

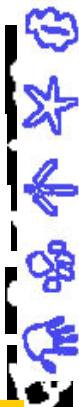


Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator's ANNUAL REPORT

April 2008 to March 2009



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 Tayside biodiversity process.





2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT

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* Refers to Work Programme 2008-09 codes



(1.) Co-ordinate and Support the Work of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

There were five Management Team meetings: 12th May, 22nd August, 12th November 2008 and 27th January 2009. An Annual Report for 2007-08 was prepared, together with a new Work Programme for 2008-09. Quarterly updates of the Work Programme were completed throughout 2008-09.

(2.) Promote Awareness and Enhancement of Biodiversity in Tayside

2.1 Talks and Presentations

- Stand taken at Dundee Spring Garden Show (19th and 20th April) to launch the Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments booklet: approximately 250 people reached.
- Presentation to PKC Planning Seminar (24th April): c40 people.
- Helped man stand at St John's Centre, Perth (1 x day) and in High Street (0.5 day) for SBW Street Theatre event: c200 people reached.
- Talk to Longforgan School (100+ pupils) to launch biodiversity projects (including school orchard) and ZOOM participation.
- Attended Arbroath Eco Congregation event (30th Aug): c200 people reached.
- Attended Hillcrest Housing Association Green Day for Tenants Fair (October): c70 people reached.
- Attended the Perth Wood Fair.
- Gave morning workshop (6th November) to School of Social & Environmental Sciences (Planning), Dundee University - 20 people.
- Attended Scottish Parliament as guest of Children's Orchard event in the Parliamentary Committee Room, Holyrood - display of Tayside materials (50+ people).
- Gave presentation to the City Chambers, Glasgow (14th Nov.) to raise awareness on Tayside biodiversity and orchard project case studies (c40 people).
- Ran 2-day stand at Dobbies Monifieth for their "Wildlife Care" Weekend (31st Jan/1st Feb): c150 people.
- Worked with Dundee Sensation and the Angus Ranger Service to put together a Scottish Teachers' biodiversity event at SCRI in February (20 people).
- Presentations given to Angus FWAG (19th March) - c50 people.
- Presentation given to Perth University of the 3rd Age (26th March) - c18 people.
- Approached (and subsequently worked with) Dundee Sensation re. holding the national "What on Earth is Biodiversity" exhibition (March to June 2009)
- Agreements already made to give 2 x talks Autumn 2009: SWT Perth Group; Scottish Badger Conference;
- Helped plan Kinross Discovery Day 2009 (changing date of event to fit in with Scottish Biodiversity Week 2009).

Summary

Approximately 4,440 people heard about the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and its projects at first hand at events, presentations and at the Orchard Festival. This included several new audiences such as the Arbroath Eco-congregation, Dundee University students, Glasgow City Chambers, Dundee Science Centre.

2.2 Displays

Throughout the year there was ongoing liaison with partners regarding loaning 2 x sets of banner displays and regular provision of leaflets for events. The banners were used at many events, including the Tayside Estuary Forum conference, Dundee Spring Flower Show, PKC Planning Seminar, Perth City Centre (Street

Theatre), Braco Green Graveyard Initiative Coffee Morning; Braco Green Day (Nov. 2008); Perth Wood Fair, the St Andrews event at Dundee Sensation; Glamis Country Fair, SCRI Teachers Biodiversity event.

2.3 Media

Articles -

Quarterly articles were prepared for Trellis Newsletter (Scotland-wide coverage) and regular articles written for the National (UK) Orchard Forum; Tree Warden Newsletter; Scottish Biodiversity Forum Newsletter. Articles were also prepared for the Eco Congregation Newsletter (Green Graveyard Initiative), the Perthshire Green Tourism Network E-Bulletin (ZOOM project and swift survey).

Radio -

BBC Radio Scotland interview for "Out of Doors" programme; Radio Tay (Country Matters) interviews for 2 x biodiversity programmes aired in August.

Interviews/information provided to Scotland on Sunday, Perthshire Advertiser, the Courier, and Sunday Times for Orchard Festival (all published); also set up photocalls for Courier at Cairn o'Mhor and Ray Cox (photographer) for Historic Orchard Forum.

Other Websites -

Copy prepared for Perthshire.co.uk (via VisitScotland) and for use in the Green Tourism E-Bulletin; website information also provided to Common Ground.

Press Releases -

- SBW Tayside events (including generic version for event organisers to adapt and circulate): PA, Courier;
- PA and Courier re. swift survey and orchard workshops;
- Riparian Seminar, Winter pruning workshop, Green Roof Workshop, Swift Workshop, Greenspace and Biodiversity Seminar, Tayside Recorders' Day.

Pete Wishart - liaised between Partners for media event re. Carse HOF project (P&KCT and FCS).

Better liaison took place between the Co-ordinator and recipients of the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund. Working with Perth Quality of Life Trust Administrator, applicants ensured that many more of the TBAF projects were featured, particularly in local newspapers - e.g. the Osprey Officer at Loch of the Lowes, the wet grassland work being undertaken by RSPB at Vane Farm, the Barn Owl and Tree Sparrow projects in Angus (Angus FWAG).

Summary

The Co-ordinator prepared 23 articles for national and local publication (including websites and photocalls); 3 radio interviews were given; approximately 12 press releases were published with respect to local events. Many more articles and press releases were provided by Partners and the Co-ordinator had input into several of these.

2.4 Website

Regular updates were sent to the webmaster and a meeting held to discuss the potential costings for its review: ZOOM page uploaded, plus Funding Newsletter, Geodiversity leaflet/newsletter, SBW links, SRDP link, swift video and numerous seminar presentations.

A Website Statistics report was prepared for the Steering Group during 2008-09 and included the following details:

Month.	Total Hits
<i>1st QUARTER</i>	140,549
<i>2nd QUARTER</i>	117,965
<i>3rd QUARTER</i>	146,013
<i>4th QUARTER</i>	141,826
<i>1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 - TOTAL</i>	546,353

2.5 Scottish Biodiversity Forum (SBF) Information

Details of the SNH Research Review were circulated; also Single Outcome Agreements. The Co-ordinator advised LBAPOs about the inclusion of rare breeds and GAP (Grazing Animal Projects) in the TLBAP. Regular papers were circulated to sub-groups regarding Scottish Biodiversity Committee Ecosystem groups (e.g. woodland, marine, upland, etc.).

(3.) Maintain the TBP Steering Group and Sub-Groups, Providing Direction and Guidance

With Rachael Higgins' departure from the Clerical Assistant's post in early-August there were major delays in recruiting a new member of staff; this had a detrimental affect on the Co-ordinator's work programme. The closing date for the post was early September (70 applications) and 9 candidates were interviewed mid-October. In the meantime, Britta Peters helped in a temporary capacity from the end of August to mid-October and Louise Ross took over for the few weeks leading up to Christmas. There were ongoing delays in setting up computers/e-mail addresses for new staff and after an 18 month delay TechnoVoice equipment was installed at the office. Iain Campbell finally took on the Clerical Assistant's post in January 2009.

3.1 Steering Group

During the period 2008-09 there were four Steering Group meetings: 17th June, 15th September, 9th December 2008 and 10th March 2009.

3.2 Water and Wetlands Sub-Group

Ian Lorimer took over as Leader of the sub-group in September 2008. Meetings were held in April and September 2008 and February 2009.

In May 2008 the sub-group joined the Perth Lade Management Group in a walk along the lade to discuss the potential for a Biodiversity Enhancement Project. Progress then ground to a halt until a separate local authority department commissioned a local community report on the use of the lade; the biodiversity project will now fit in with this. The Co-ordinator worked closely with the Bat Conservation Trust and the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service to plan the new Perth Bat Project which will include the Lade.

No progress was made regarding the Mammal Road Death Survey, although the subject was raised at national level by attending the Scottish Trunk Roads Group meeting held in Perth. Nor was there time to take forward the Tayside Ponds Initiative, but good contacts were made with SUDS experts in SEPA and a first phase project started to list existing local authority SUDS and propose community pond projects.

The Tayside Lochs Project's first focus was at Fingask and White Loch and with SITA TBAF funding on-the-ground work was undertaken. The Co-ordinator finalised artwork, design and costings for 250 tea-towels to assist with awareness-raising. These were distributed to all the local septic tank owners, golf course, sheltered housing complex, anglers' group and primary school in early 2009. As part of a long-term initiative led by SEPA, the project will be reported on to the UK Mesotrophic Lochs Habitat Action Plan Steering Group.

The sub-group's Riparian Seminar at the Birnam Institute in January 2009 attracted 77 participants from across Scotland; there was excellent feedback to the event.

3.9 Coast and Estuaries Sub-Group

A new sub-group chair, David Lampard, took over meetings in November 2008 and January 2009. The search continues for a sub-group leader who can be part of the Steering Group.

The Co-ordinator prepared a proforma for a potential student placement project for the Wildfowl Audit, interviewed potential candidates and then worked with the student (Craig Robb) and Perth & Kinross Ranger Service to take forward.

Staff changed within the Scottish Golf Environment Group and the demise of FWAG Scotland caused a lack of progress with coastal golf course projects. However, a new project, "Nature on Track" was discussed at the January meeting and the sub-group started to work with ScotRail. Discussions were held with the Dundee Ranger Service regarding the feasibility of a Wildlife Watching Working Group; this was ultimately cancelled owing to a reduction in staff. Liaison continued with the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project as regards marine interpretation within the new bathing hut, sand dune restoration at Broughty Ferry; and the potential for a Swift booklet and community water vole survey training for the new Dighty project. The Co-ordinator also had input into Fife Ochre's design work on the interpretation for the Tay Trail Project.

A meeting was also held with the Tay Estuary Forum Officer regarding biodiversity input into the TEF Management Plan.

3.12 Farmland/Upland Sub-Group (including the Barn Owl Interest Group)

The Farmland and Upland sub-groups were merged in August 2008 and the group met in May and August 2008, predominately to discuss the SRDP local priorities. A letter from the Partnership, drafted by the sub-group, was sent to the Scottish Government regarding the Review of the Wildlife & Countryside Priority Species consultation.

Angus FWAG's Linnet Link Project will progress via Angus Council and ex-FWAG support by Littlewood Land Care will ensure the ongoing Barn owl project. SAC's Calcareous Grassland project progressed and the Co-ordinator supported the event in July 2008 at Blair Atholl. Although turnout by the public was poor, those who attended were professionals from a wide range of organisations which facilitated excellent local networking. There were ongoing discussions with Butterfly Conservation Scotland as to potential Tayside projects, including the Angus Small Blue Survey proposal and the Highland Perthshire Butterfly ID leaflet. Funding was not secured during 2008-09 but is likely to be achieved during 2009-10.

There was input into the UK Grassland HAP Steering Group UK projects listing - the Calcareous Grassland Project (SAC) was included and potential Field Day events were discussed to take place in the future.

Disappointingly, the Upland Discussion Day did not take place during 2008, but with changes about to take place regarding the extended boundary of the Cairngorms National Park, there will need to be such a meeting during 2009.

3.23 Urban Sub-Group (including the Swift and Sand Martin Interest Groups)

Six meetings were held: April, June, August and December 2008 and February and March 2009.

Green Graveyard Initiative

A letter was circulated to all local community councils regarding the Initiative. One of the key outcomes to this was the opportunity to meet a number of community groups (including Ardoch Trust) at Braco to discuss the possibility for a wide-ranging Braco Biodiversity Village Project. This will include three Green Graveyard Initiative sites. The Co-ordinator also met with Western Cemetery Friends (Dundee) and commented on Aberfeldy and Broughty Ferry graveyard management proposals.

Ongoing discussions were held with Perth & Kinross Council regarding setting up a suite of new pilot projects (working in liaison with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust). Liaison with PKC and Dundee University

regarding a student placement led to Gordon Henderson and the Co-ordinator working with PKC, DCC and AC to prepare case studies for the Burial Grounds HAP.

Arising from the findings of a Perth Academy biology project at Greyfriars, Perth, discussions with Plantlife Scotland and Edinburgh Botanic Gardens lichenologists may lead to the Tayside LBAP piloting a lichen postcard survey/ public awareness project which could ultimately be widened across Scotland by Plantlife Scotland. Discussions and funding searches took place during 2008 and it is hoped the project may be launched during 2009.

There was continued liaison with Eco-Congregation Scotland (and the individual committee in Perth) to raise awareness of the Initiative within the local community.

Sand Martin Interest Group

The group met in July 2008. The members kept in touch via e-mail and telephone. The Co-ordinator met the Interest Group leader at Friarton Ponds as part of the proposed Tay Regeneration Project to discuss the possibility for a new sand martin bank. This was subsequently built.

Swift Interest Group

The Co-ordinator chaired Swift Interest Group meetings in April and September 2008. The swift survey form was updated and funding found for its printing. The new form was widely circulated to Partners and key volunteers.

Although there was little feedback from the Swift Nestbox Trials (Appendix 1), DCC liaised with the TBP and Concern for Swifts regarding the Janet Brougham Sheltered Housing project.

Stephanie Shaw, a placement from Dundee University, and Louise Ross, temporary clerical assistant with the Partnership, undertook the task of inputting the backlog of data amassed over the past few years - 900 entries were completed. Stephanie set up a database of Access and Excel files so that records can be manipulated in the future for national and local records. Stephanie also assisted in preparing press releases to raise awareness about the volunteer opportunities for the swift survey. Funding was secured via the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Promotion Fund for swift tea-shirts (designed by BFEP). All Interest Group members received one, plus the Street Theatre actors/directors for their contribution to the Scottish Biodiversity Week. Spare tea-shirts were used as prizes for the Top Ten volunteers. A mailing was sent to all past volunteer surveyors (with the mailing costs sponsored by Perth & Kinross Council) asking for their contribution in 2008. "Thank you" information packs were sent to all those who returned completed forms; these included swift pin badges (purchased from the RSPB). The Swift Newsletter continued to be widely distributed and good practice shared with other LBAP Officers throughout Scotland.

The Co-ordinator encouraged PKC & DCC Rangers to hold swift walks for the public and helped research facts for the new Swift booklet (BFEP) as part of a 2009 project. A Swift Workshop for Local Authority planners, architects and housing departments was held in Dundee during February (funding was found to bring Edward Mayer of London Swifts to Scotland). The Co-ordinator also helped plan and attended the Scottish Swift Gathering meeting in Stirling (in January) and took part in the BBC Radio Scotland programme "Out of Doors".

Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments booklet

1,500 booklets were distributed across Tayside and Scotland during 2008-09, including 100 for the City Farms Federation national conference, 70 for the Scottish Allotments & Gardens national conference (which the Co-ordinator attended) and 50 to the Dundee in Bloom committees. The booklet's circulation has resulted in a lot of general advice, presentations and exhibitions being requested from an area greater than Tayside and a lot of new contacts made. Talks were given on the subject to the Perth Organic Gardeners and Perth U3A.

ZOOM

Following the launch of the project, 600 packs were distributed within a very short period of time. Additional packs were made available to events organisers throughout Tayside to ensure a wide distribution. Throughout the year packs were regularly posted and acknowledgement made to all

completed survey forms received. Over 140 packs were given to Dundee in Bloom members. By the end of the 2008-09 year only 100 packs remained for use at the beginning of the 2008-09 season. Approximately 100 survey forms were returned and forwarded to the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust for inputting into their national database.

By the beginning of 2009, the ZOOM In2 Project was being planned as a follow on to the very well-received ZOOM project. Funds were located to enable a print re-run of the original bumblebee survey form.

Grassland Management

DCC operative staff received practical training (via the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and Fife Council) and comments were made on the new Kingsway grass cutting regime. Assistance was also given into the preparation of the PKC Committee Report regarding change of management of PKC greenspace (graveyards, parks, etc.). This was approved by the PKC Committee.

Non Native Plants

Key Partners within the TBP received copies of the new UK Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy booklet published by the Scottish Government and the Co-ordinator was invited to contribute to Angus Council's Invasive Species website page. Liaison took place with the River Esk Fisheries Board as to the number of non-native species projects being undertaken elsewhere in Tayside.

Green Roofs

Funding was achieved to bring Dusty Gedge of Living Roofs and John Little of the Grass Roof Company to Scotland. Generous sponsorship from Hertalan and a contribution from the Dundee Architects Institute considerably reduced costs for the practical workshop which took place in Dundee; Angus and Perth & Kinross Council part-funded the day too, with Dundee City Council providing the venue at Baxter Park Visitor Centre. Dusty Gedge also contributed towards the TBP's "Greenspace and Biodiversity" seminar held in Forfar during February. Following the publicity for the events, enquiries were received from organisations across Scotland interested in creating their own green roof (this included Trellis Scotland).

3.35 Woodland Sub-Group (including the Red Squirrel Forum)

Tim Barratt took over as Leader of the sub-group in March 2008. The sub-group met in August.

Tayside Orchards Project

This high-profile project continued to dominate the sub-group's work. To assist the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, the Co-ordinator drew up a detailed project brief which was subsequently used in a successful bid for Scottish Rural Development Programme monies to take on a Project Officer for two years.

There were 8 meetings of the Historic Orchard Forum and the Co-ordinator organised two practical training events for the public: summer pruning, and management of new orchards. To publicise the uniqueness of the Carse of Gowrie Orchards, the TBP took the lead by introducing the first Festival of its kind in Scotland. LEADER funding was secured and the total costs of £8,000 were covered by LEADER, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust and a great deal of in-kind assistance from events organisers and volunteers. The Carse of Gowrie Orchard Festival took place from 18th to 26th October. Key outputs included:

- Glendoick Garden Centre Apple Weekend (18th 19th October) - footfall of c3,000 people;
- Small-scale cider making courses (x2) - the first such training made available in Scotland: 20 participants;
- 3 school orchard events (Longforgan, St Madoes and Abernyte) - 35 trees planted;
- Errol Family Fruit Tree Planting and Apple Fair (25th October) - 30 trees planted (including a row of fruit trees at Stewart Milne's new development, Errol) - c50 visitors, including volunteers;
- Elcho Castle Family Fruit Weekend (25th/26th October) - 130 visitors;
- Publication of the Tayside Traditional Orchards booklet - based on the People's Trust for Endangered Species booklet, the Tayside version was totally re-written with the blessing of the PTES. The PTES is now using the Tayside version to prepare a 2nd Edition for England; other Orchard Groups elsewhere in Britain are now following suit!

Craig Robb, a very able student placement, ensured that local businesses throughout the Carse were contacted and a suite of publicity material was designed and printed - a programme of events, a cider-making course flyer and a generic poster. Iain Ballantyne, another student placement, took over part-way through the project and continued to assist the Co-ordinator in liaising with community groups, HOF, Glendoick Garden Centre, VisitScotland and a number of local schools to prepare a programme of 10 events over 10 days. A separate report on the Festival is available.

To ensure the orchard project is widened beyond the Carse, an inaugural Tayside & Fife Orchard Forum meeting was held to discuss the rolling out of school and community orchards throughout the area. Partnership working between all three local authorities, Forestry Commission Scotland, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust and the Fife Coast & Countryside Trust has ensured the project is covering as large an area as possible.

The Co-ordinator met with Network Rail regarding the potential for a community orchard at West Oaks (Friarton); links were made with the Children's Orchard (Glasgow) which set up the Dunkeld Community Orchard, the largest so far in Scotland. The PKC Tree Wardens will be involved in its future management. Discussions were held with the Soil Association, Children's Orchard and FCS regarding the proposed Commonwealth Orchard; these were not progressed when the idea failed at the Scotland 2014 Legacy Panel.

Discussions were held with Buglife Scotland into the possibility of preparing an Orchard Bugs poster leaflet, and Butterfly Conservation Scotland/McManus Collections Unit as to the potential for running National Moth Night events in the Carse orchards.

Red Squirrel Forum

The Tayside & Fife Red Squirrel Forum met regularly, attended by the Tayside Red Squirrel Officer and chaired by Forestry Commission Scotland. The Co-ordinator contributed towards the Tayside Red Squirrel Strategy and attended the new Saving Scotland's Squirrels launch in Dunkeld in February.

3.41 Education Sub-Group

As sub-group leader, the Co-ordinator chaired four meetings in April, September, December 2008 and March 2009.

The TBP recycled pens and pencils were distributed widely at many events across Tayside, including 150 to the Angus Countryside Initiative Estate Day for Dundee schoolchildren.

Funding was confirmed, articles prepared or edited, photographs researched and a further 8-page "From Summit to Sand" Newsletter went to print in time to be launched at the SITA TBAF Reception on 1st May 2009.

Tayside Biodiversity Festival 2009

Although the Festival took place in May 2009, all the planning was undertaken within the period 2008-09. Owing to the negligible budget, much of the research was into the different types of events that could be staged without any budget expenditure - book fairs, etc., and a great deal of Partnership working. The Co-ordinator approached Dundee Sensation regarding the possibility of hosting the BBRSC "What on Earth is Biodiversity" national exhibition and this resulted in the Dundee Science Centre fully funding the exhibition and running it for 2 months to coincide with the Tayside Biodiversity Festival. As the exhibition had to be transported to Dundee from Bristol, it was agreed that the Aberdeen Science Centre would also host it for a further two months. The Co-ordinator proposed a Wildlife Photography Weekend to start the Festival and David Boag was approached in addition to a number of Scottish photographers. With funding from SNH, SITA TBAF and Dundee Sensation, David Boag ran three family-orientated workshops in Dundee and a general workshop for the Angus Ranger Service, Monikie. The events were used to officially launch the ZOOM In2 project and received extensive media publicity.

Iain Ballantyne, the student placement from Dundee University who had assisted with the Orchard Festival, helped compile a Programme of Events, whittling down the original proposed 75 events into 60 local events

that were publicised within the Programme. Another student, Kalina Kasprzyk, liaised with Dundee Contemporary Arts to incorporate their series of international Wildscreen films into the Festival.

Coincidentally, Douglas Flint was planning an NHS Scotland biodiversity seminar in Stirling in mid-May; he changed the venue to be part of the Festival. Unfortunately there were too few bookings to go ahead with the event, so it was postponed at short notice. In the meantime, however, artist/designer Joanna Kessel asked for Partnership input into her NHS commission for artwork on a biodiversity theme at the new Macmillan Centre in Perth.

Bee Wild Project

Discussions with Angus Council and Var Scotica as regards a potential pilot project did not result in anything being progressed, but much interest was shown in the project and the Co-ordinator contributed ideas, funding advice and publications to a number of community groups and schools to start wildlife gardens.

Scottish Biodiversity Week 2008

The Co-ordinator prepared a Tayside events listing following liaison with Partners: 31 events for Scottish Biodiversity Week 2008. A generic press release was prepared and circulated to events organisers; details uploaded onto the website and links made with Scottish Biodiversity Forum as regards wider publicity/inclusion on the SBF website. The TBP website was updated after the SBW to reflect national publicity. A large mailing of seed sticks/leaflets was undertaken to Partners/interested parties and a detailed feedback report was sent to SBF.

The SBW organisers chose the Perth Youth Theatre's "biodiversity street theatre" as one of their Top Ten Events to feature in a national leaflet and featured this unusual event prominently on their website. The Co-ordinator, with SNH, gave advice to the Youth Theatre on accuracy of content for their bee and bird theme. Funding and future opportunities beyond input into the Scottish Biodiversity Week was discussed.

Research, Co-ordinate and Promote Training Programme ('Building Better Biodiversity Programme')

The 2008 Building Better Biodiversity Programme was prepared and put on the website; towards the end of the year, the 2009 Programme was also prepared and publicised.

Appendix 5 gives full details of the output from the training courses. In summary, two lunch time seminars were hosted by Perth & Kinross Council in 2008. With Pam Coutts, Angus Council, 5 lunch time seminars were arranged to take place between October 2008 and January 2009. A further suite of seminars was planned with Esther Rogers-Nicoll of PKC and information packs prepared for spring 2009.

The Co-ordinator also organised the Greenspace & Biodiversity Seminar, a Swift Workshop, Living Roofs Workshop and a Winter Pruning Course.

A second Tayside Recorders' Forum Day was hosted by Dundee McManus Collections in March 2009 with 34 participants. The TBP hosted a Tayside Geodiversity meeting at Tayside House during the year.

(4.) Promote Community Involvement in Biodiversity Projects

In addition to the NGO organisations represented on the TBP's sub-groups, support was given to the following organisers of projects to encourage involvement in the biodiversity process:

- Angus Bat Group;
- Ardoch Trust (Braco);
- Atholl Estates;
- Bankfoot Eco-Congregation;
- Bat Conservation Trust;
- Boys Brigade;
- Bridge of Earn In Bloom Group;
- Broughty Ferry Environmental Project ;
- Butterfly Conservation Scotland;
- Baxter Park Friends;

- Cairngorms Water Vole Project;
- Dunbarney Eco-Congregation;
- Dundee University;
- Duntrune House (Green Tourism member);
- Eassie Community Council;
- Hillcrest Housing Association;
- John Muir Awards;
- Kindrogan Field Centre;
- Muirhead Sanctuary;
- Muirtonhouse Sheltered Housing (Blairgowrie);
- Murton Trust;
- Muthill Environment Group;
- Perthshire Organic Growers;
- PriceWaterhouseCooper;
- Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society;
- Scottish Crop Research Institute;
- Scottish Native Woods;
- Scripture Union (Lendrick Muir).

Articles were provided for the SBF Biodiversity Newsletter and input for the UK Biodiversity Newsletter ensured so that Angus FWAG's article on barn owls resulted.

The SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund

The Co-ordinator continued to advise a large number of potential applicants on general funding opportunities and, on a quarterly basis with the Perth Quality of Life Trust Administrator, handled applications for the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund. Evaluation and assessment reports were prepared for the Partnership's Assessment Panel and the Co-ordinator attended each quarterly PQLT Board meeting to present the reports. The Application Guidelines were also reviewed and SITA TBAF Progress reports compiled to ensure regular requests for press release can be requested in future.

17 successful applications were processed during 2008-09:

- Perth Bat Project,
- Highland Perthshire Aspen Project,
- Baxter Park,
- Bat Conservation Trust/ PKC Ranger Service;
- RSPB (wader project);
- Dundee University (wildflower meadow project);
- Muirtonhouse Sheltered Housing (Blairgowrie);
- Baxter Park project;
- Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels;
- SWT (Tummel Shingle Islands)
- SWT (Osprey Protection Officer)
- Murton Wildlife Trust (Little Ringed Plover Habitat Enhancement)
- SWT (Balnaguard Glen Juniper Regeneration)
- SWT (Northern Hay Meadow)
- Forest Research (Juniper Natural Regeneration)
- Murton Wildlife Trust (Grey Partridge Breeding)
- Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (Inchture Redwood Ponds)

The project value for these successful applications was, in total, £214,194.

(5.) Promote Joint Working with Organisations Within and Outwith the TBP

Perth & Kinross Council

Environment Service - the Co-ordinator liaised with the PKC Arts Development Officer and Parks Facilities Manager regarding street theatre/biodiversity arts project in P&K parks. Advice was given on PKC biodiversity projects at Larghan Park, Macrosty Park, and an Urban Butterfly Wilderness site near Perth Lids (a potential joint project with Beautiful Scotland/PKC). Advice was given on the legalities for tree/shrub removal during bird breeding season (South Inch, Perth). There was a lot of Green Graveyard Initiative input and a marked improvement in management of key sites.

Roads Department - the Co-ordinator attended one PKC Perth Lade Management Group meeting and circulated a query regarding the ongoing wildlife in drains issue. This has yet to be resolved, but has raised the issue within the LBAPO Network and the Association of Local Government Ecologists.

Planning Department - meetings were attended to discuss biodiversity indicators, and biodiversity information input into Perth Western Edge scoping report, CARS issues at Perth Lade, Mile Hill Wind Farm (Kirriemuir), Luncarty development (sand martins) and planning queries including Edradour Distillery, Invergowrie Primary School, Perth College and Port-na-Craig. Assistance was given in preparing a job description for the new PKC biodiversity officer post.

Ranger Service - the Co-ordinator liaised regularly as regards the Swift Survey, Sheltered Housing projects and the Perth-fectly Batty Project.

Angus Council

A number of "biodiversity surgeries" were held throughout 2008-09 which proved very useful in meeting a wide range of Local Authority employees. The Co-ordinator was involved in provision of website addresses and general information for the Angus Council perpetual calendar, and contributed ideas to the Invasive Non-Species website.

Three meetings of the Angus Rural Partnership Group were attended, with input into the Single Outcome Agreement and the drawing up of proposed species indicators.

The Ranger Service offered help in moving the TBP's display banners around events in Angus. The Co-ordinator liaised regularly regarding a wide range of projects, including the Green Graveyard Initiative, Swift Survey and Small Blue Survey.

Dundee City Council

The Co-ordinator attended two Dundee Partnership for the Environment meetings (December 2008 and March 2009); this proved extremely useful in general networking with a variety of DCC departments and organisations in Dundee.

Leisure & Community - the Co-ordinator regularly met with Landscape staff and discussed the opportunity for a Dundee Orchard Trail, Baxter Park community involvement, biodiversity surveys and non-native invasive species issues on the Dighty, biodiversity potential at the new Kingspark School and enhancements to The Miley. Ideas were discussed for the People's Millions project bid and a contribution made as regards the Camperdown Audit and Management Plan. Biodiversity input was invited into the Dundee Play Strategy. The potential was explored for a biodiversity project at the Overgate in connection with the local authority's Sustainable Action Plan (proposals included swift, bat and peat-free indoor plantings projects).

Planning - the Co-ordinator responded to the Mill o'Mains draft masterplan consultation (DCC) and involved DCC McManus Collections Unit. The Architects, Education and Housing Departments took part in a workshop arranged by the Co-ordinator and Concern for Swifts Scotland which later led to another workshop led by Edward Mayer of London Swifts. The outcome is involvement of the TBP in potential newbuilds and renovation swift projects.

Other Organisations

Arising from discussions regarding the possibility of the Dundee Science Centre hosting the national "What is Biodiversity" exhibition, the Partnership had the opportunity to contribute towards the Teacher Day "Biodiversity & Ethics" event in February 2009 (Darwin Exhibition): Angus Ranger Service gave a presentation on behalf of the TBP. The Co-ordinator contributed towards the Centre's Backyard Biodiversity events at Easter, and discussed the opportunity for a geodiversity and sensory garden at Centre.

Liaison with Historic Scotland led to an Orchard Festival event and a training course taking place at Elcho Castle. New projects were discussed with the new Stanley Mills Monuments Manager and suggestions made for biodiversity input in the grounds of Huntingtower Castle.

Another Orchard Festival event reintroduced the Co-ordinator to Scottish chef Christopher Trotter; links have since been made between producers and orchard owners via Mr Trotter's connections with Food in Scotland.

Discussions were held with VisitScotland's Green Tourism Manager regarding the potential for a Scotland-wide eco-tourism project based on a Tayside project (potentially the Red Squirrel Project).

LBAP Officers' Network

The Co-ordinator kept in touch with neighbouring LBPOs, mostly by e-mail - advice was given to the Fife LBPO regarding bats and development, and the reasons behind the Tayside Planners' Manual; to the Shetland LBPO on running a biodiversity projects grants scheme, and a discussion was held with the Argyll & Bute LBPO about community projects and joint projects between Partnerships, the RSPB and FWAG.

Ahead of the LBPO network meeting in Oban (September 2008), the Co-ordinator prepared a TLBAP project report. In March 2009, the Network also met with Dennis Dick (Scottish Biodiversity Committee) to discuss national issues.

(6.) Identify and Promote Action for Priority National Biodiversity Habitats and Species at Local Level

The Scottish Biodiversity Forum did not organise a national conference in 2008-09; however, with TBP partners, the CoSLA Biodiversity Workshop was attended (December 2008). Scotland's new Biodiversity Delivery Structures were discussed at the event.

The LBPO Network has representatives on all the Groups: People and Communications, Science, and the 5 priority ecosystem groups. Through these, the Co-ordinator was able to promote local Tayside biodiversity action to a national level, involving sub-group leaders and/or sub group members when appropriate. In this way, contributions were made to the Woodland, Marine and Coastal, Freshwater and Wetland, Lowland and Farming ecosystems groups, plus the People and Communications Group.

(7.) BARS Monitoring

BARS training was finally made available by the Scottish Biodiversity Forum in mid-2008 which enabled a two week contract to be awarded to Stephanie Shaw to input the 50 project proforma targets and actions. This was added to in December 2008 with the additional input of targets and actions arising from the projects granted monies from the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund. Proforma headings were updated to fit with BARS requirements and new proforma were prepared for the numerous SITA TBAF projects.

The Co-ordinator prepared the 3-year report for the UK BARS 2008 Reporting Round and submitted it in time.

(8.) Research and Co-ordination of 2nd Tranche HAPs and SAPs

Several of the Action Plans were completed as student internship projects which, in some cases, led to the student being offered other voluntary work from within the Partnership.

(9.) Training

The Co-ordinator attended the three day international conference on "Orchards and Groves" in Sheffield during September 2008 (with funding provided by Forestry Commission Scotland).

Supporting the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Funding for the year 2008-09 came from Scottish Natural Heritage (35%) and the three local authorities (65%). A great deal of 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. All three local authorities, plus Fife Council, kindly loaned PowerPoint equipment on a number of occasions. Angus FWAG, Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee City Councils donated exhibition space for the Partnership's display banners.

Student placements - thanks to Karen Sleith and her team at Dundee University for supporting the TBP in a number of projects, together with the students: Craig Robb (Orchard Festival and Wader & Wildfowl Audit); Iain Ballantyne (Orchard Festival and the Tayside Biodiversity Festival); Kalina Kasprzyk (Tayside Biodiversity Festival); Stephanie Shaw (Swifts Survey); Gordon Henderson (Burial Grounds Habitat Action Plan); Steven Sinclair (Orchard Habitat Action Plans) and Iain Gordon (Ponds and Pools Habitat Action Plan).

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the funders; Professor Martin Price, the Partnership's Chairman, Jin Park 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 are also due to the sub-group leaders and members, as well as the wider partnership of organisations, businesses and individuals. Special appreciation is owed to Rachael Higgins for her administrative assistance (until August 2008), Britta Peters (until October 2008), Louise Ross (until Christmas 2008) and to Iain Campbell who started work with the Partnership in the New Year.

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

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Appendix 1

TAYSIDE SWIFT NESTBOX TRIALS PROJECT

Trial Site	Building type	Comments	Nestbox Allocation	2008-09 Monitoring Report
Dunkeld (Little Houses), Perthshire - NTS	Traditional properties	High PR potential both in local press and in NTS publications/on site publicity potential	1x Single 1 x Swift/Bat	Planning application and listed building consent never applied for and nestboxes never used. Will be offered to Birnam Church in 2009 which is keen to safeguard its swifts.
PKC Crieff office Perthshire	Traditional property (owned by PKC)		2 x Single	Being monitored - not in use yet.
Crieff Hospital Perthshire	Modern building	May ultimately prove unsuitable, but will be re-used if this is the case.	2 x old-style	Being monitored - not in use yet.
Ballinluig Primary School, Perthshire	(no details)	1 st School Swift Project	1 x old-style	In place - being monitored by the school children. Not in use yet.
Dundee Ranger Service Camperdown House, Dundee	Traditional property		1 x single 1 x swallow cup	Nestbox returned to TBP for reallocation.
Eco House Demonstration Site, Dundee (DCC)	1970s Bungalow	Demonstration site to show property not suitable for swift nestboxes (although opportunity to add roof ridge for swifts).	1 x House Martin Terrace 1 x Swallow cup and 1 x droppings board	Ongoing delay in putting up nestboxes owing to slow completion of Eco House.
Broughty Ferry Library (BFEP)	Traditional property with modern extension	Opportunity to publicise project throughout Broughty Ferry via BFEP	1 x Single 1 x swallow cup	To be erected during 2009.
Lillybank Resource Centre, Forfar, Angus (AC)	Modern	Opportunity to publicise the project throughout Forfar	1 x single 1 x House Martin cup and 1 x droppings board	Ongoing monitoring - no swifts using nestbox yet.
Guide Dogs for the Blind, Forfar, Angus	Modern commercial property	Near wildlife corridor and new Wm Wallace swift nestboxes (AC)	1 x Swift / Bat 1 x house martin cup and 1 x droppings board	Nestboxes passed to Angus Ranger Service for re-use at Beech Hill Residential Home, Forfar in 2009 (as part of their biodiversity garden project).
King Builders Auchterarder, Perthshire	Modern building	Potential demonstration site in Auchterarder - still in negotiation	1 x swift brick	No further contact made. Swift brick retained by Ranger Service as part of their swift display.
Monikie, Newbigging, Angus	Modern buildings	Potential demonstration site at large rural development - no progress	N/A	No further contact made.

Appendix 2

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2008-09

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
Tim Barrett	Forestry Commission Scotland
Carol Littlewood	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Gp (Angus), latterly Littlewood Landcare
Richard Lockett	FWAG (Perth), latterly Lockett Agri-Environmental
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)
Graham Esson	Perth and Kinross Council
Esther Roger-Nicolls	Perth & Kinross Council
Mark Simmons	Perth and Kinross Council
Bruce Anderson	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Amy Crowther	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Christine Hall	Scottish Agricultural College
Alan Hendry	Scottish Government RPID (SGRPID)
Bruce Campbell	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Ian Lorimer	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (from September 2008)
Martyn Jamieson	Scottish Field Studies Association
Paul Ramsay	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Carolyn Deasley (vacant)	Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Wildlife Trust
Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Appendix 3

BUSINESS PLAN 2007-10 - PROJECT PRIORITY LISTING (as at March 2009)

1.	Links Golf Course Initiative
2.	Dune Habitat Restoration
3.	Tayside Terns
4.	Firth of Tay Wader & Wildfowl Audit
5.	Nature on Track
6.	Tayside Barn Owl Projects
7.	Highland Perthshire Calcareous Grassland Project
8.	Farmland Birds
9.	Perthshire & Angus Treelines
10.	Farm Buildings for Biodiversity
11.	Enhancement of Irrigation Ponds
12.	Saving the Small Blue Butterfly
13.	Operation Bumblebee

14.	Wet Grassland for Waders
15.	Living Field Study Centre
16.	Perthshire Hedgerow & Tree Project
17.	"ZOOM" Bumblebee Project (originally Local Patch Project)
18.	Invasive Species
19.	Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative
20.	Tayside Swift Project
21.	Tayside Red Squirrel Project (incorporating the original Red Squirrel Conservation Project)
22.	Urban Watercourse Initiative
23.	Sand Martins in Tayside
24.	Urban Grassland
25.	Green/Living roofs
26.	Community Gardens, Orchards & Allotments
27.	Acoustic Ecology
28.	Highland Tayside Paths Impacts Project
29.	Tayside Upland Heath Project
30.	Tayside Upland Butterfly & Moth Conservation Initiative
31.	Tayside Ponds Project
32.	Perth Lade Enhancement
33.	Mammal Road Death Survey
34.	River Earn Invasive Species
35.	River Tay Tributary Initiative
36.	Salmon in the Classroom
37.	Water Vole and Mink Project
38.	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
39.	Tayside Lochs Project (Fingask & White Lochs)
40.	Friarton Ponds Project
41.	Green Tourism Scheme
42.	Woodland Management Awareness
43.	Management of Non-Timber Forest Products
44.	Wildlife Tree Project
45.	Woodland Grazing Initiative
46.	Ancient Tree Hunt
47.	Tayside Juniper Project
48.	Tayside Orchards Project (incorporating the Carse of Gowrie Historic Orchards Project)
49.	Sheltered Housing & Hospitals Biodiversity Project
50.	Tayside Biodiversity Festival
51.	Mammal Atlas
52.	Countryside on Wheels Farm Bus
53.	Bee Wild Communities and Schools Project
54.	Community and Education Biodiversity Awards
55.	Practitioner Training (Building Better Biodiversity)
56.	Geodiversity Trails

Appendix 5

BUILDING BETTER BIODIVERSITY FEEDBACK ANALYSIS 2007-08

SUMMARY

Event	Title	Attendees	Hosted by	Financed by
May 2008	Verge Management for Amphibians and Reptiles - lunch time seminar	16	Perth & Kinross Council	PKC
June	Mitigating for Badgers - lunch time seminar	14	Ditto	Ditto
August	Fruit Tree Grafting Course (half day)	12	Randonny House	Self-financed (TBP)*
August	Summer Pruning Course (half day)	11	Randonny House	Self-financed (TBP)*
October	Cider-making 1 x day Courses (10 attendances per day)	20	Glendoick Garden Centre	LEADER (1 x day); Self-financed (TBP)* (1 x day)
October	Setting the Framework - How is this my responsibility? [lunch time seminar]	26	Angus Council	Angus Council
November	Wildlife Crime - Council Responsibilities - lunch time seminar	20	Ditto	Ditto
January 2009	Badgers - Mitigation and the Law - lunch time seminar	23	Ditto	Ditto
January	Bats in Development - lunch time seminar	25	Ditto	Ditto
January	Wildlife Issues in Development - lunch time seminar	23	Ditto	Ditto
January	Riparian Seminar: Sustainable River Management for Biodiversity, Fish and People (1 day; 7 x speakers)	77	TBP (Water and Wetland sub-group)	Association of Salmon Fishery Boards; Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland; Institute of Fisheries Management
February	Winter Fruit Tree Pruning and Orchard Management (2 half days)	16	Historic Scotland	Self-financed (TBP)*
February	Swifts in the Built Environment (half day workshop)	8	Dundee City Council	Angus Council; Perth & Kinross Council
February	Greenspace and Biodiversity (1 day; 6 x speakers)	52	Angus Council	Angus Council, Perth & Kinross Council; Hertalan
February	DIY Guide to Living Roofs Workshop (1 day)	13	Dundee City Council	Angus Council; Perth & Kinross Council; Hertalan; Dundee Institute of Architects
March	Tayside Recorders' Day (1 day; 6 x speakers)	36	Dundee City Council	TBP Education sub-group
	<i>TOTAL No. of Attendees</i>	<i>392</i>		

* fees covered costs

FEEDBACK REPORT (prepared by Iain Campbell)

Verge Management for Amphibians and Reptiles

Trevor Rose, Herpetological Society

23rd May 2008 - Pullar House, Perth

Attendees: 16; Feedback forms received: 9

All feedback was positive, with interest in attending further events expressed by all. SRDP use in biodiversity, legislation and biodiversity, and training for councillors were suggested as subjects for future.

Mitigating for Badgers

Ian Hutchison, Scottish Badgers

3rd June 2008 - Pullar House, Perth

Attendees: 14; Feedback forms received: 10

All feedback was positive, with interest in attending further events expressed by all. SRDP, Red Squirrels and felling licences, legislation updates, and bumblebees were suggested as subjects for future events.

Setting the Framework - How is this my responsibility?

Stewart Pritchard, Scottish Natural Heritage

23rd October 2008 - County Buildings, Angus

Attendees: 26; Feedback forms received: 9

All feedback was positive and attendees noted that it provided a good basis for moving their work in directions they had not been aware of previously. Interest in attending further events was expressed by all but one attendee. It was suggested that a handout of the presentation could have been provided to make it easier to follow. Information on species to concentrate on and priority habitats for the area were suggested as subjects for future events.

Wildlife Crime - Council Responsibilities

Alan Stewart, Tayside Police

13th November 2008 - County Buildings, Angus

Attendees: 20; Feedback forms received: 9

All feedback was positive and participants noted that it provided information on areas they were had been unsure of previously. Interest in attending further events was expressed by all but one attendee. One participant noted that they had only been made aware of the event five minutes before it started, and recommended a greater scope of advance notification.

Badgers - Mitigation and the Law

Ian Hutchison, Scottish Badgers

15th January, 2009 - County Buildings, Angus

Attendees: 23; Feedback forms received: 12

All feedback was positive, with the talk being deemed relevant and informative and speaker Ian Hutchison receiving good feedback for his knowledge and enthusiasm. Interest in attending further events was expressed by all. One participant asked if it would be possible to provide a list of online sources of information. Marine protection and coastal & estuarine issues were suggested as subjects for future events.

Bats in Development

Anne Youngman, Bat Conservation Trust

8th January 2009 - County Buildings, Angus

Attendees: 25; Feedback forms received: 14

All feedback was positive, with participants deeming the talk very informative and important to their areas of work. Interest in attending further events was expressed by all but one attendee. Woodland management and surveying of trees in development sites were suggested as subjects for future events.

Wildlife Issues in Development

Amy Crowther, Royal Society for the Protection for Birds

30th January 2009 - County Buildings, Angus

Attendees: 23; Feedback forms received: 6

A relatively small number of feedback forms were received, but all were positive. One attendee suggested that a longer talk with more case study details would have improved the event. Speakers from WWF Scotland, River Restoration Centre, and SNH were suggested for future events.

Other Training Courses

Fruit Tree Grafting Course

John Butterworth, Butterworth's Organic Nursery

23rd August 2008 - Living Field Studies Centre, Scottish Crop Research Institute

Attendees: 12; Feedback forms received: 3

A small number of feedback forms were received, but all were very positive.

Summer Pruning Course

John Butterworth, Butterworth's Organic Nursery

24th August 2008 - Randonny House, Longforgan

Attendees: 11; Feedback forms received: 3

A small number of feedback forms were received, but all were positive. It was suggested that the course could have been improved by including hands-on pruning.

Riparian Seminar: Sustainable River Management for Biodiversity, Fish and People

29th January 2009 - Birnam Institute

Attendees: 77; Feedback forms received: 34

This event attracted delegates from across the country, and feedback was generally very positive. In feedback on general aspects of the event (booking/registration process, venue, quality of catering, quality of facilitation, delegate pack, and structure of whole day), 94% of ratings provided were 4s or 5s on a 5-point scale, with a total of 50% of ratings 5s. The other 6% of ratings were 3s.

Feedback for individual elements (introduction, talks, and open discussion) were also very positive, with 84% of ratings being 4s or 5s (54% and 30% of the total, respectively) with 3s making up 14%. The 'Sustainable Flood Management' talk was particularly successful, with 50% rating it as 5. Overall, talks performed significantly better than the introduction and open discussion sessions. 88% of those responding rated the usefulness of the seminar positively, with the other 12% giving an average mark.

Common themes in feedback included a focus on the importance of communication between organisations, a particular interest in Sustainable Flood Management, and a sense of overdue change coming in this area - but with much work still to be done.

General suggestions included making the presentations available online, offering break-out sessions or workshops with particular groups and speakers to provide more in-depth information and a more practical perspective, splitting talks into groups of two rather than three to avoid fatigue, and offering a follow-up event in a year or two.

Winter Fruit Tree Pruning and Orchard Management

Andrew Lear, Plants with Purpose

7th February 2009 - Elcho Castle, Rhynie

Attendees: 16; Feedback forms received: 7

Feedback was very positive, with 92% of ratings for all aspects of the day being positive - the majority being rated 5 on the 5-point scale. The other 8% of ratings were average. Attendees found the event very useful, noting that the hands-on experience has given them the confidence to do their own pruning work.

There were some issues with the clarity of the training provided, but these were minor and resolved on the day. It was suggested that more handouts could have been provided. Rootstock Music and Food Fest and recognising and using varieties of fruit (particularly apple and pear) were suggested as possible areas for future events.

Swifts in the Built Environment

Edward Mayer, London Swifts

19th February 2009 - Tayside House, Dundee

Attendees: 8; Feedback forms received: 4

A small number of feedback forms were received, but all were very positive. The event was seen as a perfect introduction to the status of Swifts, with the provision of pamphlets and information sheets proving useful. The combination of presentation and walk was seen as a good allocation of the limited time available. The monitoring of priority invertebrate species and park management for biodiversity (particularly case studies) were suggested as subjects for future events. The turnout for this event was disappointing, with six late apologies received, but all in attendance will be able to make a significant contribution with the knowledge they gained.

Greenspace and Biodiversity

20th February 2009 - Angus House, Orchardbank, Forfar

Attendees: 52; Feedback forms received: 20

Feedback was generally very positive. 91% of ratings provided for the general aspects of the day were positive (49% 4s and 42% 5s on a 5-point scale), with the rest being average. Talks were also well-received, with 80% of ratings being positive (29% 4s and 50% 5s) and an additional 19% average. Particularly well-received were the talks by Howard Liddell and Edward Mayer, with each receiving more than 75% 5s, with Dusty Gedge also being singled out for praise. The usefulness of the seminar was rated positively by 83% of attendees, with the remainder giving an average rating.

Common themes in feedback included the necessity of working with rather than against nature, how the UK has much to do to catch up with other countries in these areas in both practical terms and in mindset, and an increased awareness of the pragmatic benefits of planning and developing with biodiversity in mind. General suggestions included doing more to bring in a wider audience, particularly architects and grounds maintenance representatives, making the presentations available online, and using recyclable plastic or paper cups for tea/coffee in future.

Designing wetland / water features, looking at processes of government organisations for local authorities, landowner, and agents, non-timber forest / woodland produce, the NTFP Forest Education Initiative, allotment forestry, bumblebees, information on the links between Scottish Water and other organisations with regards to SUDS, and the uses of biodiversity and greenspace through policies such as SOAs were suggested as subjects for future events.

DIY Guide to Living Roofs Workshop

Dusty Gedge (Living Roofs) and John Little (Green Roof Company)

Saturday 21st January - Baxter Park Visitor Centre, Dundee

Attendees: 13; Feedback forms received: 7

This event was very well-received, with 95% of feedback on general aspects of the day being positive (the remainder neutral) and 88% of feedback on individual elements being likewise positive, split 50-50 between 4s and 5s on a 5-point scale - the remainder, again, being neutral. The DIY Green Roofs session with Dusty Gedge

and John Little received particularly positive feedback, with all ratings positive and 70% 5s. The day was rated 5 for usefulness by 70% of participants, with the remainder rating it 4.

Practical aspects of the day were particularly appreciated, with all participants leaving with an enthusiasm for working on their own projects. All participants will be keeping in touch as their projects develop. A common theme in feedback was the surprising simplicity in installing green roofs, and the flexibility available for experimentation, along with an increased knowledge of the biodiversity and sustainability benefits offered by green roofs. All participants in relevant positions plan to use the knowledge gained professionally, including in future council projects.

Future event suggestions included a 'Build a Green Roof' day - perhaps through a local council - wherein volunteers could build a green roof on a local structure which would both provide a local showcase for green roofs and encourage the public to make green roofs of their own. Scotia Seeds also volunteered to help run demonstrations and workshops, and offer advice on putting together information on Tayside for the Guide. A community woodland for practical and biodiversity purposes was also proposed, and Stephen Bolland expressed interest in running a workshop on the biodiversity of his steading development.

Tayside Recorders' Day

Saturday 21st March 2009 - Wellgate Library, Dundee

Attendees: 36; Feedback forms received: 17

Feedback for this event was very positive, with 85% of feedback on general aspects being positive (the remainder neutral) and 96% of feedback on the talks being positive - 51% rated 5 on a 5-point scale, 45% rated 4 - with the remainder neutral. Steve Hewitt's speak was particularly well received, with all feedback positive and more than 70% rated 5, although all talk feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

It was suggested that future events be more balanced in their structure, rather than the late start and early lunch of this event. The venue was an issue for some, due to the lack of suitable screen, infiltration of outside noise into the room, and difficulty to locate and find nearby parking for those who are not local. A greater availability of contact information for people and organisations involved was also desired.

Suggestions included training events in Kindrogan, online information on the recording of any groups of wildlife in Tayside, local training days, a workshop on planning application screening tool use, optional outdoor training sections of future events, a more rural venue, and co-ordination with Fife and/or Aberdeenshire for the next meeting. Keith Ringland also offered to give a talk on the identification of Scottish wildcats.

Front cover photographs (all © C A G Lloyd except where shown):

top (l-r): Greenspace & Biodiversity Seminar, Forfar; What on Earth is Biodiversity Exhibition, Dundee Science Centre © Dundee Sensation;

middle (l-r): Winter pruning course, Elcho Castle; Tree planting with Longforgan Primary School; Green Roof Workshop, Dundee;

bottom (l-r): Carse Fruit Identification at the Orchard Festival; Woodland sub-group visit to SCRI; Glendoick Apple Weekend displays (Orchard Festival).