

Tayside Biodiversity - Information - Reports - Tayside Biodiversity 3 Year Review 2000-2003

The broad aim of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan is:

To co-ordinate existing actions, as well as initiating and co-ordinating new actions.

To preserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, taking into account both local and national priorities.

Report to SITA Environmental Trust

Chairman's Introduction This report shows the great strides that have been taken in Tayside to protect and enhance its rich biodiversity over the last three years. A major step forward has been in producing the Action Plan for which all partners, group leaders, authors and our biodiversity co-ordinator must be congratulated. Our challenge now, that we gladly take on, is to implement our plans on the ground and make the difference that Tayside's biodiversity so richly deserves.

Merrill Smith

Chairman

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Dundee City Council

Past Chairman's Message The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership provides a vital link between public, private and voluntary groups and the general community in making plans to protect the various habitats and wonderful variety of Tayside's fauna and flora. The support of the SITA Environmental Trust in providing financial assistance to the TBP has been vital in the compilation of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. Perth and Kinross Council, along with our Tayside neighbours of Angus Council and Dundee City Council and all the other Partners involved, are very grateful for the SITA Environmental Trust support for the whole project, as it is with this assistance that such progress has been made in the last three years in promoting biodiversity in the whole of the Tayside area.

John B Milne

Executive Director

Environment Services

Perth and Kinross Council

Note from the Biodiversity Co-ordinator The past three years have seen many changes in the people making up the Partnership and the different degrees of commitment owing to people's own very heavy workloads. But without this hard-working Partnership we would not have the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (TBAP) published, nor would there be any dialogue with the wider biodiversity partnership of businesses, local authorities, schools and the local community.

The title of the Review is deliberate—we have just achieved “the first three years”. Much of the hard work of getting everything down on paper has passed and the First Tranche of the TBAP is now in circulation. There is still a Second Tranche to come, but we will be older and wiser when attention turns to this.

The report that follows gives an extremely brief outline of what the Partnership has achieved so far. Fuller details of some of the projects/initiatives mentioned are found in the TBAP, together with the concerns we have regarding our local habitats and species—and the opportunities we have highlighted to improve or enhance them.

Now, however, we are in a position to put the ‘action’ into our “Every Action Counts” logo. The real work is well under way, but only in the fourth and subsequent years will we see our vision becoming a reality.

Catherine Lloyd

INTRODUCTION TO “THE FIRST THREE YEARS” REVIEW November 2000 - October 2003

Tayside's Rich Biodiversity

Biodiversity encompasses the rare and the commonplace. In Tayside we can therefore be proud of our garden birds, town parks, and mature hedgerow trees, but equally we can be proud of an exceptionally rich biodiversity of national importance. For instance, 89 of the 391 UK Priority Species (22.7%) occur in Tayside as do 407 of the 1,250 UK Species of Conservation Concern (32.5%) including:

- Ospreys - a third of the UK's breeding population nest in Tayside;
- Atlantic Salmon - we are responsible for one of the most important regions for this species in the UK;
- Pink-footed geese - we provide winter quarters for half the world's population;
- Barn Owls (a UKBAP species) are present on our farmland;
- Red Squirrel, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Narrow-headed Wood Ant and Bluebell are found in our woodlands;

- The only UK sites for the Alpine fleabane and Alpine gentian are in Angus;
- Britain's smallest butterfly, the Small Blue, is found on our coast;
- Greater Yellow Rattle – Scotland's only site is on an Angus dune;
- The Fortingall Yew (the oldest tree in Europe) is an international icon.

There are many (often unique) threats causing loss or decline. Partnership working and targeted actions within the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) will highlight opportunities and potential projects to turn these challenges into positive ones.

Economic Value

Much of Scotland's economy relies on our natural resources—from the provision of pure water and good quality barley for our whisky industry, to the supply of aggregates to the construction industry. In Tayside we are particularly fortunate in the quality of our diverse environment. It is vital that this, and the biodiversity it sustains, is recognised as an integral aspect of the local economy which supports tourism, agriculture and forestry, as well as community well-being.

A New Way of Working Together

The strength of the LBAP process is that local priority habitats and species can also be highlighted – we do not need to focus wholly on national priorities. In Tayside, therefore, a 'Golf Course' Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and a 'Businesses with Land' HAP have been included. Both these Plans were at the time unique to Scotland - and possibly the UK; they have opened up opportunities to work with sectors not normally considered part of the biodiversity partnership.

In the same way, HAPs – currently at their draft stage - will highlight further local priorities: 'Burial Grounds (including kirkyards and cemeteries)',

'Hospitals, Sheltered Housing and Nursing Homes',

Roads and Paths',

'Cropped Areas',

'Private Gardens and Allotments'

'Planted Coniferous Woodland'

Both the published and draft Plans have provided opportunities to reach new sectors (especially local communities). Links are being made with many new partners: a wide variety of landowners and land managers, housing associations, businesses and schools, and small community-based environment groups (Appendix 2).

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan is directly helping to deliver social and economic benefits such as greenspace for different types of communities, as well as helping to deliver government priorities such as Community Planning. It is also encouraging active citizenship and lifelong learning opportunities for all backgrounds and ages. The Local Patch Survey Project is helping people discover the wildlife on their own doorsteps, proving that biodiversity does not have to focus on the 'rare', but that well-known species are just as important.

The LBAP is successfully working with local communities. The Barn Owl Interest Group and the Swift and Swallow Interest Group arose from a willingness to work in partnership with a common aim. We are now seeing pilot projects being set up right across Tayside that involve landowners, local authorities and community groups all keen to make a difference (see pages 11 and 17). Individual members within the Education Sub Group are beginning to forge their own joint ventures—for instance, the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project is now making links with the John Muir Trust Award Scheme.

Other sub-groups, including the Urban and Water & Wetland Sub Groups, are forming partnerships within their membership. Concerns in the increase of invasive plant species along the Dighty Burn have spurred Angus and Dundee City Councils' joint plans for an Invasive Plant Survey. Likewise, Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils are considering pilot projects for the proposed Green Graveyard Initiative which will also involve the local community in environmental enhancement in a number of rural and urban churchyards.

The Partnership's "Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services" has encouraged the introduction of a programme of 'Building Better Biodiversity' lunch-time seminars for local authority staff and guests. These are proving to be both popular and much-needed and are widening out to encompass half-day workshops, site visits and conferences.

The Partnership (Appendix 1) has achieved a great deal from its small beginnings three years ago. It is a working partnership and all the networking and information-sharing is now paying off with many ideas coming out of the published Biodiversity Action Plan and its associated booklets and leaflets. The Partnership has been afforded a baseline from which to grow; the resulting action 'on the ground' is now coming to fruition.

Annual Report: November 2000 - October 2001

A Year of Progress

Back at the Beginning

In August 1998 the new Partnership's membership was agreed. Dundee City Council was invited to join Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils in forming a Tayside regional LBAP area (Appendix 3). Perth & Kinross Council Environment Services took the lead in setting up the Partnership. The Scottish Wildlife Trust was instrumental in helping the Partnership to secure funding from SITA through the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme. When SITA funding was granted in late 2000 the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Angus Council took on the financial management of the Partnership and agreed to Chair the group. A Biodiversity Co-ordinator was employed in November 2000.

Establishing the Working Groups

The Partnership itself consists of a Steering Group and a Management Group (Appendix 1). To ensure existing targets within the UKBAP, as well as local needs were taken into account, six Habitat Sub-groups were set up: Coasts & Estuaries; Farmland; Upland; Urban and Built Environment; Water and Wetlands; Woodland. The membership of each of these sub-groups has been purposely diverse to ensure that many organisations and individuals have been involved in the local biodiversity process.

With the many changes of Action Plan authors, progress was initially hampered, but this led to a re-evaluation of the timescale chosen for publishing the LBAP. A Species sub-group was later formed to discuss how best to integrate species information into the LBAP – Tayside has led the way in its unique layout of species vignettes within each of the Habitat Action Plans and the case studies showing work already underway within the region. It was also decided to publish the lists of UK 'Priority Species' and 'Species of Conservation Concern' in their entirety as this would help clarify the information available for planners and developers.

The Action Plan was split into two parts - the first tranche consisting of Habitat Action Plans only. In hindsight this enabled the implementation of the first actions at an early stage and this format has, in fact, become common practice in other LBAP areas.

Liaison with Funder

In September 2001 the Partnership hosted a biodiversity tour for John Leaver, the Chairman of SITA's Environmental Trust. The visit started at the RSPB's Vane Farm Reserve and continued on to Errol where the work of the Tay Reedbed Company was demonstrated. As part of the Scottish

Biodiversity Week celebrations Mr Leaver then joined children at the Library, Broughty Ferry making kites in the shape of swallows and swifts.

Tayside Biodiversity Seminar - September 2001

Over a hundred people attended the Partnership's first seminar which was hosted by SNH. Each sub-group set up a 'Habitat Corner' featuring individual projects and information. Delegates included councillors, local authority heads of department, businesspeople and landowners, representatives from local environment and community organisations and many statutory and non-governmental bodies.

The Game Conservancy Trust highlighted their role as the UK Lead Partner for Brown Hare and Grey Partridge. The Partnership Chairman, Alex Anderson, and the Biodiversity Co-ordinator introduced the Scottish Executive's new "Flying Start" report and gave an overview of biodiversity issues throughout Scotland. The butterfly that flitted in front of the overhead projector seemed highly appropriate at the time of the Scottish Executive's new "Do a Little, Change a Lot" butterfly logo.

CASE STUDY 1

Awareness-raising

With the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to prepare, much of the Partnership's work in the first 18 months would be predominately 'behind the scenes'. It was decided at the outset that two sets of exhibition boards would be the 'public face' during this period. These high-quality display boards have consequently toured the area extensively – including libraries, Country Parks, local authority offices, museums and tourist information centres as well as at the Dundee Botanic Gardens and the Birnam Institute. The need to have a display to lend to schools and businesses, as well as occasional use at agricultural shows and flower festivals, led to a third, much lighter banner-type set also being funded. (Appendix 5)

CASE STUDY 2

Partnership Working

Worldwide, there appears to be a general decline in the Swift population and the focus on swift nest site conservation is now an international one. In Tayside renovation or demolition of older buildings can lead to whole colonies being lost, but as there has been no integrated survey our knowledge base is poor.

A number of Partners therefore launched small 'Swifts, Swallow and House Martin Pilot Surveys' throughout Tayside – the NTS worked with the Highland Perthshire Community Partnership to distribute survey forms, a Dundee Tenement Swift Survey got underway and the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project (BFEP) set up a similar pilot survey in their area. They supplemented this with nestbox-making workshops and identification walks.

The British Trust for Ornithology's 'National Nestbox Week' around St. Valentine's Day was celebrated when the Angus Ranger Service, BFEP and RSPB Vane Farm ran nestbox-making events in a variety of venues.

Ultimately all this work led to the launch of the Swift Interest Group which draws a wide membership from a large number of interested parties. The group is overseeing specific projects in Tayside (including putting up nestboxes), plus the preparation of the Swift Species Action Plan.

CASE STUDY 3

An Innovative Idea Launches the Consultation Draft – September 2001

In making the Consultation papers available to as wide an audience as possible, the Partnership pioneered a paper-saving idea by offering a mini CD-ROM version of the Draft; there was also a limited print run of the Consultative Drafts. The local press featured the Tayside company that undertook the mini CD work for its part in saving resources. Many LBAPs (including Tayside) have since been published in CD format.

To coincide with the publication of the Consultative Draft, a summary document "From Summit to Sand" was also produced; its integral "What You Can Do To Help" poster proved popular with local schools.

The Consultative Draft was launched at the Scottish Wildlife & Countryside Fair, Vane Farm, Kinross with over 60 paper copies being requested, together with a very large number of CD-ROMs and summary documents. A simultaneous launch of the Draft took place at the Dundee Flower Show.

Annual Report: November 2001- October 2002

A Year of Achievement

Partnership Working

Several Partners raised awareness of the biodiversity process in the run up to the launch of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan: the Angus Council Rangers, for instance, gave a presentation at SNH's "Business and Biodiversity" course highlighting the Orchardbank Industrial Estate wildlife corridor project; Perth & Kinross Council included a biodiversity theme at the Perth Flower Show; and the NTS incorporated biodiversity awareness into their Killiecrankie Woodland Awareness Days.

Liaison with Funder

A second opportunity arose over the winter to introduce John Leaver, Chairman of SITA Environmental Trust, to the area. A visit was arranged to see the new jungle playground at Moncrieffe Primary School in Perth. The Craigie Burn Enhancement Project was also on the agenda, followed by a tour of Abernethy to see the various projects taking place there.

Preparation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Delays, compounded by staff shortages in Partner organisations and particularly heavy work commitments, beset the publication process and it was only through the support of each of the Partners that the 300 page Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan was launched on time at the end of August 2002.

With funding in place for 250 ringbinder folders, 1,000 CD-ROMs and 7,500 summary booklets, the first Habitat Action Plans, numerous appendices and a weighty introduction were published as 'the 1st Tranche'; Magnus Magnusson penned a Foreword.

Final costs came to just over £21,000 with contributions from SNH, Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils, the Forestry Commission and monies from the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's funds (Appendix 4). Many Partners – especially SNH, SEPA and RSPB - donated most of the photographs required.

To prove that the biodiversity process is not static, but an ongoing one, the first batch of 2nd Tranche consultative drafts were included with the 1st Tranche - a further 23 HAPs and 46 SAPs are being researched and prepared.

Launch of the Tayside LBAP – August 2002

A day before flying out to attend the Johannesburg Summit, Robin Harper, MSP was the Partnership's guest at the second Biodiversity Seminar. Pupils from Perth's Moncreiffe Primary School treated Mr Harper and the 140 delegates to a biodiversity play "It's a Jungle Out There". The subsequent press coverage was excellent; both Robin Harper and the Biodiversity Co-ordinator were also interviewed by Radio Tay.

The event was a true Partnership one: SNH hosted the event and SEPA designed the programme and handled the conference bookings. Presentations were given by Plantlife Scotland, Perth and Kinross and Angus Councils, the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, the Forestry Commission and Orchardbank Environment Group.

'Habitat Corners' were manned by the sub-groups and included displays on species including barn owls, swifts, and osprey and habitats - urban waterways, woodland, and the community project at Dun Coillich, Perthshire.

At the Open Business and Biodiversity Forum the consultative draft "Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Authority Services" was launched and the Scottish Biodiversity Forum's new Business and Biodiversity presentation given. This was particularly relevant as it featured a number of Tayside companies working towards enhancement of biodiversity.

Three workshops were also held: _ The Barry Buddon Tern Project – which included some hands-on clay tern decoy painting;

_ Restoration Projects on Urban Waterways;

_ Community Art and Biodiversity

The seminar's success was marked by the excellent networking opportunities for Partners and guests; the correspondence and comments received afterwards congratulated the Partnership in staging such an ambitious launch and such a wide-ranging seminar.

Change of Chair

With the publication of the LBAP, Alex Anderson (Angus Council) retired as Chairman of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and Merrill Smith (Dundee City Council) took up the challenge of Chair.

CASE STUDY 1

The Sheltered Housing Biodiversity Project

In Angus a three-year pilot project was started ahead of targets proposed for the 2nd Tranche 'Hospitals, Sheltered Housing & Residential Complexes Action Plan'. The Countryside Ranger Service has been instrumental in siting bird tables in six sheltered housing complexes. In addition to introductory talks by the Rangers, bird identification posters and binoculars have also been provided, plus bird tables and birdseed, funded by SNH. There has been a very positive response from all concerned which, in one case, resulted in a feature article in an internal newsletter.

The project's success will be featured as a case study in the forthcoming Action Plan and will be included in the Scottish Biodiversity Forum's 'Best Value, Community Planning and Biodiversity' document. It is hoped more nursing homes and sheltered housing complexes will be encouraged to set up similar projects throughout Tayside.

CASE STUDY 2

Business and Biodiversity

Many businesses aspire to improving their surrounding environment, but by extending the biodiversity process to their employees and suppliers (and the wider business and local community) there is often the bonus of it being good for business.

By featuring appropriate case studies in the LBAP dialogue was set up as early as possible with a variety of local businesses. These included:

_ Orchardbank Industrial Estate, Forfar: Brogan Fuels offered to plant a small 'orchard' area of plums, cherries, crab apple and elder trees to encourage wildlife. The Angus Ranger Service assisted the Orchardbank Environmental Group in planning this.

_ Sturrocks, another Angus company, improved its car park with biodiversity in mind and now has a portfolio explaining the staff project in its customer waiting room. Again the Angus Ranger Service was involved.

_ Scottish and Southern Energy added a comprehensive biodiversity section to its Staff Manual following a meeting with the Biodiversity Co-ordinator. The Perth-based national company subsequently issued a copy of the Manual to each of its 9,500 staff throughout the UK.

_ The Perthshire Housing Association's developments will contain an element of biodiversity planning in the future.

_ Aggregate Industries UK has incorporated a number of biodiversity features in its quarrying operations in Tayside: one site now has three sand martin barrels in situ; another site is managing part of its land to encourage its resident barn owls to stay.

_ A lunch-time seminar was run for a private firm of architects in Tayside – other businesses are now regularly showing a specific interest in the biodiversity process and incorporating best practice ideas into their work.

CASE STUDY 3

Local Patch Survey

This three year project is highlighting the importance of “wildlife on your doorstep”. It has proved to have many audiences – from visitors to commuters, and from individual school classes studying their immediate surroundings, to businesses keen to show their environmental credentials to staff and customers.

The project was officially launched at the Dundee Spring Flower Show in April 2002. Perth Museum staff prepared the leaflet and survey form, whilst the Dundee Ranger Service handled the press releases. Since then many Partners have distributed the leaflets to libraries, museums, country parks and visitor centres throughout Tayside. There has since been a steady trickle of responses with over 200 forms being received.

Annual Report: November 2002 – October 2003

A Year of Action Making “Every Action Counts” Work

The first year of implementation proved a busy time for all sub-groups. The six habitat groups, an enthusiastic Education sub-group and the Species Interest Groups all met to start planning projects.

CASE STUDY 1 Pilot Projects to Highlight Important Tayside Species

Barn Owl - the Barn Owl Interest Group (which includes three Partners: the NTS, SAC and FWAG) has set up separate pilot projects to complement the three-year Tayside Barn Owl Survey launched in 2003. The NTS are experimenting with large surplus soap barrels as alternative nestboxes; SAC and Perth FWAG are concentrating on an area in the Tay Valley with a combination of advice to landowners and farmers and the provision of external A-frame nestboxes; Angus FWAG is orchestrating a farming community-based project in the Angus Glens to give advice and to provide a variety of nestboxes for use in buildings and on trees.

Tern Project (Barry Buddon) – another community-based project was featured as a case study in the LBAP. Tern decoys were fashioned from locally-donated Errol Brick clay, hand-painted by local schoolchildren, kiln-fired at a Dundee college, and put into place on MoD land by the children and Dundee Ranger Service. Part of an SAC (Natura site), all this hard work resulted in one tern chick being reported in the vicinity which bodes well for the return of this species into this area.

Dundee Red Squirrel Project - An innovative project is taking shape in Dundee to highlight the fact that this “Biodiver-City” has the largest city-based population of red squirrels in the UK. The Ranger Service is raising awareness of the ecology and habitats required for both red and grey squirrels. They have also produced a Red Squirrel Management Plan and are involving local communities in monitoring the populations of squirrels throughout the city.

CASE STUDY 2 Education Opportunities

Backyard Biodiversity Day — Tayside took the lead on this UK initiative in Scotland. Rangers from Perth & Kinross Council, Atholl Estates and the National Trust for Scotland held a midsummer event for nearly 300 children from 15 schools. Hosted by SNH at Battleby, the day proved such a success that there is already a waiting list of schools wanting to attend next year. Elsewhere in Tayside, the Angus Countryside Rangers and Museum Service held identification events to encourage families to find out about what grows in their ‘local patch’ or backyard.

Working Countryside Boxes — Angus Countryside Initiative (now part of the Royal Highland Education Trust) has included a variety of biodiversity information in its 60+ Working Countryside” education boxes given to schools throughout Angus.

Awarding Biodiversity — The John Muir Trust Award is actively encouraging the incorporation of local biodiversity issues into its Award scheme. This has brought a much wider audience to appreciate Tayside’s biodiversity.

Salmon in the Classroom — funding offered by a local landowner in Angus has ensured that Tayside will take forward the pilot for a Scotland-wide project led by SNH. The project will focus on the life cycle of the salmon – a species synonymous with a clean water environment. Four primary schools will have the opportunity to grow on salmon eggs in the classroom, release them into a local burn, and then return to watch electro fishing to see how they have developed. There is great interest in this project throughout Tayside and it is intended the initiative will be developed further in 2004.

CASE STUDY 3 A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services

This booklet, the first of its kind to be published in Scotland, introduces biodiversity to the local authorities’ various departments and the Community Planning Partnerships. Its guidance is not prescriptive, but a tick list of potential actions highlights what might be possible. It is fulfilling its purpose as a ‘working document’ as it is being widely discussed. It is already proving to be a useful catalyst in promoting biodiversity issues within Local Services.

The Partnership’s “Building Better Biodiversity” Programme of free lunch-time seminars and half-day training events was launched at the same time as the Guide. These short courses are aimed at local authority staff who want to find out more about a specific species or habitat – and to have a ready-made Information Pack to take back to their department. By holding the event over a lunch hour more than one person from each department can attend. Anyone interested is welcome to attend be they local people with an interest in the subject, environmental groups or local businesses. The first three seminars have attracted over 50 people in total and nearly 40 people attended the Hedge Contractors’ Demonstration and Hedge Day.

Other Partners are achieving biodiversity action in their local work:

Angus Council hosted two lunchtime seminars and is discussing the possibility of a swift nestbox

project on one of its properties in Arbroath. Its Ranger Service is involved in the Butterfly Conservation Small Blue Survey and is advising a number of businesses in the area on wildlife corridor opportunities and biodiversity-friendly car parks.

RSPB and FWAG have worked jointly on a small project to encourage an increase in Angus' Corn Bunting Population. At three farms in Angus a special crop of kale, rape and barley has been grown. It provides seed and grain and good cover for the birds over the winter months. The farmers are also encouraging wildflowers and weeds to grow at their field edges so that insects can flourish; this provides plenty of food for chicks. The project will not just benefit the rare corn bunting – it will help other farmland birds such as tree sparrow, sky lark, linnet, yellowhammer and grey partridge – all species mentioned in the Tayside LBAP.

Dundee City Council has hosted two 'Building Better Biodiversity' seminars and stands at the Dundee Flower & Food Festival and Spring Flower Show.

The Forestry Commission has contributed towards the preparation of a number of Action Plans and will be leading a workshop on veteran tree care.

Angus FWAG ran two very successful hedge events – a demonstration workshop for hedging contractors, and a Hedge Day for the public. During the summer it also hosted a stand for the Partnership at the Angus Show.

Perthshire Tourist Board – its contribution of funds to publish 23,000 'bedroom folder' posters on 'Where to see Wildlife' will raise visitors' awareness of the rich biodiversity in the area.

Perth and Kinross Council hosted two lunchtime seminars and is encouraging a biodiversity theme in its Harris Moore Environmental Award for schools. Its

voluntary band of nearly 50 Tree Wardens is incorporating biodiversity regularly into their work. The Council has already undertaken a wetland creation project at a city golf course and is rethinking its management of conservation areas in graveyards, as well as incorporating biodiversity conservation ideas in its Craigie Burn, Mill Lade and Magdalene Hill enhancement projects

INTO THE FUTURE

New Partners

The outlook for working with different 'sectors' of the local community is growing ever more positive. Opportunities are regularly arising to work with existing initiatives to incorporate the biodiversity process into schools, hospital grounds, urban areas, garden centres, local environment groups, etc.

New Partners are regularly joining the sub-groups and bringing new opportunities with them.
Business

The LBAP is capitalising on its wider partnership contacts with the publication of a 'Business of Biodiversity' booklet aimed specifically at the commercial sector in Tayside.

Education

A biodiversity school calendar for each teacher in Tayside is being planned.

Awareness-raising

The booklet "An Introduction to Tayside's Biodiversity" continues to be much sought after and is proving its worth to a wide audience, including other LBAP partnerships elsewhere in the UK.

The future website will be planned with many sectors in mind and in time will become fully interactive.

Tayside Biodiversity Exhibition

Perth Museum is to host an exciting biodiversity exhibition for nine months in 2004 which will highlight how the wider Partnership is working to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout Tayside.

Working with Local Authorities

New Guidelines and Advice Notes will help incorporate biodiversity into the many local authority departments.

Wider UKBAP Working

The Partnership will be working with more UKBAP Lead Partners in order to meet national targets for the rarer Tayside habitats and species. This task has already started with correspondence between the Partnership and the Common Scoter BAP Steering Group, the Lead Partners for Seagrass Beds and Tidal Rapids, the Mesotrophic Lakes HAP Lead Partner and the UK Wetlands HAP Steering Group.