



TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE

ISSUE 31: Autumn 2011

Hi All,

The Summer has been a busy time for local groups celebrating the biodiversity of our region and this issue focuses on the success of various initiatives helping to promote the natural environments of Angus, Tayside, Fife and Perth & Kinross.

The TEF is currently conducting Sectoral Interactions Interviews with local coastal stakeholders around the TEF region (Angus and Fife Coasts including Tay Estuary). This work is being carried out on behalf of Marine Scotland as part of a consultation to acquire information on the nature, extent and intensity of interactions (positive or negative) among coastal sectors. Your input is encouraged as responses will contribute to the development of a Local Marine Plan, informing future policy options for coastal and marine management. To contribute, please email: TayEstuaryForum@dundee.ac.uk or visit the website to download the Sectoral Interactions Matrix along with Information sheet.

For further information on the TEF or any of the organisations we feature in the newsletters, please don't hesitate to get in touch,
Laura (Project Officer)

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1: TEF UPDATE

- Next TEF Steering Group meeting Nov 4th 2011 At Port of Dundee Offices (Forth Ports Ltd).
- Sectoral Interactions Matrix interviews continuing. Please call Project Officer for more information, or to complete a matrix.
- LCP Meeting, Edinburgh 31st August

To join the TEF mailing list or to put forward your views, articles or pictures contact:

Tay Estuary Forum
Project Officer Laura Booth
Room G35, Tower Building
University of Dundee
Dundee
DD1 4HN



TayEstuaryForum@dundee.ac.uk

01382 384933

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/TEF/>

Dolphin watching with
Tayside Biodiversity's
Coast and Estuaries
sub-group, September, 2011



2. Bioblitz at Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve

Bioblitzes are a relatively new way of trying to interest the general public in biological recording. They consist of an intensive survey of a site over 24 hours. Where possible the survey is a mix of taxonomic experts and members of the public that turn up for the day.

The Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve bioblitz was organised by Dundee Countryside Ranger Service and staff from the McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum. The event was run over the weekend of 28th and 29th May.

The site is a strip of land that runs between the Glass Pavilion restaurant and Barnhill rock garden adjacent to the railway. It contains a small remnant of a sand dune system.

The bioblitz started on the evening of the 28th with a moth, bat and amphibian recording session. A small but intrepid band included the vice county 90 moth recorder and the amphibian and reptile recorder. It was a cool night but nevertheless we managed to find seven species of moth, Pipistrelle bats and frogs.

Ominously the rangers received a phone call letting them that Sunday's weather forecast predicted 50mph winds.

Sunday morning started early with the local British Trust for Ornithology Regional Representative and volunteers from the Tay ringing group setting up mist nets and carrying out a trapping and ringing exercise. This proved very successful and was completed midmorning just as the weather started to change.

It had been agreed that the morning would be left for our experts to carry out their own surveys undisturbed and public involvement would start around lunchtime. Over eight experts including botanists, entomologists, herpetologists, conchologists and invertebrate specialists came voluntarily with members of the Dundee Naturalists' Society.

The most innovative expert was an entomologist David Pryce, who converted a domestic garden leaf blower into a suction sampler by fitting a butterfly net over the nozzle.

The most dedicated expert was Adrian Sumner the Conchological Society recorder who travelled by public transport from his home in North Berwick who arrived midway on Sunday morning, carried out several hours of field work recording slugs and snails before returning home the same way.

As if on cue the wind picked up during the morning turning the reserve into a wind tunnel. Nevertheless over 45 people turned up for the afternoons activities which included pond dipping, guided walks quiz trails and craft activities.

Finally during the early evening as the tide and wind dropped the remaining participants carried out a short survey of the beach.

Although species lists are still coming in the bioblitz recorded 277 species have been were listed. These include 133 flowering plants, 3 mammals, 8 lichens, 16 slugs/snails, 9 moths, 3 butterflies and at least 40 other invertebrates.

As with all events organising a bioblitz takes a fair amount of effort and each time we learn more about making the next event better, although we cannot control the weather. Taking part is an enjoyable way to spend a weekend and we look forward to next year's event.

Thanks to David Lampard, Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.



3. Public consultation on managing Fife's coast

FIFE COUNCIL Transportation & Environmental Services are launching a public consultation on the **Fife Shoreline Management Plan**. The consultation will run from Monday 5 September until Monday 28 November 2011, and will give the public the opportunity to view the draft policy documents and give their comments. The Fife Shoreline Management Plan outlines draft proposals to manage coastal flooding and erosion risks over the next 100 years. The Plan covers 179km of coastline from Kincardine on the Forth Estuary to Newburgh on the River Estuary. It provides a strategic framework for management of Fife's coastline, taking into account the most up-to-date knowledge of natural coastal processes and likely future scenarios including climate change and coastal instability.

The Fife Shoreline Management Plan is available to download at www.fifedirect.org.uk/shoreline. Hard copies will also be made available from New City House in Dunfermline, Fife House in Glenrothes and County Buildings in Cupar. Cllr. Tony Martin, Chair of the Environment, Enterprise & Transportation Committee, commented: "I would encourage everyone with an interest in Fife's coast to have your say in this consultation process. Your feedback will help us to consider how we manage one of Fife's biggest assets for generations to come."

Should you require any further information or advice about this project please contact Murray Scott on 08451 555 555 ext 456751.

4. West Sands Sand Dune Restoration, St Andrews



5th February 2010.

The eroded dunes at West Sands in St Andrews. Taken before the big storm of March 30th 2010 which caused significant further damage, to the site.

The dune restoration was undertaken in April 2010 using 7,000 cubic metres of sand from a source on a sand bar opposite Out Head.



8th July 2010.

Image of the dunes taken after restoration. Jute matting and chespaie fences were installed to stabilise the dune until vegetation is fully established.

Last winter, Lyme and marram grasses were transplanted from other areas of the dune. As the new photos show, the transplants are doing well.



7th September 2011.

The planting was done by many volunteers including staff of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, St Andrews Links Trust, BT, BTCV, students from St Andrews University and Elmdale College and ECOS Countryside Services.

This is the first stage in the restoration of the entire stretch of dunes on the West Sands. Financial support was provided by Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Fife Council, SNH, St Andrews Links Trust, the R&A and Fife Environment Trust.

For more info contact: Julian T Inglis,
Fife Coast and Countryside Trust:
julian.inglis@fifecountryside.co.uk



5. This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coasts.

Prof. Robert Duck, Dean of the School of the Environment, University of Dundee; Tay Estuary Forum Chair

As climate changes due to global warming and sea levels rise, what is in store for the coasts of our island?

How are British coasts changing and why, what is being done to protect them and are we doing enough?

“This is a wee gem of a book, which twinkles with poignant historical vignettes that recast our scientific understanding of coastlines as essential human stories about our island nation's turbulent relationship with sea-level change—past, present and future. Wonderful stuff”.

Professor Iain Stewart.

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