

WOODLAND

The future looks bright for Mar Lodge Estate pinewoods

Mar Lodge Estate covers 29,340 ha and lies at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. The estate supports 840 ha of semi-natural woodland dominated by remnant Caledonian pinewood. When the National Trust for Scotland acquired the estate in 1995 there had been no pinewood regeneration outwith fenced enclosures in the previous 200 years primarily due to browsing by high densities of red deer.

With a main objective to restore and expand the pinewood, in 1995 NTS began a deer reduction programme to lower browsing levels and encourage natural regeneration. Reducing deer numbers was not easy but has been successfully achieved and the results are now impressive. The estate now supports 855 ha of regeneration of pine and broadleaved species.

A response to the reduced grazing pressure has also been observed in the montane woodland species – juniper, willows and birches – which will hopefully lead to the development of a more natural tree-line habitat in the future.

In time, the ongoing regeneration, supplemented by some riparian woodland planting (which NTS has already begun), may make the vision of connecting the Mar Lodge woodlands with the regenerating woodlands of Abernethy to the north and Glenfeshie to the west, a reality.

Find out more ...

- **Mar Lodge Estate - Our Future**
- **Mar Lodge Estate**, National Trust for Scotland



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