



# TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

(from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007) c/o Dundee City Council, Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee. DD1 3RA  
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Woodland Sub-Group Leader: [mike.strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mike.strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## WOODLAND SUB-GROUP

### Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Forestry Commission Offices, Glenearn Road, Perth - 10.00 am

#### Present:

<i>Mike Strachan</i>	<i>(Sub-Group Leader) Forestry Commission</i>
<i>Iain MacKenzie</i>	<i>RSPB, Scotland</i>
<i>John Burrow</i>	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
<i>Colin Castle</i>	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
<i>Ken O'Lone</i>	<i>Perth and Kinross Council</i>
<i>Rob Coope</i>	<i>Forest Enterprise</i>
<i>John Bruce</i>	<i>British Deer Society</i>
<i>Louise Garthwaite</i>	<i>Perth and Kinross Squirrel Group</i>
<i>Paddy Garthwaite</i>	<i>Tree Warden. Blairgowrie</i>
<i>Graham Crister</i>	<i>Angus Glens Ranger Service</i>
<i>John Craig</i>	<i>Deer Commission Scotland</i>
<i>Doug Shearer</i>	<i>Dundee City Council, Forestry Section</i>
<i>Ian Whitehead</i>	<i>Dundee TWIG</i>
<i>Fred Conacher</i>	<i>Angus Council, Tree Officer</i>
<i>Catherine Lloyd</i>	<i>Tayside Biodiversity Partnership</i>
<i>Lorraine Smith</i>	<i>Perth and Kinross Council – Minute Taker</i>

#### 1. Introductions and Welcome

Mike Strachan welcomed attendees to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Carol Littlewood, Angus FWAG; Elspeth Christie, Ladybank Forest Users Group; Alan Napier, SEERAD.

#### 3. Matters arising from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006

The undernoted items were reported:

- BBC Breathing Space - MS reported that he had got in touch with the BBC and they were going to follow this matter up.
- Proposed Juniper Day 2006 – MS reported that the event was cancelled; a new date will need to be arranged for sometime this year.
- Perth and Kinross Council (5 Year Tree and Woodland Strategy) – KO'L reported that he had passed this information to CL.

- Review of 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche Woodland HAP Actions – CL reported that the review has been completed, but some areas will need to be further updated to fit within the UKBAP Review. This will be published later this year.
- Tayside Red Squirrel Interest Group – CL confirmed that it had been agreed to set up such an Interest Group and that James McDougall of the Forestry Commission had arranged a meeting last April to finalise the Action Plan and discuss the potential for a Red Squirrel Officer in Tayside. The Group had been re-named “The Tayside Red Squirrel Forum” to encourage all local Red Squirrel Groups and interested parties to attend.
- MS confirmed that the Forestry Commission grant scheme is closed at the moment: no grant aid available until 2008.

#### 4. Woodland Sub Group Project Proforma

The individual Action Proforma were discussed in turn. Items noted from these discussions:

- Ref. WSG1: Green Tourism Initiative. The Eco Payback Initiative – MS explained that this subject had been discussed for some time. CL had had meetings with the Perth & Kinross Council’s Economic Development Dept., and VisitScotland Perthshire, and it had been decided to set up a pilot project in the first instance. A number of potential projects had been mooted that could be funded by the initiative (including a Highland Perthshire Red Squirrel Project). CL had been in discussion with tourist providers in Kinross-shire and interest had been shown in Highland Perthshire. However, these plans have been overtaken by a new initiative, to be implemented within the next two months by the Big Tree Country and VisitScotland, to persuade visitors to contribute a small percentage for using facilities; this would be injected into local projects and initiatives. The Lake District has already introduced this scheme and has gained revenue of £13 million; other successful schemes have been set up in the Isle of Wight and East Anglia.
- Comments were received from JB with regards to Green Tourism asking for the current species list to be extended to include deer. It was agreed any additions to the species listing should be **e-mailed to CL**.
- It was also agreed that the current objectives listing should be altered to include wildlife watching. **CL to amend the document**. Please also consider when wording the document that the *species aren’t degraded by increasing the interest*.
- Ref. WSG2: It was agreed that the partners list should be extended for “Woodland Management Awareness” – to include FWAG, SAC, NFUS, Private Timber Growers and Managers of Non-Timber Forest Products - **CL to amend the listing accordingly**.
- Ref. WSG3: Management of Non-Timber Products. It was agreed that the Community Woodland Association be consulted with regards to the picking of wild mushrooms as this is a grey area requiring further clarification. **CL to speak to Scottish Rural and Business Property Association and the CWA for further advice on this matter**.
- Ref. WSG4: Red Squirrel Conservation – LG raised the ongoing problem with regards to funding mechanisms and the problem with Grey squirrels in Perth and Kinross and that nothing is done to control them. **MS to raise this at the Tayside Red Squirrel Forum meeting in the afternoon**.
- JB asked whether the British Deer Society could be involved in discussions regarding Grey squirrel control. He also suggested that the Scottish Gamekeepers Association could be approached regarding Grey control and broadening the scope of the parapox testing in this part of the country.

- Ref. WGS5. Wildlife Tree Project – FC reported that he sees no problem with Angus Council contributing to this project and this would link into their own tree project. The Countryside Trust may also be interested in this.
- Ref. WSG6. Tayside Woodland Grazing Initiative – MS confirmed that 4 sites are now up and running in Perthshire.
- Ref. WSG7. Ancient Tree Hunt – National register of heritage for veteran trees. IW reported that he is currently working on the project with Angela Hughes of the Perth and Kinross Woodland Trust.
- Ref. WSG8. Tayside Juniper Project – CL confirmed this is just a watching brief to see how things develop.

## 5. Woodland Training Events, Awareness-raising (inc. proposed Tayside Juniper Day)

The undernoted training events were agreed:

- Woodland Ecology on 16<sup>th</sup> April – KO'L reported on a Tree Wardens' event to be held at Kinnoull Hill, Perth.
- Juniper Day. There was potential for some sub-group members to attend the afternoon session of the Native Woodland Discussion Day on 1<sup>st</sup> June; the group will be visiting Drummond Wood SSSI, which is an Atlantic Oakwood, Glenartney Juniper Wood, and also a riparian woodland at the Ruchil, Drummond Estate. **MS to speak to the organisers.**
- Training Event for Deer Management – **JC to send dates to CL in due course.**
- Visit to Glen Sauch in Edzell – to visit the MacAuley Institute Hill Farm to highlight the benefits of grazing with trees on the site. **MS to obtain dates for a visit. Minibuses will be provided from Perth.**
- Trip to Northern Ireland on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June – MS is attending this to look at farm forestry integration.
- Identifying problems with trees – MS is currently arranging a training session with Paul Hanson regarding management for biodiversity. **MS to forward details to CL to include in the Partnership's "Building Better Biodiversity" programme of events and training courses.**

## 6. Round the Table Partners' Project Updates

Member's projects listed below:

Iain MacKenzie, RSPB

- Trial Management Project for Black Grouse (2 sites outwith Tayside)
- Forest Management for Capercaillie: JNCC publication now available from Kenny Kortland, RSPB Inverness office.

John Burrows, SNH

- Nothing to report

Colin Castle, SNH

- Will be attending the UK LBAP Autumn Conference in Aviemore (8 October)

Ken O'Lone, Perth and Kinross Council

- Nothing to report

Rob Coope, FES

- Nothing to report

John Bruce, British Deer Society

- Nothing to report

Paddy Garthwaite, Tree Warden, Blairgowrie

- Nothing to report

Louise Garthwaite, Perth and Kinross Squirrel Group

- The group are currently struggling to survive due to illness and other commitments, etc.

Graham Crister, Angus Glens Ranger Service (and Angus Red Squirrel Group)

- Nothing to report

Fred Conacher, Angus Council Tree Officer

- Carrying out surveys on badger populations: various volunteers are helping to monitor specific grid areas. The project has just received funding.

John Craig, Deer Commission for Scotland

- Major project which will involve joint working with various agencies with regards to deer destruction and damage to key sites. Some of the work will involve designing site clusters which will require consultation with all of the land owners. This project is required to be completed in early 2008. SEERAD are leading this project
- Strategic Angus Deer Fence – CL to pass information from the Upland Sub Group to JC. MS also asked for the details of this. ***It was agreed that details should be circulated with the minutes.***

Doug Shearer, Dundee City Council

- Nothing to report.

Ian Whitehead, Dundee TWIG

- Carrying out interpretation and site signage at Templeton Woods, Dundee
- Wood Fuel Scheme
- Working to get a Tree Warden Scheme set up in Dundee
- Working on promotion and awareness of woods (Sarah Boyack is launching this initiative next month)

Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission Scotland

- Farm diversification work
- Scottish Biomass Support Scheme – projects to help manage woodlands better. Ballathie House Hotel is considering taking part in this project. MS currently liaising with Dunkeld House Hotel to consider trying it too.

Catherine Lloyd, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

- Dundee City Bat Project about to start (the Bat Conservation Trust will be working with the local Angus & Dundee Bat Group) – part-funded by the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund.
- SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund monies have secured a Red Squirrel Project at Kindrogan Field Studies Centre.
- There are 52 projects listed in the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Business Plan for 2007-10. This includes a selection of projects for the Woodland sub-group which will all need group members' input to make them successful.

- Tayside Red Squirrel Newsletter – the second issue has just been published with funding from Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH. CL thanked everyone for their contribution. Members were asked to distribute the newsletters as widely as possible throughout Tayside.
- The Partnership’s Planning for Biodiversity Seminar (“Accommodating Wildlife in Everyday Development”) is taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> March at McDiarmid Park, Perth. Nearly sixty delegates have booked (8 local authority areas). ***Presentations from the event will be put on [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk) in due course – this will include details on Protected Species Legislation; Bats – Added Value or Nightmare; Barn Owls in Buildings and Trees; Swift Nest Site Conservation.***
- A second seminar may be held in Arbroath or Dundee during the autumn; this will be aimed at a wider audience to cover landscape and biodiversity issues. It is planned to include a presentation on management and safeguarding of veteran trees in development.
- CL is finalising the annual “Building Better Biodiversity” programme for lunch time seminars and workshops in Tayside. Bat Conservation Trust has agreed to run two lunch time seminars on “Bats and Trees”. One will be hosted by Perth & Kinross Council in the autumn, the other will be held in Dundee. ***Contact CL for details.***

## 7. Any Other Business

MS thanked Lorraine Smith of Perth & Kinross Council for attending the meeting to take the minutes. CL thanked the Forestry Commission for hosting the meeting and providing a working lunch.

There was no further business.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, at 10.00am, venue to be confirmed. ***MS to arrange.***