



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Steering Group Meeting

Draft Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 19 June 2007, 10am

Pullar House, Perth & Kinross Council, Kinnoull Street, Perth

Present:	Martin Price (Chair)	CMS, Perth College
	Jeremy Milne (Secretary)	CMS, Perth College
	Alison Anderson	Dundee City Council
	Pam Coutts	Angus Council
	Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Mark Simmons	Perth Museum
	Carolyn Deasley	SNH
	Martyn Jamieson	Scottish Field Studies Association
	Suki Fleming	RSPB
	Bruce Campbell	SEPA
	Doug Flint	Perth & Kinross Council
	Christine Hall	SAC
	Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission
	Richard Lockett	FWAG
	Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council

Apologies:	Merrill Smith	Dundee City Council
	Carol Littlewood	FWAG
	Kate Scott	NFUS

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies As above.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12 March 2007 Agreed	
3	Matters Arising None	
4	Reports from Sub Group Leaders Written progress reports by each of the sub-group leaders were compiled into one document that was circulated at the meeting ("Future Priorities List 2007-2010: Progress Report, Steering Group Meeting, 19/6/07"). Additional notes as follows.	
4.1	Woodlands – Mike Strachan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSG1 – Carse of Gowrie Orchard scheme should attract extra funding through visitor donations. • WSG3 – Hoping to organise a seminar with Reforesting Scotland later in the year. • WSG8 – Some of the juniper trees are over 300 years old. Not regenerating. Research is ongoing to find out why. Also actively collecting seed and cuttings for propagation. 	
4.2	Farmlands – Christine Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional document tabled ("Farmland Sub-Group Report to Steering Group, 19.6.07"). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 copies of leaflet titled 'Tayside's Farmland Priority Species' have been produced. RL edited it. Will be sent to all 1,500 farmers in Tayside with a covering letter; SEERAD has agreed to distribute the leaflet, but SNH is paying the postage. Also to be distributed in libraries and at shows, etc. • CH raised issue of concern over lack of implementation of protected species legislation by PKC with respect to development in the countryside. Concerned that biodiversity interests are not being properly considered during consideration of planning applications for renovation of old farm steadings. CH has previously written a letter as an individual to the Chief Executive of PKC to raise concerns. Farmland sub-group (FSG) wish also to write as a group to support these concerns. A draft of the FSG letter was circulated to the group and agreed by them, including the SNH representative on the sub-group. Subsequently, however, the draft was sent to CD who asked them to hold off sending the letter until she could investigate further. CD stated that SNH have formal channels of communication with Local Authority Planning Departments through Planning Liaison Meetings and expressed concern that this should be the appropriate forum for raising this issue in the first instance. In order to do this CD requested that specific evidence of implementation failures on the part of PKC be made available. CH said that she was reluctant to supply a list of specific names and locations as this would damage the relationship between SAC/FWAG and farmers. However, CH felt that it was appropriate for FSG to raise lack of awareness and implementation of protected species legislation as a general issue on behalf of TBP. MP agreed and suggested that FSG re-draft the letter to draw attention to the issue and also make suggestions about opportunities for proactive action, e.g., offering specific training for PKC Planning Department, improving the system of Protected Species survey, monitoring and recording (as included in a separate draft letter prepared by CL). CD requested that a draft letter be circulated to SNH for comment prior to sending. CD also requested that, in light of this issue and how it was being handled, TBP should have a discussion about the Terms of Reference of the Partnership. <p>ACTION: CH to draft letter from FSG to PKC Chief Executive and circulate among FSG as well as CL, CD, MP for comment prior to sending.</p>	CH
4.3	<p>Uplands – Martyn Jamieson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next sub-group meeting is next Wednesday (27th June*). Due to discuss new project on water voles in collaboration with Farmland sub-group. <i>*Meeting subsequently cancelled.</i> 	
4.4	<p>Water & Wetlands – Bruce Campbell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWSG5 – an additional project is being looked at to create pool and riffle systems on the Inchewan Burn. 	
4.5	<p>Coast & Estuary – Catherine Lloyd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CESG4 - CD reported from a recent routine site visit that there are now 10 pairs of Little terns nesting, most pairs with 3 eggs. • AA queried if there were terns nesting at Riverside Tip. CL had also heard this and had asked the Countryside Rangers to check, but had not heard back yet. 	CL
4.6	<p>Urban – Alison Anderson</p>	
4.7	<p>Education – Catherine Lloyd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESG8 – Urban Grassland Workshop has 13 people signed up. People going from PKC and DCC but not Angus. Interest shown by Scottish Water and the Scottish Crop Research Institute. 	
5	<p>Local Biodiversity Funding</p> <p>CD reiterated that she holds a small promotions budget of £10k for the year for biodiversity projects. Some of this had to be committed last year so ca. £9k remaining. Grants of up to £1000 will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis. No requirement for match</p>	

	<p>funding. Email CD with project proposals. Keen that money spent on implementation rather than leaflets this year – e.g., nest boxes, community involvement. Survey work not normally to be considered unless it promotes community involvement. RL questioned whether this money was available to farmers. CD said she would be happy for this to happen if it could be demonstrated that this would not be in breach of EU rules on state-aid to farmers in receipt of farm subsidies.</p>	
6	Finance	
6.1	<p>Transfer to Dundee City Council BH said that DCC have not yet received confirmation of budget lines or the end of year carry forward of monies from PKC. This is needed quickly so that the budget for this year can be finalised. Since the budget is lean this year it is likely that monies carried forward from last year will be required to service the sub-groups this year. ACTION: Transfer of budget lines and carry forward from PKC to DCC</p>	DF
6.2	<p>End of year report ACTION: Circulate end of year finance report with minutes – to follow separately</p>	DF/AP
7	<p>SITA Funding (TBAF – Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund) CL reported that no applications had been received at the last closing date. The next deadline is 13th July and already, 5 applications have been received. CL has asked Douglas Calderwood to ask SITA about the possibility of a further three-year round of funding. MP suggested that TBP should write to SITA about this. ACTION: Draft letter to SITA and pass to MP for comment and sending.</p>	CL
8	<p>Website/Publications CL tabled document (“Tayside Biodiversity Website Statistical Analysis: Dec – May 2007”). Website is in hand. Green Graveyard and Swift leaflets ready for circulation. All newsletters and leaflets are posted on the website. Good response to Barn Owl survey card. Carol Littlewood keen to purchase MapMate for recording these which will help with disseminating information to the local authority planning departments. There is a problem converting the Planning Guide to a Word/text file format. Need to consult PKC IT Department. The document needs to be checked carefully for any planning changes that have arisen since it was drafted. DF reported that there have been some updates to planning guidance. ACTION: Consult PKC IT Department re. file format ACTION: Circulate web link for new planning guidance CL said that the Annual Report would soon be posted on the website (awaiting the end of financial year report). MP said that it is important to be clear that this is a report aimed at fulfilling SNH grant aid conditions and is written as such. No need for a separate report to TBP as website, newsletters and leaflets provide enough information. BH suggested including a sentence in the introduction to the Annual Report stating that it is intended primarily for SNH. ACTION: Include sentence in Annual Report stating that it is intended primarily for SNH.</p>	CL/DF DF CL
9	<p>Local Sites Designation Remove from future agendas</p>	AP
10	AOCB	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS reported that Scottish Rural Development Plan has now been submitted to EU for approval. Hoping for new grant scheme to open in Oct/Nov 2007. Since this is mostly committed already, effectively new grants should be available from Oct/Nov 	

	<p>2008. Two big proposals for Tayside riparian woodlands and Glen Lyon to Kirkton link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS reported that anyone with grant-aided woodlands must register them with the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) by Oct 2007. Anyone with non grant-aided woodlands has until Oct 2008 to register. • MS reported that he has taken over the role of Woodfuel Advisor for Tayside. One job will be to quantify the existing woodfuel resource which will be done by letter requests to all landowners. • MS looking for new BIFF Project Officer. • 3 sites for silvo-pastoral project have been identified, all on improved grassland (Glen Lyon, nr. Aberfeldy and nr. Pitlochry). Trees will include ash and alder. • FCS looking to trial bio-digesters in Tayside. 	
10.2	DF queried whether TBP should develop a climate change strategy. MP reported that climate change will feature as theme in next Scottish Biodiversity Strategy but not sure yet how this will filter down to the local level.	
10.3	CL tabled list of 2 nd Tranche HAPs and SAPs. Those included under the heading 'Yet to add [to website]' need some updating.	
10.4	BH reported that Disclosure checks for the new Administrative post are being carried out and that the person should be in post in July.	
10.5	CL and MP reported that the Biodiversity Co-ordinator Work Programme was now more structured around the sub-groups.	
11	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Steering Group Wednesday 19th September 2007, Dundee, 10am Wednesday 12th December 2007, Angus, 10am</p> <p>Management Team Friday 3rd August 2007, Perth College, 10am Thursday 8th November 2007, Perth College, 10am</p>	

TAYSIDE LBAP
FARMLAND SUB-GROUP REPORT TO STEERING GROUP

19.6.07

The Farmland sub-group met on the 15th May 2007 at SCRI. This provided an opportunity for the group to look around the Living Field Study Centre. The meeting was well attended, and Dave Parish, from the GCT, came along to give a talk about GCT research, and Grey Partridge (a UK Priority Species) work in eastern Scotland.

The Corn Bunting SAP has been written by the RSPB. It was agreed a few additions would be made, and that it would be completed by the end of June.

Cathy Hawes of SCRI agreed to write the arable weeds SAP. Dave Parish of GCT agreed to update the Grey Partridge and Brown Hare SAP's as GCT are UK Lead Partners of these species.

The Tayside Farmland Priority Species leaflet is to be distributed by SEERAD, to ensure it reaches all farmers in Tayside. SNH are kindly paying the postage.

Work on the Barn Owl Project and other projects has given Christine Hall grounds for concern regarding the lack of implementation of Protected Species legislation by PKC regarding development in the countryside. CH has written a private letter to the PKC Chief Executive. The Farmland Sub-Group are sending a letter supporting these concerns.

The Angus and Perthshire Barn Owl projects are progressing well, with considerable support from the farmers.

Perth and Angus FWAGs (and Fife and Kinross FWAG) are working on TBAF funded Tree Sparrow projects. The FWAG Treelines Project is to be extended and cover Perthshire as well as Angus.

SAC have made a start on the Highland Perthshire Calcareous Grassland Project, with some potential sites visited and discussions with various specialists. The aim is to get the Demonstration Sites set up by the end of the summer.

The Living Field Study Centre at SCRI is now open to visitors and is well worth a visit.

SAC and Kindrogan Field Study Centre are working on a joint Upland and Farmland sub-group Water Vole proposal.

Christine Hall, SAC



2nd Tranche Update

Already on website (photos and updated case studies to be added)

1. Estuarine Reedbeds
2. Ponds and Pools
3. Birchwoods
4. Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland
5. Planted Coniferous
6. Upland Ashwoods
7. Wet Woodlands
8. Burial Grounds
9. Community Orchards, Gardens and Allotments
10. Hospitals and Sheltered Housing
11. Schools, Colleges and Universities

About to add:

- Urban Watercourses

Already on website (photos to be added)

1. Barn Owl
2. Adder
3. Otter
4. Red Squirrel
5. Salmon
6. Sand Martin
7. Swift
8. Tern
9. Great Crested Newt
10. Bat spp.

Yet to add:

- Water vole
- Osmia
- Grey Partridge
- Corn Bunting
- Badger
- Brown Hare
- Arable Plants

TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY WEBSITE – MONTHLY REPORTS

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS : DEC 2006 – MAY 2007

(updated 15 June 2007)

Month.	Total Sessions Served per month	Total Hits per month	Information News	Summary Guide	Projects (added in March 2007)	Tayside A Land Moulded (Intro)	Farmland	Urban	Woodland	Coast & Estuaries	Water & Wetlands	Biodiversity Incorp Guide	River Engineer	App – Species Conserv	App Priority Species	Annual Report	Funding	Other
1 Dec – 31 December 2006	5116	20176	235			182	66	110				171	62	64		151	7	
1 January – 31 January 2007	5004	23236	82			56	161	24	28			169			55	85		
1 February – 28 February	3446	20021	29			137	206	84	159	133		146				53	51	
PER QUARTER	13,566	63,433																
1 March – 31 March	4049	19716	55	58	85			26			56	66				69	58	Newsletters 24
1 April – 30 April	3454	15503	46	38	62				13	37		66	15			42		Barn Owl Survey 44 Fun Zone 12
1 May to 31 May	3827	16999	70	45	71			42		21	28	65				26	25	Bio Week 42 Links 55 Swift Newsletter 26
PER QUARTER	11,330	52,218																

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