

Inchewan Burn

Habitat Restoration

Breathing life back into the Inchewan Burn

The Inchewan Burn is the only significant spawning burn for salmonids - the fish family which includes salmon, trout and whitefish, in the Birnam area. It also provides for many other creatures and plants, which depend on the burn's well-being in order to thrive.

Over time, commercial forests encroached on the burn, and a lack of sunlight due to dense non-native broadleaved trees added to the problem. In addition, the stream-bed under the A9 was previously engineered using wire baskets. Several decades later, the baskets degraded leaving unsightly broken wire and blocking all migratory fish from entering the burn for more than 30 years.

The Inchewan Burn Habitat Restoration Project was founded by Jock Monteith of Salmon Fish Scotland, who worked with a wide range of partners to correct and enhance the burn's delicate riparian, or riverside, setting along its 1.5 km (1 ml) length.

Thanks to the efforts of the many project partners, a natural and ecologically sound riparian environment is now flourishing to the benefit of all creatures, native trees and plant life.

As you enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Inchewan Burn, we hope you will appreciate the importance of a well-balanced riparian zone, and be mindful of the need to look after our precious rivers and the delicate areas that surround them. This habitat restoration project has acted as a catalyst for similar projects in the Tay valley and other river catchments.

Enhancing the burn

In order to make the most of the burnside and its surroundings we:

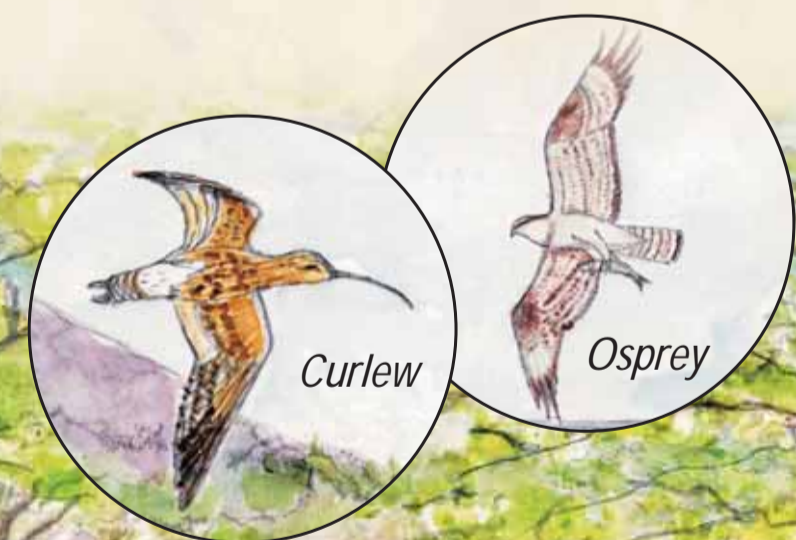
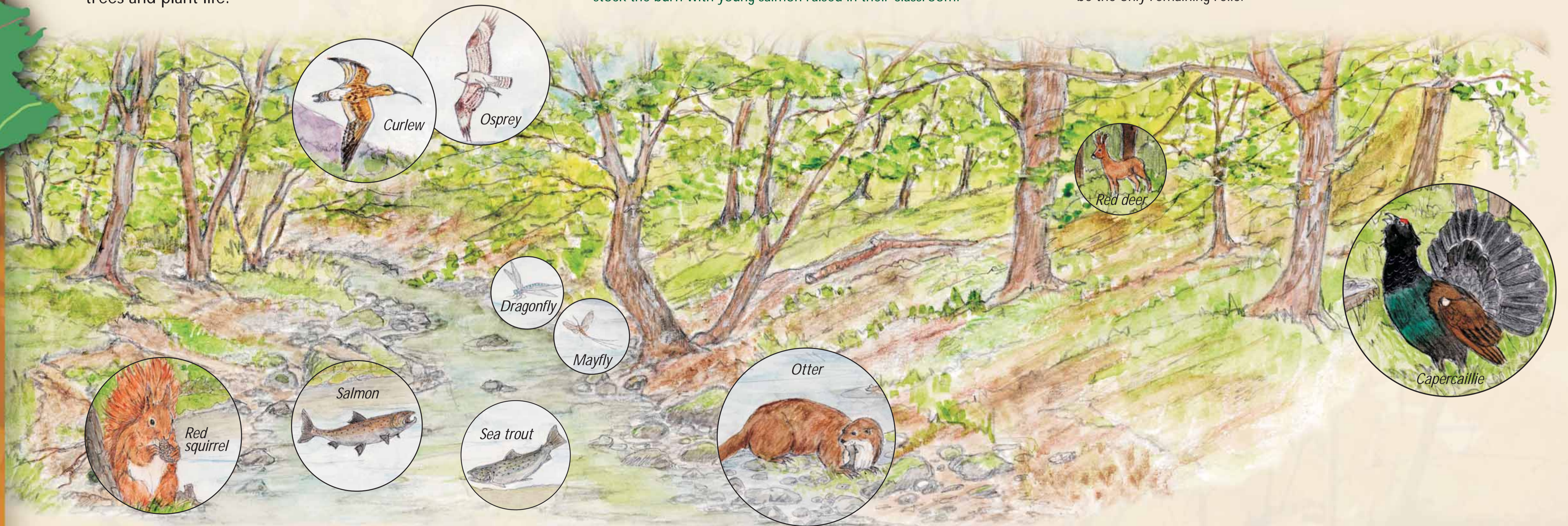
- Re-engineered the stream-bed under the A9 to allow fish to pass.
- Moved the conifer plantation back from the watercourse.
- Thinned non-native beech and sycamore to let in more light.
- Provided seating to allow you to rest and enjoy the area.
- Worked with local school children to plant more native trees and stock the burn with young salmon raised in their classroom.



Children's author Beatrix Potter spent her summers in Tayside. Her work is celebrated at the Birnam Arts and Conference Centre, and in the popular Beatrix Potter garden.

A culturally rich area

Dunkeld and Birnam have a rich cultural history including the movement of Birnam Forest to Dunsinane made famous in Shakespeare's Macbeth. The nearby Birnam Oak is believed to be the only remaining relic.



As well as those organizations with logos on this board, we are grateful to the following groups and organizations for their funding and support: Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust (PKQLT), Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forest Enterprise Scotland (Tay Forest District), Murthy & Strathbraan Estates, Atholl Estate, The Tay Liaison Committee and the Dunkeld & Birnam Angling Association.

The many large and historic trees in this area are at the heart of Perthshire Big Tree Country through which the Inchewan Burn flows.

www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk