



Putting the Buzz into Community Action for Wildlife

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Ten years on from the publication of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, local people are being encouraged to get involved with its Review. A full day's get-together at the Battleby Conference Centre, was held on Saturday, 1st December. Part-funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, the day outlined projects undertaken by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and the many environmental organizations and local communities who have received SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Funding.

To illustrate just how much work is already being carried out by local community groups, environmental organizations – and keen individuals – seven speakers outlined their own successful projects and hopefully provide inspiration for others to follow. The River South Esk Catchment Partnership was chosen to present on the ecosystem services provided by the natural resources in the catchment. Carol Littlewood of Littlewood Land Care also pre-

Linnet and Tree Sparrow projects taking place in Angus and areas of the South Esk catchment. More than 90 attendees enjoyed the range of information stands and displays from a wide variety of environmental organizations and workshops that aimed to give everyone a chance to say what type of wildlife projects they would like to see in Tayside.

The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 2002 with over 400 actions. Since then over 100 projects have been undertaken by the Partnership with many more funded by the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund (landfill tax credits). For more information visit Tayside Biodiversity – www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk / join the Facebook page



Biodiversity leaflet available at <http://theriversouthesk.org/>

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Non-native Species Secretariat

River South Esk Good Practice Highlighted on National Website

The Non-native Species Secretariat has responsibility for helping to coordinate the approach to invasive non-native species in Great Britain. They are responsible to a Programme Board which represents the relevant governments and agencies of England, Scotland and Wales.

The NNSS has produced a website in order to help those interested in finding out more about invasive non-native species and to facilitate those working on this subject in Great Britain. The website has information on local action groups. This useful tool can be used by other groups who want to learn how to tackle different INNS problems. The River South Esk Catchment Partnership was recently added as a local action group. Visit our page on <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?pageid=412>



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River South Esk Catchment Partnership

The River South Esk catchment covers a large area of Angus in North East Scotland and is drained by the River South Esk and its tributaries. This includes its lochs, groundwaters, wetlands and the unique enclosed estuary of Montrose Basin.

At first glance the area would appear to be in perfect condition, especially compared with more heavily built-up areas. We can see this from the wide range of wildlife the area supports – from Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels to otters and water voles, to name a few. However, monitoring reports and consultation with those who use the area or regulate the activities that happen in it, suggest otherwise. Flooding is a concern in some parts of the area such as at Brechin; fish stocks and freshwater pearl mussels are reducing in number; non-native invasive weeds are spreading in the middle and lower areas; and the ecological status of some tributaries is poor or moderate rather than the good status it should be.



Glen Clova in the upper catchment

[Link to River South Esk Catchment Partnership website](#)

[Link to Biodiversity leaflet](#)

[Link to Invasive non-native species leaflet](#)

[Link to June 2012 newsletter](#)

[Link to Management Plan](#)

New Montrose Path Network

Town & coastal walking routes to be published

A new signposted path network will be established this year which will include favourite walking routes around the town. The walks will include the path from Ferryden to Scurdie Ness overlooking the River South Esk and Montrose Bay and walks along the beach to Kinnaber Links. A leaflet of the paths will accompany the network and will be available from the library, Access Office or to download from the Council's website. For more information contact Karen van Eeden, Countryside Project Access Officer, Angus Council at vanEedenK@angus.gov.uk or on 01307 473366.



Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative

HRH's Visit to regeneration project



On October 4th 2012, HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Rothesay, visited the Merchant's House, Brechin's High Street and the Town House Museum where he was able to see first hand completed projects grant funded by the Townscape Heritage Initiative. On the same day, 90 Year old Margaret Marston, the oldest living former resident of the Merchant's House, travelled up from Northampton to meet the Prince and visit the Merchant's House for the first



time after last stepping foot in the house some 58 years ago.

Photos clockwise, The Merchant's House, Kit Martin, HRH Prince Charles/the Duke of Rothesay and the Lord Lieutenant Mrs G Osborne looking at the historic timbers at the Merchant's House. Mrs Marston meeting HRH at the Town House Museum © Louise Beattie

Interesting American Mink Found

Keep your eyes open for these unusual silver coloured mink that have been trapped on the neighbouring Lunan catchment. Contact ann-marie@rafts.org.uk for more information.



Wild garlic *Allium ursinum* The first evidence of the human use of *A. ursinum* comes from the Mesolithic settlement of Barkaer (Denmark), where an impression of a leaf has been found. The Latin name is due to the brown bear's taste for the bulbs and its habit of digging up the ground to get at them; they are also a favourite of wild boar. The leaves of *A. ursinum* are edible; they can be used as salad, spice, boiled as a vegetable, in soup, or as an ingredient for pesto in lieu of basil. The leaves of *A. ursinum* are easily mistaken for Lily of the Valley sometimes also those of *Colchicum autumnale* and *Arum maculatum*. All three are poisonous and possibly deadly.



Renewables and the River South Esk Catchment

Wind, sun, waste, biomass and water all provide scope for renewable energy generation

Renewable energy has the potential to be a significant element in both the landscape and the economy of the River South Esk catchment. Within the Angus Council part of the catchment, there has been mixed success for renewable energy projects with large scale wind farms failing to gain planning permissions but with a growing number of small scale developments contributing to energy production, reducing costs for local businesses and residents; and earning an income from surplus power contributing to the national grid.

Wind, sun, waste, biomass and water all provide scope for renewable energy generation. Wind turbines of less than 50m to blade tip are widely distributed across the area with larger examples consented at Memus and Whitefield of Dun.

By the end of 2012 there were in excess of twenty proposed

turbines approved or pending in the River South Esk catchment area. Small scale run-of-river hydro schemes are another area of interest with small private schemes in Glen Clova and Glen Moy. Scottish Water has large land holdings and is looking to identify renewable potential – for example a small project approved at the Tannadice waste water treatment plant has the capacity to power the plant. More recent technologies are also generating interest such as biomass (using wood, forestry waste and even straw bales) and anaerobic digesters which can convert carbon based waste to energy.

There is wide range of options, and whilst choosing the correct site, technology and plant to meet functional and environmental considerations is paramount to a successful project, there are opportunities out there to reduce expenditure and even generate income with the right project.



For any comments or to join our mailing list, please contact:

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About The River South Esk Catchment Partnership

To address the many issues which affect the South Esk catchment, representatives of some organisations have been meeting regularly since 2004 with the development of an integrated Catchment Management Plan at the forefront of their aims. Gradually an informal Steering Group was formed*. The process of developing a Catchment Management Plan began in earnest in 2008 with the employment of a part-time Project Officer to oversee an intensive two year consultation phase which would capture people's views on what they considered the key environmental, social and economic issues to be within the catchment. These views were used to form the basis of the plan's strategic aims, catchment objectives and actions. Phase one of the plans implementation is now complete and development of the next phase of implementation is at the forefront of the Partnership's mind.

The River South Esk Catchment Partnership would like to thank all its funders and supporters. Without them it would be impossible to carry out the work we are undertaking. The logos on display denote the funders of the 2011/12 phase. Their funding will allow us to work towards enhancing and promoting many facets of the catchment .

*The Esk District Salmon Fishery Board, Angus Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Scottish Agricultural College, Forestry Commission Scotland, Littlewood Land Care, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Macaulay Institute, Scottish Water, National Farmers Union Scotland, Scottish Rural Property and Business Association Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate.

