



## TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

### Steering Group Meeting

#### Minutes of Meeting

Friday 25 August 2006

#### Rooms 12/13, Pullar House, Perth & Kinross Council

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| Present:   | <p>Martin Price (Chair)<br/>         Jeremy Milne (Secretary)<br/>         Alison Anderson<br/>         Pam Coutts<br/>         Catherine Lloyd<br/>         Mark Simmons<br/>         Carolyn Warwick<br/>         Martyn Jamieson<br/>         Jared Wilson<br/>         Jo Long</p> | <p>CMS, Perth College<br/>         CMS, Perth College<br/>         Dundee City Council<br/>         Angus Council<br/>         Tayside Biodiversity Partnership<br/>         Perth Museum<br/>         SNH<br/>         Scottish Field Studies Association<br/>         RSPB<br/>         SEPA</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Ruth Harland<br/>         Merrill Smith<br/>         Doug Flint<br/>         Christine Hall<br/>         Mike Strachan<br/>         Bruce Anderson<br/>         Carol Littlewood</p>  | <p>Scottish Rural Property &amp; Business Assoc<br/>         Dundee City Council<br/>         Perth &amp; Kinross Council<br/>         SAC<br/>         Forestry Commission<br/>         RSPB<br/>         Angus FWAG</p>  |

| No  | Item   | Action |
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| 1   | <b>Apologies</b><br>As above.  |        |
| 2   | <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 9 June 2006</b><br>Amendments to sections 7., 9.1 and 9.2 agreed.   |        |
| 3   | <b>Matters Arising</b><br>CW reported good feedback from the public consultation on "Scotland's Species – a Framework for Action". This will now be pulled together by the end of the year.  |        |
| 4   | <b>Reports from Sub Group Leaders</b><br>Action Proforma (2007-2010) for woodland, water and wetland, upland, urban, education, coast and estuaries sub-groups were circulated.  |        |
| 4.1 | <b>Woodlands – Catherine Lloyd</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 5 HAPS coming in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche</li> <li>• <u>Green(eco) tourism</u> – this is several small projects collected together under a Green Tourism banner and fulfils a long-standing aspiration. There are links to Red Squirrels CL not to be heavily involved. Project partners are part of the sub-group.</li> <li>• <u>Woodland Management Awareness</u> – Mike Strachan's project. PC suggested that £10,000 p.a. seems rather expensive.</li> <li>• <u>Death of Our Heritage</u> – CL suggested that this project should be renamed. MP suggested project Partners should agree this. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work with LA Tree Officers that is being incorporated here making it easy to roll out. MP felt the previous project is similar and should probably be asking for a similar</li> </ul> |        |

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|     | <p>amount of money (i.e., £2000 p.a.).</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Clarify this last point with Mike Strachan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Management of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)</u> – project aimed at the Breadalbane area. NTFP increases the value of standing forest.</li> <li>• <u>Red Squirrel Conservation</u> – FC have offered £10,000 towards the cost of a Tayside Project Officer. The project brings together many people and there is a need to get the Project Officer in place as soon as possible.</li> <li>• <u>Veteran Tree Initiative/Survey</u> – MP asked how this differs from Death of Our Heritage? CL replied that this project involves an all-encompassing survey of veteran trees whereas the other project is about communication and awareness-raising. CW suggested that ‘Wood Pasture’ could make a better focus with stronger links to the LBAP and help differentiate it from the other project. CW also raised general question of how sub-groups are to be involved in the specialised FC-led projects. AA felt that the links to priority species in these projects was not clear enough. JW pointed out that it is not possible to assess this question until Species Priorities are agreed.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Cross-reference projects to LBAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Tayside wildlife tree project</u> – this focuses on fruiting and nutting trees. It is small, concrete and easy. The PKC and AC Tree Officers are keen to be involved. Postcards will be published of the different trees and posters produced to involve the public and schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Suggest adding ‘community awareness’ element to proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Woodland grazing</u> – this is happening elsewhere in Scotland and Tayside needs to catch up. Farming community will be involved. MP suggested that the SMART targets need to be extended and reference could be made to UKBAP ‘Wood Pasture’ and Juniper could also be included.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Suggest including Juniper in project.</p> | <p>MS/CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>MS/CL</p> |
| 4.2 | <p><b>Farmlands</b> – nothing submitted as yet due to holiday and bereavement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CW highlighted need for sub-group priorities to be agreed by mid-September to be included with the TBP Business Plan. Project headings will be sufficient for submission to SNH.</li> <li>• MP stressed need for Farmland sub-group to meet soon.</li> <li>• Deadline of 11 September agreed for all project headings to be confirmed with CL (to pass to CW by 15 September at the latest).</li> </ul>  | ALL   |
| 4.3 | <p><b>Uplands – Martyn Jamieson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting in November</li> <li>• Joint Juniper Day with Woodland sub-group postponed due to lack of interest.</li> <li>• <u>Highland Tayside Paths Restoration Project</u> – very early stage of development. Not spoken to existing players yet.</li> <li>• <u>Arctic Alpine Plant Regeneration Project</u> – CW stated that SNH is doing this already. Not clear what this project will add to that.</li> <li>• <u>Calcareous grassland project</u> – Farmland sub-group collaborating. MP enquired about potential for TBAF funding. CL thought there would be problems with double-funding relating to EU payments to farmers as TBAF is seen as Government money. CL suggested that Butterfly Conservation could be involved as this project has links with the Tayside Butterfly Conservation Initiative.</li> <li>• <u>Upland Biodiversity Awareness Project</u> – Project involves organising Training days and raising public awareness. Includes training of Local Authority Rangers. MP suggested talking to John Henderson at SEERAD in his capacity as Chair of the Rural Land Use Working Group as this project ties in with specific SBF actions in the Rural Implementation Plan.</li> <li>• <u>Tayside Upland Heath Project</u> – the problem with this project is the requirement for key upland sites. How are these to be defined? This needs to be discussed. CW suggested that links to LBAP priorities are required. MP suggested water voles. JW suggested hen harrier, black grouse. CW felt actions being proposed are too specialist which is contrary to perception that these projects should be offering added value in terms of community awareness. MP felt that the projects do include</li> </ul>   |   |

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|     | <p>this element.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Suggest strengthening links to LBAP priorities</p>  | MJ                                      |
| 4.4 | <p><b>Water &amp; Wetlands – Jo Long</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JL reported that her job-share partner will be starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Not decided yet which of them will take lead on sub-group.</li> <li>Met with CL to discuss priorities which were sent to sub-group members. All projects have been discussed by sub-group.</li> <li><u>A9 Otter Survey</u> – MS reported that 20-30 otter deaths occur on the A9 p.a.. Deaths on other roads are common also. Suggested dropping ‘A9’ from the title. JL agreed. CL agreed that it would be sensible to widen the project out on a pilot basis to include other roads and get local communities involved. Project should include reference to LBAP. MP suggested targets need SMARTening.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Suggest renaming, widening scope and SMARTening targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Blanket Pond Survey</u> – JL suggested renaming as Tayside Pond Survey. MP felt that this is essentially a Newt project. MS reported that there are other locally important pond species. JW pointed out that 60 days of consecutive survey are required to ascertain whether Great Crested Newts are present at a site or not. CW felt that there is little scope for public engagement with newt conservation as it is only known at one site in Tayside. JL suggested that there was scope for extending that one site. MP suggested including this project in the Tayside Pond Initiative (see below).</li> <li><u>Tayside Ponds Initiative</u> – this project links many small projects and offers good opportunity for linking with schools. Agreed that newt habitat survey from previous project should be incorporated into this project along with survey element for amphibians and dragonflies.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Suggest combining blanket pond survey and Tayside Ponds Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Perth Lade Enhancement Project</u> – A management group for this exists within PKC who are keen but need biodiversity guidance. Project offers good links with business and education and potential for developing Lade as a green corridor. MP suggested PKC could apply to TBAF.</li> <li><u>River Earn Japanese Knotweed Eradication and Habitat Improvement</u> – project originates from anglers desire for better access. Looking at getting a student to do the survey work. Giant Hogweed is also present so there is also a public safety angle. CW said that Hogweed requires specialist treatment for eradication so public could not be involved with that but it could be included in the survey element. MJ suggested including Himalayan Balsam, JL agreed.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Suggest including Giant Hogweed survey and Himalayan Balsam eradication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>River Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative</u> – links many small projects. Includes a look at the wider land use. It is hoped that the initial demonstration project will draw others in, especially the anglers. JW suggested that the Water Framework Directive will require people to start doing this work and this pilot project will be useful in leading the way.</li> <li><u>Salmon in the Classroom</u> – CW reported that this is now self-sufficient with little need for TBP involvement except as a watching brief. JL pointed out that it is coming up for re-funding. CW suggested that it will qualify for the Life Fund Promotions budget. Leave it on the list until it is clear how the funding is going.</li> <li><u>Mink Control</u> – Project links with Fife project. MP suggested that as project includes water voles why not call it “Water Voles and Mink”?</li> <li>CW reported that Nicky McIntyre, SNH suggested adding project on Freshwater Pearl Mussel to Proforma. This is on SNH Species Framework and offers good opportunity for awareness raising. As time is short, try emailing sub-group to get agreement on adding this as a heading for the Business Plan submission.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Email sub-group re. last point</p> | <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> |
| 4.5 | <p><b>Coast &amp; Estuary – Catherine Lloyd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-group currently has no Chair therefore exists as an email group.</li> <li><u>Swan Management Demonstration Project (Montrose)</u> – PC reported that this work is already done on a regular basis. CW agreed that this project has nothing to add to</li> </ul>   |   |

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|     | <p>existing work.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> - Delete project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Wader and Wildfowl Audit of the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary</u> – JW reported that the area is an SPA therefore already covered. CW agreed that this is ongoing work.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> - Delete project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Montrose Tern Management Project</u> – JW felt that it was not clear how this project links with the habitat creation project in the area. CW felt that this project should focus on education of the public and raising awareness rather than habitat management. JL – rethink title, remove 'management'. AA suggested combining with Barry Buddon Tern Project as "Tayside Terns".</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> - Suggest combining with Barry Buddon Tern Project as "Tayside Terns".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Angus Cliff Walks and Geodiversity Trail</u> – Trail leaflets proposed. Good link with Kinnoull. JL suggested widening scope by removing 'Angus' from title and pluralizing Trail to Trails. MS expressed concern that Tayside Geodiversity may be too small to lead a much broader project. MP/CW said this needs to be decided by the sub-group.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> - Suggest widening scope of project to sub-group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Coastal Golf Course Initiative</u> – Biodiversity Day already held at Carnoustie. Project links to LBAP via Golf Course HAP. Wildlife brochure is going ahead after much pushing. JW questioned whether this is really a coastal project. CL indicated that the project also links with woodlands and urban sub-groups. AA suggested these links be highlighted.</li> <li>• <u>Dune Habitat Restoration</u> – This is a continuation of an existing project. CW questioned whether sub-group needs to be involved. AA suggested that a link with TBP can be helpful to projects. MP suggested that projects need to be categorised regarding the role of the sub-group. CW suggested putting a box on the proforma to indicate whether sub-group role was 'watching brief', 'support', or 'active implementation'.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Amend proforma to include box for sub-group role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Eider Duck Monitoring (Montrose Reedbeds)</u> – PC reported that work being done by AC Rangers.</li> <li>• CW suggested including Corn Buntings in the coastal group. JW agreed that these are great birds for conservation as they tie together many issues. MP pointed out that it will need to be agreed who the Lead Partner will be. Group agreed to include Corn Buntings.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Include Corn Buntings as a coastal project</p> | <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> |
| 4.6 | <p><b>Urban – Alison Anderson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Urban Grassland Management</u> – Linking theory and practice in a demonstration project. CL suggested including "biodiversity banks" as a term. MJ/JL suggested linking project to 'Living Fields' and Scone Park projects. CL agreed. JL suggested targets need SMARTening.</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> SMARTEN targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Green Kirk and Graveyard Initiative</u> – CL has discussed with Serge Merone re. PLQT funding hence the comprehensive SMART targets. Project links with urban grassland.</li> <li>• <u>Green/Living Roofs</u> – trying to raise awareness of this. Good local dimension as people can see biodiversity in a local context. JL reported that SEPA are looking at green roofs as an option for them. PC asked if SEPA could be included as a partner. JL stated maybe. JL/PC/CL reported good sources of info. As EN website, Mayor of London website and <a href="http://www.livingroofs.org">www.livingroofs.org</a></li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Clarify SEPA position on being a partner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Local Patch Project</u> – reinvigorating an existing project</li> <li>• <u>Practitioner Training</u> – CW expressed concern that this is being done already through the 'Sharing Good Practice' programme. What is the added value of sub-group doing this? MP suggested that this should be an education project. What are the links to LBAP?</li> </ul>  | <p>AA</p> <p>JL</p>   |

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|     | <p><b>ACTION:</b> Clarify these points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Swifts</u> – JW suggested that link with House Sparrow would be possible through nesting provision. CW agreed it would be good to include House Sparrow but better as a separate project.</li> <li>• AA reported other projects in the pipeline: Invasive species, red squirrel, watercourse, sand martins, community garden/orchards, acoustic ecology. These have not been prioritised yet. CW suggested thinking about including bats as these are high profile. MP questioned having another red squirrel project here. AA said they wanted to keep them on the urban list as they are useful for attracting funding and anyway the urban project would focus much more on public awareness.</li> </ul>   | AA                            |
| 4.7 | <p><b>Education – Catherine Lloyd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sheltered Housing and Hospitals Biodiversity Project</u> –</li> <li>• <u>Wildlife Festival</u> – This is the same principal as the Scottish Biodiversity Fortnight, but would allow a greater focus on specific Tayside projects and species. VisitScotland are keen but will not put up any money.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Reference against LBAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Mammal Atlas</u> – MS reported that 15,000 mammal records were to be put in a database to be published on the internet. NBN is a possible route for publication however this should be seen as a local initiative focusing on enabling local people to check records in their local area. CW suggested that it may be possible to link other records to this. AA pointed out that this would then provide momentum for a Local Records Centre.</li> <li>• <u>Countryside Bus</u> – This is different to the Wood Bus in that as well as housing an exhibition this bus would actually take people out to visit sites and enable them to see the countryside from the top deck. Group wondered if the same bus could be used rather than buying a new one.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Ask if possible to use Wood Bus as Countryside Bus also.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bee Wild Schools and Communities Project</u> – This project pulls together wild gardening projects that are not already covered by SNH.</li> <li>• <u>Environmental Education Awards</u> – MP suggested trying to attract a commercial sponsor. Potential links include Bee Wild, Clacks project, In Bloom awards scheme.</li> <li>• <u>Biodiversity Calendar</u> – Sub-group partners were being invited to fund a month. AA expressed concern that this is a process, not an output. MS suggested including in Bee Wild project. Group agreed.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Add as component of Bee Wild</p> | <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> |
|     | <p><b>Discussion of Species Priorities</b></p> <p>MP asked if there were any other species that should be added to the Suggested Species Priorities list.</p> <p>JW – easy to identify bird species that link biodiversity objectives in each sub-group. The current list has no upland species and terns are the only coastal one. But shouldn't it be the sub-groups who decide which species?</p> <p>MP – Yes. List offered as guidance only. Suggest sending list to sub-groups for guidance and asking them to finalise priorities and return proformas with more SMART targets that are fit for BARS, identification of linkages with other sub-groups, definition of sub-group role and prioritisation of projects. Sub-groups should identify one or at most two Lead Partners for each project as these will be responsible for BARS. Where there are clear actions and Lead Partners for species included on the Suggested Species Priorities list, ask if these could be taken forward.</p> <p>MS – what about a meeting to define the list?</p> <p>CW – sub-groups should decide on species priorities</p> <p>MS – what is the purpose of this list?</p> <p>CW - it is intended as a starting point for discussion. Offered as species that sub-groups might want to think about, drawn from the Species Framework consultation.</p> <p>JW – list needs to be either an expert list or compiled by sub-groups alone. Need to be aware of the power of lists.</p> <p>MP – Let's go with projects submitted to date and commit to defining a Strategic Species List for Tayside as a future initiative.</p>  |                               |

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|     | <p>CW – yes and include in current submission to SNH that species priorities are being considered and “additional actions may arise”. Sub-groups need to be involved in discussions on Strategic Species List right from the start as ownership of the list is important.</p> <p>MS – leave until the new year. In the meantime submit as agenda item for sub-groups to discuss and put on agenda for next Steering Group meeting.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Include Strategic Species List for Tayside as agenda item for sub-groups.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Include Strategic Species List for Tayside as agenda item for Steering Group.</p>   | <p>Sub-group leaders</p> <p>JM</p> |
|     | <p><i>PC left during previous discussion.</i></p> <p><i>MS, MJ, AA, left after previous discussion</i></p>   |                                    |
| 5.  | <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Updated version to be sent out with minutes</p>   | JM                                 |
| 6.  | <p><b>Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CL circulated SITA TBAF update as of June 2006</li> <li>• Press releases on projects in hand</li> </ul>  |                                    |
| 7.  | <p><b>Website/Publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CL meeting with designer in coming week. Currently 3500-4500 hits per week. HAPS have been accessed and the Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity Regulations into Local Services which is encouraging.</li> <li>• CL circulated leaflets ‘Householder’s Guide to Biodiversity’ and ‘Biodiversity: a Developer’s Guide.’ 3,000 have been sent to each planning authority. CL has retained 1,000 copies of each leaflet. These will appear on the website next week and be rolled out across Tayside asap.</li> <li>• MP noted that the Manual for Developers and Planners was still to be produced. CL said this would be put in ring binder format to facilitate updating.</li> </ul> |                                    |
| 8.  | <p><b>Local Sites Designation</b></p> <p>Carry forward to next meeting</p>   |                                    |
| 9.  | <p><b>Future Plans for Partnership</b></p>   |                                    |
| 9.1 | <p><b>First Tranche Review</b></p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Remove from next meeting agenda</p>   | JM                                 |
| 9.2 | <p><b>Second Tranche Plans</b></p> <p>Finalise 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche Plans by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Plans missing need to have a line drawn under them. Only species and habitats with AP’s eligible for TBP must be included.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Finalise 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche Plans, website-ready, by 30<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p>Consultative Drafts for next round will be issued from 1<sup>st</sup> October on the website. Deadline for comments is 15<sup>th</sup> November. Draft plans to be ratified by Steering Group at next meeting.</p>  | CL/Sub-groups                      |
| 10  | <p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b><u>Steering Group circulation list</u></b></p> <p>CW asked whether sub-group members should be included on the Steering Group circulation list. Group agreed that sub-group leaders should have the responsibility of disseminating information to sub-group members.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Circulations to be sent to sub-group leaders with a prompt reminding them to</p>  | JM                                 |

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|    | <p>circulate to members</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Confirm name of SWT, Loch of Lowes Centre representative to Secretary (<i>subsequently confirmed as Andrea Williams</i>).</p> <p><b>Swift survey</b><br/>Buildings and Biodiversity Conference to be organised by NTS. This is the fruit of collaboration with Highland LBAP and the NTS.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Send flier about this to Secretary for circulation with minutes</p> <p><b>The Future of Biodiversity in the Uplands Conference</b><br/>8<sup>th</sup> December. Programme out shortly</p> | <p>CL</p> <p>CL/JM</p>        |
| 11 | <p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b></p> <p><b>Steering Group</b><br/>Friday 1 December 2006, 10am, Angus Council, Forfar, PC to arrange meeting room.</p> <p>Next after this to be held in Dundee. Ask Dundee to suggest dates</p> <p><b>Management Team</b><br/>Friday 10 November 2006, Room 810, Webster Building, Perth College</p> <p>Next after this to be co-ordinated with PQLT meeting date. Find out PQLT dates</p>  | <p>PC</p> <p>JM</p> <p>CL</p> |