



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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SWIFT & HIRUNDINE INTEREST GROUP

Thursday, 15 May 2003 – Ranger Service Offices, Camperdown, Dundee

NOTE OF MEETING

Attending:	Clare Darleston (CD)	Concern for Swifts (Scotland)
	Kate Farrar (KF)	Dundee Ranger Service
	Karl Munday (KM)	National Trust for Scotland
	Alan Brennan (AB)	Angus Ranger Service
	Ann Lolley (AL)	Broughty Ferry Environmental Project
	Ian Ford (IF)	BFEP
	David Mitchell (DM)	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Copies to: Tom McGrath, Angus Ranger Service; Alistair Godfrey, P&KC Ranger Service, David Ferguson, DCC; Angus Council Conservation Officer; Karen Spalding, SWT; Andy Wight, RSPB; Mark Simmons, P&KC; Charlie Macpherson; Lesley Duncan; Dundee City Council (Planning); Pam Coutts, Angus Council (Planning); Alison Anderson, Urban Sub-Group Leader; Christine Hall and Richard Lockett, Farmland sub-group Co-Leaders.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Matters Arising from the last Meeting (29.1.02) and Project Update

National Trust for Scotland

KM said that there had been a good response to last year's survey which involved the Highland Perthshire Community Partnership. The survey will continue this year.

ACTION: ALL - CD asked for copies of all past and current completed swift survey forms to be sent to her.

Dunkeld has a good population of swifts; the NTS is considering a nestbox project at its properties in the town.

ACTION: KM to liaise with CD if necessary

CD mentioned that a hotel in Aberfeldy had made provision for swifts. KM confirmed that his survey area included Aberfeldy.

Dundee Ranger Service

KF said that, with BFEP, 50 swift nestboxes had been made - 10 had been put up, another 8 were due to be put up. The boxes were going to be modified as the original 'flaps' on them were not successful.

Swift surveys started in Dundee in 2001, so this year will be the 3rd consecutive year. There has been a poor response so far.

It was proposed that a number of swift nestboxes could be put up on local school buildings; CL suggested David Johnson of DCC Education Services (who is on the Education sub-group) could be asked about the feasibility of this.

ACTION: KF or CL to approach David Johnson

Broughty Ferry Environment Project

The survey is ongoing and linked to a display within Broughty Ferry library. CD's swift video had been featured in the library last year.

IF reported that a very successful day had been held at the Broughty Ferry Safeway supermarket last June. General information had been distributed and the mobile-making of swift and swallow shapes had proved popular. It may be possible to run a similar event again this year.

Perth Concert Hall

CD had contacted the concert hall architects last year, but the design of the new building did not appear to be suitable for a nestbox project. As there are swifts in the area it may be feasible to discuss a possible project in the vicinity instead. CL suggested the nearby P&KC Blackfriars House and will make enquiries.

ACTION: CL to contact the appropriate P&KC department and report back to CD

[not mentioned at the meeting, but following on from the minutes of the last meeting, there may be an opportunity to liaise with the architect/ contractors at the Scotland's Garden site near Broxden, Perth].

ACTION: CL to liaise with MS and Siobhan Ennis, Scotland's Garden

General

CD was considering making up a simple template to show contractors, architects and homeowners the exact dimensions of a suitable swift nestbox. CL suggested that general information could be printed on the back, together with contact details. These could be made widely available.

ACTION: CD to liaise with CL on preparing the template and circulating it to all interested parties.

CD also suggested that in appropriate areas advice to homeowners could include a standard letter being sent with a leaflet.

ACTION: ALL – anyone wishing to do this should contact CD for a copy of the proposed letter

Housing Policy and Swift Nest Site Conservation Planning Advice Note

CL had circulated examples of existing letters and policies to all those who had attended the lunch-time seminar. There would be an opportunity to liaise with the different local authority departments in Tayside once the "Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services" had been distributed. Earlier at the seminar an "LBAP Supplementary Guidance Note" had been proposed to circulate to Development Control.

ACTION: CL to liaise with Local Authority contacts on publication of the Guide regarding a Supplementary Guidance Note and to report back to CD

Consultative Draft Swift Species Action Plan

CL thanked CD for preparing the draft Swift SAP. This had been widely circulated last autumn with the 2nd Tranche of Consultative Drafts. Comments on the draft had been passed to CD who would now prepare a final draft. Further input, especially on proposed projects, is welcome.

ACTION: ALL – Additional project ideas or general comments on the draft to CD or CL by the end of August 2003.

Awareness-Raising

Leaflets: CD is keen to use up the current "Concern for Swifts" leaflets.

ACTION: ALL - Please contact CD direct if you would like a supply of leaflets.

Reminder (from previous minutes) –

(1) A simple table-top display is available for loan, together with swift nestbox examples.

ACTION: ALL - Contact CD direct if you would like to borrow this or can suggest a venue

(2) The “Swifts and Flight” Education Pack is still available on request.

ACTION: ALL - Contact CL if you would like a copy of the Education Pack.

(3) An Educational Video is available on loan from CD.

ACTION: ALL - Contact CD direct if you would like to borrow this.

Survey Opportunities

The Local Patch Survey includes swifts, house martins and swallows.

ACTION: ALL - Please ensure all completed forms are returned to CL for collation by the end of July 2003

Three areas in Tayside are currently being covered by pilot swift surveys – Broughty Ferry (led by BFEP), Dundee (led by the Ranger Service) and Highland Perthshire (led by the NTS). CD has prepared “priority area” maps for use within Planning GIS elsewhere in Scotland. It was proposed that similar priority areas should be considered for Tayside (Angus Council had requested this in its comments on the draft Swift SAP).

ACTION: CD and CL to discuss how best to take this forward for Tayside

AB said he thought a swift survey was being planned this year in Forfar. IF asked if it would be possible to carry out a survey at the Country Parks in Angus. It was also proposed that perhaps a survey could be arranged for the Montrose Basin.

ACTION: AB to liaise with KM regarding survey forms and to liaise with colleagues as to extent of surveys in Angus

As more Partners are getting involved in surveys, CL suggested it may be appropriate to plan a generic Tayside-wide Swift survey form for 2004. The timing of such a survey form could also tie in with potential local authority and housing association nestbox projects.

ACTION: CD and CL to discuss the possibility of a wider project in Tayside and report back to the Interest Group as regards preparation of a Tayside survey form

Date of Next Meeting

As it would be necessary to finalise the Swift SAP (especially the Actions Schedule) early next year and to plan projects to take forward in 2004, it was proposed the next meeting be held in January or February 2004. Date and venue t.b.a.