

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



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Education Sub-Group Remit

Aim

To support the implementation of practical biodiversity actions to the wider local community through education - by means of both formal education and informal lifelong learning



BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Tuesday, 1st September, 2009

Living Field Study Centre, SCRI, Invergowrie

Present:	Catherine Lloyd	TBP (Sub-group Leader)
	Morag Cooney	Dundee City Council (Education)
	Norman Greig	Angus Council Ranger Service
	Alasdair Hood	Dundee Botanic Gardens
	Martyn Jamieson	Kindrogan Field Studies Centre
	Gill Lawrie	RHET Angus Countryside Initiative
	Kathy Longmuir	Dundee Council Ranger Service
	Sandra Penman	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Mark Simmons	Perth & Kinross Council (Museum)
	Vikki Rodger	Angus Council (Education)
	Iain Campbell	TBP (Minute Taker)

Apologies: David Lampard, Dundee City Council McManus Collections Unit; Daniele Muir, Perth & Kinross Ranger Service; Lesley Wood, Angus Council Ranger Service

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

CL welcomed everyone to the meeting and round-the-table introductions were given. Apologies as above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes passed. CL welcomed Vikki Rodger, Angus Council, as a new member of the sub-group.

ACTION: IC TO ADD VR TO THE SUBGROUP LISTING

3. Brief Priority Project Updates

Sheltered Housing and Hospitals Project

CL reported that this project continues, but that there is no further update. Lesley Wood indicated a need for small amounts of further funding for the Angus Ranger Service project, and asked that the group inform her of any ideas. This project has been very successful and it is hoped it will be widened; Daniele Muir is starting to introduce similar projects in Perth & Kinross. The NHS is

working with the TBP on more projects - a May 2010 seminar is scheduled to take place during Tayside Biodiversity Month and it is hoped to roll out Biodiversity Action Plans across various hospitals in the area: the pilot project at Ninewells is being taken forward by John Whyman and Eric Hamilton (Dundee City Council) and Forest Commission Scotland Ninewells.

Mammal Atlas and Tayside Recorders' Forum

MS reported that a student placement (Skye Bancroft) had helped put together a Tayside Recorders' Forum section on the TBP website, including contact details of recorders and species specialists, as well as local/national organisations. It is hoped that once the benefits are evident more people will offer their contact details. The website section will hopefully promote biodiversity recording and help people get involved. CL added that the contacts lists are a first stage, and there are plans to add more in the future, with the Recorders' Forum becoming essentially a separate site and an information hub for the area, including interest group information, online surveys and networking with other surveys, such as BTO surveys. MS noted that the ambition is to log all records online and have online record entry systems.

MS also noted that the 2010 meeting of the Recorders' Forum has been proposed to be held on the 13th of March. MS is happy for the event to be held in Angus, as currently scheduled, and while holding some concerns about audience size due to recording links to Perth and Dundee museums, feels that it could help in attracting a new audience, as long as it can be publicised. MS further added that if problems arise, he would be willing to have it held in Perth. CL recommended getting in touch with Craig Borland to discuss the event, and added that all criticisms and suggestions regarding it would be appreciated.

ACTION: MS TO DISCUSS RECORDERS' DAY 2010 WITH CRAIG BORLAND

MS reported on the Mammal Atlas, noting that while there has been no progress, Mike Sedakat will soon be back doing voluntary work, and it is hoped that he will be able to offer some assistance. There is currently a large backlog of records to enter into the database, and once this is completed there are plans to make a small number of maps, including a Water Vole map, available online as a starting point. The alternative to this is funding, but a 100% funder would be required, with nothing currently looking likely.

Tayside Geodiversity

MS reported on Tayside Geodiversity, noting that the current project is to produce a Geodiversity leaflet for Dundee Law. It is hoped that the design and print will take place before Christmas, as funding should be available. Future projects will look at the Highland Boundary Fault, and Stannergate Shore near Broughty Ferry, where they are keen to raise awareness of the importance of the site among locals. Additionally, a new member of the group has excellent knowledge of ice age formations, and it is hoped that good projects can stem from this. CL added that someone in the new Dighty Connect group is keen to work on a new geodiversity leaflet. MS noted that the next meeting will be held on the 10th of September in Perth Museum. CL further noted that the Geodiversity section of the TBP website is now accessible.

ZOOM In2

CL reported that approximately 200 of the 600 cameras are still to go out, with Orchard Festival publicity to come. Any ideas for events to get involved with - groups, children, and orchards included - would be appreciated as soon as possible.

ACTION: ALL TO CONTACT CL RE. RELEVANT EVENTS

Building Better Biodiversity

CL reported that there is currently little activity on this as the winter/spring of 2009 had been particularly busy, although the series of seminars and workshops is listed in the 'Benefits of Biodiversity to Tayside' report. This discussed how between its May 2003 launch and March this year there have been 1,300 attendees, with many more events wanted and local authorities keen to continue. Any ideas for future training workshops and seminars are welcome - there is little funding available, but invariably the only thing that is required for an event is a venue.

ACTION: ALL TO CONTACT CL RE. IDEAS FOR TRAINING EVENTS

Orchard Festival 2009 and Grounds for Learning

CL reported that the last festival, which received LEADER / PKCT funding, was a success, and the first festival of its kind in the east of Scotland. Historic Scotland, Cairn o'Mohr Winery and Glendoick Garden Centre are looking to get involved with this year's festival, which will be held between the 17th and 25th of October. This year will still be centred around the Carse of Gowrie, but it is hoped that the 2010 event can be Tayside wide, with the National Trust at Barry Mill and Historic Scotland among those having expressed interest.

[AH informed the group of an ancient orchard in Cupar, owned by Fife Council, which is in poor condition. CL noted that this was covered by the East of Scotland Orchard Group, which included North Fife, and that AH should contact Kate Morison (Fife Ranger) on the matter: kate.morison@fife.gov.uk.

CL reported on the Grounds for Learning project, noting that it is Stirling based (and Scotland-wide) and had not received any particular funding for Tayside till now - a large-scale 3-year orchard project had received Heritage Lottery Fund funding in England. There are now plans to roll out a Scottish project, with Tayside being put forward as a pilot project, which would fit in well with the work already ongoing. The Grounds for Learning Project Officer is looking into working with more Primary schools and eventually Secondary schools.

ACTION: CL TO FORWARD FUNDING INFORMATION TO THE GROUP WHEN AVAILABLE

Nature on Track

CL reported that Perth & Kinross Ranger Service have been too busy to take this forward, but it is hoped that it can be launched to coincide with TBF 2010, including a leaflet to be publicised on trains between Perth and Montrose, and an unusual, art-based aspect. Ann Lolley will be involved with the art installation etc. side, and Network Rail have confirmed their support. It is hoped SNH will consider funding most of the project.

2010-13 Update

CL informed the group that in 2010 there will be a Review of the LBAP, so at the next meeting the current project list will need to be checked, with decisions to be made on what is working, what needs to be revised, what new projects should be adopted, etc. New proformas are to be considered by the Steering Group at the beginning of 2010.

Round the Table Updates

GL reported that the Angus Countryside Initiative is working to get children onto farms and related sites. The recent estate day saw 183 Dundee schoolchildren visit the estate, with excellent feedback and inquiries already regarding a follow up. The original funding for this has dried up, but it is hoped to get more funding for next year and include a more biodiversity-focused event for TBF. There are many requests from farmers to visit schools also, which could be tied in to the festival. The current project coordinator is not carrying on, so someone else is being sought for the post, which involves home-based liaison between schools and farmers, and the related record-keeping, risk analysis, and general knowledge. SNH funding asks that a number of Scotland's twelve officers have a biodiversity slant.

MS reported developments at Perth Museum: the 'Return of the Natives' exhibition has seen a record season and remains open until January, and visitors to the museum have enjoyed viewing the SWT Loch of the Lowes osprey webcam, which it is hoped can be permanent. A funding application to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a specialist entomologist has passed through the first stage - the work would primarily be with the hemiptera collection, jointly with the Natural History Museum, but would also cover events at the museum. Additionally, the Vane Farm natural history information has been updated.

SP reported that Perth Youth Theatre is looking to organise a major event to tie in with both the biodiversity festival and Perth 800.

NG reported on the Angus photographic competition held in May, involving shots taken in country parks - there were six sponsors for prizes, and it was greatly successful. David Boag ran a photographic workshop session at Monikie as part of the biodiversity festival to tie in. There were many good photographs produced, and it is hoped to run the competition again. **NG** also added that Fred Conacher continues to work promoting orchards in schools with funding being put in place for up to 60 school orchards.

MC reported on the Dundee eco-schools, which continue to be successful, with the sharing good practice event earlier this year having practitioners and others represented. The possibility of a conference with practitioners, displays and so on is being investigated for May 2010.

AH reported on the biodiversity study of the University of Dundee campus, updating the original 2001 study - this has been delayed due to the student placement not being in contact. The study is looking to see whether building work has changed biodiversity, but there are currently no reports. Different mixes of Scotia Seeds have been sown around the campus, but it will be next year before the success can be determined. **CL** added that Trudy Cunningham is looking to link in to Dundee Sensation's plans for an urban wildflower mix or a sensory garden outside the Science Centre.

AH noted that he has been working with the golf course in Carnoustie on the planting of the rare Sea pea. Dundee Botanic Garden is concerned that while it is a successful conservation project, developers may take advantage of it - a driving range developer was looking to destroy an area on the premise that it could be redeveloped. The Botanic Garden is also moving forward in a focus on growing vegetables. Students at the university are looking to start an allotment society - **AH** asked if any funding was available. **CL** replied that if it can be made biodiversity friendly - with pollinating plants, for example - it's possible and would fit in well with the Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments Action Plan (and booklet of the same name).

ACTION: CL TO PROVIDE AH WITH SUSTAIN DUNDEE CONTACT INFORMATION

KL reported on working with the Early Years team, involving training for practitioners, involvement in nurseries, sports development and so on. The annual report for schools has been completed, with 2,200 children engaged with - 40% on sites, 60% in schools. There will be more attempts to get children onto sites. Reporting on biodiversity awareness raising, **KL** noted that there has been another bat evening, involvement in National Moth Night planned, volunteer groups at Balgay, and further work with eco-schools.

MJ reported on Kindrogan FSC, noting that it is again busy, with a geodiversity volunteer looking to work on a leaflet on glaciation, linking to trail geography. FSC is working in partnership with Breathing Spaces, with many schools signed up and much support available.

VR reported almost all of the eco-schools she is working with are registered, most are awarded, and one has received a second green flag. They are moving on with biodiversity aspects and would like to push coordinators further in this direction. **CL** recommended getting in touch with Craig Borland regarding the science aspect, and asked if there were any meetings taking place on this matter; **VR** noted that there are three currently in the calendar, with the first being in late September.

ACTION: VR AND CL TO DISCUSS MEETINGS, CL TO PROVIDE INFO AND MATERIALS (subsequently, CL gave talk at the September meeting)

GL reported that the Angus Countryside Initiative is looking to launch its Tattie Bogle project, along with a project linking nurseries to PI, looking at what a scarecrow may see in a field. **GL** noted, however, the likely problems in taking children under five onto farms. **VR** suggested people who may be of assistance, including Adele Sharp, and will include **GL** in future mailings. **CL** recommended that **GL** contact Linda Wallace at Sensation for further assistance in travel arrangements.

ACTION: VR TO CONTACT GL WITH INFORMATION

5. Tayside Biodiversity Festival 2010 - Forward Planning

SP reported that Perth Youth Theatre is willing to come on board, although as there is no funding at the moment a major application will be necessary. **SNH** may be able to offer funding, but this won't be known until the end of October. Plans to perform 'The Tree' are underway, with hope for outdoor

events and links to PKC. Before anything is taken forward a quote and an agreed theme will be necessary. CL noted that the Steering Group had agreed to having a number of themes running through the festival, and so 'The Tree' could be linked in.

CL reported that two student volunteers will be helping with the 2010 festival, both very proactive (Rachael Adams and Paul Downie). While there is much work to fill a month of festivities, almost everything discussed at the meeting can be linked in somehow - not necessarily through events, but still publicised around the time of the festival. It will also be essential to tie in with the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. It is hoped to work with Dundee University on publicising a key speaker to link in with the international theme. AH noted that it would be good to steer the student volunteers towards the Botanic Garden. CL added that the students would soon be contacting people to find out who is expressing interest and bringing forward ideas, with a shortlist of events needed by Christmas.

CL informed the group of 'The Big Buzz' creative biodiversity performances (www.thebigbuzz.biz), and whilst this company is keen to be part of the Festival, it is Yorkshire-based and will therefore be somewhat expensive to bring north of the border. She asked that if anyone is aware of a local person or group involved in a similar area to let her know.

ACTION: ALL TO LOOK INTO CREATIVE BIODIVERSITY PERFORMERS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN SCOTLAND

CL updated the group on Dundee BioBlitz, which would involve experts from numerous groups - Buglife and Butterfly Conservation among them - to work together in one large public event, with David Lampard hoping for Dundee Ranger Service assistance. KL noted that the Ranger Service had not yet started looking towards a 2010 programme, and that it would be useful for David to get in touch before work starts on this.

ACTION: CL TO ASK DAVID LAMPARD TO CONTACT GEORGE POTTS

CL added that the Events Scotland funding has an early October deadline, and pointed out that it only covers 25% of costs - whether to try to group things together into one large funding request, or to allow individuals and organisations behind single events to apply for their own funding has to be considered, but there is very little time.

ACTION: ALL TO CONSIDER FUNDING POSSIBILITIES OVER NEXT FORTNIGHT, SP TO TALK TO PERTH YOUTH THEATRE RE. THEIR FUNDING PLANS

6. Other Biodiversity Awareness-Raising

CL reported that a Venezuelan student placement (Ambar Valera) is working alongside Clare Bailey, the webmaster, on the redevelopment of the website. The new site will be officially launched in mid-November, although most of the new work has already been achieved, with new features including a search engine and greater flexibility to change. MS noted that there were difficulties with the menus in the recorders section; CL asked that she be contacted with any comments.

ACTION: ALL COMMENTS RE WEBSITE TO CL ASAP

CL noted that TBP is now signed up to the International Year of Biodiversity, and as such can use its logo and use the opportunity to think more internationally in its projects.

CL also added that the Benefits of Biodiversity to Tayside report will soon be distributed to local authorities to take to their committees. The TBP Chair is keen for the report to be distributed to all Tayside MP/MSPs as well as the Minister for the Environment.

7. Any Other Business

NG asked what the status of the Salmon in the Classroom project was; CL reported that it is continuing, with funding until at least next year.

ACTION: CL TO FOLLOW UP ON SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM WITH W&W GROUP, REPORT BACK TO NG

8. Date and Format of Next Meeting

CL suggested that the group should meet towards the end of October or beginning of November to discuss festival matters, with the next full sub-group meeting to be held in December. The group agreed on dates of Tuesday, 27th October and Tuesday, 8th December, respectively, with venue to be confirmed for the Festival Working Group meeting - KL will look into using Room 3.

ACTION: IC AND KL TO LIAISE RE. VENUE

CL thanked IC for taking the minutes of the meeting and SCRI for providing the Living Field Centre as a meeting place.