



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

c/o The Environment Service, Perth & Kinross Council, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth. PH1 5GD

Telephone: 01738 475273 Fax: 01738 476410

E-mail: tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net Website: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

Clare Darlaston, Concern for Swifts (Scotland), 287 Onslow Drive, Dennistoun, Glasgow. G31 2QG
 Tel. 01431 554 8262 E-mail: swiftscot@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.concernforswifts.com

SWIFT INTEREST GROUP - SURVEY MAPPING SESSION Monday, 18 September 2006 - Dundee Botanic Gardens

NOTE OF MEETING

Present (though not all for all of the time)

Clare Darlaston (CD)	Concern for Swifts (Scotland)
Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Charlie McPherson (CM)	Scone & Perth Survey Co-ordinator
Daniele Muir (DM)	Perth and Kinross Ranger Service
Craig Borland (CB)	Angus Ranger Service
David Shepherd (DS)	Dundee Ranger Service

Apologies

Kate Farrer	SEPA
Carol Littlewood	Angus Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
Ron Youngman	Bird Recorder, Perth & Kinross
Andrew Rodger	Private Architect
Vicky Hilton	National Trust for Scotland

Copied to:

Doreen Bell, Scottish Water; George Potts, Dundee Ranger Service; David Hughes, Dundee Ranger Service; Andy Mulholland, Dundee City Council (Planning); Alison Anderson, DDC (Urban Sub-Group Leader); Dundee Sustainable Construction Working Group; Tom McGrath, Angus Ranger Service; Ian Ford, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project; Pam Coutts, Angus Council (Planning); Ann Lolley, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project; Dan Carmichael, Angus Bird Recorder; Ron Youngman, Perthshire Bird Recorder; Shona Hill, SNH (Airlie); Carolyn Warwick, SNH (Battleby); Alistair Godfrey, P&KC Ranger Service, Mark Simmons, Perth Museum; David Williamson, P&KC (Environment Services); Esther Rogers-Nicoll, P&KC (Planning); Andrea Williams, SWT; Bruce Anderson, RSPB; Morag Green, Eco-Congregation; BTO; SOC.

The purpose of the meeting was

- to plot the 2006 Tayside Swift Town Survey results on a variety of maps;
- update members on projects underway in each local authority area.

	SURVEY RESPONSE	ACTION
1.1	Once again there had been a good response to the survey, although fewer records had been received. CB had had a good response to his Angus newspaper request for information. The names of recorders and the geographical areas they have covered during 2006 needs to be collated for the proposed Tayside Swift Newsletter. CB offered to collate all the 2006 records and record them using the "fields" recommended by CD. However it was agreed to discuss a universal format for all swift survey with Jonathan willet (as BRISC rep) before finalising this. CB also confirmed he would add the 2005 records in	ALL CB/CD

	<p>due course.</p> <p>When this work has been carried out, CB will forward all records to Angus Council Planning Department where the information will be put into their GIS.</p> <p>The resulting map will be copied on a CD to CL for circulation to Perth and Kinross Council and Dundee City Council.</p>	<p>CB/Pam Coutts</p> <p>Pam Coutts/CL</p>
1.2.1	<p>Survey areas covered in 2006:</p> <p>Perth and Kinross:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie McPherson - Almondbank, Scone and Perth • Daniele Muir - predominately Comrie/Crieff • Kate Farrer - ? <p>DM has been concentrating on the Crieff and Comrie area; CM has been co-ordinating volunteer surveyors in the Perth/Scone area and is willing to widen this to Luncarty and Almondbank.</p> <p>There is a need to widen the survey to other towns in Perthshire. CL to ask David Williamson, PKC, re. Pitlochry; DM to ask colleagues regarding potential focus on Auchterarder, Bridge of Earn/Abernethy, Blairgowrie and Alyth; CL to ask Morag Green of Eco Congregation if other areas of Perth could be covered; CL to check with Vicky Hilton (NTS) that Dunkeld and Birnam will continue to be surveyed (and reported on).</p>	<p>CL DM CL CL</p>
1.2.2	<p>Angus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig Borland - Forfar, Arbroath, Carnoustie, Montrose <p>CB successfully surveyed the coastal towns and confirmed swift presence in them all. He also continued his surveys in Forfar.</p>	
1.2.3	<p>Dundee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Shepherd <p>(Broughty Ferry records are absent - Ann Lolley to provide if available)</p> <p>DS has established the presence of several "new" colonies, and the dots are increasing!</p> <p>DS was considering setting up a Dundee Swift Mapping Group to ensure that volunteers are encouraged (and acknowledged for their work).</p>	<p>Ann Lolley</p>
MAPPING SESSION		
2.1	<p>DM, CB and DS provided maps showing the survey results for 2006. These need to be updated with outstanding survey forms received from elsewhere. CL asked for copies of the completed maps (which she will copy to CD).</p> <p>Red dots = screaming or feeding swifts (colony sightings); Green dots = known nest sites; White dots - checked area with confirmed NIL swift sightings.</p> <p>It was agreed that the county and town maps were an essential part of the survey to visually show the population distribution.</p> <p>The database, once updated, will be made available to all interested parties.</p>	<p>ALL by 1st Nov.</p>
2.2	<p>A reminder - it would still be useful to note key buildings, especially if they are the only site for swift nests in the vicinity.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
2.3	<p>Anecdotes and general observations are also useful - space needs to be included in the database for this.</p>	<p>CB/CD</p>
PROJECTS		
3.1	<p>Dundee -</p>	

	<p>DS has been liaising with the DCC Housing Department's Housing Investment Unit (Heather McQuillan) with regard the Menzies Hill properties. A further meeting is to be held next week.</p> <p>Janet Brougham Sheltered Housing (DCC) - swift nest inclusion going ahead. DS was reminded of the importance of checking at all stages.</p> <p>Hillcrest Housing Association DS had attended the official opening of the Burnside Mills project at which the swift nest boxes had received specific attention from the Association's Chief Executive. DS circulated the DCC Newsletter for Leisure & Communities in which the Hillcrest swift nestbox was highlighted. Hillcrest Housing Association's tenant's newsletter and brochure heavily feature the project.</p> <p>Other Hillcrest projects: Lawside Mills (work starting now); Victoria Mills (what progress?).</p> <p>Helen Dunlop of the Business Environment Partnership (based in Dalkeith) will be undertaking a Biodiversity Review for Hillcrest in 2007. CL updated the group on the work of the BEP and mentioned the TayPack projects. She agreed to ask if they would be able to make larch 'shoebox flatpack' swift boxes in the future. CD to forward plan of basic "shoe-box" design.</p> <p>DS confirmed that his timber preservation contact now regularly checks roofs for swifts. This needs to be capitalised on; CL to discuss with CD how best to approach building contractors, roofers, timber presentation companies, etc.</p> <p>All were in agreement that the Dundee projects were, overall, going extremely well. DS was thanked for all his work in the past year.</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>CL CD</p> <p>CL/CD/DS</p>
3.2	<p>Angus - The SITA TBAF-funded project to supply bat and swift boxes on the Angus Council's new buildings in Orchard bank, Forfar, was highlighted. Such is the interest being gained on one building that two further buildings (Social Work and Council HQ) are likely to be considered for similar projects. CB confirmed that he would be the main contact for this project.</p> <p>Updated needed on Bracken Primary School, Forfar - potential swift bricks in new building.</p> <p>CB was reminded of the importance of checking projects at all stages.</p>	CB
3.3	Perthshire - DM said that she plans to use the Crieff Fortnight in July 2007 as a focus for publicising the swift survey.	
	PUBLICITY AND MATERIALS	
4.1	CL had circulated the Town Swift Survey poster and CB's Ranger Swift Survey poster widely throughout Central and Northern Scotland so that other groups could use them if they wished.	
4.2	CL had approached the RSPB for a small amount of funding to publish the leaflet/survey form in 2006. There had been no reply, so the leaflet were updated and circulated as before, with the details put on the website. She was currently looking into the possibility of making the survey form interactive on the website without having to print it to fill in.	CL
4.3	CD confirmed that the Concern for Swifts (Scotland) leaflet had been reprinted. Copies are available on request, but please send a large s.a.e.	ALL
4.4	<p>CL confirmed that there was room on the Tayside biodiversity website to include presentations from the forthcoming Swift Gathering, as well as copies of leaflets and advisory notes.</p> <p>CD said that the CfSS website was still out of date, but that if there was funding it would be a priority as she has recently become aware via Matrix server that people are actually reading it!</p>	<p>CL/CD</p> <p>CD</p>

	TRAINING	
5.1	<p>CD's plans to hold a "Swift Gathering" are gathering pace. Stirling Council will be hosting the event on 2nd November 2006; it is hoped the BTO will chair. LBAP Officers from Tayside, Cairngorms, Highlands, North Lanarkshire and Edinburgh will be attending. The event will encourage sharing of experiences and knowledge. Maximum places = 30. The proposed Agenda is as follows (in no particular order and subject to change):</p> <p><i>CM - the work of a Volunteer Co-ordinator (and experience of undertaking the Scone survey);</i> <i>DS - the influence that Ranger Services' different remits has on the success of the project OR a comparative study of Tayside Ranger Service remits and their impact on the swift project;</i> <i>CB - the Angus approach to surveying;</i> <i>Jonathan Willet - to be asked to advise on data recording and management options;</i> <i>DS - visual maps - community involvement;</i> <i>DM - involving the public;</i> <i>Esther Rogers-Nicoll - GIS - advice on formats and programmes;</i> <i>? - Development Control - how to make it work;</i> <i>North Lanarks Housing Dept - recent projects;</i> <i>CD - bad practice examples: the need for improved communication;</i> <i>CD/CL - Andrew Rogers' PowerPoint presentation;</i> <i>Laura Whyte - North Lanarkshire Schools Project;</i> <i>Hillcrest - incorporating biodiversity into new build housing;</i> <i>CL - the way forward: the example of the Scottish Lowlands Barn Owl Forum;</i> <i>CD - plans for future conferences and training sessions.</i></p> <p>CD will circulate a draft programme based on the above; please contact CD direct if you have any queries.</p> <p>CL asked that all the updated Tayside maps should be taken to the Gathering.</p>	<p>CM DS CB DS DM E-RN CD CD/CL CL CD CD CB/DM/DS</p>
5.2	<p>DM asked CD if she would be willing to give a 1.5 hour presentation to the Perth and Kinross Council's Environment Service at one of their internal training sessions? [this is held the first Thursday of every month, starting at 9am and finishing at 10.30am]</p> <p>CL suggested that CD could continue on to Dundee to give a lunch time or early afternoon training session to the Council's Housing Department.</p>	<p>DM/CD CL/CD</p>
	AOCB	
6.1	<p>CL reminded everyone that the consultative draft of the Swift SAP would be put on the biodiversity website at the beginning of October; there is an urgent need for case studies - please send one or two paragraphs (and photographs if possible) to CL as soon as possible.</p> <p>Following the consultative period, the finalised SAPs will be published on the web.</p> <p>CL also asked everyone to provide one or two paragraphs on any newsworthy projects so that they can be included in the next Tayside Biodiversity Newsletter. Photographs would also be welcome to illustrate the updates.</p>	<p>ALL (by 29 Sept) ALL (by mid-Oct.)</p>
6.2	CL thanked Alasdair Hood of the Dundee Botanic Gardens for the use of the new Education Centre.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	<p>Swift Gathering (Network Meeting) - Stirling, 2nd November 2006</p> <p>Tayside Swift Interest Group - date to be decided (March or April 2007)</p>	Contact CD direct