



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

**Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007**  
**Kathellen Farm Park, By Kelty**

**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
Mike Steward (MS)	Central Scotland Barn Owl Monitor
Martin Dean (MD)	Clackmannanshire Ranger Service
Elsbeth Christie (EC)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Vane Farm)
Guy Harewood (GH)	Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership
Allie Graham (AG)	Falkirk Council Biodiversity Ranger

**1. Apologies**

Richard Lockett (RL)	Perth FWAG
Keith Cohen	Barn Owl Conservation Network (Fife Local Adviser)
Gwenda Diack	Stirling Council
Christine Hall (CH)	Scottish Agricultural College (Perth)
Julie Horsburgh (JH)	Fife Council
Willie Irvine	Fife Barn Owl Monitor

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: EC confirmed that 3 nestboxes are being made at Elmwood College (Fife), 3 at Alva Academy (all for use within Clacks) and another 6 at Kinross. EC said that Elmwood may have some free nestboxes available. **Action: EC to check with Elmwood**

SP suggested the need to swap an outdoor nestbox with an RSPB interior one. MS will need more internal boxes; SP will need more external next year. MS has made a mixture of interior and exterior boxes for Clacks/Stirling. Currently: Angus = 6 RSPB boxes (2008); Kinross = 3 RSPB boxes (2007) and 3 (2008); Fife = 6 (2007). **Action: SP/ CL-w to liaise with CL in drawing up table listing agreed nestbox and any changes in needs.**

At the last meeting it had been agreed to look into own area labelling of boxes; JH would look into plastic waymakers and if there would be an opportunity to bulk purchase these for all BOOLS members. **Action: ALL to look at own labelling; JH - plastic waymarkers.**

Postcards: CL confirmed that the printers had planned to deliver the postcards to Vane Farm yesterday, but with the closure of the Visitor Centre today and the meeting's enforced move to Kathellan, it was not possible to have them delivered to the new venue. They would now be delivered to FWAG Scotland in Perth as soon as possible. Agreed print runs:

<i>"Delivery" Address</i>	<i>Reply Address for Records</i>	<i>No. of postcards</i>
Stirling address – to be delivered to Gwenda Diack	Ranger Service, Stirling Council	2,500
Fife address – to be delivered to Julie Horsburgh (Fife & Kinross FWAG to retain some)	TAPIF, Fife Council	2,500
Clacks address - to be delivered to Guy Harewood or Martin Dean	Clacks Biodiversity Partnership	2,000
Perthshire address – to be delivered to Christine Hall	SAC Perth	2,000
Tayside address - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 to be distributed via CL to VisitScotland Tourist Information Centres;</li> <li>• 500 to CL for TBP use;</li> <li>• 5,500 to be shared between Angus, Perthshire and Kinross FWAGs</li> </ul>	Angus FWAG	8,000

Could each area please ensure that EC receives a batch of postcards to hand out to school groups, etc. MO, WI and MS will also need a batch of appropriate postcards for their own use. **Action: All above to liaise with EC regarding postcards/ Action: All above to liaise with MO, WI and MS.**

The print run of 17k copies has used up the survey budget and there is therefore no future funding for a reprint. However, all felt that the larger initial print run should be more than sufficient for the period of the project.

Poster: CL circulated the first draft and will take back everyone's ideas to draw up a second draft. She confirmed the template poster could be put on CD so that each area could add their own address details and run off as many copies as required. It could also be put on different websites.

She warned that using the existing postcard image, provided by RSPB (and strictly copyright to them), would entail an additional cost – both for replication in a poster, and for use on any of the Forum members' websites. The quote from RSPB Images for use of the photograph on the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's website is £150 plus VAT – this would be payable each time the image is used by anyone else in BOOLS. **Action: All to note!**

CL will ask the Forestry Commission if they could provide the Forum with a free (or cheaper) barn owl image to be used on our websites and the poster. **Action: CL.**

### 3. Funding Claims / Budget & Work Programme

CL had previously circulated JH's Treasurer's Report and Work Programme update to the group (appended at the end of the minutes). JH had completed Claim 2 (Claim 1 was blank) - all funding present and correct. JH had thanked everyone for working so efficiently - it all balanced. As regards the Treasurer's Report, JH made some recommendations and said she needed to know the outcome so orders can be placed as soon as possible – the 2006/07 aspect of the project has to be delivered and paid by the end of March (or it is lost).

JH also asked for copies of all publicity the projects generated as she will need to send details with the Progress Report. **Action: All to send newspaper cuttings, web articles, press releases, etc. to JH ASAP.**

As the number of farm visits had been added up wrongly, JH asked if it would be possible to undertake four more visits (unfunded), or to count them as part of any match funding obtained. CL said that CH had just received a grant from the Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund which would count as match funding. **Action: All to consider and discuss with JH.**

JH also asked CH to confirm the match funding achieved for the Perthshire Barn Owl Project so that details can be reported to the Scott Executive. **Action: CH to contact JH.**

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 – especially as we can only claim 71% of costs. **Action: All to send "in kind" claims regularly to JH.**

The Treasurer's Report was discussed. Item 4: MS confirmed he had invoiced JH for the nestboxes on 28/12/06, but had not yet received payment. **Action: JH to liaise with MS.**

The Work Programme was discussed as follows –

FWAG farm event in Clacks/Stirling – MS confirmed he would be running a ringing event near Blair Drummond in July (the dates would be confirmed three weeks before the event). **Action: MS to keep the group informed of plans.**

FWAG Farm event in Fife/Kinross – SP discussed a possible Barn Owl event at a farm near Wormit, North East Fife, to take place at the beginning of April. The location of the event would also be within travelling distance of anyone keen to join in from Angus and Dundee. EC offered to contribute pellets and educational materials. **Action: SP to circulate confirmed details of the event in due course.**

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**

BOOLS Newsletter – there was a lot of discussion regarding who should compile the two newsletters. There is to be a separate Tayside Barn Owl Newsletter published in the spring. Funding for this is from the Cairngorms Biodiversity Partnership and the newsletter will report on the success of the long-term Tayside projects. There will be acknowledgement of BOOLS, but the newsletter is more of an "end of project" report.

CL said she had little time to prepare the first BOOLS Newsletter in the spring and wondered if Tayside could defer their editorship to the second Newsletter due next winter. MD and GH offered to compile the first Newsletter. However, CL-w and SP said they would be happy to take on the editorship of both newsletters, compiling everyone's contributions and sourcing photographs/sketches, etc. As both newsletters will be very much a team effort, it was agreed that CL-w and SP would act as editors. **Action: All to send reports, news stories, educational information and photographs to CL-w and SP by 15 April.**

MS has part-written a Monitoring Newsletter for the Stirling area and it was agreed this could be inserted into the Clacks/Stirling distribution of the first BOOLS newsletter. CL suggested a similar monitoring newsletter could be prepared for Tayside and Fife in the future. **Action: MS to circulate his Monitoring Newsletter to BOOLS members and liaise with MD, GH and Gwenda Diack regarding distribution.**

Launch of BOOLS Postcard Survey - CL reminded everyone that the BTO National Nestbox Week takes place around 14 February – further details on [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org). This might be an appropriate time to publicise the launch of the BOOLS postcards.

#### 4. **Area Updates**

##### ***RSPB Education***

Alva Academy and Kinross High Schools are both making nestboxes. This has proved more time-consuming than expected, so although there has been a saving of material costs, the budget has remained the same. Both groups have learning difficulties and the teachers have said they are all getting a lot out of the visits. EC will have made 5 visits to each school by the end of March. Kinross High will have an outing to Vane Farm; Alva Academy will be able to go for a barn owl walk close to their school. MD offered to get involved with this. **Action: EC/MD to liaise.**

EC will liaise with CL-w regarding a possible Forfar school next year and asked MS if he could suggest a Stirling High School to approach. The next round of visits will take place in the autumn term. **Action: EC/CL-w and MS to liaise**

##### ***Fife & Kinross***

SP confirmed that 3 boxes had been put up in Kinross. In Fife: 3 boxes up, 3 more this week, and 4 left to do later.

##### ***Perthshire***

SP reported, on behalf of Richard Lockett, that 2 internal boxes had been put up, with another one still to do. She confirmed that RL had taken on the Stirling project and will liaise with MS.

There was no update from CH regarding her Perthshire project.

##### ***Angus***

Visits completed; boxes currently being put up.

##### ***Clackmannanshire***

3 sites identified. Also using landfill tax monies – 2 internal and 3 exterior boxes put up at the end of last year. New sites needed now as there a total of 11 boxes to place (and another 5 in Stirling). SP said she had taken on the Clacks FWAG visits and all 3 were complete and awaiting boxes.

##### ***Stirling***

MD confirmed that Gwenda Diack, the Senior Ranger in Stirling Council, was the new contact for the project.

#### 5. **Potential New BOOLS Area**

CL introduced Allie Graham, the Biodiversity Ranger at Falkirk Council. Allie is a trainee ranger and currently setting up a Barn Owl Project very similar to the BOOLS projects. They have a small budget for 30 barn owl boxes; Community Services are making them free of charge. Ten boxes will be sited as soon as possible. The Falkirk Biodiversity Partnership is preparing a series of bird leaflets, one of which will feature the barn owl. It was suggested that the same wording is used as on the BOOLS postcard survey so that all data amassed can be shared and put on the same database.

It was agreed that the Falkirk area would be very welcome to join the Scottish Lowland Barn Owl Forum, although it had missed out on BAGS funding and would not be part of the current BOOLS project. **Action: AG to report back to Falkirk Council and Biodiversity Partnership. / Action: MD/MS to liaise with AG**

#### 6. **Monitoring:**

Nothing to report at the meeting.

## 7. Any Other Business

CL had just received the official logos for the Scottish Biodiversity Week (19 – 27 May) and will circulate the e-mail and logos to BOOLS members. She encouraged everyone to use the Week as an opportunity for circulating press releases, running events, etc. Further details will be available via [www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk](http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk).

MD said that Access Week (26 April to 7 May) may also be an opportunity to raise awareness about the BOOLS projects.

There was a query regarding where to send barn owl carcasses; it was thought it would be the Bob MacGowan at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. **Action: MS to confirm and let the group know.**

MO showed the group the green waterproof material that could be used on top of barn owl nestboxes; it is currently used in most timber-framed house construction. **Action: MO to ask Willie Irvine the name of the material.**

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

MD and GH agreed to host the next meeting at Clackmannanshire Council, Room 56, Lime Tree House, Castle Street, Alloa, Clacks – 11.00am, Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April; directions will be given with the next Agenda.

## APPENDIX 1

### Treasurer Report:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Claim = 0
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Claim = full £12114
3. Have £404.28 left to spend as a result of a combination of:
  - £800 for newsletter delayed to year 2
  - £1475 spent on boxes in year 1, originally in year 2
  - All 4 Local Authorities finding funding in year 1 (budgeted for 2 in year 1 and 2 in year 2)
  - Extra £500 from Fife
  - Survey cards cost £200 more
  - Volunteer expenses £100 more (paid at 20p per mile rather than 40p mile, as used volunteer expenses guidance elsewhere. And needed to spread a little thinner!)
4. Suggest we spend extra money as follows (will need invoices by mid March)
  - Save remainder of Mikes boxes to after March (did originally suggest 6 but can't due to minimum order from envisage)
  - £350 10 boxes (8 minimum order from Envisage)
  - £55 left for money for fixings (Shirley asked for this)
  - Total £405
5. Next years costs are currently over by £544.98 this will be reduced by £405 see point 4. Suggest we also forget reprint of survey cards seeing as we got 17000 for money, saving £400. That will leave £260.02 left for extra fixing costs and volunteer expenses.

## Appendix 2

### Next Years Work Programme:

3 FWAG Clacks Visits

5 more boxes from Mike for Clacks / Stirling (if go ahead with point 4 above)

Newsletter from Clacks and Stirling (deadline to be agreed)

5 FWAG Stirling Visits

FWAG Farm Event in Clacks/Stirling

RSPB School in Stirling (Clacks this year)

8 FWAG Farm visits in Fife

3 FWAG Farm Visits in Kinross

FWAG Farm Event in Fife/Kinross (paid for already)

RSPB School in Fife

Circulation of survey cards and posters (PDF available?)

8 FWAG Visits in Angus

2 FWAG Visits in Perth

3 SAC Visits in Perth

RSPB School in Angus (Kinross this Year)

Newsletter from Fife and Tayside (deadline to be agreed)

For Grant also require:

Copies of all articles in the press and newsletter articles too please!

Copy of confirmation of additional funding – Russell Trust & SAC?

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

	Name	Organisation	Contact Details
	<b>Tayside Area</b>		
	Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership	<a href="mailto:tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net">tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net</a>
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	Carol Littlewood	Angus FWAG	<a href="mailto:Angus@fwag.org.uk">Angus@fwag.org.uk</a>
	Richard Lockett	Perth FWAG	<a href="mailto:perth@fwag.org.uk">perth@fwag.org.uk</a>
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	Willie Irvine	Licensed Worker	n/a - via <a href="mailto:markoksien@btinternet.com">markoksien@btinternet.com</a>
	Keith Cohen	Barn Owl Conservation Network (Fife Local Adviser)	<a href="mailto:bats@keithcohen.co.uk">bats@keithcohen.co.uk</a>

	<b>Clackmannanshire</b>		
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	Elspeth Christie	RSPB	<a href="mailto:Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk">Elspeth.christie@rspb.org.uk</a>
	(vacant)	Central FWAG	Via <a href="mailto:fife.kinross@fwag.org">fife.kinross@fwag.org</a>
	Colin Nisbet	Clacks LBAP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:Lairdno1@hotmail.com">Lairdno1@hotmail.com</a>
	Mike Steward	Licensed Worker	<a href="mailto:mike.stew@tiscali.co.uk">mike.stew@tiscali.co.uk</a>
	<b>Stirling Area</b>		
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