



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Annual Report

2014 – 2015



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

The broad aim of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan is to:

- *preserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, taking into account both local and national priorities*
- *and co-ordinate existing actions, as well as initiating and co-ordinating new actions*

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Front Page photographs © C A G Lloyd:

Top, left to right: Horse-drawn mower, Megginch Castle Orchard;

Swift & Bat Building Better Biodiversity training day (Kirriemuir, Angus);

Kestrel over Seaton Cliffs, Angus / Bottom, l-r: Swifts over Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire;

Small Blue butterfly; Bumblebee on wildflowers outside Angus Council offices.

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Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



Chairman's Remarks



Coming in to a new organisation always brings a sense of excitement, whatever the scale and whatever the position. What are you going to find and will it meet expectations?

I thought that I would find joining the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership interesting and I am happy to say that it hasn't disappointed in the slightest. It is so encouraging to see the enthusiasm of all those who are involved in looking after our wildlife in Tayside, particularly amongst the volunteers. I am always in awe of the hard work and dedication of the staff in the Partnership. The Co-ordinator, Catherine Lloyd, and her helpers are a very good example of how a little resource spent in this area by the two local authorities can lever in so much other resource from outside, both financial and human, and deliver so much.

Reading this report will give you a good idea of the depth and breadth of the work done to look after such a key part of our natural resources, our wildlife. I have always been passionate about the animals and plants that we share this country with and which are so affected by our actions, intentional or otherwise. As a farmer and forester, I can see this at first hand here in Highland Perthshire as I write. But these impacts occur across all our land, whether it is in the built environment or here on the farm. So the work of the partnership and all of you, whether volunteers or paid, is of crucial importance as we all try to hand on to our children something that has the same level of richness as we inherited from our parent's generation. This report gives us all a good chance to understand and enjoy these efforts as they occur across Tayside.

Andrew Barbour,
Chair of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



Tayside Biodiversity Forum

A third Forum meeting was held in Arbroath on 23rd May 2014 at which we welcomed 25 members.

The key speaker was Andy Ford from the Cairngorms National Park Authority. He pointed out that residents in Glen Doll will have more in common with people living in Tomintoul than they do with those living in Arbroath. Fingers of forest, the largest expanse of forest in the UK, reach across Speyside, Deeside, Strathdon and the Atholl Estate, and with the publication of the Cairngorms Nature Plan, there is now a strategic focus in connecting up watersheds. Wetlands are closely related to woodland, so the new contour planting scheme in Glen Clova, Angus, will have a large impact, as will the south-west Cairngorms focus on the peatland resource.

Studying the satellite tag for one of the eagles shows how wildlife uses the landscape we split into regions, counties, habitats – ‘Callum’ started in Glenlivet, but moved between Glen Doll and Blair Atholl – zig-zagging across local authority areas and communities. This is why cross-boundary collaborative work is so important, something the neighbouring Biodiversity Partnerships are already doing and which will be strengthened, in due course, with the introduction of the proposed North East Green Network.

Peter Marshall then gave Pam Ewen’s presentation in her absence, confirming that TayPlan Phase 1 runs for 5 years. He pointed out that population projections show a rapidly expanding area with the resultant opportunity to capitalise on growth, linking with both green and blue networks. Perth & Kinross Council’s Green Networks Supplementary Guidance has been completed and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments undertaken. With development up to 2050 seeing 20,000 people moving into c10,000 new homes, there is an urgent need to protect green networks and encourage new networks.

The final speaker for the day was Shirley Paterson from the Tay Landscape Partnership who showed that the £2.6m HLF funding package was enabling 29 projects to be taken forward. It is envisaged 10,000 people will be involved in the next few years, 50% of them children. Some 1,300 trees are being planted, 800 nest sites enhanced, 70 events planned, 114 biodiversity/archaeological surveys underway; 95 legacy resources and 60km wildlife corridors created.

Key projects that will have a biodiversity aspect to them include the Megginch Orchard Learning Centre (by Errol), Traditional Orchard restoration of 14 orchards, 30 orchard skills training days and the reinstatement of the annual Orchard Festival. The Buildings & Biodiversity project (an action in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan) will see 500 nest and roost sites created, as well as advice given to timber treatment companies. The Kinfauns Churchyard restoration links with the Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative and there will be opportunities to link existing biodiversity projects in Abernethy where the property frontages restoration and the churchyard enhancement are concerned. The new Wildlife Ways project will see c20km of improved roadside verge management and there will be an opportunity to improve on rural skills with hedge-laying, coppice management and green woodworking linking to the TBP’s wider network.



*Outgoing Chair, Dennis Dick, MBE (left) with new Chair, Andrew Barbour
© CAG Lloyd*

The outgoing Chair, Dennis Dick, then led a discussion on the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity and the ecosystem approach at the Tayside level. Dennis asked how we can enhance nature's resources through the revised Tayside Biodiversity Action and entice the wider community to join us in concern for the environment – what new projects and actions plans do we need? He highlighted the River South Esk Catchment Project, but concurred that similar projects were needed right across Tayside. With many of our projects being community-led, though, there is an urgent need to engage in what the community finds important – should local people even have to think about an ecosystem approach and the landscape scale?

Dennis concluded that personally-inspired action in what interests us as individuals is vital – it often produces spectacular results. How we thereby contribute to the Ecosystem Approach is the next challenge, but he urged us not to lose sight of the simple message of enhancing the local environment or encouraging people of all ages to simply care for nature.

At the end of the Forum meeting, Peter Marshall thanked Dennis for his four sterling years as Chair and presented him with a bottle of Scotch whisky and a set of four framed wildlife art prints. Dennis confirmed he will keep in touch with the Partnership and continue to help us in an advisory role.

After lunch Richard Averiss (Angus Ranger Service) and Anna Cheshier from the Scottish Wildlife Trust led a guided walk along Seaton Cliffs. No Small blue butterflies were on the wing, but this was more than made up for by seeing porpoises and dolphins, kittiwakes, razorbills, guillemots, eider ducks and gannets.



Seaton Cliffs Walk for the TBP Forum © C A G Lloyd

Delivering Local Biodiversity

The Partnership would achieve little without its Working Groups and Species Interest Groups – this is where the real action takes place. The Priority Projects list continues to include new projects as the opportunity or funding arises (see Appendix 2).

During 2014-15 there were three TBP Management Team meetings and the Co-ordinator attended regular Finance meetings.

One of the main achievements this year has been the complete updating of all data held in the UK-wide Biodiversity Action Reporting System (UKBARS). The archived UKBARS 1st Edition holds some 140 projects from Tayside, but as the new version of the system is now map-based it meant completely re-instating existing project data, plus inputting all new project data in a totally new proforma format. Thanks go to Stephanie Shaw who has been our UKBARS data expert for the past few years and who took on this enormous task to bring us up to date. Our reports can be seen via <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/search> (type in “Tayside” if necessary).

SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund

Between September 2005 and March 2014, the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund (SITA TBAF) provided funding for 146 local biodiversity conservation projects. In this time £758,728 was distributed and the leverage of all the projects exceeded £1,824,012.

A further 21 biodiversity projects were funded by the Angus Environment Trust with £324,970, leveraging a total of £489,694. Combined, the Tayside-wide funding for 167 local biodiversity projects totalled £1,083,698 (with a leverage of £2,313,706).

In June 2014, the Co-ordinator attended the last official meeting of the Perth Quality of Life Trust to dissolve the Trust and this was followed by a Civic Reception at which the Provost for Perth outlined the different funding streams the PQLT had administered and how vital they had been. The work for the Partnership did not stop with the Civic Reception – in the absence of any PQLT staff, the TBP took on the final administrative tasks and fielded many enquiries regarding the SITA TBAF’s last application round, payment issues, feedback reports, etc.

From the close of this essential funding, there has been a flurry of activity working with the Angus Environment Trust to apply for funding from the old UK Communities Landfill tax. Several projects were funded because of this last-minute focus and are reported on elsewhere in this Annual Report. There is now a hiatus awaiting the introduction of the new Scottish Communities Landfill tax. The AET has applied to continue as an Approved Body. There is, unfortunately, unlikely to be a similar trust working within Perth & Kinross.

Revision of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan

It was agreed to review the 1st Edition of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (TLBAP), but as time progressed it was realised a totally new 2nd Edition would be necessary to show the new links with ecosystems services and natural capital. However much help was forthcoming and a new style of TLBAP is being progressed for publication at the end of 2015.

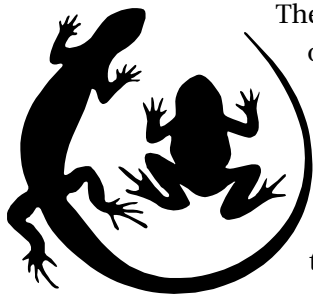
Water & Wetlands Working Group (including the Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group – TayARG)

Working Group Leader – Kate Baird, SEPA

Members include SEPA, SNH, Scottish & Southern Energy, Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board, Angus Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Perth Lade Group, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Mink Initiative, TayARG and BASC and River South Esk Catchment Partnership

Tayside Lochs Partnership members include SEPA, Lockett Agri-Environmental, Littlewood Land Care, SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Water, Bell Ingram, Scottish Wildlife Trust and SWT Saving our Red Squirrels

A meeting was held in July 2014 in Forfar and followed by a field visit to the Rottal Burn (River South Esk Catchment Partnership project) in the afternoon. The Group met again in October at the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board offices.



ARG UK

The **Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)**, works closely with Friends of Angus Herpetofauna (FAH) and ARC's Scottish Officer (Amphibian & Reptile Conservation). It has its own page on the ARG website: <http://groups.arguk.org/TayARG>, as well as a very popular Facebook page.

In October 2014 volunteers from FAH and TayARG were invited to give a presentation to the ARC Edinburgh Symposium. Clare McInroy outlined the work she carried out in partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands which included surveying and compiling data from recently installed amphibian ladders in Angus. Karis Fairfield demonstrated different aspects of volunteering and the work she undertook with toad patrols, again in Angus. The TBP's Andrew Law rounded up the presentation with a summary of the TayARG Amphibians in Drains Project from 2010 to the present day and gave the preliminary results of the 2014 survey within Perth and Kinross.

The Amphibians in Drains project – in Angus, Friends of Angus Herpetofauna and students from UHI and Dundee University undertook the first British Amphibian Ladder trial at two sites: one just north of Dundee and the other in Carnoustie (this follows the first such trial in the Netherlands). Angus Environmental Trust funding enabled wildlife kerbs and other measures to be installed at a key amphibian crossing point at Monikie Country Park and a further 30 amphibian ladders are now being trialled at Angus Council's Orchardbank headquarters as part of the FAH's Frogs on the Hop project.

With Andrew Law, the TBP Graduate Intern, surveying 50+ gullypots in Blairgowrie, Lethandy and Murthly on a weekly basis, the resulting year long report has been very useful in raising awareness of the project and to encourage a further surveying period – some with amphibian ladders installed – in 2015.



A start was made to research and map Perthshire Amphibian Priority Zones and further work is planned to ground-truth SUDS now that the local authority audit is complete. All data will be entered into the Perth & Kinross Council GIS and this will help show where best to focus installation of wildlife kerbs and the trial amphibian ladders in the future.

Amphibians saved from a Perthshire gullypot © A S Law

Tayside Lochs Partnership – All Perthshire projects are now complete and ongoing monitoring has been incorporated into SEPA's Priority Catchment work. The Lintrathen Loch Enhancement Project in Angus has received new funding from the Angus Environment Trust and work to enhance biodiversity and reduce diffuse pollution will be carried out during 2015.

All 50 pond identification packs and kits from **Tayside & Grampian Pooling our Ponds Project** were distributed in return for a commitment of one hour pond surveys each season. The survey results are going direct to NESBReC and will be shared with the TBP at a later date.

River South Esk Catchment Partnership Projects

1 Rottal Burn Restoration (Glen Clova)

The hard landscaping is complete, but further bank protection was installed to stem erosion at one point in the new channel. Scientific research into erosion, increased biodiversity and restoration good practice techniques continues through collaboration with local universities.

2 Invasive Non-Native Species Project (INNS)

This project has run in the catchment since 2009 and although treatment has been very successful in largely eliminating Japanese Knotweed in the three main areas of infestation, the Giant Hogweed problem persists in with winter spates creating "new" areas of infestation. The Partnership provided spraying equipment for the SWT ranger at Montrose Basin to carry out work on the Local Nature Reserve. The SWT also received funds from the Angus Environment Trust to treat areas of the reserve.

3) The Glen Clova Contour Planting Project

This large-scale forestry project will help reduce peak flows in the River South Esk catchment. Planting at the first site identified in the scheme was completed during 2014. Funding of £80,000 was provided by Forestry Commission Scotland, Angus Council, Esk District Salmon Fishery Board and the Cairngorms National Park Authority, with in-kind support from RSPB.

Further studies were initiated including a hydrological assessment of contour planting, a waders, wetlands and forest planning study, an ecological site classification of the glen and an investigation into the future of hill sheep farming.



Rottal Burn visit, July 2014 © C A G Lloyd

Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme (Angus Council) – this new project was started at the end of this reporting period. Site plans are in place for biodiversity enhancement and interpretation including native wetland planting, nature trails etc.

Salmon in the Classroom – the project receives funding through SNH for Rangers to visit schools. Eight schools in Perth & Kinross have been involved in the project this year and there is high demand for further visits so this is an ongoing project. There has also been a ‘Trout in the Classroom’ project involving the Loch Leven catchment.

Urban Watercourses Initiative – Dighty Connect Project: the Broughty Ferry Environmental Group ran 60 half day practical conservation sessions involving path clearance after storms/flooding, litter picking, tree and wildflower planting, bat box installation and habitat creation. Over 250 volunteers were involved in the various projects with over 700 people involved in popular outdoor art sessions along the Dighty Water. Fifty three citizen science sessions involved tree and woodland phenology, plus Dipper, Swift and Kingfisher identification. Links with the business sector raised awareness of invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and the control of surface water drains. Invasive species events and project work meant that the control of Giant Hogweed along the Dighty Water was monitored by volunteers and was >95% successful in the past last year.

Water Vole projects – the Tay Landscape Partnership (TLP) Riparian Mammals Survey was completed and the report published. The findings confirm there is no active water vole population in the TLP study area and only medium and low quality habitat was identified. In the longer term, a reintroduction programme might be considered. This would involve landowner agreements, mink control, riparian habitat enhancement and management.

Numerous records of otter and mink were identified. Although a programme of mink eradication is outwith the scope of TLP, riparian habitat enhancement work will be carried out via the Tay to Braes project, e.g. control of Himalayan balsam.

Tay Beavers – the Partnership attended the Stakeholders’ meeting held at Battleby in November 2014 and contributed ideas for speakers to the proposed Scottish Wild Beavers Group conference. The latter conference attracted over 100 delegates to its Necessary Beaver event at the end of March 2015. International speakers included beaver management experts from the Netherlands and America.

Tayside Mink Initiative – the North Tay Area is on the edge of the Scottish Mink Initiative work and further south there is no co-ordinated mink control, so efforts are focussed on preventing mink from moving further north into Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms.

There are 88 active monitoring rafts and 68 volunteers. Mink prints have been found and trapping is underway at Montrose Basin; one male mink was trapped at Lunan Burn (Tay) in November 2014. Rafts are present on the Garry, Tummel and Tay as far south as the River Isla confluence, the Isla and the Ericht.

Coast & Estuaries Working Group (including the Small Blue Butterfly Interest Group)

Working Group Leader – KellyAnn Dempsey, Angus Council

Members include *Angus Council, SNH, Tay Estuary Forum, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, Dundee Leisure & Culture, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, British Association of Shooting and Conservation, RSPB, Marine Conservation Society, Dundee Botanic Gardens and Taymara (Tay Maritime Action)*



Small Blue Butterfly Interest Group members include *East of Scotland Butterfly Conservation Group, Angus Council, Perth Museum, Dundee Leisure & Culture, Angus Ranger Service, SNH, SWT, Dundee Botanic Gardens and N E Scotland Biodiversity Partnership*

The Working Group met in June 2014 and visited Elliot Links to discuss the potential for reintroduction of Small Blue butterfly. It met again in October at Carnoustie and enjoyed a site visit to Barry Buddon. A third meeting was held in Montrose in February 2015.

Elliot Links meeting (June 2014) © C A G Lloyd

Angus Coastal Intertidal Life Survey – “Shore Thing”

An investigation was carried out involving university students in the project and other special interest groups. No invasive species were identified during surveys.

Dune Habitat Restoration – Elliot Links, Arbroath

Angus Council, in partnership with SNH and Angus Environmental Trust, set up a 3 year programme to remove invasive plants such as *Rosa rugosa* and gorse from the SSSI. The project is encouraging better conditions for the Sea pea and new Kidney vetch planting is also being considered to encourage the return of the Small Blue butterfly. A third phase of invasive weed removal at Elliot SSSI as part of the Elliot Links Restoration Project is now being designed.

The Small Blue Butterfly project – co-ordinated jointly by the East of Scotland Branch of Butterfly Conservation and the TBP, a very successful training session took place in June 2014 at Seaton Cliffs with the butterfly being seen towards the end of the walk.

The Interest Group met in September 2014 to plan the survey year ahead, this time including the small quarries inland that have hosted the butterfly in the past. Funding from the TBP was set aside to pay the local *Celtica* Wildflower Nursery to grow on local provenance Kidney vetch seed gathered and supplied by Scotia Seeds. This will be planted out, with the landowners' permission, in spring 2016 and with a broadcasting of the same batch of seed taking place during 2015.

Small Blue Butterfly Training Day, June 2014 © C A G Lloyd



The Angus Cetacean Awareness Project – www.marinelifeangus.co.uk the website hosting ACAP, promotes a wealth of information on local coastal sites great for land-based viewing and also aims to publicise other local surveys recording local butterflies, maritime plants and marine non-native species. Sightings are reported to UKBARS and the Working Group and there is now a twitter account to follow @marinelifeangus.

Since the project began there have been regular sightings at more than seven locations on the Angus coast of species including Bottlenose dolphins, Minke whale, Porpoise and Common dolphin – and even humpbacks at Montrose Bay. A particular hotspot is Scurdieness lighthouse at Ferryden, Montrose. The number of sightings reported rose in 2014 and more than 100 Bottlenose dolphins were recorded at various sites over the course of the year. The project continues to secure high profile PR locally and nationally.

Woodland Working Group

Working Group Leader – Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission Scotland

Members include *Forestry Commission Scotland, Angus Council, SNH, Native Woods, Perth & Kinross Council, Scottish Land & Estates, Community Woodlands Association, Scottish Wildlife Trust Saving our Squirrels, RSPB, SWT, Botanical Society of the British Isles, Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate, Scottish Nature, Atholl Estates Ranger Service, Scottish Wild Beaver Group, Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens' Network, Woodland Trust Scotland, Scottish Crannog Centre, Littlewood Land Care*

One Working Group meeting took place in April 2014.

The SWT Saving our Red Squirrels Project continues to work with 66 estates (of which 58 are working under the SRDP) in Tayside. Twenty nine volunteer surveyors carry out annual squirrel surveys to assess the distribution of the two squirrel species. To date there has been no further spread of Grey Squirrels northward from the Central Lowlands.

The project runs a trap loan scheme to deliver co-ordinated Red Squirrel protection via Grey Squirrel control. It also employs its own personnel to trap in forested areas (in partnership with Forest Enterprise) and in areas not covered by landowners. Additionally, by working with scientists from both Heriot-Watt University and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, it is hoped a mathematical approach will help model Red and Grey Squirrel populations and the transmission of squirrel pox.

Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens' Network – the scheme is supported directly by the UK Tree Council with a member of the Tree Wardens seconded to the Woodland Working Group and the Co-ordinator acting as Hon. Chair. The Partnership helped plan three training events and chaired two Executive Committee meetings. Events included an 'Urban Trees: Issues and Management' training session, a bluebell woodland walk, and training in undertaking Ancient Tree Hunt surveys. The Partnership also secured exhibition space for the Tree Wardens in the Woodlands4Yew marquee at the Dundee Food & Flower Festival and provided a new display for the group.

Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens' Ancient Tree Hunt training © C A G Lloyd



Coppice Management and Rural Skills – following on from the well-received Scottish Crannog Centre's coppice conference, the TBP discussed the potential for a second, more wide-ranging event to tie in with researching and setting up a Scottish Coppice Association. Personal circumstances have delayed holding the event in 2015, but there are plans to work with the Crannog Centre and invite lichenologists, the Atlantic Hazel Working Group, Reforesting Scotland, and rural skills and woodland management specialists to a two or three-venue event in 2016.



Tayside Orchard Projects – one meeting of the Carse of Gowrie Historic Orchard Forum was attended in July 2014 to help plan (and later attend) the Megginch Fruit Festival. The Co-ordinator assisted the Scottish Gardener journalist in a feature on the Tayside orchards.

In November, the Co-ordinator attended both the first Scottish Orchard Gathering (in Dunblane) and the first UK Orchard Conference held in Malvern. Both events were first class and there was much to take on board where publicity is concerned in marrying the production of fruit with the marketing of it.

Megginch fruit waiting to be juiced (Megginch Fruit Festival)
© CAG Lloyd

There was also an opportunity for the TBP to contribute ideas to the Central Scotland Green Network's Orchard Habitat Assessment card (as part of the CSGN's citizen science project).

With the commencement of the delivery phase of the Tay Landscape Partnership, work to restore and manage key historic orchards in the Carse of Gowrie, including replanting with local heritage varieties, began. Under the TLP's Tay to Braes project, 400m of wildlife hedge were also planted, with further hedge and tree planting planned for 2015.

Farmland & Upland Working Group (including the Barn Owl Interest Group)

Working Group Leader – Carol Littlewood, Littlewood Land Care

Members include *Littlewood Land Care, RSPB, Forestry Commission Scotland, Angus Council (inc. Glen Doll Rangers), SNH, SEPA, BASC, South Esk Catchment Management Partnership, Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, Centre for Mountain Studies (UHI), Perth & Kinross Council, Scottish Land & Estates, Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate, Braes of the Carse Group, Scottish Nature, Cairngorms National Park Authority, James Hutton Institute (formerly SCRI), John Muir Trust, Land Manager EU, Balmanno Estate (Perthshire), Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Field Studies Council, Scottish Raptors Group, Scotia Seeds, Heather Trust, Police Scotland (Tayside Wildlife Liaison), National Trust for Scotland, SWT, National Farmers Union Scotland, Botanical Society of the British Isles.*

The Working Group Leader attended the Working Group Leaders' meeting in January 2015.

Wet Grassland for Waders – two more sites were surveyed during the year; no further large scale surveys are planned at present.

Farmland Bird Projects – Tayside Barn Owl Project: the Angus Environment Trust-funded project continued, with most sites decided and some of the nestboxes put in place. **Supporting Tayside’s Tree Sparrows:** it had been hoped to extend the project to provide village communities with nestboxes where Tree Sparrows feed in gardens; small-scale funding has been secured for a pilot project during 2015. **Angus Corn Bunting Project** – the RSPB supported a limited number of wild bird cover sites for Corn buntings outwith agri-environment schemes and will extend this through AET funding during 2015. Survey data for the 2014-15 season saw a slight decline in Corn Bunting numbers in Angus; the reason for this is unknown. **The Murton Grey Partridge Breeding Programme** continued in 2014, as did the Game Conservancy & Wildlife Trust’s Partridge Count Scheme.

Rural Skills – another successful **hedge-laying training day**, led by Guy Robins, was held in March 2015 at Mavisbank, home to Scotia Seeds near Brechin. There is a continued need for traditional skills to be learnt to put to good use either commercially or in practical volunteering tasks across Tayside.

The Tay Landscape Partnership undertook a **Buildings and Habitat Survey** to support both the **Buildings for Biodiversity** and **Tay to Braes projects**. This included the production of 50 proposed site management plans for buildings and their associated habitats which included tree and hedge planting, and installation of nest and roost boxes.

The loss of local biodiversity funding opportunities with the closure of the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund were compounded by the ongoing negotiations for the European Commission to approve the 2014-2020 **Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)**. The programme was not formally approved until May 2015 so delivery of Pillar 2 of the EU Common Agricultural Policy was not possible during 2014-15. The SRDP funds economic, environmental and social measures, but its reporting system cannot provide the much-needed environmental statistics to UKBARS. There is no one system in the UK which can therefore accurately report or predict how the environment is faring.

Urban & Built Environment Working Group (including Tayside Swifts)

Joint Working Group Leaders – Esther Roger-Nicolls (Perth & Kinross Council) and Craig Borland (Angus Ranger Service)

Members include *Perth & Kinross Council, Angus Council, SNH, Perth Lade Group, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, Volunteer Angus, Hillcrest Housing Association and Ian Ford.*

Swift Interest Group members include *Concern for Swifts Scotland, RSPB, SEPA, Angus Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Perth Museum, Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group, Perthshire Wildlife, Hillcrest Housing Association, Scottish Water, TullochNET, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Swift Conservation, and Voluntary Surveyors – Charlie MacPherson, Bill Henderson, Andrew Rodger, Forbes Brown, Ron Downing, Amanda Zostak, Karis Fairfield, Barry Caudwell, Martin Ridley.*

Meetings were held in April and June 2014, and March 2015.

The PKC Biodiversity Officer liaised with the Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group regarding the **PKC Urban Red Squirrel Survey** (for which the TBP contributed small-scale funding). The survey identified sites where Grey squirrels were present. In March 2015 Perth and Kinross Council agreed to continue the monitoring with the help of the Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group whilst funding options are investigated to allow Grey squirrel control measures to be put in place.



*Forfar Loch Acorn Club and their new hedgehog hibernaculum
© Angus Council Ranger Service*

Going the Whole Hog – funding was secured from the Angus Environment Trust for the period 2014-17 for this innovative Angus Council Ranger Service-led project with links to Eco Schools and Eco Centres.

The funding will provide a hedgehog hibernaculum to every primary school in Angus by 2017, together with a selection of spring-flowering bulbs and wildflower seeds to grow either in a meadow or beneath a hedgerow. Each school will receive an illustrated presentation, backed up with a school ground survey and advice on how it can be improved for

all the relevant wildlife. Such is the interest by the local community, the project has been opened up to include five community events to raise awareness about hedgehogs.

In the first 9 months of the project 3,885 people were involved – 29 primary schools and nursery classes, 2 secondary schools, 3 community groups, and a Further Education College.

Tayside BeeWild – the Muirton Buzzing (Wildflower Meadow) Project in Perth continued to be a great success. Buglife Scotland (in association with PKC, TBP and Caledonia Housing) took the project forward, with local school pupils helping plant wildflower plants to encourage



*Community wildflower planting, Forfar
© CAG Lloyd*

pollinating insects. The wildflower meadow has transformed the area for the local community of Muirton by adding colour and life. The meadow has provided foraging habitat for a number of pollinating insects including all 6 of the commonly seen bumblebee species, plus solitary bees and hoverflies. The meadow and surrounding brownfield land have also provided a home for a number of invertebrate and other wildlife species.

Following the workshops held at the Trellis annual conference in March 2014 the Co-ordinator ran new workshops to care home companies, CHAN (Care Home Activities Network) and local community groups. In Angus this led to the setting up of a series of wildlife kits based on the existing Tayside BeeWild project. Funded by AET, 11 care homes and day care centres are currently involving volunteers in planting small orchards, wildflower banks, making ponds and improving patio areas for wildlife. It is hoped a similar project can be rolled out across both Perth and Kinross in the future.

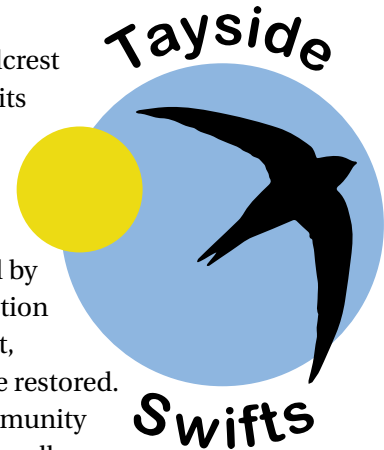
ZOOM In2 – the revised time-lapse photography project has its own website www.zoomin2.co.uk and leaflet.

Tayside Golf Course Projects – Ryder Cup 2014 legacy funding (£44,000) enabled a grant to be set up in association with the Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG) and advice from the TBP and Perth & Kinross Council. A suite of 11 golf course biodiversity projects were undertaken within Perth & Kinross and included installation of Barn owl nestboxes, new ponds and tree planting for Red squirrels. In November 2014 a Sharing Good Practice seminar “Wildlife in the Rough” was jointly run by SNH, the TBP and SGEG at Battleby to bring together biodiversity management practitioners and golf course managers.

Tayside Swifts

The annual “dots on map” meeting was held in October 2014. Hillcrest Housing Association continued to sponsor the Swift project with its donation of £500 towards nestboxes and publications.

With the completion of the highly successful SITA TBAF-funded **Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation Project**, the focus turned to the **Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project**. Funding was granted by the Angus Environmental Trust to undertake a project in conjunction with the Kirriemuir Conservation Area Restoration (CARS) project, advising and installing nestboxes when the property frontages are restored. The project is wider than the actual CARS area and there is a community element, working with schools, churches and local businesses, as well as Hillcrest Housing Association.



A local community group was set up as a result of a swift walk held by Perthshire Wildlife – the Stanley Swift Group are now running their own surveys and walks and discussing with Tayside Swifts where best to install swift nestboxes.

There was an opportunity to share information with East Dunbarton Council regarding their proposed Swift Project & Citizen Science Survey. Discussions are underway to host a Scottish Swift Gathering in Tayside during 2016, perhaps working jointly with SNH on one of their Sharing Good Practice workshops.

People & Communications Working Group

Working Group Leader: until April 2014 – Martyn Jamieson, Field Studies Council;
from March 2015 – Joint Leaders: Dennis Dick and Polly Pullar.

Members include *the Tayside Landscape Partnership, Field Studies Council Scotland, Angus Council Ranger Service and Education Department, Leisure & Culture Dundee, Perth & Kinross Council Ranger Service and Education Department, SNH, John Muir Trust, Perth Museum, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, Dundee Botanic Gardens, Perth College UHI, Perthshire Wildlife, Historic Scotland, Royal Highland Education Trust, Scottish Mink Initiative, Felicity Martin.*

With the departure of the Working Group Leader, Martyn Jamieson for the Western Isles, only one meeting was held in the year – March 2015 when Dennis Dick and Polly Pullar became joint Leaders for the Group.

The Group's remit includes the Tayside Recorders' Forum, the preparation of the 2nd Edition of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, geodiversity, publications (including newsletters) and the Partnership's media input (website and Facebook pages). Although the **Tayside Biodiversity Teachers' Guide** largely stalled during 2014, text was updated and advice obtained from Education Advisers. A new Editing Team will bring the guide to fruition during 2015.

2014-15 was a very full year where the **Building Better Biodiversity training series** was concerned and took up a great deal of the Co-ordinator's time. The events calendar included the following:

- **2014 Tayside Recorders Day**
(5 April, Forfar)
- **Tayside Biodiversity Forum meeting and guided cliff walk**
(23 May, Arbroath)
- **Small Blue butterfly training day**
(1 June, Arbroath – joint TBP and East of Scotland Butterfly Conservation)
- **Making Room for Wildlife in Care Home and Day Care Centre Grounds Workshop**
(4 June, Arbroath)
- **Making Room for Wildlife in Care Home and Day Care Centre Grounds Workshop**
(4 June, Forfar)
- **SNH Kinross Discovery Day**
(8 June) – TayARG and Tayside Swifts
- **Ancient Tree Hunt survey training**
(21 June, Perth – joint Woodland Trust and Tree Wardens)
- **SNH Loch Leven BioBlitz**
(5 and 6 July) – TayARG and Tayside Swifts
- **Native Woodland Scotland Survey and its relevance to Angus**
(8 July, Forfar lunch time seminar)
- **Native Woodland Scotland Survey and its relevance to Perth & Kinross**
(8 July, Perth workshop)
- **Design & Management of SUDS for Biodiversity**
(12 September, Forfar lunch time seminar)
- **Design & Management of SUDS for Biodiversity**
(12 September, Perth workshop)
- **Making Room for Wildlife in Care Home and Day Care Centre Grounds**
(17 September, Perth workshop)
- **Mitigation Measures to Safeguard Amphibians: Amphibians in Drains**
(6 October, Forfar lunch time seminar)
- **Mitigation Measures to Safeguard Amphibians: Amphibians in Drains**
(6 October, Perth workshop)
- **SNH/TBP Sharing Good Practice Wildlife in the Rough (golf course biodiversity) workshop**
(5 November, Battleby) – the TBP's new Chairman chaired the day's proceedings.
- **Badger Mitigation in Development**
(23 January, Forfar lunch time seminar)
- **Badger Mitigation in Development**
(23 January, Perth workshop)
- **Wildlife Crime in Tayside**
(12 February, Forfar lunch time seminar)
- **Wildlife Crime in Tayside**
(12 February, Perth workshop)
- **2015 Tayside Recorders' Day**
(28 February, Camperdown)
- **Pond Management and Site Visit to North Inch Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) Pond**
(10 March, Perth)
- **Practical Hedgelaying Training Day, hosted by Scotia Seeds**
(17 March, by Brechin)



SNH Loch Leven BioBlitz bird ringing session (Tayside Swift banner in the background!) © C A G Lloyd

As ever, none of these events could have taken place without partnership working. In the case of the lunch time seminars, Angus Council provided the meeting room and the TBP contributed the admin for bookings and the cost of the catering. The Perth & Kinross Council workshops were all handled by the PKC Biodiversity Officer. The Tayside Recorders' Forum is led by Angus Ranger Service, Perth Museum and Leisure & Culture Dundee, each hosting the event every three years. In return the TBP plans the seminar and handles the bookings and feedback analysis.

The TBP was pleased to be part of the SNH Loch Leven BioBlitz and ever-popular Discovery Day. In March 2015 Scotia Seeds not only hosted another hedgelaying event, but took the bookings too. And over the winter, the TBP contributed towards the planning of the Scottish Beaver Conference – The Necessary Beaver – held in Dunkeld on 28 March.

Promoting Community Involvement in Biodiversity Projects

As in previous years, this aspect of Partnership work continues to expand with many general enquiries for information or advice for start-up biodiversity projects or their funding. The list of organisations met or helped during 2014-15 is too great to include here in full, but includes:

- TRACKS
- Angask (Glenfarg) Church
- Northlands Care Home
- Balhousie Care Group
- Cleish Community Council
- Friends of Friockheim Mill Pond
- Beautiful Angus
- Sustrans
- Scottish Green Infrastructure Forum
- Braes of the Carse Group
- Easthaven Community Group
- Perth Lade Group
- Monifieth EcoForce Group

Tayside Recorders' Forum – the period 2014-15 saw two Recorders' Days being held: the 7th in April 2014 in Forfar (attracting 60 people) and the 8th in February 2015 at Camperdown (at which 35 people were welcomed). The Biodiversity Assistant, Andrew Law, compiled and published the comprehensive annual Bulletin for both events.

For the first time, in 2015, we had to make a small charge for catering and this may be reflected in the reduced number of delegates. In 2014 90 people applied to attend the event and we had to turn away a third of them as Forfar could only accommodate 60 people. The event, was however, very well received and the feedback was excellent.

Tayside Geodiversity Group – chaired by Carol Pudsey, this is a standalone group of which the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership is a member. Both Tayside Geodiversity and the TBP are members of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum and have signed the Scottish Geodiversity Charter. The key task for 2014-15 was the compilation of a Tayside Geodiversity Action Plan to be included in the 2nd Edition LBAP.

The TBP still hosts a designated geodiversity section for the Group on its website, but it is planned to reduce this when much of the section can be transferred over to the new Tayside Geodiversity website. The TBP's Biodiversity Assistant researched and compiled a first draft of a leaflet for a Balkello walking trail in Angus.

Scottish Local Biodiversity Action Plan Officers' Network: National Network Meetings – the Co-ordinator works with Biodiversity Partnerships across Scotland and contributes to the Network's email group which this time included preparing a 2013-14 report for the Scottish Government's Minister for the Environment.

The TBP reports back on its projects at the six-monthly Network meetings: these included Aviemore in April 2014 and North Lanarkshire in November 2014. Andrew Law, the TBP's Biodiversity Assistant, gave a presentation at the latter on his Amphibians in Drains work; the Co-ordinator gave an update on the Angus Small Blue Butterfly Project.

The Co-ordinator also attended the Scottish Biodiversity Committee's People & Communications Land Use meeting in Edinburgh during September on behalf of the LBAP Network and attended the Scottish Biodiversity Committee's Science Conference and Reception, again in Edinburgh during October.

Regional Network Meetings – regular meetings took place between the TBP, Highland and NE Scotland Biodiversity Officers and the Cairngorms Nature Partnership. Each area hosted a meeting every quarter: Aberdeen in April 2014, Tayside (Blair Atholl) in September, Inverness in January 2015 and the CNPA in Grantown-on-Spey in May. This is bringing together plans to share projects, events (especially the Scottish Nature Festival) and links to citizen science projects, businesses, etc.

Additional cross-boundary liaison took place in May when the TBP and Fife Biodiversity Partnership met with the Tay and Forth Estuary Fora to discuss joint actions and projects.

Proposed North East Green Network – with the pressure of work worsening in the past year, the proposed NEGN stalled temporarily. A Concept Note and project ideas were circulated and it is hoped a future student internship, perhaps based in Tayside, will enable a scoping study to be produced. In the meantime, the TBP's ex-Chair, Dennis Dick, is acting as Interim Chairman.

As Green Networks are becoming increasingly important within the EU and are material considerations in allocating funds to strategic projects, there are major benefits to greater collaborative working. The NEGN would not be formally structured like the Central Scotland Green Network, but be a means to more effective 'joined up' project planning, policy implementation and project delivery.

Business and Biodiversity – plans for a Business and Biodiversity leaflet were delayed until 2015-16, but in the meantime SEPA took forward a community/business-based practical project at Kirkton Industrial Estate, Arbroath. The TBP provided two information packs to interested businesses and discussed potential funding options for expanding the Tayside BeeWild Project to business and industrial parks.

Assisting The Local Authorities in Delivering Their Biodiversity Duty

This section should not be seen as standalone: many of the projects highlighted elsewhere in this Annual Report involve Council staff input.

Perth & Kinross Council

Perth & Kinross Council staff are represented on most Working Groups and several projects are being taken forward jointly. As in previous years, working with the Perth & Kinross Council's Biodiversity Officer led to greater opportunities to link development issues to Partnership projects and Action Plan targets. Discussions included tree felling issues, the Wildflower Buzzin' projects, and the ongoing wildlife issues with the new T-in-the-Park venue at Strathallan Estate. The very successful Amphibians in Drains pilot project is reported on earlier.

Mapping was discussed where bluebell woodlands, Swifts and Barn owls were concerned. Following discussions with the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service on running a potential Perth & Kinross Volunteers Fair, this ran for the first time in May 2015 and it is hoped it will be repeated regularly.

Ahead of the need for local authorities to prepare a three-year report on achieving their Biodiversity Duty, the Co-ordinator adapted the agreed LBAPO Network's Biodiversity Reporting template and shared this with both local authorities. Following the first reporting round, the possibility of completely revising and reprinting the existing Tayside "Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services" guide was mooted as this would enable feedback from the current Biodiversity Reporting round to aid annual internal reporting from the end of 2015 onwards. The Council's Biodiversity Duty Report for 2012-14 can be seen at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/2483/Planning-and-Biodiversity>.

During the summer, a great deal of time was given to clearing out cupboards and filing cabinets ahead of the move to hot-desking and much less storage being available.

Angus Council

Biodiversity surgeries continued to be held regularly throughout the year with the Co-ordinator visiting the Forfar office once or twice a month. The purpose of the surgeries is to advise Local Authority employees on their biodiversity duty, help start up biodiversity projects, or add a biodiversity slant to existing projects. This latter has been important where the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme is concerned, but also in many small-scale projects too, including the Brechin Public Park community project and the Glen Doll trail camera project. At the end of March, the TBP took part in the Beautiful Angus Market Place event which brought together many In-Bloom groups as well as environmental community groups. This led to meeting the local community at Easthaven and planning a future BioBlitz and a series of practical projects.

The TBP contributed to the Council's Main Issues report, input into the Climate Change Strategy and gave biodiversity information for the Climate Change Declaration annual progress report 2013-14.

A separate report on Angus Priority Biodiversity Projects was also prepared and text submitted for the Three-Year Biodiversity Duty Report. Together with AC staff, a photocall with councillors and heads of department was arranged to launch the Three-Year Report and to acknowledge the fact that Angus Council is leading (in Britain) on the Amphibian in Drains project.

As a member of the Angus Rural Partnership Group (AREP), the TBP regularly reports on species indicators and contributes towards the Single Outcome Agreement.

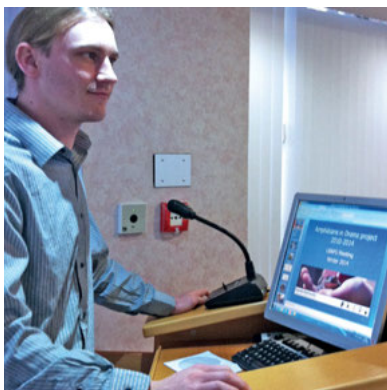
The Co-ordinator also liaised regularly with the Ranger Service on a variety of projects, especially the Going the Whole Hog and wildlife gardening projects, the Swift Survey and Small Blue Butterfly Survey. General community advice also continued apace. A meeting to discuss the new Stalled Spaces Project led to a meeting with Buglife Scotland to research large-scale projects of the future.

The Council's Biodiversity Duty Report for 2012-14 can be seen at <http://www.angus.gov.uk/info/20334/sustainableangus/448/biodiversity>.

Promoting Awareness of Biodiversity in Tayside

Talks and Presentations – during the year, the Partnership took part in several events:

- April 2014 – Tayside Recorders' Day (presentation and exhibition)
- June – SNH Kinross Discovery Day: c500 people attended
- June – Volunteer Action Angus (two workshops given: Forfar and Arbroath)
- September – Joint TBP and British Dragonfly Society stand at the 3-day Dundee Food & Flower Festival (Wood4U marquee, courtesy of FCS) – c25,000 people attended
- September – Balhousie Care Group (workshop for regional staff, Perth)
- October – ARC Symposium, Edinburgh: Andrew Law gave presentation; poster exhibition
- November – Wildlife in the Rough Golf & Biodiversity Sharing Good Practice seminar (Battleby)
- November – Cleish Community Council (presentation)
- November – Local Biodiversity Officers' Network, Strathclyde: presentation (Andrew Law also gave presentation)
- March 2015 – Care Home Activities Network (presentation)
- March 2015 – Beautiful Angus event in Forfar (presentation and exhibition)



From L-R: Andrew Law's presentation in Strathclyde (Nov 2014); Grassland workshop (Wildlife in the Rough SGP Battleby); Community Wildflower planting, Forfar © C A G Lloyd

Publications – Tayside Recorders' Bulletins for 2014 and 2015.

Display banners and exhibitions – wildlife seed packets from SNH and bookmarks/pens, as well as a wide variety of leaflets and newsletters from the TBP were given to many organisations running events throughout the year. The TBP has a variety of display banners which are used at many events. These included the Ancient Tree Forum Conference, Perth; Tay Estuary Forum conference (Dundee); SGP Citizen Science Workshop (Battleby); Loch Leven BioBlitz – and Mammal Trapping display; the Necessary Beaver Conference; as well as most of the events listed above. The two sets of Tayside Swift banners were widely used in libraries, museums, local businesses and schools; a new TayARG banner was officially launched at the ARC Symposium in Edinburgh (October 2014) and the two sets of TBP banners continued to be widely used across the region, especially at the Angus Walking Festival and similar events.



From L-R: Trellis Conference TBP stand; Woodland pond display, DFFF; Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens stand, DFFF © C A G Lloyd

Media – regular articles continued to be submitted to the UK Biodiversity Newsletter and Scottish Biodiversity Forum Bulletin. Press releases on a variety of subjects were circulated to The Scotsman, Angus Matters, Perthshire Advertiser, the Courier, Blairgowrie Advertiser, Arbroath Herald, Forfar Dispatch, Kirriemuir Herald, and Brechin Advertiser.

Website and Social Media – the website: <http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk> was subject to a major review during 2014 and early 2015.

Statistics for the past 6 years (2009 to 2014 inclusive) show:

- Total Website Sessions to be 552,069 and
- Total Website Hits to be 3,023,709.

This includes the figures for the year April 2014 to March 2015:

- 133,877 (total website sessions) and
- 491,786 (total website hits).

The Facebook page *Tayside Biodiversity* has been running for over two years and is becoming more and more popular: from 218 members to 262 members by the end of the year. The TBP contributes to three other Facebook pages: *Tayside Swifts* – 157 members (up from 102 last year); *Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles* – 153 members (up from 80 at the end of last year); *Tayside Wildlife Recorders Forum* (set up in April 2014) – 36 (up from 18).



From l-r: Glen Doll, Angus; Elliot SSSI, Angus; Trees at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire © C A G Lloyd

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Partnership's funders (Perth & Kinross Council and Angus Council) for helping us achieve so much in the continuing and increasingly restrictive financial constraints. The general help given by the PKC Environment Section Administration staff is also much appreciated.

Thanks also to the recipients of the old SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund, some of whose projects are still underway, the Angus Environment Trust, Hillcrest Housing Association and CSV for its help in volunteer projects. We bade farewell to Dennis Dick as the hard-working Chair for four years and warmly welcomed Andrew Barbour as our new Chair.

Thanks are also due to the Partnership's Management Team: Peter Marshall, Roy Madden (who retired in June 2014), Kate Cowey, Esther Rogers-Nicoll (who retired in March 2015), David Williamson and Kelly Ann Dempsey, and all those involved in the Partnership for their ongoing support, enthusiasm and assistance throughout the past year.

'EVERY ACTION COUNTS!'

This Report has been compiled by Catherine Lloyd,
Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator,
on behalf of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

June 2015

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

Appendix 1

FORUM MEMBERS 2014 – 15

Andrew Barbour	<i>Chairman</i>
Dennis Dick	<i>Biodiversity Advisor (and Joint Leader, People & Communications Working Group)</i>
(vacant)	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Roy Madden	<i>Angus Council (until June 2014)</i>
Stewart Roberts	<i>Angus Council</i>
Kelly Ann Dempsey	<i>Angus Council (Leader, Coast & Estuaries Working Group)</i>
Fred Conacher	<i>Angus Council</i>
Craig Borland	<i>Angus Council Ranger Service (Joint Leader, Urban Working Group/Joint Leader, Swift Interest Group)</i>
Norman Greig	<i>Angus Council Ranger Service</i>
Polly Freeman	<i>Atholl Estates Ranger Service</i>
Karen Jackman	<i>Aviva</i>
Donald Muir	<i>British Association of Shooting & Conservation</i>
Alistair Godfrey	<i>Botanical Society of the British Isles</i>
Ian Ford	<i>Broughty Ferry Environmental Project</i>
Ann Lolley	<i>Broughty Ferry Environmental Project</i>
Suzanne Bairner	<i>Buglife Scotland</i>
Barry Prater	<i>Butterfly Conservation Scotland (East of Scotland Group)</i>
Paul Kirkland	<i>Butterfly Conservation Scotland</i>
Fiona Ross	<i>Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group</i>
Clare Darlaston	<i>Concern for Swifts Scotland</i>
Jon Hollingdale	<i>Community Woodlands Association</i>
Clare Bailey	<i>Direct Design (TBP Webmaster)</i>
Alasdair Hood	<i>Dundee Botanic Gardens</i>
David Lampard	<i>Dundee Leisure & Culture</i>
Daniel Moncrieff	<i>Field Studies Council Scotland</i>
Mike Strachan	<i>Forestry Commission Scotland (Leader, Woodland Working Group)</i>
Gemma Davis	<i>Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust</i>
(vacant)	<i>Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust</i>
Janice Fraser	<i>Hillcrest Housing Association</i>

Appendix 1 FORUM MEMBERS 2014-15

Fiona Davidson	<i>Historic Scotland</i>
Polly Pullar	<i>Independent (Joint Leader, People & Communications Working Group)</i>
Liz Auty	<i>John Muir Trust</i>
Ian Thomas	<i>Landmanager.eu</i>
Carol Littlewood	<i>Littlewood Landcare (Leader, Farmland & Upland Working Group)</i>
Calum Duncan	<i>Marine Conservation Society Scotland</i>
Al Borland	<i>Murton Wildlife Trust</i>
Kate Maitland	<i>National Farmers' Union Scotland</i>
Fred Bauer	<i>National Farmers' Union Scotland</i>
Lindsay McKinlay	<i>National Trust for Scotland</i>
Victor Clements	<i>Native Woods</i>
Bill Grigg	<i>Perth Lade Group</i>
Peter Marshall	<i>Perth & Kinross Council</i>
Graeme Esson	<i>Perth & Kinross Council</i>
Esther Rogers-Nicoll	<i>Perth & Kinross Council (until March 2015) (Joint Leader, Urban Working Group)</i>
David Williamson	<i>Perth & Kinross Council</i>
Fergus Cook	<i>Perth & Kinross Council Greenspace Rangers</i>
Mark Simmons	<i>Perth Museum & Art Gallery</i>
Daniele Muir	<i>Perth & Kinross Greenspace Rangers (Joint Leader of Swift Interest Group)</i>
Christopher Dingwall	<i>Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens Network</i>
Blair Wilkie	<i>Police Scotland (Tayside Wildlife Liaison)</i>
Claire Smith	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
Fiona Guest	<i>Scotia Seeds</i>
Giles Laverack	<i>Scotia Seeds</i>

Barrie Andrian	<i>Scottish Crannog Centre</i>
Ian Lorimer	<i>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</i>
Kate Baird	<i>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</i>
Alastair Stephen	<i>Scottish & Southern Energy</i>
Carolyn Hedley	<i>Scottish Golf & Environment Group</i>
Alan Hendry	<i>Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate</i>
Brian Stevenson	<i>Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate</i>
(vacant)	<i>Scottish Land & Estates Ltd</i>
Ann-Marie McMaster	<i>Scottish Mink Initiative</i>
Alan Ross	<i>Scottish Nature</i>
Ewen Cameron	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
Peter McPhail	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
Nikki McIntyre	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
Sandra Penman	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
Julia Quin	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
Paul Ramsay	<i>Scottish Wild Beaver Group</i>
Rab Potter	<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust</i>
Emma Rawling	<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust (until October 2014)</i>
Ken Neil	<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust Saving our Red Squirrels</i>
Kelly Ann Dempsey	<i>River South Esk Catchment Partnership</i>
Edward Mayer	<i>Swift Conservation (UK)</i>
David Summers	<i>Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board</i>
Laura Booth	<i>Tay Estuary Forum</i>

Appendix 1 FORUM MEMBERS 2014-15

Shirley Paterson	<i>Tay Landscape Partnership</i>
Lisa Sneddon	<i>Tay Landscape Partnership</i>
Catriona Davies	<i>Tay Landscape Partnership</i>
Ken Bushe	<i>Taymara (Tay Maritime Action)</i>
Catherine Lloyd	<i>Tayside Biodiversity Partnership</i>
Stephanie Shaw	<i>Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (UKBARS)</i>
Andrew Law	<i>Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (Intern/Biodiversity Assistant)</i>
Stuart Downie	<i>UHI Perth</i>
Sandra Stewart	<i>Voluntary Action Angus</i>
Carol Evans	<i>Woodland Trust Scotland</i>

Management Team 2014-15

Andrew Barbour	<i>Chairman</i>
Roy Madden	<i>Angus Council (until June 2014)</i>
Kate Cowey	<i>Angus Council (from July 2014)</i>
Kelly Ann Dempsey	<i>Angus Council</i>
Peter Marshall	<i>Perth & Kinross Council</i>
Esther Rogers-Nicoll	<i>Perth & Kinross Council</i>

Appendix 2

Tayside Biodiversity Priority Projects List: 2014-15

WOODLAND – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Woodland Management Awareness	FCS
2	Saving our Red Squirrels Project (Tayside)	SWT
3	Tayside Woodland Grazing Initiative	SNH/Forest Research
4	Tayside Juniper Project	SNH
5	Carse of Gowrie Historic Orchard Project	PKCT/Tay Landscape Partnership
6	Tayside Orchard Projects	TBP/AC
7	Integrated Habitat Networks	FCS
8	Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens Network Projects	PKTWN/TBP

URBAN – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments Projects	TBP/PKCTay Landscape Partnership/ Monifieth Eco Group
2	Urban Grassland Management	TBP/AC/PKC
3	Green/ Living Roofs	TBP
4	ZOOM In2 Project (time-lapse photography project) – Phase 2	TBP
5	Tayside Swift Survey and Projects (inc. the Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation Project and Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project)	TBP/Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Gp/Tayside Swifts/PKC/AC
6	Green Kirk & Graveyard Initiative	TBP
7	BeeWild Sheltered Housing, Care Homes & Hospitals Biodiversity Project	AC/PKC/TBP/Volunteer Action Angus
8	Invasive Species Project	AC/BFEP
9	Going the Whole Hog Community & School Project	AC
10	Tayside Golf Course Initiative (Ryder Cup Biodiversity Fund) Group/ PKC/ TBP	Scottish Golf Environment
11	PKC Urban Red Squirrel Survey	PKC/Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group

Appendix 2 Tayside Biodiversity Priority Projects List: 2014-15

COAST AND ESTUARIES – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Dune Habitat Restoration – Elliot Links, Arbroath	AC/Dundee Botanic Gardens /SNH
2	Nature on Track	TBP
3	Small Blue Butterfly and Kidney Vetch Survey & Project	TBP/BC(S)/AC
4	Angus Cetacean Awareness Project	Marine Life Angus
5	The Salt Pans Saltmarsh Habitat Enhancement Project	SWT/AC
6	Angus Sea Pea Project	Dundee Botanic Gardens
7	Himalayan Balsam Control, Montrose Basin	SWT/AC
8	Angus Coastal Intertidal Life Survey – “Shore Thing (MBA)”	TBP
9	Terns Project Montrose Basin	SWT/TBP
10	Grayling Survey and Awarenessraising Project	BC(S)/TBP
11	Sparling Project	SNH/TBP

WATER AND WETLAND – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Tayside Ponds Initiative, including Pooling our Ponds Survey	TBP
2	Water Vole Projects – Loch Leven Survey; TLP Survey	SNH/TLP
3	Scottish Mink Initiative (North Tayside)	RAFTS
4	Pearls in Peril LIFE Project	SNH
5	River Earn Japanese Knotweed Eradication & Habitat Improvement	Tayside Salmon Fisheries Board (TSFB)
6	River Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative	TSFB
7	Tay Western Catchments Project (yet to start)	–
8	Salmon (and Trout) in the Classroom	SNH/PKC
9	Tayside Lochs Partnership Projects (Perthshire)	SEPA/TBP
10	Tayside Lochs Partnership Projects (Angus) – Lintrathen	Lintrathen Loch Partnership/Littlewood Land Care
11	River South Esk Catchment Rottal Burn Restoration	River South Esk Catchment (RSECP) Partnership/ERFT
12	River South Esk Catchment Invasive Non-Native Species Project	RSECP
13	Amphibians in Drains / Gully Pot Project, inc. Amphibian Ladder Pilot Project (Perth & Kinross)	PKC/TBP/TayARG
14	Amphibians in Drains (Monikie) / Amphibian Ladder Pilot Project (Angus)	AC/Friends of Angus Herpetofauna/TayARG

15	Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme Biodiversity Enhancement	AC/TBP/RSECP
16	Glen Clova Contour Planting Project	ERFT/FCS/CNPA /AC/RSPB
17	Lamprey Pow Burn Project	ERFT/RSECP
18	Tayside Green Shoots	BASC
19	Urban Watercourse Project – Perth Lade	PKC/Perth Lade Group /TBP
20	Urban Watercourse Project – Dighty	BFEP/Dighty Connect

PEOPLE AND COMMUNICATIONS – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Scottish Nature Festival	SNH/TBP
2	Tayside Teachers' Biodiversity Guide ("Signposts to Biodiversity and the Curriculum for Excellence")	TBP
3	Tayside Recorders' Forum (and the annual Recorders' Day)	TBP/PKC/AC
4	Practitioner Training ('Building Better Biodiversity')	TBP/AC/PKC
5	Tayside Geodiversity	Tayside Geodiversity/TBP
6	Tayside Biodiversity Website & Tayside Biodiversity Facebook	TBP
7	Tayside Biodiversity Calendar of Events	TBP (Tayside Swifts, TayARG, etc.)

FARMLAND AND UPLAND – Project Title		Project Leader
1	Tayside Barn Owl Projects	Littlewood Land Care /TBP
2	Farmland Bird Projects	RSPB
3	Buildings for Biodiversity	TBP/Tay Landscape Partnership
4	Tayside Waders Survey and Wet Grassland for Waders Project	RSPB
5	The Living Field Study Centre (the Flora & Fauna of Scotland's Arable Farmland)	James Hutton Institute
6	N E Scotland Corn Bunting Survey	RSPB
7	Rural Skills Training – Coppice Management and Hedgelaying	TBP
8	Partnership Against Wildlife Crime – Angus Glens Raptor Project	Police Scotland (Tayside)
9	Nightjar Project	TBF
10	Saving Tayside's Tree Sparrows (Angus)	Littlewood Land Care/TBP

Appendix 3

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014 –15

The Working Groups are taking forward a variety of projects, many of them small-scale. Committed monies are transferred to the new financial year to ensure these are funded.

Partnership Funding

Funding for the Partnership has varied since the Co-ordinator was appointed in 2000:

- Until 2004 the Co-ordinator's post was wholly funded via landfill tax credits from the SITA Trust; this included the research and publication of the First Edition Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan.
- From mid-2004 Scottish Natural Heritage contributed 35% of the funds; Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils funded the remaining 65% contribution.
- From 2009 with SNH no longer funding the Co-ordinator's post, funding was provided by the three local authorities. The Biodiversity Assistant's post terminated with the Co-ordinator's move from Dundee to the Perth & Kinross Council offices mid-2010. Dundee City Council withdrew its funding at the end of 2010 and left the Partnership on 31st March 2011. Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils have funded the Partnership's Co-ordinator's post since.
- Much in-kind help is given by Partners who host many meetings and seminars. Much of the Working Group input is undertaken voluntarily. In February 2014, we welcomed Andrew Law from Dundee University on a six-month internship. In addition to learning of the day-to-day workings of a Biodiversity Partnership, his placement enabled us to take forward two key projects, with Andrew contributing time each week to undertake gullypot monitoring and amphibian ladder trialling for Perth & Kinross Council. Thankfully he has been able to stay on a further year to continue this survey and to focus primarily on ground-truthing the Perth & Kinross SUDS ponds for their biodiversity value. Andrew has been heavily involved in TayARG and Tayside Swifts, as well as helping the Partnership in newsletter compilation and helping organise events.



Financial Statement 2014-15

Staff Costs	Budget	Actual
TOTAL STAFF COSTS (including Superannuation, N.I, training (Chairman and Co-ordinator, etc)	40,927	41,583
Supplies & Services		
Venue Hire and catering (meetings, including Tayside Recorders' Forum)	2,500	706
LBAP Publication and Seminar costs (postponed to 2015-16)	4,000	0
Postages	250	216
Website Review and Maintenance	1,750	2,293
Misc Supplies & Services	3,310	0
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	11,181	3,215
Transport Costs (inc. Chairman and volunteers costs)		
Public Transport (Co-ordinator and Assistant)	500	935
Car Allowances/Mileage – Professional (Co-ordinator and Assistant)	1,000	1,539
Subsistence	500	116
Mileage (Others, inc. speakers, volunteers and Chairman)	1,000	560
TOTAL TRANSPORT COSTS	3,000	3,150
Third Party Payments		
Available Funding for Central Budget, projects & Working Groups (committed funds for projects c/f 2014-15)	17,163	1,889
Student Internship	3,400	2,500
BARS Data Input	1,500	1,280
Other Third Party Costs (LBAP preparation)	1,200	1,204
TOTAL THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	23,265	6,873
GROSS EXPENDITURE		
Income		
Angus Council Contribution	-26,000	-26,000
External Bodies (Hillcrest Housing Association)	0	-500
Perth & Kinross Council Contribution	-26,000	-26,000
Miscellaneous Income (Tayside Recorders' Day bookings)	0	-238
Budget Carry Forward – 2013-14	-27,000	-27,000
TOTAL INCOME	-79,000	-79,738
NET EXPENDITURE	0	-24,918

Notes

Keep in touch via www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

or the TBP Facebook pages:

Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibian and Reptiles
Tayside Wildlife Recorders' Forum

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

