



The Forum currently covers the LBAP areas of Tayside (Perth & Kinross, Dundee, Angus), Stirling, Clacks, and Fife

Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th December 2006
Vane Farm Nature Reserve, By Kinross

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP)
Carol Littlewood (CL-w)	Angus Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Christine Hall (CH)	Scottish Agricultural College (Perth)
Shirley Paterson (SP)	Fife & Kinross FWAG
Julie Horsburgh (JH)	Fife Biodiversity Partnership
Mark Oksien (MO)	Fife Barn Owl Monitor
Willie Irvine (WI)	Fife Barn Owl Monitor
Mike Steward (MS)	Central Scotland Barn Owl Monitor
Martin Dean (MD)	Clackmannanshire Ranger Service
Elsbeth Christie (EC)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Vane Farm)

1. Apologies

Richard Lockett	Perth FWAG
Scott Nisbet	Central Scotland FWAG
Keith Cohen	Barn Owl Conservation Network (Fife Local Adviser)
Chris Waddell	Stirling Biodiversity Partnership

Notes also circulated to: Norman Elkins, British Trust for Ornithology (Fife Representative); Richard Paul, BTO (Perthshire); Les Hatton, Tay Ringing Group; Scottish Ornithological Society (Edinburgh); Alan Leitch, RSPB; Mark Simmons, Perth Museum; Angus Ranger Service; Dundee Ranger Service; Perth & Kinross Ranger Service; Fife Ranger Service; SNH (Battleby and Airlie); Forestry Commission (Perth); National Trust for Scotland (Dunkeld office); Helen Dunlop, Business Environment Partnership (Dalkeith), Fiona McIntyre, Scottish Golf Environment Group (Dalkeith).

2. Notes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of last meeting agreed as correct. Matters: CL reported Barn Owls will be included in new Farm Buildings Project in Tayside LBAP. Regarding records of Barn Owls, SNH have confirmed they do not share this sensitive information.

Nest Boxes: SP requires more, 12 RSPB ones will be available end Feb, but will all be internal. There needs to be close co-ordination of internal and external boxes. 10 for Clacks/Stirling are ready. Discussion took place around boxes for nesting verses roosting. Aim of project is to maximise Barn Owl breeding, so nesting boxes are the priority and roosting boxes will be available if spares exist. The group had previously agreed to look into labelling boxes. **Action: ALL to look at own labelling while JH looked into plastic waymarkers.**

Postcards: CL circulated comments, all comments discussed and agreed. CL will get cards printed with 4 LBAP area addresses on. They are to be made available to the public so the print run should be the maximum available for the money. **Action CL**
Poster: It was agreed a PDF would be made of the postcard for use as a poster, made available at postcard distribution points, to encourage takeup. **Action CL**

Advice Note Template: all agreed and in use.

3. **Funding Claims**

JH updated the group on the financial situation. All spending was on course, all invoices required by 14th January. There is likely to be a deficit in the second financial year, due to all LA's finding funding in this financial year and the RSPB matching funding being less than anticipated. However, this should be covered by cheaper RSPB costs and cheaper boxes. In addition JH was hoping to secure an additional £500 towards the project for spend by end March. All In Kind claims in asap. **Action: ALL to raise invoices.**

4. **Area Updates**

Fife

MO and WI reported of 6-7 pairs ringed only 2 pair had bred successfully, so believe its been a poor year. SP reported all 13 sites for Fife and Kinross had been visited, all have management plan templates, but awaiting boxes. 1 site had 2 owls in old steadings, hope to install boxes in case steadings get developed. 1 farm was already under development, but the architects had actually designed in provision for Barn Owls. Quality Assurance Schemes can limit opportunity for birds, need to lobby. Fife Ranger Service have arranged to do a volunteer day for Barn Owl Box Making, this will be used as a BOOLS social/photo event. **Action: SL to circulate architects contact. SL to confirm Social event details.**

Perthshire

RL has done a third of Perth visits, plans are currently being drawn up.

Angus

One final visit to do, others all complete and invoiced. Upland project visits still underway. The Tayside Barn Owl Newsletter will be out soon.

Clackmannanshire

SP made links with MS to establish some priorities from a 12 page list! SP will pick up and complete the outstanding visits. Criminal justice organisation are a good contact if getting boxes made up is difficult.

Stirling

MD had been out on site with MS for the Landfill Tax project, the Ranger Service erected the boxes, and will help with the new ones.

RSPB Education

EC confirmed that the education part of the project will start next term in Kinross High School, where they will make the boxes as part of the technology dept. Alva Academy is likely to be the school in Clacks. **Action : EC to co-ordinate the delivery of these boxes with SP.** There are likely to be security issues with the pupils involved going to the farms where the boxes are, so it is likely they will just visit local farms. RSPB have found £600 match funding from Russell Trust, which is great news. JH suggested Ballmullo Primary would be interested as the School in Fife. EC made a request for barn owl pellets, and any DVD/video of Barn Owl activities. **Action: EC to contact KC.**

5. **Forthcoming Plans**

The newsletters due are:

Fife/Tayside: CW April/May 07

Clacks/Stirling: Dec/Jan 08

6. Monitoring:

A discussion took place regarding monitoring, as it was essential we had some way to establish the success of the project. It was agreed by the majority that monitoring every box would be very difficult, so monitoring a sample was the most practical. **Action: Each area to decide own monitoring method and implement.**

7. Any Other Business

CH asked if anyone had seen the new RSPB leaflet on Barn Owls, pointing out it was a nice leaflet and we might want to make comments; it's due out in the next few months. **Action CH to source copy and gather comments.**

CL thanked the RSPB for providing the meeting room again at Vane Farm free of charge and to JH for offering to write up the minutes of the meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

10.30am, Wednesday, 31st January 2007. CL to check that the meeting room at Vane Farm will be available.

CONTACT DETAILS *(please advise CL if there are additional names to add to this list)*

Name	Organisation	Contact Details
Tayside Area		
Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership	tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net
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Shirley Paterson	Fife & Kinross FWAG	Shirley.paterson@fwag.org.uk
Alan Leitch (Angus)	Licensed Worker	alan.leitch@rspb.org.uk
Fife		
Julie Horsburgh	Fife Biodiversity Partnership	Julie.Horsburgh@fife.gov.uk
Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
Shirley Paterson	Fife & Kinross FWAG	Shirley.paterson@fwag.org.uk
Mark Oksien	Licensed Worker	markoksien@btinternet.com
Willie Irvine	Licensed Worker	n/a - via markoksien@btinternet.com
Keith Cohen	Barn Owl Conservation Network (Fife Local Adviser)	bats@keithcohen.co.uk

	Clacks		
	Martin Dean	Clackmannanshire Ranger Service	mdean@clacks.gov.uk)
	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
	(vacant)	Central FWAG	
	Colin Nisbet	Clacks LBAP Volunteer	Lairdno1@hotmail.com
	Mike Steward	Licensed Worker	mike.stew@tiscali.co.uk
	Stirling Area		
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