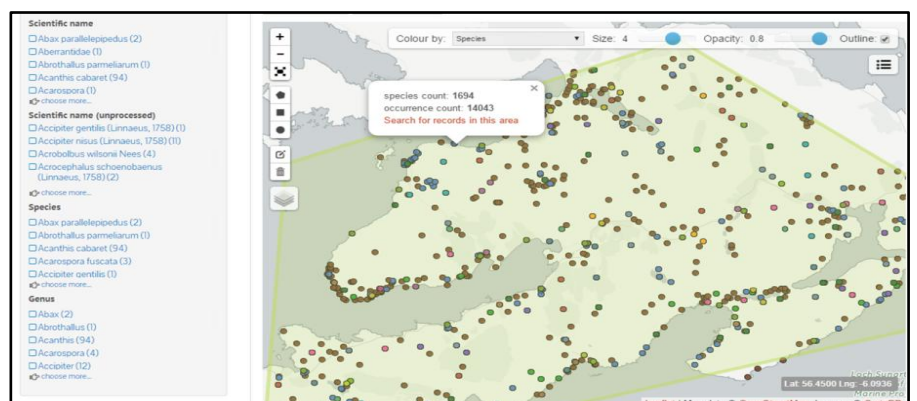
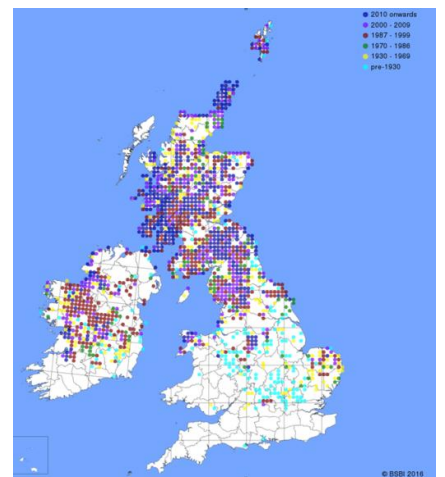




TAYSIDE RECORDERS' BULLETIN

2016



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE



leisure & culture DUNDEE

Working in Partnership
with Dundee City Council

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Our Annual Recorders' Days

It is tradition for each Tayside Recorders' area to host an event so we enjoyed Recorders' Days at Perth Museum & Art Gallery not just in 2016, but also in 2008, 2011 and 2013. We are returning to The Meffan in Forfar in 2017; previous Recorders' Day have been hosted there in 2010 and 2014. Our first event in Dundee took place at the Wellgate Library in 2009 and since then we have enjoyed visiting the McManus Art Gallery & Museum in 2012 and the Wildlife Centre at Camperdown in 2015.

In 2015 we welcomed 11 speakers, including Dr Roy Watling of the Scottish Fungi Group, Professor John Grace to highlight the Urban Flora of Scotland, and Scott Paterson, the County Bird Recorder for Perth & Kinross. We enjoyed updates on such wide-ranging subjects as Swifts, coastal surveying, Glenquey Moss, PlantTracker, Wild Cats, the Small Blue Butterfly, Barn Owls and Tree Sparrows. Glenn Roberts also updated us on the North East Scotland Mammal Atlas.

This year's Recorders' Day once again brought many people together to hear updates on an equally diverse range of local interests – this time we heard about the aims of the BSBI Plant Atlas 2020, dragonfly hotspots in Tayside and beyond, the history of the Angus & Dundee Bird Club and all the work being taken forward by the Tayside Bat Group. Fife Nature showed what gaps in knowledge there are within the Kinross-shire records it holds and how everyone can contribute new records. We heard news of the latest Amphibian & Reptile Conservation project which is focussing attention on collecting DNA from Great Crested Newt ponds.

In the afternoon our attention turned to the bigger picture with an update on the Atlas of Living Scotland, BRISC's last meeting, and learning how the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative is undertaking its Citizen Science project "Forth Nature Counts" – something perhaps for Tayside to emulate in the future. In a departure from our usual programme we spent a short time in open discussion on 'the way forward' and how best to publicise the Forum. The Day was rounded up with a fascinating practical demonstration on both the Atlas of Living Scotland and iRecord.

Date for your Diary – 10th Anniversary Recorders' Day

Saturday 11th March 2017: The Meffan, Forfar

Everyone Welcome

Atlas of Living Scotland - Summary (May 2016)

The *Atlas of Living Scotland* is a new website that will provide a platform to engage, educate and inform people about the natural world and will become important for growing capacity and capability in research, citizen science, education and environmental decision-making. The platform is being developed as a partnership between Scotland's Environment Web (SEWeb), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Atlas of Living Australia.

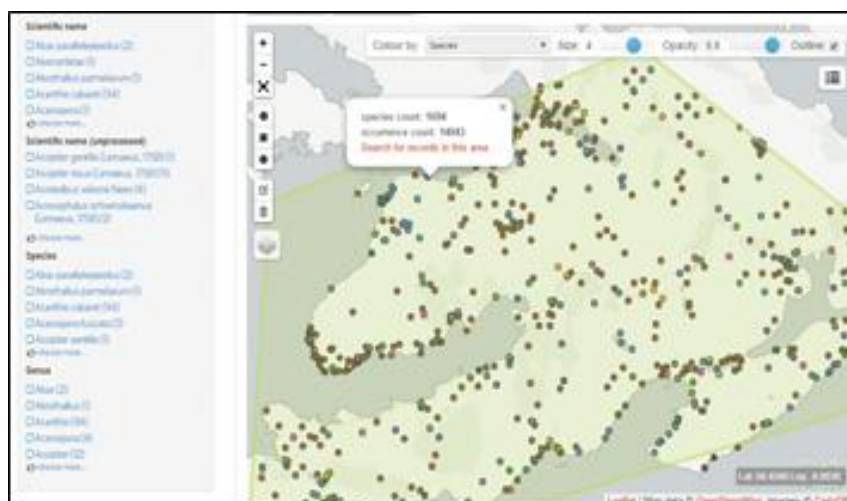
The National Biodiversity Network facilitates collaboration between its members and data partners at UK national level and shares data via the NBN Gateway. The development of the *Atlas of Living*

Scotland is the first stage of a project to create a platform that will eventually replace the NBN Gateway.

The Atlas allows interrogation of data types such as species occurrences, habitats, images and spatial environmental layers. You can use the Atlas to help identify things you have seen, to learn more about species and to upload records. You can view images, explore different areas of Scotland, and undertake data analysis.

The website is currently at beta testing stage so not all the functions or datasets are available yet. Please explore the site, try out its functions and send your feedback to the Atlas team at info@aols.scot. Please also consider sharing your data with us.

*Atlas of Living Scotland Interactive
Mapping Interface*



Links

Atlas of Living Australia: www.ala.org.au

Atlas of Living Scotland beta-test website: www.als.scot

Scotland's Environment Web (SEWeb): <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/>

BRISC – the Bigger Picture

BRISC'S position on the biodiversity infrastructure in Scotland is as per its original petition to Parliament in 2008 which led to the establishment of Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF). The petition expressed a wish to see:



Integrated and local and national structures for collecting, analysing and sharing biological data to inform decision making processes to benefit biodiversity.

The current SBIF chair Ellen Wilson is to lead a review of the Scottish Biodiversity Infrastructure, which is seen as a necessary step towards fulfilling BRISC's petition. The SBIF Executive also believe it is desirable to have complete regional coverage (not least in order to make the data pathway workable in Scotland) but how that complete coverage is achieved needs to be worked out via the review so that a steer can be given to current and future funders.

BRISC's AGM / Conference in October 2015 discussed regional and local coverage issues – the event was called 'Mind the Data Gaps - Are Regional Data Hubs the Way Forward?' All the current Local

Records Centres and regional recording groups were represented either as speakers or attendees. The main points that came out of the conference were:

- The current way of doing things, the uneven coverage and variable funding is unsustainable
- An agreement that local connections are very important
- There is a need to find new sources of funds especially with the decreasing public sector spending
- There are many challenges in the current way of working: especially the vulnerability of very small units and technological challenges
- A more regional network could be a way forward but there are also challenges in that, especially the potential loss of the local (so what's the appropriate size of a unit?)
- There are also opportunities with the regional approach: potential to share technology and services between the centres and to develop common approaches to data handling (where appropriate)

Any comments on the future of the regional and local coverage issues are welcomed – contact Christine Johnston in the first instance – email: christinejohnston.nbn@gmail.com.

Forth Nature Counts – A Project of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



We welcomed Katie Fuller to speak at the 2016 Recorders' Day as the Forth Nature Counts initiative seems an ideal project to emulate in Tayside. We went on to discuss the way forward for ways we can push citizen science up the agenda and to bring the many groups and organisations together. Katie reports on Forth Nature Counts here:

The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative is a four-year project running from 2014-18, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Initiative's vision is of an Inner Forth where local people and visitors alike value, protect and celebrate this unique heart of Scotland landscape. The eight organisations led by RSPB Scotland that makes up the Partnership are working to deliver around fifty inspiring and intrinsically-linked projects.

Forth Nature Counts is a project that aims to increase the number of verified biological records for the Inner Forth area. Working across the landscape, the project is promoting and encouraging wildlife recording in three core ways:

1. *Running free wildlife identification workshops.* These whole or part day sessions led by skilled staff, consultants and volunteers cover a range of species. To build confidence and experience the key target is beginner and intermediate learners. In the first two years, 29 training events were delivered to 300 attendees.
2. *Inviting volunteers to sign up as 'Nature Recorders'.* Survey walks have been established on six sites where other IFLI projects are delivering biodiversity enhancement works. Volunteer

Nature Recorders commit to visiting their Survey Walk five times per year and can choose to claim back their travel expenses. Survey Walk routes are repeatable, circular transects divided into sections by habitat or distance walked. Each route takes about an hour to walk and follows established path networks. The project currently has fourteen Nature Recorder volunteers submitting records.

3. *Submitting wildlife records to the 'Inner Forth Nature Counts' form on iRecord.* A web-form was set up at www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/enter-inner-forth-records to direct wildlife records for the project to the iRecord website. Nature Recorders and ad-hoc recorders enter their records here and the form is promoted to workshop attendees and via IFLI's promotional materials. Once verified, records are sent to the National Biodiversity Network and contribute to national datasets. Our data can be downloaded from iRecord by LERC's. Over 3,500 records have been added to our form and 665 have been verified to date.



© IFLI - Summary of IFLI's Forth Nature Counts activity

Find out more about the IFLI

programme at

www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk or

email info@innerforthlandscape.co.uk

Kinross Records Needed!

Fife Nature Records Centre (Fife Nature) is a Local Environmental Records Centre funded primarily by Fife Council with a contribution from Scottish Natural Heritage.



Owing to the importance of Watsonian Vice Counties as key organisational units

for wildlife recording, the boundary of the records centre extends beyond the Fife local authority boundary to encompass the whole of Vice County 85, thus bringing in the Kinross area.

Although this region accounts for around 13% of the land area within the Fife Nature boundary, it is not represented well in the database, with only around 4% of the total records being for the area. Exploring the composition of these data, the vast majority date from the 1980s and 1990s; only 4% are dated 2010 to present. In terms of numbers of records - flowering plants and birds dominate, comprising over 40% and 35% of the database respectively. There are relatively large numbers of records for some taxa; records for just 9 species account for around 10% of all records in the database for this area, all of them birds. In contrast, there is just a single record for over a third of taxa represented.

So, if you record in any part of Vice County 85, or indeed anywhere in Fife, we would love you to submit your records to Fife Nature. All species are of interest including the commoner ones. With your help we can make the data holdings more comprehensive. Check the website for further information: www.fifedirect.org.uk/nature or contact the Information Officer direct at nature.info@fife.gov.uk.

Lindsay Bamforth, Fife Nature Records Centre

Volunteer Editor Sought for 10th Year Edition

We will be celebrating the Forum's 10th anniversary in 2017 and would like to prepare a special Bulletin. A volunteer with editing skills is being sought who can liaise with Forum members and local organisations to pull together an interesting suite of articles. The task can be started at any time to suit, but the final copy would be needed by mid-February 2017 so that we can print copies for all those attending the 10th Recorders' Day in Forfar.

All the Bulletins are featured on the Tayside Biodiversity's website and archived there so this is a long-term publication that will hopefully be of much wider interest than just the local Recorders. If anyone would like to offer their skills and time, please contact Catherine at caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk.

Recorders' Forum Website and Social Media

The Tayside Recorders' Forum continues to have a section on the Partnership's website: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk and the list of Recorders and associated organisations are very well used. The list was updated in 2015 so please check your details, or your organisation's details, periodically to ensure they are correct. If changes or additions need to be made, please contact the Biodiversity Partnership at caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk

The Partnership now administers a number of Facebook pages –

- Tayside Wildlife Recorders Forum
- Tayside Biodiversity
- Tayside Swifts
- Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)
- (and the Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens Network)

And there is a generic Tayside Biodiversity Twitter page.

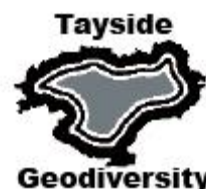
We try and keep up-to-date with different organisations' news, any biological recording events we are alerted to as well as any training days within the region. If you have any news please either share it direct on any of these Facebook pages or send an email to caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk so that the information can be uploaded to the appropriate page. Organisations offering a programme of events within Tayside are also welcome to send a link to publicise on the Tayside Biodiversity website's "What's On" page.

By the end of 2016 there will be another review the Recorders' section on the Tayside Biodiversity's website – we need to ensure it is as up-to-date as possible and that the links all work. Above all, it

needs to be easily accessible. During the next review there will be an opportunity to add new links and, if necessary, delete old ones. During the winter of 2016/17 a volunteer with a keen eye for detail is sought to work with the Partnership's webmaster (via email) on this task. If you can help, please contact Catherine.

Tayside Geodiversity

Fieldwork to prepare the suite of Geodiversity Sites Plans continues and assistance with this task is always welcome. Look out for a Tayside Geodiversity Action Plan being published within the 2nd Edition of the Tayside LBAP.



New members are welcome; contact Carol at carol_pudsey@btinternet.com. The group now has its own website at <http://www.taysidegeo.org.uk/>

Small Blue Butterfly and Kidney Vetch Survey

Data collected in 2014 and 2015 for both species is now mapped and shows recent sighting hotspots and breaks in connectivity. There was a well-attended survey training session on 5th June at Barry Buddon and new volunteer surveyors will be kept busy checking sites along the coast for both the Small Blue and its food plant.

Already one or two new Kidney Vetch sites have been discovered and it is hoped that 2016 highlights many more. Seeds collected by Scotia Seeds at Boddin Point have been grown on by local nursery, Celtica Wildflowers, and are being planted at sites on the coast throughout the spring and summer.

Many organisations have been involved so far, including the East Haven Together Group and both the Montrose Links and Carnoustie Links Golf Courses who are kindly hosting some of the plants. It is hoped this will help restore connectivity of populations along the coast. Volunteers are always needed. If you regularly walk in an area that hosts either Kidney Vetch or Small Blue butterflies, could you become a volunteer surveyor during the summer? If not in 2016, could you sign up to help in 2017?



Kidney Vetch © C Lloyd

For more information contact David Lampard on Tel. 01382 432364 or 432392 or via david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com.

Tayside Bat Group

The Tayside Bat Group holds various events across the summer to promote the conservation of our local bat species. These include regular bat walks/surveys, roost checks, training, bat talks and social events. There is a small membership fee; to be added to the mailing list please contact taysidebatgroup@gmail.com or find the group on Facebook.

Checking out a cave on Barry Hill (Alyth) - hibernation survey © Tayside Bat Group



Dundee Museums and Art Galleries

The McManus Collections Unit is the permanent home for Dundee's fascinating history, archaeology and natural history collections.

Visitors can come along for a 'behind the scenes' glimpse of the City's history, archaeology and natural history collections, which comprise fascinating objects ranging from birds to butterflies, coins to costumes and fossils to foreign artefacts. The objects date from 400 million years ago to the present day, and many of them are internationally important.

The McManus Collections Unit is open for guided tours on selected dates. For details, visit www.leisureandculturedundee.com

Angus Museums

ANGUSalive has eight museums and galleries to visit – they are located in Arbroath, Brechin, Edzell, Forfar, Kirriemuir and Montrose. Each has a unique flavour, reflecting the different characters of these ancient Angus towns. Visit www.angus.gov.uk/museums/ for further details and opening times.

Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Wild Perthshire - 18th June – 2nd October 2016

Wild Perthshire is a journey through Scotland's 'Big County' from its highest mountain Ben Lawers with its mountain flowers, through glens with heather moorland and peat bogs that drain into shimmering lochs, down meandering rivers lined with broadleaved woodlands and ancient pinewoods to the fertile farmland of Strathmore and the Carse of Gowrie.

Each habitat has its own character and mix of plants and animals. This exhibition picks out the photographer's favourite images and gives the viewer a feel for the wealth of wildlife and diversity of landscapes that can be found right on our doorstep. There are exciting and dramatic video clips that bring these animals to life.

Lorne and Fergus Gill are father and son photographers that live and work in Perthshire. Lorne has been a professional photographer with Scottish Natural Heritage for over twenty years. He has won awards in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year, British Wildlife Photography Awards and the European Wildlife Photographer of the Year competitions. Fergus is arguably the UK's most talented young photographer having won a host of national and international awards. In 2009 and 2010 he was named the Veolia Environment Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year and winner of the 2009 GDT Fritz Polking Junior Award. He has a degree in zoology from Glasgow University and is forging a career as a wildlife cameraman. In 2015 he worked as a camera assistant in the acclaimed Highlands series for BBC Scotland and in 2016 is working on a Natural World film featuring Giant Armadillos in the Pantanal wetlands of Brazil.

Further details are available via <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/museums>.

2020: Towards a new BSBI Plant Atlas

By 1950, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland had become aware of what appeared to be local extinctions in the flora. This resulted in the setting up of the BSBI Maps Scheme in 1954 to map the distribution of species and identify potential losses between the period up to 1930 and the period afterwards. This led to the publication of the first Atlas in 1962.

The distribution of *Parnassia palustris*, Grass-of-Parnassus, shown in this Atlas was taken to demonstrate local extinctions. At the Tayside Recorders Day in 2016 the BSBI presentation showed that with mapping of records to 2016, this demonstration was true for many of the counties in southern and central England, but only made certain by additional records made since 1962. These provide greater coverage and substantiate losses by the absence of recent records in these areas.

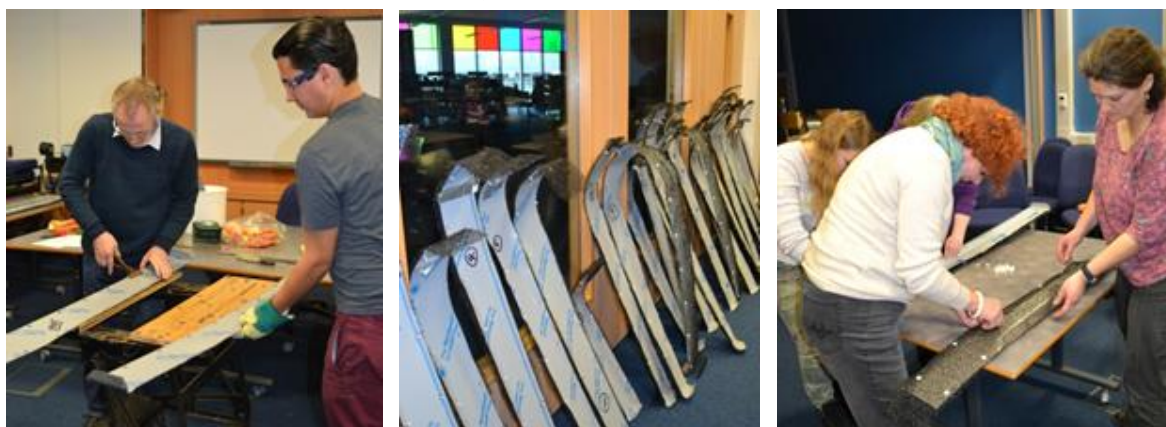


The New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora of 2002 was a considerable achievement, but its paper format has its limitations as it has to cover twice the number of taxa recognised since 1962. A preference now is for digital formats. The next Atlas will provide interactive maps which will be able to display frequency and distribution at a variety of scales and analyses of changes in the flora. The BSBI Online Atlas is an example of what to expect.

Recording in Mid-Perthshire is including tetrads, 2 x 2km, without any records, for which records are being made at either 1 x 1km resolution or with 8 figure grid references, as most recorders now provide. Visits have made interesting discoveries of unusual species, such as the nationally declining *Oxytropis halleri*, Purple Oxytropis.

Alistair Godfrey, BSBI

The Tayside Amphibian and Reptile Group (TayARG)



Amphibian ladder workshop 2016 © C A G Lloyd

The Tayside Amphibian and Reptile Group (TayARG) was set up in 2013 and has since run a small programme of events and training sessions throughout Tayside. The aim of TayARG is to co-ordinate volunteers working on a variety of projects across Angus, Perth and Kinross. These include the Amphibians in Drains Surveys, identifying migration and road crossing hotspots (Amphibian Priority Zones), Toads on Roads, Toadsizes Surveys and Pooling our Ponds Surveys. Earlier in 2016, a very successful training day was held in Perth to make up the new amphibian ladders. Thirty two were made over the day and will all be used in key gullypot sites in Perthshire.

Two reports were prepared following survey work – the 2015 Amphibians in Drains report and the Preliminary Sustainable Urban Drainage Audit: Management for Wildlife (Perth & Kinross). Both reports can be downloaded via www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk.

TayARG membership is free and open to anyone though there may be restrictions for under-16s for safety reasons. If you are interested in helping with survey work or just being part of the group, please contact Taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk.

Publication News: ‘Trialling amphibian ladders within roadside gullypots in Angus, Scotland: 2014 impact study’ by Clare McInroy and Trevor A Rose

The report’s Abstract says “Gullypots (roadside drains) have long been a problem for amphibians and other animals as a source of entrapment and certain death. Where the problem prevails close to migration routes for amphibians, the threat to local populations is significant and can devastate numbers each breeding season. Combined with existing known threats such as road death, road salting, agrichemicals, pollution and habitat damage, the dangers of gullypot entrapment can further imperil local populations to an unsustainable level.

In the first UK trial of its kind, this study aimed to mitigate the gullypot problem with the installation of a simple ladder device which can be tailored and retrofitted in all circumstances. The authors adapted a design, trialled it in a known problem location and recorded findings. This study aimed to determine if the ladders can be ascended by UK widespread species, demonstrate the effectiveness of the amphibian ladders and quantify the extent of the problem using a robust dataset.”

This report has been the basis to trialling the amphibian ladders across Tayside and plans are now being drawn up to apply for funding to provide Amphibian Management Plans for a housing estate and recommendations on installing dropped kerbs, amphibian ladders and amphibian kerbs where required. To contact the Corresponding Author email Trevor Rose at baankulab@yahoo.co.uk. Further details on both the report and how to purchase amphibian ladders are available via www.bhs.org.

Strathearn Swift Conservation Project 2016

Ten swift nestboxes found new homes in swift hotspots in 2015/ 16 as part of the Strathearn Swift Conservation Project. These were in Crieff, Comrie, Dunning, Auchterarder, Bridge of Earn and Forgandenny.

Guided walks were run in Comrie and Dunning and Tayside Swifts attended Comrie Primary's eco-day. A talk was given to Ruthven Towers Care Home and a well-attended illustrated talk was held at St Columba's church in Comrie. Throughout the project householders received advice on the best locations to put their nestboxes.

Nigel Franklin from Galvelbeg House B&B in Crieff had assistance from Ian Cramb Slaters in erecting his nestbox. It is currently being used by House Sparrows!



© Galvelbeg House B&B

The Eco-congregation in Dunbarney was so keen on helping swifts in the area that they went on to find funding to run their own project – the Earn Valley Swift Conservation Project which is working very closely with all the local schools.

Daniele Muir, Tayside Swifts

ZoomIn2 Project

Choose a space which is special to you - anything that is natural goes: from a tree in your local park or a school pond, to a view along the glen or your favourite beach. It doesn't have to be in the countryside – it could be a street tree or a river near where you live – something that will show the changing seasons. It could be in your back garden, at work, in a community orchard, a corner of an allotment or a school wildlife garden. Then return every month for 12 months (or more if you wish) and take a photograph from exactly the same spot. Make sure you load up your monthly photograph to www.zoomin2.co.uk so that you gradually accumulate a series of photographs which mean something to you. Don't worry if you miss one or two months. See you on the website!

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

The Working Groups meet regularly and new members are very welcome. If you would like more information, or would like to be added as a member ('consultee' members are welcome too, if you are unable to attend meetings), please contact the Working Group Leader direct for further details.

Working Groups:	Leader(s):	Contact:
Water & Wetland	Kate Baird	kate.baird@sepa.org.uk
Coastal & Marine	Kelly Ann Dempsey	DempseyK@angus.gov.uk
Farmland & Upland (including Barn Owl Interest Group)	Carol Littlewood	carol@littlewoodlandcare.co.uk
Urban & Built Environment	Craig Borland and David Williamson	forfarloch@angus.gov.uk ; dwilliamson@pkc.gov.uk
Woodland	Mike Strachan and Tim Goucher	Mike.strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Tim.Goucher@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
People & Communications	Polly Pullar	pollypullar@yahoo.co.uk
Species Interest Groups:	Leader(s):	Contact:
Tayside Swifts	Daniele Muir and Catherine Lloyd	DMuir@taysideswifts.co.uk caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk Facebook page - Tayside Swifts
Small Blue Butterfly	David Lampard	david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com
Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)	Daniele Muir and Catherine Lloyd	taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk or caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk Facebook page - Tayside Amphibians and Reptiles

Dragonfly Hotspots in Tayside

Dragonfly Hotspots are locations where there are good dragonfly populations, easy access for people to reach and with communities close by that can get involved in dragonfly events and conservation.

Emerging Common Hawker © D. Muir



The hotspots have been a focus for dragonfly training courses for Rangers, community groups and the general public, along with various guided walks and practical conservation work which has taken place over the last few months. There is definitely a great interest in dragonflies and these hotspots can help attract and engage more visitors to the sites.

In and round Tayside there hotspots at Crombie Country Park near Carnoustie,

Portmoak Moss near Scotlandwell and Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve in Dundee. Morton Lochs at Tentsmuir isn't far away, being in NE Fife.

More info can be found via <http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/hot-spots-scotland> and details of dragonfly events during the summer, including walks at Trottick Ponds and Portmoak Moss, can be found here: <http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/upcoming-events>

Daniele Muir, British Dragonfly Society

The 10-spotted Pot Beetle (*Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus*)

Pot beetles are a fascinating group of petal and leaf-eating beetles that belong to the Family *Chrysomelidae*. Their name comes from the protective shell-like 'pot' that the larvae live in. This is made by the female – having laid each egg she coats it with a waxy substance and then some of her own droppings in a process known as 'scatoshelling'; this helps to deter predators.

The very rare 10-spotted pot beetle could easily be mistaken for a ladybird except for its simple antennae (compared with the clubbed antennae of a ladybird). It is typically found in damp, deciduous woodland and is specifically associated with different Willows and Birch.

The species is in decline owing to the loss of deciduous woodland through clear-felling and conifer plantations. It has been recommended that open glades and ride margins are cut on rotation within areas of deciduous woodland to maintain a variety of vegetation structures which will also benefit other wildlife.

There are currently 19 species of pot beetle in the UK; eight are classified as Red Data Book species because of their scarcity, and seven have been given UK Priority Species status, including the ten-spotted. Further details can be downloaded from <https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/pot-beetles> or contact Suzanne direct at Suzanne.Burgess@buglife.org.uk.

To contribute records of ladybirds, soldier beetles and other beetles, log on to <https://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-surveys/john-muir-pollinator-way-pollinator-survey>.



© Roger Key

Suzanne Burgess, Buglife Scotland

Citizen Science in Action! The Earn Valley Swift Conservation Project

Avril Fulton (Dunbarney & Forgandenny Eco Church Co-ordinator) reports: "The Eco Church Group along with Dunbarney, Forgandenny, Forteviot Primary Schools, and Strathallan School all joined



together to help with conservation of swifts in our local area. We arranged talks in each school and an evening one in the church hall as well as a guided walk in each village to raise awareness of the decline in the swift population and to give people information as to how they can help. All these events were open to anyone from any of the communities involved.

The Church Eco Group, on behalf of the Earn Valley Swift Conservation group, applied for a micro-grant from the local wind farm and the project was awarded £250 for the education / community aspect. We also raised money to buy some swift call CDs from the sale of a Wildlife Quiz. The Tay Landscape Partnership provided a swift box for each school and a cherry picker to help with the installation.

The pupils from all four schools took part in the 'Design a Logo Competition' for the project and the winning logo is shown above and will be used on all our material.

At the evening event on 24th June in the church hall, all the art work was displayed, sightings of swifts and nests recorded on a large map and along with short presentations from the schools, Daniele gave a presentation. A final drop-in event is planned when the schools return for the new session to say 'Goodbye to the Swifts'. This will include a 'bake off' competition and updating the map with sightings of swifts.

It is hoped the Earn Valley will attract more swifts each year and that there will be a growing interest in swift conservation by the communities involved. In addition to the local communities and schools involved, thanks go to Daniele Muir, the Tay Landscape Partnership, Earn Community Council and Lochelbank Windfarm.

Spotting Marine Life around Angus's Fantastic Coastline

The website www.marinelifeangus.co.uk and the Angus Cetacean Awareness Project (ACAP), an Angus based project recording cetaceans in Angus waters, continues to secure high profile PR locally and nationally including a presentation spot at the Tay Estuary Forum (TEF) conference on 22nd April. A dolphin watching session will be included at the Easthaven BioBlitz in August 2016 at which the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan's 2nd Edition will be launched.

The website, which offers the chance to report whale and dolphin sightings, is now signed up to the Atlas of Living Scotland for data sharing. Some initial data analysed and a report will be produced in future (perhaps a TEF occasional paper).



The website hosts a wealth of information on local coastal sites, great for land based viewing and also aims to publicise other local recording schemes which record local butterflies, maritime plants and marine non native species.

Since recording began in 2011 sightings of Bottlenose Dolphins, Minke Whale, Harbour Porpoise, Common Dolphin and even Humpback Whales have occurred at many locations along the coastline of Angus.

To publicise the website, small cards have been distributed to a wide range of visitor attractions along the Angus and Aberdeenshire coasts. An A4 poster will be distributed in 2016. If you would like to receive some to display please email info@marinelifeangus.co.uk.

BioBlitzes – we need your help!

Please keep an eye open for opportunities to help on the Tayside Biodiversity and the Tayside Wildlife Recorders' Facebook page. We need your expertise!

Everyone is very welcome to come along to two August 2016 bioblitzes:

Thursday 11th August (9am onwards) – RSPB Loch of Kinnordy

- Telephone: 01577 862355 or e-mail: anna.jemmett@rspb.org.uk

Friday 26th and Saturday 27th August (10am onwards) – East Haven Community BioBlitz

- <http://www.easthavenangus.com/410664251>



Barn Owl - copyright photograph

New Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (2016-2026)

The 2nd Edition Tayside LBAP will be officially launched at the East Haven BioBlitz on 26th August. It will soon be available to download from www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk. A pdf version can be requested from caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk.

There are many new actions but there are also long-term actions reappearing from the 1st Edition. Over the coming months, the TBP Working Groups will be confirming the lead partners in each of the agreed actions and the Partnership will then be inputting details into the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System (UKBARS) so that we can report back nationally - <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>.

Useful Websites

- www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk - includes details about the Biodiversity Duty for Public Bodies (Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004) and the Scottish Biodiversity List
- www.cbd.int/2011-2020 - United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
- www.brisc.org.uk - Biological Recording in Scotland
- www.scottishgeology.com - Scottish Geology Forum

With thanks for contributions to the Bulletin - Tayside Geodiversity; British Dragonfly Society; Atlas of Living Scotland, BRISC; Inner Forth Landscape Initiative; Fife Nature; BSBI; Buglife Scotland; MarineLife Angus; Tayside Swifts; TayARG; Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee Museums; Tayside Bat Group; Small Blue Interest Group; Tayside Biodiversity Partnership; Tay Landscape Partnership; the Earn Valley Swift Conservation Project.

Next year we will be celebrating ten years of the Tayside Recorders' Forum

The 2016 Bulletin was compiled and edited by Catherine Lloyd for the Tayside Recorders' Forum: July 2016

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www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

Facebook pages: *Tayside Wildlife Recorders / Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles*

