wide bowl of Montrose Basin. Thousands of geese shelter here between October and March. The basin is an important nature reserve: find out more about it at the Scottish Wildlife Trust's visitor centre just along the road: search 'Montrose Basin' at www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

10. FERRYDEN

Fresh water meets salt in a surge of currents at the river's mouth. Dolphins and seals hunt for fish here: you might catch sight of them on a bracing walk above the river to the lighthouse at Scurdie Ness.

