



# TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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## TAYSIDE SAND MARTIN INTEREST GROUP

Notes of the Meeting held on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June  
at the Glass Pavilion, Broughty Ferry

Present Ian Ford, Group Leader & BFEP  
Catherine Lloyd, Tayside Biodiversity Officer  
Neil Mitchell, Montrose Basin SWT reserve  
Alan Barclay & Bruce Lynch, Tay Ringing Group  
Guy Harewood & Lisa Ford, Clacks Council LBAP  
Ann Lolley, BFEP

Apologies Al Borland, Murton Trust Reserve, Forfar  
Craig Borland, Forfar Loch Country Park  
Ben Herschell, Crombie Country Park  
Steve Moyes, Tay Ringing Group  
Mike Groves, BFEP  
Charlie MacPherson, Perth  
Carolyn Deasley, SNH  
Tony Wilson, Ranger Service NEFife  
Colin Shaw, RSPB Vane Farm  
Dave Ferguson, Ranger Service Dundee  
Daniele Muir, Ranger Service P&K

Circulation Mark Simmons, P&K Museums  
Julie Bett, McManus Galleries Dundee  
Tom McGrath, Ranger Service Monikie  
Les Hatton, Tay Ringing Group  
Ted Cowley, The Sand Martin Trust.

After a brief introduction, everyone explained their involvement then the group looked at the proposed remit and a suggestion to add more about community involvement was approved. There was general agreement about the remit and we went on to have a closer look at specific actions and plans regarding Sand Martins in Tayside.

Web cameras at Montrose sand martin bank. Interpretation needed; will use the BFEP Sand Martin booklets. **Action – Neil Mitchell**

BFEP booklets - AL offered bulk copies of the booklet for a suggested donation of £2 per book (the monies to be used for extending/managing the project). **Action – ALL**

Alan & Bruce provided a copy of ringing recoveries involving Tayside sand martins and will continue mistnetting at various breeding and roost sites.

Consider plotting migration as a way to increase public interest. Potential links with Spain regarding publicity for Scottish birds (schools/local community involvement, as well as Ringing Groups, BTO, etc?). **Action – AL to consider**

Will probably need to rebuild the Montrose sand martin wall. Likewise, the wall at Forfar Loch is not being used as much and probably needs to be revamped (sand renewed). **Action – Neil Mitchell/Craig Borland**

Gartmorn sand martin wall, Clacks – 15m long. Will cost up to £3k; GH to liaise with local authority engineer and to provide CL with the verified plans for website. **Action – Guy Harewood.**

Sand martins at Glens Clova and Esk. We should contact the AC Roads Dept to raise awareness of the gravel on the roads up the glens. **Action ?**

We need to monitor the pile of sand left at Orchardbank, Forfar (the new business park). **Action – Craig Borland.**

CL to obtain a list of quarries in Tayside so that we can approach the quarry masters direct. **Action - CL**

Barry – the colony is reducing.

Golf course potential – CL to contact the Scottish Golf Environment Group to raise awareness and to ask for feedback/sightings. **Action - CL**

MapMate software about to be purchased by the Farmland sub-group to record Barn Owl sightings in Tayside. We could consider something similar for sand martins.

CL keen to prepare a “population map” to give to the local authority planners (to put on GIS). The Partnership is already doing this for barn owls and swifts. Could Julie Bett (McManus, Dundee) help with sand martin recordings? CL to look into an online sand martin survey section on [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk). **Action – CL There is now a link on Tayside Biodiversity website.**

Sand Martin SAP needs to be reviewed and actions refined. To go on website as soon as possible. A positive case study would be useful (2 or 3 paragraphs and a photograph). **Action – IF**

After the meeting site visits were made to the Broughty Ferry dune sand martin wall, and the new sand martin wall/boxes at the Murton Wildlife Trust, Forfar.

No date for a further meeting was set as most information will be circulated via email.

Ian Ford.