

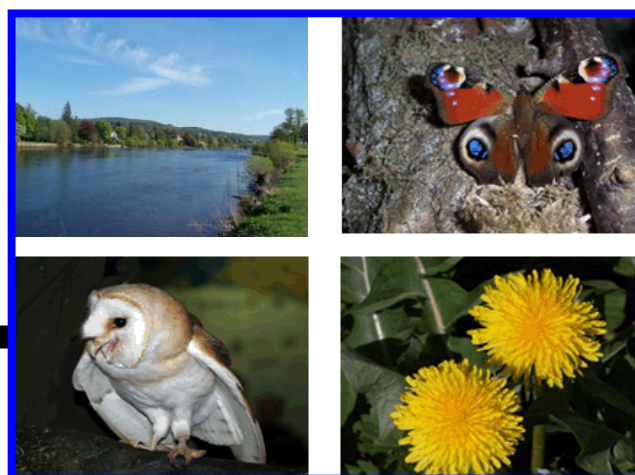


Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2006 to March 2007





TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY CO-ORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07

This report is compiled to fulfil grant aid conditions and is therefore intended primarily for SNH. Newsletters, leaflets and website information are available which report more widely on Partnership contributions to the local biodiversity process.

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Maintain the TBP Steering Group and Sub-Groups, Providing Direction and Guidance

There were four Steering Group meetings: June, August, and December 2006, and March 2007. Seven Partnership Budget meetings were also attended with Perth & Kinross Council and sub-group micro-budgets kept up-to-date.

An Annual Report for 2005-06 was prepared and a contribution made to the Business Plan 2007-10. Ideas proposed at the summer Steering Group created an unplanned flurry of activity - sub-groups met and proposed a maximum of 10 projects each to take forward in the next 3 years. After much refining, the first Priority List of proposed projects was prepared; details are given in the Appendix.

During 2006, time was spent exploring alternative possibilities regarding the employment and office location of the Co-ordinator, including options with the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, Perth College, Dundee City Council, and home-based. A meeting in January confirmed a transfer to Dundee City Council in the spring of 2007.

Water and Wetland

Meetings were held in April 2006 and February 2007, together with a meeting between the Co-ordinator and sub-group leader regarding the 1st Tranche Review and Future Priorities project proforma. The new proforma included a focus on invasive species, water voles and otters.

2005-06: the Co-ordinator contributed towards the 2005 Seminar "River Engineering – Solutions for Roads and Fish" held at the Birnam Institute. A major ecological survey of Perth Lade was undertaken and discussions were held regarding this, plus a number of pond projects across Tayside.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will assist in a second Water & Wetlands seminar in early 2008. Discussions to take forward a community and biodiversity project on Perth Lade will also take place, together with the Tayside Lochs Project, Otter Road Death Survey and Water vole projects.

Coast and Estuaries

The Co-ordinator chaired a meeting in November 2006. In the absence of a sub-group leader, the Co-ordinator prepared the 1st Tranche Review papers and project proforma proposals for the sub-group to consider, in addition to working with the BTO, SWT, Inner Tay Advisory Panel and Tayside Ringing Group on potential projects (including the Tay Estuary Wildfowl and Wader Audit and the Montrose Tern Project).

2005-06: the Co-ordinator discussed the potential for setting up a wader and wildfowl audit of the Tay with the British Trust for Ornithology's Wetland and Coastal Ecology Unit. Discussions were also undertaken with the RSPB as regards their new reedbed reserve; this resulted in a successful application being submitted to the Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund.

2007-08: Plans are afoot to set up a Coastal Golf Course Project with the Scottish Golf Environment Group.

Farmland

Meetings were held in June 2006 and January 2007 with an additional teleconference in September. With the sub-group leaders, the Co-ordinator prepared a consultation response on the Scottish Rural Development Programme. There was regular liaison with sub-group members on potential future projects, and the 1st Tranche Review. Articles and press releases were planned and input offered regarding the new Priority Species leaflet. A cross-boundary project was also discussed regarding a potential Tayside/Fife & Clacks Mink Control Project. During 2006 the Scottish Crop Research Institute's Living Field Centre Steering Group brought together key players within Tayside to ensure their Arable Weeds Survey linked to biodiversity targets and engaged biodiversity partners.

2005-06: Field Days were arranged in Angus (Wildflower Day) and a Discussion Day in Perthshire. Initial plans were also discussed with SCRI regarding the proposed Living Field Study Centre which subsequently received SITA TBAF monies.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will assist partners in obtaining funding for projects and/or publicising them in the national biodiversity press: Highland Calcareous Grassland Project, Operation Bumblebee, Tayside Tree Sparrow and Barn Owl projects, and Enhancement of Irrigation Ponds. There will also be actions arising from the 2nd Tranche Action Plans, for example assisting the Game Conservancy Trust set up a Tayside Grey Partridge Group, and liaison with developers and planners regarding the inclusion of barn owl ledges in barn conversions.

Barn Owl Interest Group and Barn Owls of Lowland Scotland

The Co-ordinator assisted the Tayside Barn Owl Interest Group by taking minutes at the June meeting and chairing/minuting the September meeting. There was also considerable input into the BAGS application with meetings to set up the new Barn Owls of Lowland Scotland Forum (BOOLS); the Co-ordinator acted as minute taker at the June and December meetings, and as Chair at the January 2007 meeting. BOOLS now includes four LBAP areas: Tayside, Stirling, Fife and Clackmannanshire. Within each of these areas different projects are being taken forward by Partners – in the case of Tayside this is the Perth & Angus FWAGs, and the Scottish Agricultural College.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will assist partners in obtaining further funding to expand existing projects and to publicise them in the national biodiversity press.

Upland

A meeting was held in November with an additional meeting with the sub-group leader regarding the 1st Tranche Review and project proforma preparation. The Co-ordinator liaised with potential Lead Partners (inc. Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, SAC, Cairngorm Biodiversity Partnership, and Perth & Kinross Council) to take the projects forward.

In the autumn, members of the Upland sub-group, including the Co-ordinator, were invited to attend the Partnership Chairman's inaugural lecture at the Birnam Institute. The Co-ordinator later assisted at the "Future of Biodiversity in the Uplands" Conference in December.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will assist partners in obtaining funding for projects and/or publicising them in the national biodiversity press: Upland Water Vole Project, Highland Tayside Paths Impacts Project, the Upland Butterfly and Moths Initiative and the Upland Heath Project.

Urban

Meetings were held in June, September, December 2006 and in March 2007. In the absence of the sub-group leader in December, the Co-ordinator chaired and minuted the meeting. The project proforma were updated and liaison undertaken regarding the Invasive Plant Species projects/ surveys (with SEPA, SNH and neighbouring LBAP areas). The main focus for the sub-group during 2006 was invasive species, the Green Graveyard Initiative and the Town Swifts Survey. A meeting was also held with the proposed leader of the new Sand Martin Interest Group to plan the group's remit.

Following the Co-ordinator's private attendance at the "Caring for God's Acre" conference in Shropshire in May 2006, a conference report was prepared for the sub-group and a Project Brief prepared for the Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative. The Co-ordinator worked with Perth & Kinross Council staff, as well as with Eco-Congregation members in Broughty Ferry, Moulin and Perth, to raise awareness of the subject. Research was undertaken as to the potential for a series of "Getting to know your Churchyard Biodiversity" training days to be held during 2007. A Green Graveyard advisory leaflet and poster were designed and prepared, with funding agreed between SNH, Perth & Kinross Council and Angus Council.

With the proposal to prepare a "Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments" booklet, the Co-ordinator attended the Growing Communities Networking Day (Community Gardens and Allotments) in October.

Links were continued with the Perthshire Housing Association with specific input into the Muirton Landscape Masterplan, and the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project with their various projects, especially the "Following the Life of Water" project and Orchar Park community orchard.

2005-06: Links were made regarding greenspace management for biodiversity with the National Health Service, Perthshire Housing Association, Eco-Congregation and the local authorities.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will run two "Getting to know your Churchyard Biodiversity" workshops and officially launch the Green Graveyard Initiative. Funds will be researched for the "Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments" booklet and a Tayside version prepared and launched. Assistance to raise awareness of Sand Martin issues will also be offered to members of the new Sand Martin Interest Group (website, press releases). Various cross-cutting issues such as Urban Grassland Management and the Bee Wild Project will be covered in other sections.

Swift Interest Group

The Co-ordinator acted as Chair for the Tayside Swift Interest Group, continuing the administration for the increasingly-popular Town Swift Survey. The Swift Map CDs from 2005 were distributed to the local authority planning departments. An updated survey form and poster were circulated (with copies on CD) for use throughout Tayside and adoption across Scotland as required. Liaison also took place with local Bird Recorders /Surveyors for Highland Perthshire Surveys. Training requirements were discussed with the Ranger Services and a Swift Day held in Perth in June which involved a meeting of the Interest Group, a lunch-time workshop and a tour of potential swift priority sites in the centre of the city. The day concluded with a publicly-advertised walk along the River Tay.

During the year information on swift nest site conservation was circulated to the Scottish Sustainable Construction Group for Scotland-wide dissemination. Discussions took place with Andrew Rodgers Architects regarding best practice issues and with Concern for Swifts Scotland regarding potential initiatives with Tayside developers. The Co-ordinator advised St John's Kirk (Perth) about a potential Church Swift Project, and John Wheatley College, Glasgow, regarding swift nest conservation. The National Trust for Scotland also sought Tayside's advice in setting up a pan-Highland Swift Survey.

A mapping session in September confirmed the survey findings and an agreement made to work nationally to produce a Scottish Swift Distribution Map; this will give greater emphasis to planning departments having access to information via GIS. In November the Co-ordinator gave a presentation at the Scottish Swift Gathering held in Stirling and contributed to discussions on data collection, raising awareness with communities and developers, and dissemination of good practice. Tayside is the first LBAP area to publish a Swift Newsletter.

At the end of the 2006-07 year, funding was granted by SNH to undertake a Tayside Swift Nest Box Trials Project. Working with Concern for Swifts Scotland, plans were made for the 2007 Project with links made to the VisitScotland Green Tourism Group and Tayside Swift Interest Group members. A potential demonstration site was also proposed at a major property development at Monikie by the Angus Ranger Service.

2005-06: The Town Swift Survey findings were transferred to a Tayside Population Hot-Spot Map which was circulated to the three planning authorities for use on their GIS.

2007-08: Working nationally within the LBAP Officers' Network, a Swift database will be set up and a national map discussed. The Tayside Swift Nest Box Trials Project will be monitored and widened and awareness raised on the subject of natural nest sites and artificial nest sites.

Woodland

The Co-ordinator acted as Joint Leader of the sub-group, preparing an agenda for the meeting held in February 2006 and subsequently meeting twice with the sub-group leader to prepare project proforma and complete the 1st Tranche Review. The membership of the sub-group was reviewed and plans made for the proposed Juniper Day. Although the event was postponed, links were made with Plantlife International and there are still plans to run an event during 2007. Much research was undertaken into a potential Eco Tourism PayBack Scheme with VisitScotland and the Kinross Tourism Group who considered trialling a pilot project.

As there has been past interest in woodland flora projects, the Co-ordinator obtained copies of Landlife's very extensive publication "Woodland Wildflowers Work"; this was funded by the sub-group budget. The booklets were circulated to the Woodland Officers across Tayside.

2005-06: the first successful TBAF applications were for the Small Cow-Wheat Recovery Project and the Juniper Regeneration Trials. Numerous other projects were advised upon and some taken forward.

2007-08: the Co-ordinator will assist partners in obtaining funding for projects and/or publicising them in the national biodiversity press. Working with the local authority Tree Officers, funds will be researched for the "Wildlife Tree Project" Information Pack, together with small grants for schools and communities. The Co-ordinator will contribute to the Carse of Gowrie Orchard Project, researching funding for the initial survey, running an Orchard Management seminar to launch the survey results and helping to set up an Orchard Forum to take forward Phase 2 of the project.

Red Squirrel Forum

A new Tayside Red Squirrel Forum was set up, chaired by Forestry Commission Scotland. Two meetings were held in May 2006 and February 2007. The Forum brings together the Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group, the Angus Squirrel Group, and the Dundee Red Squirrel Project. The meetings were open to Red Squirrel Groups within Fife and advice was proffered to the Fife LBAP and Fife Ranger Service regarding their proposed Red Squirrel projects and survey methods. The Co-ordinator liaised with Angus Council regarding the proposed Arbroath rope bridge, discussed a potential Red Squirrel Eco-tourism project at Cluny Gardens, helped locate bulk Squirrel feed for the Groups, and liaised with individual groups, planners, consultants, FCS and Woodland Officers regarding a number of tree felling/planting incidents in new developments/golf courses. A second issue of the Tayside Red Squirrel Newsletter was also prepared and circulated.

2005-06: Following a resurgence of interest in setting up local Red Squirrel Groups, the Co-ordinator compiled the first Tayside Red Squirrel Newsletter to which all local groups contributed. Such was the positive response to this that a second issue was planned a year later.

2007-08: Funding should be in place for a Tayside Red Squirrel Officer to take specific projects forward; the Co-ordinator will assist partners in publicising Red Squirrel issues.

Education

As sub-group leader, the Co-ordinator chaired meetings in July and October; membership was reviewed and project proforma prepared and updated. Two Tayside Geodiversity meetings were attended to make linkages with biodiversity throughout Tayside (and to include geodiversity details on the Partnership's website).

Scottish Biodiversity Week Tayside events leaflets were designed and compiled for both 2006 and 2007 and information put on the website. At the end of 2006-07, the SNH Promotions Fund granted monies for a thousand TBP recycled pens and a thousand recycled pencils. Half of them were distributed before the year end to the Ranger Services throughout Tayside, all partners, Dundee City Council for their Greenspace Strategy meeting, and for use at an Angus Countryside Initiative Estate Day for 160 Dundee schoolchildren.

2007-08: With the sub-group, the proposed 2008 Tayside Biodiversity Festival will be planned, together with a Mammal Atlas (Perth & Kinross), and the Tayside Bee Wild Communities and Schools Project. Practitioner training will include workshops on Urban Grassland Management, Bats and Trees, and Planning for Biodiversity.

Promote Awareness and Enhancement of Biodiversity in Tayside

Presentations

Presentations on wildlife gardening and links to biodiversity were given to the 'Take a Pride in Perthshire' AGM in Pitlochry; Perth's Probus Club, the St Martins' Guild in Perthshire and the Innerlink Perth Group. A presentation was also given to the Inner Tay Advisory Group Panel on Coastal Biodiversity Issues. Over 200 people were reached this way.

In March the Partnership was also invited to give a presentation to 35 delegates on "Linking Campus Biodiversity to Local Biodiversity Action Plans and UK National Targets" at the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges Seminar at Elmwood, Fife. This followed the Partnership's purchase and circulation of the EAUC booklet on Biodiversity to all colleges and universities in Tayside.

In December, the Co-ordinator gave a presentation at the Tayside & Clackmannanshire Ranger Network Workshop in Dundee, as well as leading a workshop on Invasive Species.

Assistance was given to the Perth & Kinross Council's Sustainable Development Head of Service for his presentation to committee.

The Co-ordinator shared exhibition space with Perth Museum at the Loch Leven Discovery Day. From lashing rain the year before to a clear, but blustery day in 2006, there was much interest shown by all ages in local biodiversity issues.

2007-08: Working with partners where possible, there will be an increased presence at exhibitions and events, focussing on new audiences. Presentations to a wide audience will continue.

Publications

Two leaflets were prepared and published as part of the suite of Planning Manual publications – 'The Householder's Guide to Biodiversity'; and 'Biodiversity: A Developer's Guide'. Each Planning Department within Tayside (Angus, Dundee City, and Perth & Kinross) were provided with 10,000 copies of each leaflet, and the information put on each of the local authority planning websites. A meeting with Exodus (Kinross) explored a variety of options for the proposed Planning Manual format.

Three Tayside Newsletters were produced at the end of 2006-07: 5,000 copies each of the Barn Owl, Red Squirrel, and Swift Newsletters. All the newsletters will be widely distributed to libraries, Tayside schools, Partners' membership bases, and Scottish LBAPs, as well as being made available at key venues and events throughout Tayside.

The Co-ordinator also researched, designed and arranged the printing of 17,000 survey postcards for the BOOLS project (the Partnership retained 8,000 postcards for use within Tayside). Input was also offered to the BOOLS Newsletter (Barn Owls of Lowland Scotland Project).

2007-08: The "Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments" booklet will be published, together with the Green Graveyard Initiative's advisory leaflet and poster. The final part of the Planning Manual will be published and widely circulated. A General Tayside Biodiversity Newsletter will be published and the current species newsletters (Swift, Red Squirrel and Barn Owl) will be monitored and decisions made via the sub-groups as to whether future issues are required.

Media

The Partnership's achievements were highlighted in articles and press releases throughout the year, particularly in the Dundee, Perthshire and Angus Couriers, the Angus newspapers and the Perthshire Advertiser. The latter featured an extensive article on Tayside's Scottish Biodiversity Week events. Subjects included the Tayside Town Swift Survey, the new Crombie Sand Martin wall, and Barn Owl projects throughout Tayside. The Courier carried a photograph on the Perth Provost's chairing of the seminar: "Planning for Biodiversity – Accommodating Wildlife in Everyday Development".

Tayside biodiversity articles were featured in the SNH magazine, the Trellis (Horticultural Therapy) Newsletter, Scottish Native Woodlands Newsletter (regarding the SITA TBAF) and the Perth & Kinross Tree Warden's Newsletter. News items were included in the Scottish Biodiversity Forum Newsletter and the Scottish LBAP Newsletter.

Regular news stories, including SITA TBAF project updates, were contributed to the VisitScotland Perthshire website and the Perthshire Green Tourism Network E-Bulletin, particularly on the Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl and Swift projects. SITA TBAF applicants were encouraged to publicise their projects and help was given to a number of them in writing press releases.

2007-08: Working with the sub-groups and partners, projects arising from the Priority Listing will be regularly publicised, especially those receiving SITA TBAF monies. Awareness will be raised of the "Building Better Biodiversity" seminars and workshops and opportunities taken to officially launch publications, surveys, etc.

Displays

The original display boards have been largely "retired" from touring. During 2006-07 one set was displayed long-term between two sites: Crombie Country Park Centre and the SWT Montrose Visitor Centre in Angus. The Perth and Kinross Ranger Service has used the second set of boards predominately in the WoodBus which tours schools and local communities throughout Perth and Kinross.

The banner display set proved extremely useful for many one-day events. Regularly borrowed by Angus Council for conferences and events such as the Angus Glens Walking Festival, they were also used extensively by Angus FWAG at their various exhibitions and shows throughout the county. They were also used by the Perth and Kinross Ranger Service at many one-day events throughout Perthshire. The Co-ordinator ensured that Partners had sufficient summary booklets and other relevant publications to exhibit alongside the banners.

When funding became available via the SITA TBAF, an updated version of the banner displays was obtained which highlights the Partnership's new address in Dundee and the contact details for SITA TBAF. It was first used at the "Planning for Biodiversity" seminar in March 2007. The first set of banners will remain in Perth & Kinross and the new set will be kept in Dundee and Angus, reducing the amount of administration and travelling needed in getting them to different venues.

Website

Funding granted by both the Forestry Commission Scotland and SITA TBAF enabled the Partnership to totally update the Tayside Biodiversity website. The Co-ordinator worked with the website designer to add all recent Partnership publications, including the revised summary booklet, previous Annual Reports, the 2nd Tranche consultation, and the Water & Wetland's River Engineering seminar presentations. The Farmland sub-group contributed the Farming Priority Species Advisory Note, followed, subsequently, by the published Priority Species booklet. Funding news, quizzes and interactive species surveys were also added, together with a new Tayside Geodiversity section. A new Partners' Sharepoint was also set up to enable Steering Group members to gain access to all the Steering Group, Management Team and Sub-group minutes.

				<i>Quarterly totals:</i>
<i>1st Quarter</i>	April 2006- 14,208	May - 11,961	June - 12,654	38,823
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	July - 16,219	Aug - 15,900	Sept - 19,121	51,240
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	Oct - 27,009	Nov - 18,686	Dec - 18,980	64,675
<i>4th Quarter</i>	Jan 2007 - 23,236	Feb - 20,021	March - 19,716	62,973
<i>Annual Total:</i>				217,711
Most 'sections' accessed:		Information News Funding Newsletter and Action Fund Guidance Annual Reports 3 year Review Go Wild in the Garden Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services Projects		
Most Action Plan sections accessed:		Farmland Coastal Woodland Water <i>(least accessed: Upland and Urban)</i>		

Scottish Biodiversity Forum (SBF) Information

Information was circulated to Partners/sub-groups on the UKBAP Review, plans for Scottish Biodiversity Week, the EU Statement of Biodiversity Loss, Sharing Best Value information (SBF publication), and the SBF Marine Implementation Plan. The Partnership was informed of the unfortunate cancellation of the Scottish Executive's Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme which had formerly ensured a number of Tayside biodiversity projects were implemented. The Co-ordinator, with other Local Biodiversity Officers, also ensured input into SBF Interpretation, Community & Education Working Group implementation and the SBF Local Working Group.

Promote Community Involvement in Biodiversity Projects

Support was given to the following organisers of projects to encourage involvement in the biodiversity process:

Alyth Environmental Group - Meikle Wet Woodland;
Bat Conservation Trust - Dundee City Bat Project;
BFEP – various projects, including Hourglass, FLOW and Orchar Park projects;
Brig in Bloom - biodiversity bank project;
BTO - Kinross Bird Atlas funding;
Butterfly Conservation - potential Woodland Flora for Butterflies Project;
Comrie Millennium Footpath Project - woodland project;
Coupar Angus Pride of Place Group - native tree project;
Dundee Intensive Support Group - practical projects;
Guildtown Community Association - hedge and community woodland projects;
Guide Dogs for the Blind (Forfar) - incorporation of biodiversity into new build;
John Muir Awards – various Tayside projects;
Kindrogan Field Centre - bird hide project;
Milnathort in Bloom Committee - Tillywally Wood (wildflower meadow);
Murton Trust – Sand martins and other projects;
Muthill in Bloom - Millennium Garden Enhancement Project (and safeguarding of orchard);
National (PKC) Bookstart Day (biodiversity themed events);
Pitlochry in Bloom - Town Pond Project;
Plant Hunters' Garden - potential 'Bee Wild' Project.
RSPB - Vane Farm projects (including the proposed hedge project);
Scottish Origins - potential Bee Wild project and Local Authority training events;

SCRI (see Farmland sub-group);
Scottish Golf Environment Group - Angus pond projects; Local Patch surveys and Montrose Golf Course Landscape Plan;
TRACKS - various projects around Loch Leven.

In addition, Cambridge College circulated thirty Tayside summary booklets as coursework/biodiversity best practice; a roof insulation query regarding bats led to subsequent liaison with the Bat Conservation Trust for a national Advice Note on the subject; the International Rangers' Federation Congress based one of their seminar visits on Tayside; and the Co-ordinator attended one of the BBC Breathing Places briefings to disseminate funding and publicity advice.

The SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund

The Co-ordinator advised many potential applicants on the funding opportunities available and, with the Perth Quality of Life Trust Administrator, handled applications and the necessary liaison with Entrust. Evaluation and assessment reports were prepared for the Partnership's Assessment Panel and the PQLT Board.

Eighteen successful applications for 2006-07 totalled £121,406 (+ £5,000 PQLT Administration charge):

- Tayside Ringing Group - Marsh Harrier Management (Tay Reedbeds): £3,400
- Sustain Dundee - Dundee Red Squirrel Project: £6,250
- Angus & Tayside Conservation Group - Little Tern Breeding Protection (2006): £3,468
- Angus Council - Swift/Bat Housing Project (Wm Wallace House, Forfar): £1,672
- Forest Research - Small Cow-wheat Species Recovery (Phase 2): £11,900
- Sustain Dundee - Dundee Red Squirrel Project: £4,250
- Dundee City Council - Dundee Eco-House Biodiversity Garden: £4,500
- Broughty Ferry Environmental Project - FLOW (Phase 2): £6,890
- Nature Bureau Projects (Bat Conservation Trust) - Dundee Bat Project: £9,660
- Scottish Fields Study Centre - Kindrogan Otter Project: £1,700
- Scottish Fields Study Centre - Kindrogan Red Squirrel Project: £2,700
- Scottish Agricultural College - Perthshire Barn Owl Project: £2,140
- Angus & Tayside Conservation Group - Tern Conservation in Tayside (2007): £15,500
- Dundee City Council - Trottick Pond Restoration: £3,790
- Dundee City Council - Den o' Mains Pond Restoration: £5,260
- FWAG (Angus) - The Linnet Link: £13,530
- Scottish Agricultural College - Perthshire Calcareous Grasslands: £8,146
- FWAG (Fife and Kinross) - Tayside's Tree Sparrows: £16,650

The project value for these projects, in total, is £181,300.

2005-06: in the first year of the SITA TBAF grants totalling £68,798 were distributed within the first six months, allowing £31,202 to be forwarded to the 2006-07 allocation of a further £100,000.

2007-08: in the third year of the SITA TBAF a further £75,000 will be available to allocate. The Co-ordinator will continue working with applicants to the Fund, focussing on both UKBAP and LBAP priorities.

Promote Joint Working with Organisations within and Outwith the TBP

(Promote biodiversity in local authorities and other public bodies and support them in fulfilling their biodiversity duties)

Perth & Kinross Council

Environment Service – the Co-ordinator contributed to the PKC Projects and Community Planning report, and attended the Lade Walk event with PKC Councillors. Meetings were attended and advice given on greenspace management, including Greyfriars grass cutting regime (Green Graveyard Initiative pilot site), North Inch Golf Course, Larghan Park Wetland, and Kirkgate Graveyard; Biodiversity bank management (including Aberfeldy grass verge management); Knotweed Policy; potential Biodiversity Action Note on bats and trees, and bat training; MacRosty Park lade (amphibian project); Kirkgate wildflower meadow planting; Perth Lade tree felling; Stanners Island (woody debris issue); ‘Take a Pride in Perth’ (long-term biodiversity and community-based projects). Contributions were also made to update PKC’s biodiversity website.

Planning Department – meeting with Scottish Origins; advice on a small number of planning applications, and on EU legislative requirements/ legislation on exclusion of birds on a development site.

Ranger Service - nursing home/hospital projects; links between TBAP/UKBAP and Ranger targets.

Roads Department - Perth Lade invasive species management; input into the new Roads Department Code of Practice; potential wetland project on the Craigie Burn (flooding issues); Scone amphibian migration project (kerb lowering).

Angus Council

The Co-ordinator met with the Head of Parks and his team, including the Woodland Officer, to discuss potential projects and future grassland management training.

Ranger Service: advice regarding the Stracathro Hospital Project proposal.

Roads Department – advice on the potential for ID Flash cards for common species.

Planning Department – contributed to ideas for new Economic Development Biodiversity Projects. Meetings held with the Planning Department and Bear Scotland, Site BAP advice given for the A92 and comments made on the A92 Bear Scotland reports. Contributed to plans for the proposed A92 “Linnet Link” (subsequently an Angus FWAG project). Potential training /awareness-raising programme discussed. Discussions held regarding loss of wetland/pond site in Montrose; also Giant Hogweed eradication (including researching potential funding opportunities for the project).

Dundee City Council

Leisure & Arts - the Co-ordinator commented on the new TWIG leaflet; attended the Eco House official launch; contributed to the Balgay Blossom Day; attended the Dundee Partnership for the Environment “Protecting Biodiversity” Workshop; discussed Dundee in Bloom plans; liaised regarding future grassland management training, and advised the TWIG Officer on Strategies/legislation for the draft Open Space Strategy.

Perthshire Housing Association

The Co-ordinator advised on potential biodiversity issues which could be incorporated into the Muirton Landscape Masterplan.

Overall

The Co-ordinator took part in the Tayside & Clackmannanshire Ranger Services Networking Day in December – presentation/ leading workshop.

Flora Locale Advice Notes were also circulated to all Landscape Architect departments in Tayside; the Urban Green Network questionnaire was forwarded to the three local authorities; and Landlife’s “Wildflowers Work” booklet was supplied to all local authorities – this was funded by SNH.

2005-06: the Tayside/Clackmannanshire Rangers' Networking Day: the Co-ordinator gave a joint presentation with the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Officer and lead a Swift Workshop. Regular liaison with the Ranger Services ensured additional biodiversity input on site management proposals, together with links to national publicity, additional species management, and projects regarding Red Squirrels and Swifts.

In Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils, greenspace management (particularly grassland regimes) were highlighted, and numerous pond projects planned and undertaken. The Co-ordinator contributed to Perth & Kinross Council's "Fit for Purpose" open spaces assessment form. There was a greater interest in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and their contribution to biodiversity. The Co-ordinator commented on the local authority's Community Planning paper and ensured that the Perth Community Programme took cognisance of biodiversity, particularly in the new Muirton Estate social housing rebuild.

2007-08: A Review of the actions proposed within the Partnership's "Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services" document (pub. 2002) will raise awareness of the biodiversity duty within the three local authorities.

Promote Biodiversity in Public Bodies – the 'Building Better Biodiversity Programme'

The Co-ordinator undertook the planning and organisation of the 'Building Better Biodiversity' programmes for 2006 and 2007. Since the Programme's inception nearly 500 people have attended a variety of seminars and workshops. Although predominately for local authority staff, the audience for these events continues to be mixed: staff from statutory bodies, many different Council departments, private businesses, consultants, and staff from Non-Governmental Organisations.

In 2006-07 two lunch-time seminars were organised – on 4th May: 'Protected Species Legislation' (23 people attended); and on 20th June: 'Swift Nest Site Conservation' (15 people attended). Nine people attended the second Perthshire Grassland Discussion Day on 23rd June.

Following the Protected Species Legislation seminar it was proposed that a Tayside Environmental Legislation Working Group be set up so that local authorities could gain better advice.

With part-funding from the Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme, the Co-ordinator organised a Planning for Wildlife Seminar: 'Accommodating Wildlife in Everyday Developments'. This took place in Perth on 13th March 2007 (60 delegates attended from all over Central Scotland); the presentations will be put on the biodiversity website in due course.

The seminar was chaired by the Perth Provost and presentations included:

- "Biodiversity and Buildings – Protected Species and the Law" (Ben Ross, SNH);
- "Barn Owls, Buildings and Trees" (Les Hatton, in place of the key speaker, Ian Langford of Natural England);
- "Development Sites and Wildlife Crime" (Alan Stewart, Tayside Police);
- "Bats: Nightmare or Added Value" (Keith Cohen, RPS Planning & Development Ltd.);
- "Making Swifts Good for Business – Examples of Good Practice in Tayside and Beyond" (Clare Darlaston, Concern for Swifts Scotland).

Afternoon tutorials allowed delegates to explore subjects in depth. These included:

- Birds and the Law (Les Hatton, Eden Ecology Ltd.);
- Wildlife Law (Alan Stewart);
- Bats – Key Issues in Developments (Anne Youngman, Bat Conservation Trust, and Keith Cohen);
- Practical Swift Nest Conservation in Public Housing (David Shepherd, Dundee Ranger Service and Clare Darlaston).

One hundred and seven people attended the workshops/seminar in the year 2006-07. Fewer events were held owing to Partners being unable to host events free of charge as in previous years.

2005-06: 240 people attended the Building Better Biodiversity events.

2007-08: The series of events will be widened to include lunch-time seminars, half day workshops and occasional full-day seminars.

LBAP Officers' Network

The Co-ordinator attended a Regional LBAPO meeting (to discuss Tayside, Clackmannanshire and Fife joint projects). The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park LBAP had a cross-boundary meeting in November to discuss their new Biodiversity Action Plan and ideas for joint projects. Two LBAPO Network meetings were held during 2006-07: in Inverness (October 2006) and Falkirk (March 2007).

The Co-ordinator also advised the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Manager and Mid Lothian LBAP Officer regarding the developers' biodiversity leaflets; the Clacks LBAPO regarding sand martin projects; and liaised with the Cairngorms Biodiversity Partnership regarding joint projects/ funding opportunities; the Fife LBAPO regarding Strategic Environmental Assessments; Edinburgh LBAPO regarding Planning Seminars and publications.

Business and Biodiversity

The Co-ordinator had the opportunity to work with the Business Environment Partnership (BEP) to bring new projects to Tayside. The most successful one was at TayPack Potatoes. The BEP prepared a Site BAP (linked to the Tayside Barn Owl Project and potential Tree Sparrow Project), and liaised with the Partnership, including SAC and FWAG. A two-page article on the Tayside projects was featured in the March/April 2007 issue of SEPAView.

In addition, a building contractor and an architect both enquired about sand martin barrels and the design of artificial sand martin walls. A meeting with A J Stephens, Builders, may lead to incorporating major biodiversity issues into a large planning application; advice was also given to NHS East Lothian regarding Tayside's hospital and sheltered housing projects.

BARS Monitoring

As the UKBAP Review was underway during 2006-07 this led to a delay in completing the TBAP's own 1st Tranche Review and entering the Partnership's Actions on to the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System. In the meantime, BARS training/ discussion days were hosted by the JNCC/Scottish Biodiversity Forum in Stirling (in October) and Perth (March) which the Co-ordinator attended.

2007-08: With the publication of the UKBAP Review, the TBAP's 1st Tranche Review will be completed and the revised actions input to BARS, together with other relevant actions arising from the Project Priority listing.

Research and Co-ordination of 2nd Tranche HAPs and SAPs

The finalised Action Plans were put on the biodiversity website for a short consultative stage. Together with sub-group members, post-consultation amendments were undertaken.

2007-08: The finalised 2nd Tranche of the TBAP will be published on the website.

Training

The Co-ordinator attended a 'Buildings and Biodiversity' Conference in Inverness and a half day's training on 'Trees and the Law' with the Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens.

Perth & Kinross Council training modules were undertaken throughout the year: Equality & Diversity Race Module; Child Protection; Disability: Modules 1 (New Perspective) and 2 (Communication Skills). A half day's PowerPoint training was also attended in February.

The Co-ordinator undertook private Continuing Professional Development by attending the 'Caring for God's Acre' Conference, a Grassland Management course and the Scottish Woodland conference.

Supporting the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Funding for the year 2006-07 came from Scottish Natural Heritage (35%) and the three local authorities (65%). Much in-kind help came from many other quarters: a number of Partners hosted the Steering Group, Management Team and sub-group meetings, as well as the Building Better Biodiversity seminars. Much of the work of the sub-groups and Steering Group is undertaken voluntarily. Angus FWAG, Perth & Kinross and Dundee City Councils donated exhibition space for the Partnership's display banners.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the funders; Professor Martin Price, the Partnership's Chairman, Jeremy Milne and Angela Paterson of the Centre for Mountain Studies; and all members of the Partnership for their ongoing support and assistance throughout the past year. Thanks also to the sub-group leaders and members, as well as the wider partnership of organisations, businesses and individuals. Special thanks are due to Lynda Ronald for her design expertise and to Lorraine Smith of Perth & Kinross Council for their administrative assistance. This Report has been compiled by Catherine Lloyd, Biodiversity Co-ordinator, on behalf of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership.

Further information

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Appendix 1
Steering Group Members

Current Steering Group

Pam Coutts	Angus Council
Stewart Roberts	Angus Council
Merrill Smith	Dundee City Council
Alison Anderson	Dundee City Council
Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council
Syd House	Forestry Commission Scotland
Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission Scotland
Carol Littlewood	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (Angus)
Richard Lockett	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (Perth)
Kate Scott	National Farmers' Union Scotland
Ben Notley	National Trust for Scotland
Martin Price	Perth College (Centre for Mountain Studies) (Chairman, TBP, from October 2004)
Douglas Flint	Perth and Kinross Council
Mark Simmons	Perth and Kinross Council
Bruce Anderson	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Christine Hall	Scottish Agricultural College
Alan Hendry	Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Dept.
Jo Long	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Bruce Campbell	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Martyn Jamieson	Scottish Field Studies Association
Ruth Harland	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Paul Ramsay	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Carolyn Warwick	Scottish Natural Heritage
Andrea Williams	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Appendix 2
Treasurer's Statement (yet to attach)

APPENDIX 3
Business Plan 2007-10: Project Priority Listing (as at 2006)

1.	Golf course Initiative
2.	Dune Restoration
3.	Geodiversity Trails
4.	Tayside Terns
5.	Firth of Tay Wader & Wildfowl Audit
6.	Barn Owl Projects
7.	Calcareous Grassland
8.	Farmland Birds
9.	Angus Treelines
10.	Farm Buildings for Biodiversity
11.	Irrigation Ponds
12.	Small Blue Butterfly
13.	Wet Grassland for Waders
14.	Living Field Study Centre
15.	Perthshire Hedgerow & Tree Project
16.	Local Patch Project
17.	Invasive Species
18.	Green Graveyard Initiative
19.	Town Swift Project
20.	Urban Red Squirrel Initiative
21.	Watercourse HAP
22.	Sand Martins in Tayside
23.	Urban Grassland
24.	Green/Living roofs
25.	Community Gardens, Orchards, Allotments HAP
26.	Acoustic Ecology
27.	Highland Tayside Paths Impacts Project
28.	Tayside Upland Heath Project
29.	Butterfly Conservation Initiative
30.	Tayside Ponds Initiative
31.	Perth Lade Enhancement
32.	Otter Road Death Survey
33.	River Earn Invasive Species
34.	River Tay Tributary Initiative
35.	Salmon in the Classroom
36.	Water Vole and Mink Project
37.	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
38.	Green Tourism Scheme
39.	Woodland Management Awareness
40.	Management of Non-Timber Forest Products
41.	Red Squirrel Conservation
42.	Wildlife Tree Project
43.	Woodland Grazing Initiative
44.	Ancient Tree Hunt
45.	Sheltered Housing & Hospitals Biodiversity Project
46.	Wildlife Festival
47.	Mammal Atlas
48.	Countryside on Wheels Farm Bus
49.	Bee Wild Communities and Schools Project
50.	Community and Education Biodiversity Awards
51.	Practitioner Training