

District DEESIDE

Gaelic Name

Strath Dhe

Tartan Designer Fenton Wynes

Date 1963

There are two rivers with the name Dee in Scotland; one in the Grampian Region in the northeast, the other in Dumfries and Galloway in the southwest. It is to the former that the Deeside district tartan relates. The northern Deeside is an extensive area since the river Dee drains some 765 square miles of countryside, mainly in the former county of Aberdeenshire. The river rises in a spring on Braeriach, one of the peaks in the Cairngorms, 4061 feet in height, with a secondary source, the Pools of Dee in the Lairig Bhru. Its initial course flows southwards through the wild, steep-sided Glen Dee, until it joins the Geldie Burn at White Bridge. Thence it turns eastwards through Aberdeen. Wooded Sloes flank the river in many places. It is not surprising that Queen Victoria chose it as the site for her Scottish hone, Balmoral. The names of many of its towns and villages are known throughout the Highland world because of their Highland Games. Braemar, always attended by the Royal Family, Ballater, Aboyne, Banchory and Aberdeen, among them. Deeside, too is renowned for its fine salmon fishing.

The Deeside district tartan was designed in 1963 by a well known local historian and architect from Aberdeen, Fenton Wynes, on behalf of the Dee Valley Textiles Ltd. The tartan is symbolic, which is unusual for Scottish district tartans. The colors represent;

Grey	the granite rocks and pinnacles and enshrouding mists
Blue	the River Dee and the two great mountain ranges, the Grampians and Cairngorms
Green	the pine forests, the Scots firs and larches
White	the slender birch trunks and the snow in remote corries
Yellow	the broom, gorse and the bracken
Purple	the heather, bell and ling and the Royal Purple for the Celtic dynasties and their present-day successors, the House of Windsor.

Taken from "District Tartans of Scotland", by Gordon Teall & Philip Smith, Shephard-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd.

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