



The Forum currently covers the LBAP areas of Tayside (Perth & Kinross, Dundee, Angus), Stirling, Clacks, and Fife

Notes of Meeting held on Thursday, 26th April 2007
Lime Tree House, Alloa

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP)
Carol Littlewood (CL-w)	Angus Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Shirley Paterson (SP)	Fife & Kinross FWAG
Mark Oksien (MO)	Fife Barn Owl Monitor
Guy Harewood (GH)	Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership
Richard Lockett (RL)	Perth FWAG
Julie Horsburgh (JH)	Fife Council
Christine Hall (CH)	Scottish Agricultural College (Perth)
Douglas Flynn	Stirling Council

1. Apologies

Mike Steward (MS)	Central Scotland Barn Owl Monitor
Elsbeth Christie (EC)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Vane Farm)
Allie Graham (AG)	Falkirk Council Biodiversity Ranger

Notes also circulated to: Anna Perks, Falkirk Biodiversity Partnership; Norman Elkins, British Trust for Ornithology (Fife Representative); Richard Paul, BTO (Perthshire); Les Hatton, Tay Ringing Group; Scottish Ornithological Society (Edinburgh); Alan Leitch, RSPB; Mark Simmons, Perth Museum; Angus Ranger Service; Dundee Ranger Service; Perth & Kinross Ranger Service; Fife Ranger Service; SNH (Battleby and Airlie); Forestry Commission (Perth); National Trust for Scotland (Dunkeld office); Helen Dunlop, Business Environment Partnership (Dalkeith), Fiona McIntyre, Scottish Golf Environment Group (Dalkeith).

2. Notes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of last meeting agreed as correct. Matters arising:

Nest Boxes Labelling: CL-w has labelled the boxes in her area using a laminated print out of the BOOLS logo. As most nest boxes have been erected away from public areas it is for each partner to decide whether or not labelling is necessary **Action: All to decide on necessity and method of labelling.**

CL reminder the group that the image used on the postcards cannot be used for any other purpose without further payments to RSPB. CL has secured an image from Forestry Commission that can be used to produce posters and publicity for BOOLS. **Action: CL to distribute CD-rom containing poster image to partners.**

EC needs extra postcards from Tayside and Fife. **Action: JH/CL-w to liaise with EC regarding postcards.**

Douglas Flynn introduced himself to the group and will be representing Stirling until their new Biodiversity Officer is appointed.

FWAG farm visits are all in hand.

3 & 4. Budget & Ordering Nest Boxes

JH circulated an updated budget and work programme which showed an anticipated underspend for the project. This is in part due to £500 extra funding secured by JH from Fife Council.

FWAG have secured funding for a further 10 farm visits in Tayside and asked if BOOLS could provide nest boxes to install at these farms. The group agreed that if the funds are available then extra nest boxes for Tayside would be ordered.

Potential savings include:

- RSPB will only make 3 rather than 6 boxes with each school.
- Reduced print run for BOOLS newsletter.
- No reprint of postcards required.

Potential further expenditure includes:

- SP time to design newsletter.
- Increase in expenses paid to volunteers.
- Extra nest boxes for Tayside.

Action: JH to clarify the costs/savings for each of these items and then email the group with final amount for remaining funding.

Action: SP/EC to confirm costs/savings and inform JH.

This funding will then be used to purchase further nest boxes from Envisage. Delivery dates and locations to be confirmed.

Next funding bid is due on 1st August. **Action: All to provide JH with information (newspaper cuttings, web articles, press releases, etc.) on all activities as part of BOOLS by end of June.**

JH wanted to thank everyone for recording "In kind" time and to remind us to keep the claim forms up to date as they are an essential part of securing the maximum money from the Scottish Executive. **Action: All to send "in kind" claims regularly to JH.**

5. Distribution of Postcards

All partners have received their allocation of postcards and have started to distribute them. FWAG and SAC have distributed cards to their members and will look to place cards in local libraries, etc. **Action: All to ensure that postcards are distributed within their areas.**

CL-w has received completed postcards. The results are to be plotted using MapMate and shared with local record centres. GH raised the issue of what to do records from Clacks/Stirling where no record centres exist. It was agreed that the records should be kept by the partners themselves and also posted on NBN. Where partners received records that fell within another's area these records are to be forwarded to the relevant partner. **Action: All to inform JH of number of completed postcards received. Action: GH to discuss with MS best way to handle Clacks/Stirling records.**

6. Stirling/Clacks event

MS provided an email update confirming that the event will be held at Craighead Farm near Blairdrummond in early July. The date will be confirmed nearer the time to ensure that ringing of barn owls can be done.

FWAG and MS responsible for promotion and organisation of event and therefore the funding allocated will be split between them as they agree. **Action: MS/FWAG to confirm date of event, to organise publicity and agree distribution of funding.**

7. Newsletter

SP circulated a final draft of the newsletter. Print run of 400 agreed for this issue of newsletter and a run of 300 for second issue. Agreed that SP will produce second newsletter also. **Action: SP to obtain printing quote for agreed print run. SP to circulate pdf of newsletter to partners.**

8. Weblink

The newsletter should be available to download via the internet and a weblink should be included on the newsletter itself. It was agreed that this could be any organisations website and that FWAG are best placed to do this. **Action: SP to include weblink on newsletter to FWAG website. Action: All to ensure that newsletter is available on their websites.**

Nestbox-making event, Fife – Although 7 July had been agreed as the potential “Barn Owl Day” at Lochore Meadows Country Park to join in with the Fife Conservation Volunteers (FCV), SP said she may have to change the date. It is possible the event may have to be delayed until the autumn, or into 2008, as the 2007 FCV Diary has now been confirmed.

Action: SP to contact Dallas Seawright re FCV event

9. Area Updates

Fife & Kinross

SP confirmed that 10 farm visits have been completed in Fife and 3 boxes have been installed in Kinross. 4 farms that have been visited are still awaiting nest boxes. Barn owls are known to be in the area but signs only found at one farm.

SP secured £500 funding from Fife Council to carry out 2 further visits and install 2 further boxes.

The Farm Walk was very successful. 34 people attended (inc 4 children) and they were supplied with mulled wine and nibbles. The circular walk looked at habitats, an unsuccessful nest box installation and a newly erected box. EC was present to do pellet analysis. Some of those attending requested nest boxes for their land. One farmer wants to install a telegraph pole style box where there are no suitable trees.

Perthshire

CH reported that 2 farm visits carried out as part of BOOLS and a further 6 with funding from Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund on the back of the work by BOOLS. These visits concentrated on the Tay River corridor and Isla. 7 sites had signs of barn owl activity.

RL added that he had completed 3 visits in Perthshire and has a further 3 planned this year.

Stirling

RL has completed 5 visits, written 5 management plans and installed 5 boxes in February.

Angus

CL-w updated on the BOOLS project and the Upland Angus Barn Owl project.

BOOLS - 10 farm visits completed with boxes erected and 8 visits planned for this year.

Funding has been secured for a further 10 farm visits, BOOLS may provide funding for nest boxes (see Item 3&4).

Upland – Barn Owls In Tayside Newsletter produced and ready for distribution.

Angus Council have requested maps of barn owl distribution in Tayside for planning issues.

Tayside have been collecting barn owl data for 3 – 4 years prior to BOOLS and will add this info to postcard responses.

Clackmannanshire

SP confirmed that 3 farm visits have been completed

GH confirmed that 9 barn owl boxes and 2 kestrel boxes had been installed in farm buildings, woodlands and on a golf course. Barn owls were present at 2 of these locations.

10. Any Other Business

GH informed the group of a pellet analysis project being run by the Mammal Society. A researcher in London has asked for pellets to be sent to him for analysis from across the UK and is having particular trouble obtaining pellets from Scotland. Clacks have agreed to send pellets monthly as requested. **Action: GH to circulate details of this project to the group.**

Other FWAG groups within Scotland have been looking at replicating the BOOLS project in their areas.

CL-w has asked SNH for funding to stuff a dead owl that was found in Angus, in near perfect condition, for educational purposes. SNH are looking into it.

11. Date of Next Meeting

JH agreed to host the next meeting in Fife, probably at Loch Ore Meadows, at 10.30am on Wednesday 18th July; directions will be given with the next Agenda.

UPDATED CONTACT DETAILS *(please advise CL if there are additional names to add to this list)*

	Name	Organisation	Contact Details
	Tayside Area		
	Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership	tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net
	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
	Carol Littlewood	Angus FWAG	Angus@fwag.org.uk
	Richard Lockett	Perth FWAG	perth@fwag.org.uk
	Christine Hall	SAC	c.hall@ed.sac.ac.uk
	Shirley Paterson	Fife & Kinross FWAG	Shirley.paterson@fwag.org.uk
	Alan Leitch (Angus)	Licensed Worker	alan.leitch@rspb.org.uk
	Fife		
	Julie Horsburgh		Julie.Horsburgh@fife.gov.uk
	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
	Shirley Paterson	Fife & Kinross FWAG	Shirley.paterson@fwag.org.uk
	Mark Oksien	Licensed Worker	markoksien@btinternet.com
	Willie Irvine	Licensed Worker	n/a - via markoksien@btinternet.com
	Keith Cohen	Barn Owl Conservation	bats@keithcohen.co.uk

		Network (Fife Local Adviser)	
	Clackmannanshire		
	Guy Harewood	Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership	gharewood@clacks.gov.uk
	Martin Dean	Clackmannanshire Ranger Service	mdean@clacks.gov.uk
	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
	(vacant)	Central FWAG	Via fife.kinross@fwag.org
	Colin Nisbet	Clacks LBAP Volunteer	Lairdno1@hotmail.com
	Mike Steward	Licensed Worker	mike.stew@tiscali.co.uk
	Stirling Area		
	Douglas Flynn	Stirling Council	Flynnd@stirling.gov.uk
	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk
	(vacant)	Central FWAG	Via perth@fwag.org.uk
	Mike Steward	Licensed Worker	mike.stew@tiscali.co.uk
	Falkirk Area		
	Anna Perks	Falkirk Biodiversity Partnership	anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk
	Allie Graham	Biodiversity Ranger	allie.graham@falkirk.gov.uk