

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE



THE SITA TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND Final Report 2005 – 2014

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 Tayside Biodiversity

Between September 2005 and March 2014, the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund (SITA TBAF) provided vital funding for 146 local biodiversity conservation projects.

In this time **£758,728** was distributed to local projects. The leverage of all the projects exceeded **£1,824,012**.

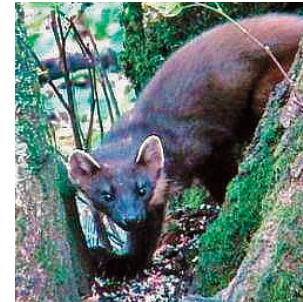
Setting up the Fund

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the SITA Trust when it funded the preparation and publication of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. With a Co-ordinator in place from 2000 and the publication of the 1st Edition in 2002, the funding took the Partnership up to mid-2004 with the key actions being implemented. It soon became very apparent, however, that with over 400 actions to roll out across Tayside, funding was needed for on-the-ground species and habitats projects.

The Landfill Tax Community Scheme was created in 1997 and followed the introduction of Landfill Tax where companies pay a fee for every tonne of waste that goes into a landfill site. The resulting funds encouraged the local communities living near landfill sites to undertake a wide range of projects in the area. When the opportunity arose to set up the Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund, the Co-ordinator worked closely with the SITA Trust in preparing suitable guidance notes and application forms. As the Partnership did not have a formal constitution, the funding was administered directly by the Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust (PQLT) who charged £10,000 a year to process the applications and register them with Entrust, the Environmental Trust Scheme Regulatory Body.

A Tayside Biodiversity Projects Assessment Panel was set up of all the funding Partners which included SNH for a time, but specifically Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils, plus Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). This changed in 2011 when Dundee City Council left the Partnership: the Assessment Panel then included only Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils, FCS and representatives from PQLT and the TBP.

In its time, the SITA TBAF was the only SITA Trust fund in Scotland and few of the projects would have gone ahead without this funding. Until 2010, Third Party contributions of 10.2% were provided by Forestry Commission Scotland and the three local authorities (Angus, Dundee City, and Perth & Kinross Councils). In the final four years until 2014, Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils very kindly provided the Third Party contributions.



*Tayside species helped by SITA
TBAF grants: Red Squirrel,
Pine Marten,
bat (© John Haddow),
Otter, Swift
All photographs ©*

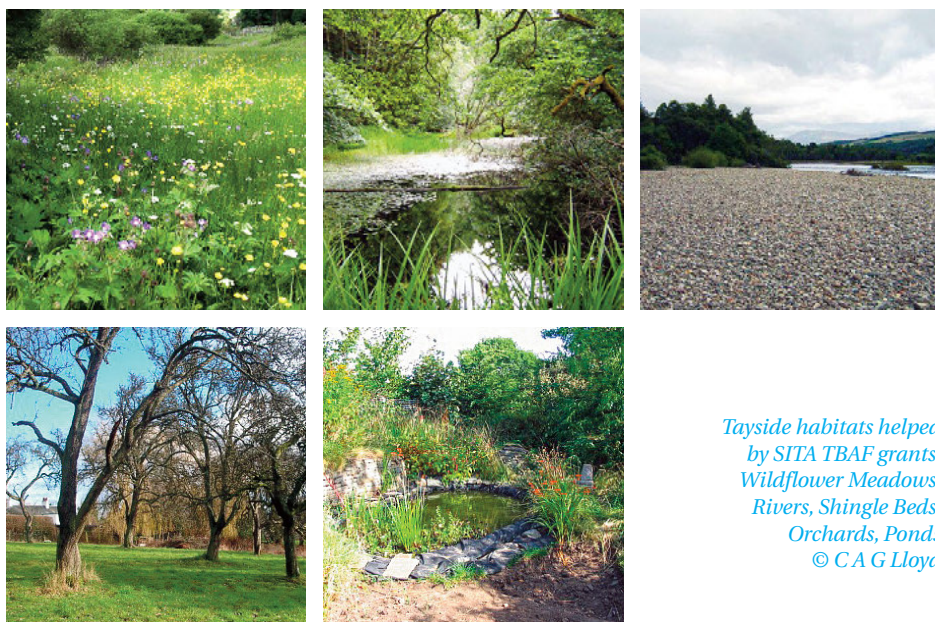
The Assessment Panel met four times a year with the Co-ordinator liaising with applicants beforehand and preparing two reports per application. Those passed by the Panel were then presented to the quarterly meetings of the PQLT. The TBP Chair and Co-ordinator each became PQLT Trustees and were involved in the excellent Perthshire Positive Action Awards ceremony held each year. This event showcased the PQLT and SITA TBAF projects.

Added Value

The PQLT requirement of reporting back mid-project and at the end of each project ensured that good media stories were picked up or specific press releases prepared. In many cases good practice demonstrated by one project was discussed and developed into a second or third application based on the successful outcome of the first. In this way a project set up in Kinross-shire could ultimately be shared in Perthshire or Angus.

In some cases the complexity of the applicants' requirements led to new working partnerships being set up – as in the case of the Tayside Lochs Partnership. Five individual projects in Perthshire were undertaken to safeguard and enhance the lochs, but as the partnership grew in expertise further projects were discussed and funding requested. Small-scale projects were therefore undertaken in Loch Leven and a large-scale standalone project is still currently underway at Lintrathen Loch, Angus. Regular meetings between the TBP, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and the commissioned consultants undertaking the work ensured the projects were on target. SEPA then reported directly to the UK Mesotrophic Lochs Steering Group and the projects input into the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System (UKBARS).

In other cases, the expertise gained by the TBP partners in their own projects – such as the Angus Sheltered Housing project originally funded by SNH and run by the Angus Ranger Service - led to similar projects being rolled out in Perthshire with different partners and SITA TBAF funding. With the original projects at an end, Angus Environment Trust (AET) funding was secured to pilot a series of ready-made 'wildlife kits' chosen by 11 care homes in Angus, again with a view to refining the idea and then rolling it out across Tayside in due course.



*Tayside habitats helped
by SITA TBAF grants:
Wildflower Meadows,
Rivers, Shingle Beds,
Orchards, Ponds
© C A G Lloyd*

The Future

With the Scottish Government taking over the Landfill Tax Community Scheme from Westminster in April 2015, the Perth Quality of Life Trust disbanded and the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund was closed mid-2014. All the projects were completed during 2014, but projects underway in Angus still have until March 2017 to be completed if funded by the Angus Environmental Trust.

The next few years are going to be difficult in trying to implement the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy), both at the national strategic level and at the local level where much of the real work needs to be done. The new Scottish Rural Development Programme will contribute biodiversity funding for certain land-based projects, but there is, of course, a gap whilst we await SEPA introducing the new Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Funding for small-scale biodiversity projects remains almost impossible, but the larger scale landscape projects are thankfully being funded by Forestry Commission Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the EU LIFE Action grant.

Introduction to Action for Tayside's Biodiversity

The SITA TBAF projects were extremely varied, but they all had a common purpose - to contribute directly to UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy or Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan objectives. In many cases organisations discussed their project ideas with the Partnership and applied for funding to take these forward. The Co-ordinator would also approach organisations to specifically take forward projects listed in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. Habitat enhancement included ponds, churchyards, wetlands, orchards, shingle islands, lochs and upland heath.

Details of the biodiversity projects funded by the Angus Environment Trust are not fully reported here, but are included in the Appendix. However, of the twenty three additional Angus projects funded in recent years (totalling £324,970) the extra leverage totalled £489,694. **Added together, the SITA TBAF and AET biodiversity projects make an impressive leverage of £2,350,726 - with project funding totalling £1,107,948.**

Appendix 1 shows the full list of all projects funded by the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund.

WOODLAND HABITAT

1 Rare Plant Project

One of the first projects to receive funding from the SITA TBAF was the Small Cow-wheat Species Recovery Project. Small cow-wheat (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*) is a UKBAP Priority Species, a priority for Scotland and for Tayside. Once widespread in the UK, it is now restricted to only twenty sites, nearly all of which are in Scotland. As Perthshire was once a stronghold for the species, it was particularly relevant to focus the Species Recovery Project in Tayside. The project added to our knowledge of rare species introductions, in particular the importance of seed provenance and founder population size.

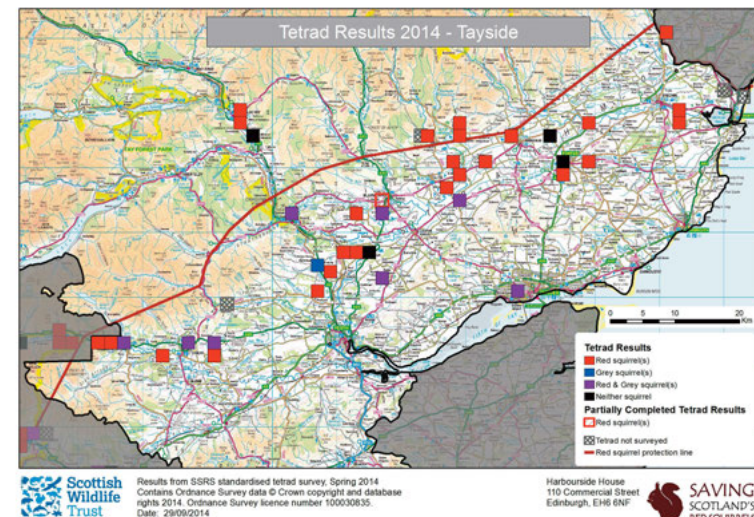
The project was a collaboration between local landowners, Forest Research and the National UKBAP Steering Group for Small Cow-wheat. Seed collected from three natural populations was sown at six suitable sites in Tayside. Germination, plant survival and flowering were assessed throughout 2006 and 2007 with a promising 20% germination rate recorded. Germination rates appeared to be slightly higher for seeds collected from the Perthshire native populations. Survival of plants, however, varied: 60% survived to maturity at one site in 2006, but all plants were lost from two of the sites in 2005. However, better growth and flowering was observed during 2007. The trials revealed that Small cow-wheat seed can remain viable in the soil for much longer than expected, suggesting that an accumulation of a seed bank may be possible.



Small Cow-wheat © SWT

2 From Urban Project to Rural Initiative – Red Squirrels in Tayside

A project focusing on Dundee's Red squirrel population was first identified by the Community Planning process and the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan in 2002. The involvement and commitment from a variety of organisations and individuals was the major strength of this project. Overseen by Sustain Dundee, the Red Squirrel Project attracted grants from the SITA TBAF, Breathing Places and one of the few Biodiversity Action Grants from the then Scottish Executive. The project very successfully communicated the message about the threat of Grey squirrels to Red squirrel populations and by the end of the project there were city sightings of Red squirrels in areas where they had long been absent.



Map © SWT

SITA TBAF monies also helped in the early days of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project. A total of £57,450 was given from TBAF funds to contribute towards Grey Squirrel control in specific areas where it was urgent the "Thin Red Line" was not crossed. The Tayside Red Squirrel Officer worked tirelessly with landowners and farmers to set up trapping projects in key areas. To date this has been highly successful.

3 Juniper Natural Regeneration Management Trials

Juniper (*Juniperus communis subsp. communis*) is a UKBAP Priority species and listed in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan as a local priority for conservation. Juniper woodland has a restricted distribution in Britain and the stands of juniper in Tayside are both of regional and national importance being the most extensive areas of juniper woodland in South East Scotland.

© Forest Research



A suite of trials were set up across Scotland, in collaboration with Plantlife Scotland, to test the value of scarification and use of cattle in encouraging natural regeneration of juniper. The need for such information was highlighted in the UKBAP for Juniper. Two sites were identified in Tayside where good stands of juniper occur and where the managers were keen to try summer cattle grazing to improve conditions for regeneration. At

Fungarth, beneficial results after one year showed a significant impact of cattle on reducing sward height and in controlling bracken growth. There was, however, evidence of increased cattle browsing on the juniper bushes which may affect seed production in the future. A further site (Ballyoukan in Perthshire) was also set up for cattle grazing and a baseline survey undertaken. This was a partnership project: site management was facilitated by Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). Project funds came from the SITA TBAF and Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme; site monitoring for the trial was co-funded by Plantlife Scotland (as part of their 'Back from the Brink' programme) and Forest Research.

4 Tayside Aspen Project

The SITA TBAF supported Scottish Native Woods in developing their 2020 Vision for Aspen in Scotland. The project is restoring aspen to its rightful place as a significant and valued part of Scotland's native woods, using river corridors to connect the Highlands to the Lowlands with appropriate stands of an iconic species which should be more common in both. Tayside is potentially a major hotspot for aspen and there is a lot of management expertise available in this area.

A national database was developed to gather information about current stands of aspen and improve availability of local origin planting stock. Strategic new plantings increased connectivity between aspen stands. A number of good stands were noted at Glen Esk where active management is allowing the stands to spread. During 2010, ten clones from Glen Esk were collected to propagate at Edinburgh Zoo and replanted on the Invermark Estate. In addition the Camserney Community Garden by Aberfeldy established an aspen propagation unit capable of producing 1,200-1,500 aspen trees a year. Children from Breadalbane Academy took part in this aspect of the project. The Highland Aspen Group at Kinraig is now the primary focus for aspen propagation and at the close of the project all the Tayside clones were incorporated into their seed orchard. So, the Tayside Aspen Project lives on in that guise.



Young Aspen © Victor Clements

5 Highland Perthshire Large Mammals Project

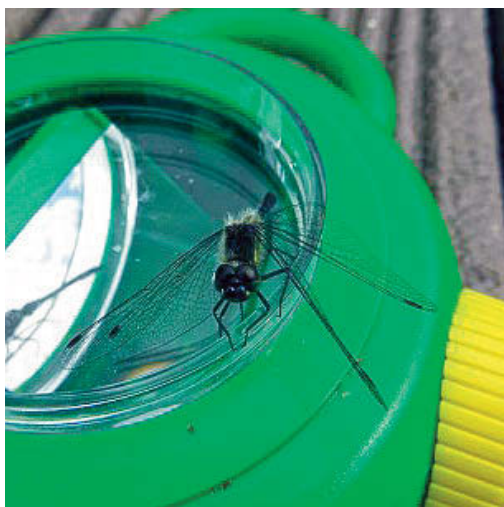
Using SITA TBAF funds, the project's aims were to protect two iconic species – the Otter and Pine Marten - on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Perthshire reserves, piloting it first at Loch of the Lowes, Dunkeld. The project saw the refurbishment of two otter holts and the erection and monitoring of six Pine Marten den boxes. Surveying for otters using tracking and camera traps showed presence of one male on the loch using a natural den site. In the meantime, Pine marten sightings had decreased since 2009: food availability was still good, but habitat continuity with the neighbouring forest was probably the issue, together with a lack of denning sites. This meant the animals were crossing roads to get to the reserve. Their presence was identified using hair tube traps and camera traps, so denning boxes were constructed and placed in several areas around the reserve, with camera traps to monitor uptake. There was excellent publicity via the Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre and its popular blog of these species and what can be done to help them. Links have been created with the Perthshire Ranger Education Programme to promote these species and practical techniques have been passed on to local schools and community groups.

WATER AND WETLAND

1 Pond, Woodland and Heathland Creation at Auchterarder Golf Course

The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan was one of the first in Scotland to include a Golf Course Action Plan: there are some 45 courses in the region. Biodiversity is a core part of Auchterarder Golf Club's Environmental Management Plan. Like many golf courses, Auchterarder always had wet areas which were not conducive to play so a pond was excavated to provide a sustainable drainage solution, additional habitat, and landscape value at the same time. In due course a second pond was created and stocked with transplants from the first one. SITA TBAF funding also helped establish a wildflower buffer with seeds of Scottish provenance. Seven species of dragonfly and damselfly, including Common hawkers, Emerald damselfly and Ruddy darters, have been seen around the pond.

The pond continues to be highly successful, but as part of a much wider programme of environmental management and improvement works, it demonstrates that the Club has a long-term sustainable commitment to golf. Joining the Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group a year earlier had prompted the Club into successful supplementary feeding of Red squirrels. In 2008 further SITA TBAF monies enabled some 800 native trees and shrubs to be planted to expand and enhance the Red squirrel woodland habitat on the course.



© Auchterarder Golf Club

As the unmanaged heather and acid grasslands around the course had also been deteriorating and regeneration was a key objective, a further project helped the Club instigate a rolling programme of heather and grassland management. So, what started out as a simple pond creation project with small-scale funding ended up as a highly proactive holistic biodiversity enhancement project across the whole golf course.

2 Trottick Ponds and Den o' Mains Ponds Restoration Project

Two Dundee ponds were extensively renovated in a project made possible by £9,000 granted by the SITA TBAF. A host of volunteers, including the Dundee Conservation Volunteers, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Dundee Naturalist Society provided additional help digging ditches, removing rubbish, undertaking surveys, replacing signs and building an artificial Otter holt. Inland Revenue staff and local volunteers joined in. The project



provided a much more open pond which was deeper and a greater amount of "pond edge". A community BioBlitz held at Trottick Ponds after completion of the project proved just how much wildlife had moved into the surrounding area.

Trottick Pond, Dundee © C A G Lloyd

3 Following the Life of Water

The idea for this "FLOW" initiative emerged from the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project working with a variety of individuals and organisations. The first year involved the creation of three hibernacula for amphibians. The first was built alongside a proposed pond in a Local Nature Reserve and involved twelve local people working with a skilled drystone dyker to create a functional and visually attractive feature. The second location for a hibernacula was in the gardens of a skills training centre for adults requiring additional support; the third hibernacula was



built in the local Barnhill Rock Gardens. Volunteers who gained skills from the first project practiced their skills on the second project. A number of ponds were created or restored throughout the area.

© Broughty Ferry Environmental Project

4 RSPB Tay Reedbeds Biodiversity Enhancement Project

The RSPB were recipients of several large SITA TBAF grants. A contribution of £26,000 helped the national charity manage its new Tay Reedbeds Reserve. As part of the largest continuous area of reed in the UK, there are some 400ha of tidal reedbeds along the Tay (of which the RSPB manages half). Huge roosts of swallows gather in late summer and the whole area may soon become a key stepping stone for species needing to shift their range northwards because of climate change. With in-kind costs by way of staff and volunteer time, the Biodiversity Enhancement project cost £57,000. Fine tuning of the site's management enabled the biodiversity potential of the reedbeds to be maximised. This was particularly relevant for the UKBAP and Tayside LBAP species that favour reedbeds - Reed bunting, Bearded tit, Water rail, Sedge warbler and Marsh harrier. The reedbed management ensures there is an annual cutting regime which avoids the important breeding and nesting periods and helps increase the habitat's wildlife value through rotation and increased reed edge exposure. Pools and scrapes were added to encourage natural feeding sites for wildlife.

5 Kindrogan Otter and Water Vole Projects

Residential volunteers spent a weekend constructing a "chamber and pipe" otter holt at Kindrogan Field Studies Centre, Perthshire. Kindrogan, the National Centre for Excellence in Field Studies and Biodiversity Training, received SITA TBAF funding to enable improvements to the Centre's surrounding riparian habitats.

Run by the Scottish Agricultural College, the Highland Perthshire Water Vole Project focussed on Strathardle, especially around the Field Studies

Centre as signs of this rare mammal were increasingly found here. The pilot project involved staff and volunteers monitoring four sites to identify areas used by Water Vole. Habitat enhancement included the safeguarding or creation of riparian strips, stock exclusion and control of non-native invasive species.

© Xavier Lambin



6 Tayside Lochs Projects

In 2007 as part of its Environmental Improvement Action Plan (EIAP), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) selected 31 priority lochs across Scotland that had a record of UK Priority plant species (Slender naiad, Shetland pondweed, Pillwort, and some stoneworts), all in need of conservation. The Tayside Lochs Project involved the formation of a partnership to conserve Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) at Fingask and White Lochs, south of Blairgowrie. The project partners included Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Blairgowrie & Rattray Angling Association, Rosemount Golf Club and SEPA. Funding from the SITA TBAF enabled a diffuse pollution audit to be undertaken of the farms in the catchment, together with nutrient budgets and buffer strips planted around both lochs.

A second phase of the project focused on the other lochs in the Tayside EIAP: Loch Monzievaird (near Crieff), Monk Myre (Blairgowrie) and the Loch of Lintrathen, near Kirriemuir in Angus.

A final phase brought Loch Leven into the overall Tayside Lochs Project with issues of diffuse pollution being addressed by working with farmers, anglers, recreational users and local residents. Tackling this major issue contributes directly to the Tayside Mesotrophic Lochs Action Plan's objectives.

By employing a partnership approach to safeguard and enhance the water quality at the Loch of Lintrathen, wider benefits to the catchment in terms of riparian improvement and biodiversity value will be achieved. The separate Lintrathen Loch Catchment Partnership has secured funding from both the SITA TBAF and Angus Environment Trust to work with landowners and managers to improve wildlife corridors already in existence on their land, as well as create new ones. This will involve

capital works such as native tree planting and small amounts of fencing. Primarily for direct biodiversity gain, these measures will also contribute to reducing diffuse pollution.

Loch of Lintrathen
© K Baird, SEPA



The Loch of Lintrathen reserve was recognised as a wetland area of global importance when designated as a Ramsar site in 1980. It is an internationally important site for vast numbers of wintering wildfowl, including Greylag geese returning from their summer breeding grounds in Iceland. Whooper swans can also be seen. The loch also supports many summer birds too, including Heron, Great crested grebe, Tufted duck, Shoveler, Mallard and Coot. Ospreys are occasionally sighted.

7 Make the Link with your Sink

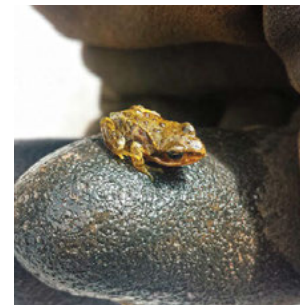
Inspired by a project undertaken by the Argyll & Bute Biodiversity Partnership, a tea-towel was designed and printed using SITA TBAF Promotional Funding (monies available from accrued bank interest). Many residents near Blairgowrie's Fingask and White Loch received an organic cotton Scottish-printed tea-towel reminding them to empty septic tanks every two years, use low phosphorous washing and dishwasher products, and prevent food waste from going down the sink. The tea-towel design featured the rare UKBAP priority plant species, Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*) which is found in the loch. The tea-towels were part of the much larger on-the-ground project to tackle water quality issues, focussing, in the first instance, on the Fingask and White Loch Catchment Biodiversity Project. The tea-towels also proved popular with every Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, received as part of a Welcome Pack for their visits to Tayside or at the Scottish Biodiversity Officers' meeting with the Minister at Holyrood.

© Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



8 Award-Winning Amphibians in Drains Project

For a number of years observations made by the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service and Tayside Contracts staff undertaking routine drain maintenance suggested a significant number of roadside gullypots contained trapped amphibians. These were mainly toads (*Bufo bufo*) but also frogs (*Rana temporaria*), and the occasional palmate newt (*Triturus helveticus*) - along with numerous small mammals. A three year survey was carried out between 2010 and 2012 to estimate the number of gullypots that may be affected across central and eastern Perthshire. In 2010 69% of the three hundred and twenty two gullypots checked held wildlife – 641 amphibians, 56 mammals (mostly voles, mice and shrews) and 1 bird. In 2011, having increased the number of gullypots checked to



six hundred and thirty six gullypots, 63% contained wildlife – 1,087 amphibians and 114 mammals being found. The majority of animals were found in August and September. The initial findings suggest gullypots have a significant impact on local populations of amphibians, as well as small mammals.

© Andrew Law

Young amphibians leave their breeding ponds in the summer and, along with adults, disperse to their hibernation sites in autumn. The same migration route can be used for many years and these are frequently found in woodland. It is surprising more animals were not found in spring when amphibians migrate to their breeding sites.

The Ranger Service was granted SITA TBAF monies to purchase a number of ACO wildlife kerbs. These replaced the standard kerbs at a pilot site in Elm Drive, Blairgowrie, and a new road close to the survey area which enabled comparison of before and after figures. Wildlife kerbs contain a recess which allows wildlife to follow the lower edge of the kerb and bypass the gullypot. As a result of the Council's pioneering work, PETA UK presented the Council with a Proggy (progress) Award which recognises companies, people, and products for innovative and animal-friendly achievements.

Angus Council Ranger Service and Roads Department have now implemented amphibian-friendly drain covers and kerbstones at Monikie to supplement their designated toad crossing. Volunteers travel from far and near to be part of this annual task. In 2014, Trevor Rose of the Friends of Angus Herpetofauna worked with students Claire McNroy and Karis Fairfield to install and monitor amphibian ladders at two sites in Angus. A second trial is continuing during 2015, together with amphibian ladder trial installations at the existing Perthshire project sites. In 2014 and 2015, the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Intern undertook two further seasons of surveying at the three Perthshire project sites. Such is the interest in this project that presentations have been given to the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Symposium in Edinburgh and the resulting reports distributed far and wide across the UK.

9 Pond Restoration in Kinross-shire

A biodiversity survey indicated that the Lendrick Muir pond was suitable for Common Toad and Great Crested Newt, and otter spraint was also spotted on the sluice. As a result of dredging the pond and supplying burn this area – including the surrounding wet grassland – has been transformed, the water level raised and the sluice re-built, which means

there is greater control over both the flow rate through, and the water level of, the pond. There is now a boardwalk around the side of the pond which is encouraging both residents and visitors alike to visit the pond and enjoy the vastly increased variety of wildlife now present.

© C A G Lloyd



10 Vane Farm Floodplain Grazing Marsh

This important project was one of 14 the RSPB brought together in its national three year Grazing Marsh and Floodplain Project. At the Vane Farm Reserve, the RSPB has reinstated 80ha of wet grassland on the site and restored 16 ha of lowland raised bog. The restoration project saw quick results: some 7,000 Pink-footed geese stopped to rest on the newly-flooded land and Lapwing numbers have also increased. This project featured in the 2012 Entrust (UK) Annual Report as it was a large-scale project that garnered funding not just from the SITA TBAF, but also the Biffa Award.

11 Osprey Protection at Loch of the Lowes

There have been ospreys at Loch of the Lowes since 1969 and the visitor centre has evolved around this, bringing both local people and visitors to enjoy using the hide and watching the ospreys at a close – but safe – distance. The SWT's Osprey webcam and blog are extremely popular and bring iconic wildlife into close range for people of all ages. For some years, an Osprey Protection Officer has been a vital part of the management of the site. A specialist taken on for a period of around 8 weeks each breeding season provides the necessary nightshift to protect the birds, but also co-ordinates the considerable volunteer effort required to protect the birds. SITA TBAF monies of £28,998 enabled ongoing monitoring of the breeding ospreys on site and ensured protection of both nest and eggs.



© Steven Gardner

FARMLAND HABITAT AND SPECIES -

1 Highland Perthshire Calcareous Grassland Project

Under the auspices of the Scottish Agricultural College, the project ran from 2007 to 2010. Its aim was to increase awareness of the conservation value of calcareous and other species-rich grasslands and to encourage restoration and enhancement of them. Four demonstration sites were established, with each site focussing on a range of grassland management issues: Glenfincastle, Tomnaguie, Strathgarry and Chesthill. A Best Management Practice booklet was published in 2011 to show the lessons learnt from each of the sites.

Sward Enrichment was achieved at Glenfincastle by seeding into improved and semi-improved grassland.) A turbo tiller was used to create bare patches of ground for seeding. This decision was partly taken as the mole hills on the site had proven to be excellent seeding sites for a range of wildflowers. Seeds laboriously collected on site were sown in the autumn by hand, using a mix of wildflower seed and sand.

Natural regeneration was also undertaken from existing seed sources at three sites: Strathgarry, Tomnaguie and Glenfincastle. If agricultural inputs such as lime, inorganic fertiliser, pesticides and farmyard manure are excluded or significantly limited, improved or semi-improved grasslands gradually revert to become more flower-rich. However without specific intervention to speed up the process, this can take decades. A section of calcareous grassland was fenced to allow a targeted grazing regime to be implemented and this proved successful.

The quickest results for enrichment of the sward were seen at Foss Meadow where a combination of yellow rattle and the introduction of cutting and baling at the end of the summer resulted in the rapid spread of wildflowers throughout the sward. Once scrub has established it is proved necessary to use either mechanical or chemical control, as grazing alone did not prevent further development of the scrub.



(left to right) Blueberry
bumble bee: © Bob Dawson,
Hay rattle © Dallas Seawright
Volunteer collecting
grass seed: SAC,
Northern Brown Argus:
© David Dennis,
Rock rose © Bryan Smith

2 Supporting Tayside's Tree Sparrows

Tree sparrows are smaller than House sparrows and both males and females are similar in appearance. They both have a warm chestnut brown crown with a black spot on white cheek patches. Juveniles also have the warm red-brown cap. Listed as a UK Priority Species, the rapidly declining population is now largely localized with birds wintering in woodland and farmland, and seen in small flocks or mixing in with larger groups of farmland bird such as Yellowhammer and Chaffinch. They are reported from less than one in twenty Garden BirdWatch gardens, confirming their predominantly rural existence. Changes in agriculture are thought to have been one of the main causes of the reduced population of Tree Sparrows across Britain. Selective herbicides make the weed seeds they used to feed on much harder to find and the change to a higher percentage of winter cropping means less stubble fields are available for them to feed in over the winter.

Thirty sites throughout Tayside (10 each in Kinross-shire, Perthshire and Angus) were targeted by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group through local bird ringers' knowledge and liaison with the RSPB's Volunteer Farmer Alliance to identify areas where Tree sparrows were already present. It was important for the project to focus on existing populations to prevent any further decline of the species. Each farm received 12 tree sparrow boxes erected in suitable habitat. A comprehensive report with a map highlighting areas on the farm important for Tree Sparrows was provided to each farmer, together with advice on how to make further habitat improvements. All the nestboxes were monitored, and leg rings fitted to any chicks so they could be



identified in the future. In total 42 of the boxes erected in Phase 1 had Tree Sparrows using them and in all only 16 of the 360 boxes put up were not used at all. This was an excellent success rate so soon after the boxes were erected. To widen the project, additional funding was granted from the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Grant to expand the project into upland Angus with 16 new sites.

© Littlewood Land Care

Despite the subsequent demise of FWAG Scotland, Littlewood Landcare continued the project with further SITA TBAF funding to extend the populations at the 10 Angus sites. Pupils from Woodlands School in Carnoustie spent a day making 20 nest boxes. The nest box kits, made by local company Woodlark Products (of Bankfoot), were the same boxes as used in Phase I, but supplied in kit form so the children had to work together and follow instructions to screw and nail the bits together. The class had already set up a supplementary feeding site earlier in the winter, using wheat donated by Angus FWAG farmer members, so the children visited the farm to help identify and record sites for the boxes, and then number them.

Phase 3 of the project saw another 2 sub-sites identified at each of the 10 Angus sites. A further 240 nest boxes were erected in 12s at each sub-site.

Over the 3 phases of the project in total 480 nestboxes were erected and none of these remained unused over the whole period that the three projects ran, although it was not always Tree Sparrows that used the boxes. In all 43% were recorded as being used by Tree Sparrows for nesting, each nest may have fledged between 4 and 8 chicks a year depending on broods. Many of the other boxes were used by tits or small bird species for nesting and roosting. Several boxes were found to contain wasp bykes, one was being used as a bat roost and another had been occupied by wood mouse and completely filled with acorns! Sites that proved particularly successful were those where birds were near a house or houses with gardens where they got fed all summer. At these sub-sites there was often 100% occupancy of the 12 boxes. So successful was the project that a new pilot project is now underway, funded by the Angus Environmental Trust, to set up a Tree Sparrows on the Edge project, working with three local communities in making and siting nestboxes in small rural villages.

3 The Linnet Link

This innovative project involved the selection of sites for the planting of shrub strips for habitat enhancement along the Arbroath to Dundee cycle track. The planting was co-ordinated by Angus Council, and the track surveyed for Linnets at different times of year. Those seen were always associated with established linear habitats such as woodland strips and hedges running perpendicular to the cycleway. The enhancement planting was planned to prioritise where it would make links between

some of the linear habitats and so increase the movement of Linnets along this corridor. The planting has also improved the habitat for many other species - those seen during the surveys included Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Blackbird. It has certainly made the cycle path more interesting for those using it.

4 Perthshire Barn Owl Project

During 2004, SNH funding helped the Scottish Agricultural College and Perthshire FWAG raise awareness of Barn owls to farmers in the River Tay corridor. With additional funding from SITA TBAF and the Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme (BAGS), the original core area was extended to include the River Isla corridor. Farms were surveyed and barn owl habitat



requirements discussed with farmers. Many barn owls use old steadings for roosting and nesting, but there is an increasing pressure to convert these to housing or replace with modern farm sheds. The project contributed to the objectives of the Tayside Farm Buildings Habitat Action Plan. The habitat work undertaken by farmers also encouraged many UK Priority Species such as Brown Hare and Grey Partridge.

© Littlewood Land Care

Carol Littlewood, leader of the Partnership's Farmland & Upland Working Group, continues to collate Barn Owl sightings for the whole of Tayside and maintains the distribution map. One nestbox in the Glens has been tremendously successful, producing 14 chicks in the first 3 years. Harsh winters will have had an effect on bird numbers, particularly Barn owls as they find it difficult to feed when snow cover hides small mammals. The British Trust for Ornithology reported over 100 dead ringed Barn Owls in the winter of 2010-2011, double the usual number for Britain so the Partnership is keen to hear of new sightings of both dead and live barn owls. Please add your sightings via www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk.

5 Lendrick Muir Outdoor Centre Projects

Having enhanced the pond and created a wildlife haven, attention was drawn to the adjoining grassland area. An area covering nearly three-quarters of an acre was set aside to create a wildflower meadow using local provenance plantplugs. Barn owl boxes and bat and bird boxes were all erected in adjacent woodland. As part of the Centre's Hedgerow Bumblebee Project, a 200 metre length of native hedging was also planted to provide connectivity between the surrounding woodland habitats, grasslands and the wildflower meadow. This will greatly increase the biodiversity at Lendrick Muir, as well as raise awareness of the important species that have been helped with SITA TBAF funds.

6 Heathland Restoration at Crombie

Crombie Country Park in Angus covers over 100ha of conifer plantations, birch woods, lowland heathland, unimproved grassland and a freshwater loch. With £1,000 from the SITA TBAF the Angus Council Ranger Service



undertook scrub clearance with local volunteers. This opened up the heath beside the trail. Lowland Heathland is a listed priority habitat in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. It has declined greatly over the past 60 years as a result of agricultural improvement, development and afforestation.

© Angus Council Ranger Service

URBAN HABITAT

1 Silver Medal for Forfar Biodiversity

The biodiversity garden project at Lilybank, Forfar, was awarded SITA TBAF monies in 2006 and provided work experience for service users. It also helped develop positive attitudes in pre-school children towards people with learning disabilities. The Wendy House Children's Nursery regularly visits Lilybank to see the pond and hedgehog habitat. They take part in bird and bat box making, and seed sowing and planting with the service users. Lilybank won a Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Silver Medal for its "Leave a Little" pallet garden in the Scottish Gardeners' Forum Challenge at Gardening Scotland. The project also won the Angus Council Excellence Awards for Community Engagement in 2008.

2 The Dundee and Perth Bat Projects

In 2007 SITA TBAF monies ensured a community bat survey was undertaken across Dundee. The project involved 27 volunteers undertaking 200+ hours of bat survey work. Free training was given and bat detectors and other equipment provided. Most of the volunteers were completely new to bats and bat surveys. In all, forty six of the 57 x 1km squares were surveyed on foot and thirty eight x 1km squares were surveyed by car. Asked what volunteers thought was the best bit about taking part they said: "being outside, exploring new areas", "finding out



about the wildlife on your home patch", "seeing another volunteer's face when he heard his first bat call!" With an understanding on where bats are present in the city, the natural follow on is that direct habitat advice can now be given across the city to safeguard the existing bat populations.

© Bat Conservation Trust

In Perth, the 'Perth-ectly Batty' survey was a unique venture with the Bat Conservation Trust, Perth and Kinross Council Ranger Service, and the Perth Bat Group joining forces to bring people together in caring for the environment and finding out more about where they live. It offered a variety of ways for people to get involved in bat conservation in Perth (from armchair to active). The activities around European Bat Weekend (bat box building, bat talk, walk, arts and crafts) appealed to all ages and all backgrounds. At its simplest the project's recording aspect could be achieved by just looking out of the window at dusk, but those wanting more of a challenge trained to use bat detectors and took part in the walking surveys. Bat detectors were adapted for use by the visually impaired and people with impaired hearing felt the vibrations of the detector. Surveyors were encouraged to work with a "buddy", a friend or someone they met through the project.

The project not only increased awareness of bat conservation, but collected records of where bats were found in Perth, and fully engaged volunteers in citizen science. It ably fulfilled the aims of the Species Action Plan for bats in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, first published in 2002. Media coverage of the project was very extensive. Of the 21 kilometre square areas within Perth, 18 were surveyed. Bats were detected in every square that had a survey which makes Perth 'perth-ectly' Batty! Volunteers

gave a remarkable 600 hours towards the project - it could not have taken place without them and the end result is that Perth & Kinross Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) is up-to-date with bat survey information. This helps to safeguard bats where planning applications are concerned and on-the-ground habitat projects can be encouraged.

3 Orchardbank Swift and Bats Project

As part of the Tayside Swift Project, combined swift and bat boxes were provided on William Wallace House and on St. Margaret's House, Orchardbank, Forfar, for Angus Council Housing Department and Social Work Department respectively. A total of 76 boxes were installed between the windows of both properties. At present no swifts have been recorded nesting on site, nor are bats using the boxes (as far as we know). However, the boxes do have a 33% occupancy rate - St. Margaret's House has 10 boxes being used by starlings and William Wallace House has 15 boxes being used by house martins.

The house martins are in some cases using the boxes as an anchor to build their own mud nests, but in other cases they are using the interior of the boxes – presumably with a nest construction inside. There were no existing house martin nests in the area prior to the erection of the boxes so the project can be considered a success albeit with a somewhat different result from that intended. The starling colony on St. Margaret's House also appears to be thriving with parent birds finding food easily in the nature-friendly environs of the Orchardbank Business Park. It is



© Craig Borland

interesting that despite the building and nest box design being identical, both sites are being used exclusively by different species. The buildings are about 50m apart and so birds have access to the same environment.

4 Muirton's Buzzing

A massive 97% (over 3,000,000 hectares) of flower-rich grassland has been lost in the UK since the 1940's through agricultural intensification, and wider development (housing, transport infrastructure and industry). This loss has contributed towards a serious decline in flower-rich areas that are vital habitats for wild bees, butterflies and other insects to nest and feed. The loss of this important habitat has resulted in large declines in UK pollinators as well as other invertebrates.

This was an exciting project in the north of Perth which created not just an urban habitat for pollinating insects in an area of stalled space, but also a healthier environment for local people. Perth and Kinross Council and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership worked in partnership with Buglife Scotland on an area of derelict land where the old flats have been demolished and the area is awaiting development for housing. The project created a colourful meadow which is still providing a vital food source for pollinating insects in the centre of the city.

The project involved the local community in creating and managing this wildlife haven and even during its first year, 21 different invertebrates were recorded feeding on wildflowers, including Small tortoiseshell butterfly (*Aglais urticae*), Marmalade hoverfly (*Episyrphus balteatus*), Buff tailed bee (*Bombus terrestris*), Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)



and Common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*). The project has improved the appearance of the local area and local residents are still using the original desire line in walking across it, but now enjoying the wild flowers all around them.

© David Williamson

5 From Bees and Butterflies in Blairgowrie to BeeWild in Angus

The garden at Muirton House Care Home in Blairgowrie buzzed with bees following help by local businesses James McIntyre & Sons at Moyness Nursery and florist shop Something Special. Together with SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Funding, a five-stage biodiversity project offered a welcome habitat to butterflies, bees and other species. The idea started

out as a sensory garden with specially selected plants chosen for their strong scent or tactile leaves. An old fashioned orchard area with Scottish heritage varieties of fruit trees was planted, plus a wild meadow area featuring plants such as campion, scabious, cranesbill, poppy and cornflower. A small pond provided habitat for amphibians and insects and feeding boxes encouraged the local Red squirrels to use the garden. The project promoted a holistic approach of harmony and well-being for residents, staff and visitors and welcomed participation from across the local community.

A highly successful project preceded this in Angus with the Ranger Service offering talks and walks to a variety of care homes. With SNH funding, binoculars, identification charts and bird feeding stations were provided. Now with Angus Environmental Trust funds a further 11 care homes and day care centres in Angus are receiving a variety of wildlife kits in a new Tayside BeeWild pilot project. Led jointly by Voluntary Action Angus and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, there is again a focus on increasing urban pollination and feeding opportunities for insects, birds and bats.

6 Kinloch Rannoch's Bats, Red Squirrels and Swifts Project

The Rannoch Path Group ambitiously applied for funding from the SITA TBAF to complete a project to encourage Kinloch Rannoch residents of all ages to get out and about using their local path network and learn about their local environment. New surveys were carried out to contribute to data collated in the 1980's with regard to local bat populations. However, the overall project proposal was to concentrate on the different bat species in the area, plus Red Squirrels and Swifts.

Surveys were carried out to confirm where Swifts were nesting on publicly accessible buildings or visible buildings within the settlement of Kinloch Rannoch. Walks were offered through the already established and promoted Guided Walk Programme organised and promoted by the



Rannoch and Tummel Tourism Association. Once more precise knowledge was available, the community helped install the suite of nest boxes the funding had provided.

Kinloch Rannoch © CAG Lloyd

7 Carse of Gowrie and Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Projects

The interest in safeguarding swifts across the Carse of Gowrie came about after a successful event held in Errol during the rainy summer of 2012. Twenty people toured the village to watch swifts and many wanted to help install nestboxes and safeguard existing nests. With SITA TBAF funding, the project started in April 2013 and focussed predominately on working with the local community, undertaking a comprehensive Swift survey across the Carse of Gowrie and passing the data to the Perth & Kinross Planning GIS and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Swift Interest Group. Nestboxes were installed and businesses and schools involved. The first pilot Tayside Swifts Twinning Schools Initiative was got underway with all the Carse schools receiving two copies of the new book "Screamer the Swift" – a copy for themselves and a copy to share with their twinned school in Africa.

Such was the success of the Carse of Gowrie project, AET funding was granted to undertake a similar project in Kirriemuir, Angus. Like the Carse, Kirriemuir is extremely fortunate in having a good population of swifts so the project is working with householders and businesses in the town centre to conserve existing nest sites and find the best locations for new swift nestboxes. The project is already working with the local schools and Hillcrest Housing Association, but there are many more opportunities to involve local businesses and property owners.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

In May 2008, to coincide with Scottish Biodiversity Week, the SITA TBAF Reception welcomed 60 people to the AK Bell Library, Perth, to hear about the good work being achieved by the grants. There was a wide range of presentations, including Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (Tayside Project), the Voluntary Action Angus' House of Dun Walled Garden Biodiversity Project, the Kinnordy Wetland Project (RSPB), the Amphibians in Drains Project (Perth & Kinross Ranger Service), the Perth & Kinross Council Sand Martin Wall on the River Erich, Blairgowrie, the SWT Perthshire Large Mammals Project and the Green Graveyard Projects led by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

A further SITA TBAF Reception was held in 2010, welcoming over 60 people to the Carnoustie Golf Hotel to hear about more projects taking place through SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Funding. This included an update on such projects as the Perth & Dundee City Bats Survey, the Tree Sparrows and Barn Owl projects and Forest Research's Perthshire Juniper Survey. The Scottish Wildlife Trust also gave an update on the range of projects for which it had

received funding – the Montrose Wet Grassland Grazing Project, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels and the Keltneyburn Enhancement Project. The new set of eight bookmarks was also officially launched at the event. These include photographs/information about red squirrels, otters, swifts, barn owls, bumblebees, butterflies, geodiversity and orchards, publicising the website and acknowledging the funders (Tayside Rural LEADER and SITA Trust). The event was extremely well covered by the local media.



SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund Reception - Carnoustie, 18th May 2010
(from left to right - back: Pam Coultas, Angus Council; Carol Littlewood, Littlewood Landcare; Cllr Helen Oswald, Angus Council; Danielle Muir, Perth & Kinross Ranger Service; Rab Potter, Scottish Wildlife Trust; Anne Youngman, Bat Conservation Trust; Dennis Dick, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Chair; Alice Broome, Forest Research; from left to right - front: Ken Neil, Saving Scotland's Squirrels; Theresa Lynn, Dundee City Council)

ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST PROJECTS

The list of projects funded by the AET is shown in the Appendix. As with the SITA TBAF, there was a variety of projects focussing on UK Priority Species – Red squirrels, Barn Owls, bats and amphibians. There were also habitat projects such as the Kinnordy Wetland Habitat Enhancement project, Elliot Links Restoration, the Lintrathen Loch Habitat Enhancement and the Barry Buddon Biodiversity project. Just two of the AET projects are highlighted here:

1 Angus School Orchards

Sixty new orchards is the legacy for funding received for the Angus School Orchards Project. It was a three year project which saw 357 Scottish heritage fruit trees in 64 locations, predominately primary schools, pre-schools and nurseries. The project helped stimulate the local 'traditional orchard' heritage and culture within Angus, publicising the rich and highly important biodiversity heritage of orchards and contributing directly to Tayside targets for Traditional Orchards. One of the key outputs was a leaflet for the schools to use when the fruit trees reached a size suitable for pruning.



© F Conacher

2 Monikie Toad Crossing

Monikie has one of the largest recorded concentrations of toads annually migrating to their spawning ponds in the north east of Scotland. The Monikie Toad Crossing Volunteer Group successfully applied to the Angus Environmental Trust for a grant of £23,500 to support amphibian conservation and rescue. Rangers at Monikie Country Park joined forces with colleagues from the Roads Department to create toad-friendly measures along Panmure Road to help reduce the mortality rate as they migrate to their spawning ground at Denfind Bird Sanctuary. The project was also supported by Froglife who supplied head torches, buckets, gloves, insurance and information packs.

During the amphibian conservation work, an otter crossing was also installed under the road to help the resident otters get to and from the park. This will help reduce the risk of them being killed on the road. A video camera will assist the group with on-going monitoring of the area and will help measure the success of the works.

From the left - wildlife kerb to safeguard migrating amphibians; under-road otter crossing © Angus Council



SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund - Tayside Biodiversity Partnership - administered by Perth Quality of Life Trust (2005-2014)
Projects Approved by PQLT & ENTRUST

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Angus Council Ranger Service	Artificial Sand Martin Bank	Crombie Park	10,029.00	10,029.00	Construction of artificial sand martin bank
Forest Research	Juniper Natural Regeneration Trials	Perthshire	8,348.00	6,314.00	2 trial sites - Furngarth & Ballyoukan Juniper woods
Forest Research	Small Cow-wheat Species Recovery Ph1&2	Perthshire	16,070.00	11,200.00	2 sites - Comrie, 1 site- Dunkeld, 1 site Kynachan
Broughty Ferry Env. Project	Following the Life of Water	Broughty Ferry	8,500.00	5,100.00	Ponds for amphibians (inc. creation of hibernacula)
Tayside Ringing Group	Tay Reedbed Habitat Management	River Tay	4,050.00	1,875.00	Ringing Reed Buntings, Bearded Tits, Sedge Warbler etc.
Tayside Ringing Group	Save the Tayside Ring Ouzels	Angus Glens	2,865.00	1,052.00	Radio Tracking Adult & Chick to decide habitat management
RSPB	Tay Reedbeds Biodiversity Enhancement	River Tay	57,000.00	26,000.00	Harvesting Reed, Onsite Management, pool creation.
Angus Council	Lilybank Bio-Diverse Day Care Garden	Forfar	9,086.00	6,000.00	Creation of pond plus various feeders, bird nestboxes etc.
Tayside Ringing Group	Marsh Harrier Management - Tay Reedbeds	River Tay	3,400.00	3,400.00	Purchase/fitting of 2 Satellite Tags to track local Marsh Harriers
Sustain Dundee	Dundee Red Squirrel Project	Dundee	24,250.00	6,250.00	Control of Grey Squirrels in Dundee (3 year funding)
Angus & Dundee Bird Club	Little Tern Breeding Protection	Montrose	5,468.00	3,468.00	Employment of 2 Part-time Wardens to help volunteers
Angus Council	Swift/Bat Housing Project	Forfar	3,172.00	1,672.00	Material for 9 boxes; erection onto AC office building
Forest Research	Small Cow-wheat Species Recovery - Ph 3	Dunkeld/ Crieff	15,700.00	11,900.00	Continuation of species recovery project
Sustain Dundee	Dundee Red Squirrel Project	Dundee	7,250.00	4,250.00	Control of Grey Squirrels: continuation of project
Dundee City Council	Dundee Biodiversity Garden	Dundee	6,500.00	4,500.00	Enhancement of surrounding urban habitats at EcoHouse

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Broughty Ferry Env Project	FLOW Phase 2	Broughty Ferry	11,890.00	6,890.00	Expansion of amphibian habitat project
Nature Bureau Projects	Dundee Bat Project	Dundee	20,570.00	9,660.00	Community-led Bat Survey/Project
Field Studies Council	Kindrogan Otter Project	Enochdhu	1,950.00	1,700.00	Construction of otter holt and enhancement of habitat.
Field Studies Council	Kindrogan Red Squirrel Project	Enochdhu	2,950.00	2,700.00	Enhancement of habitat for Red squirrels.
Scottish Agricultural College	Perthshire Barn Owl Project	Perthshire	3,090.00	2,140.00	Creation of Barn Owl Management Plans and provision of nestboxes
Angus & Tayside Cons Group	Tern Conservation in Tayside	Montrose	15,500.00	15,500.00	Expansion of Warden protection tasks (Tern breeding grounds)
Dundee City Council	Trottick Pond Restoration	Dundee	8,200.00	3,790.00	Restoration of pond.
Dundee City Council	Den's of Main Pond Restoration	Dundee	10,825.00	5,260.00	Restoration of pond.
FWAG (Angus)	The Linnet Link: Dundee/Arbroath Cycle Way	Angus/ Dundee	14,055.00	12,480.00	11,250 shrubs planted to enhance farmland bird habitat
Scottish Agricultural College	Perthshire Calcareous Grasslands	Perthshire	12,300.00	8,146.00	Habitat Management (Blair Atholl) - Highland Perthshire
FWAG (Fife and Kinross)	Tayside's Tree Sparrows	Kin/Perth/ Angus	17,700.00	14,130.00	Provision of nestboxes at 30 sites to increase population
Sustain Dundee	Dundee Red Squirrel Project	Dundee	7,250.00	4,250.00	Control of Grey Squirrels, 3rd Year's funding
Scottish Agricultural College	Perthshire Calcareous Grasslands Ph 2	Perthshire	12,900.00	8,747.00	Calcareous Grassland Management - cont. of project
FWAG (Fife and Kinross)	Tayside's Tree Sparrows - Ph 2	Kin/Perth/ Angus	2,100.00	2,100.00	Expansion of nestbox project (30 more sites)
FWAG (Angus)	The Linnet Link Ph 2	Angus/ Dundee	1,225.00	1,050.00	Protection/survey of shrub plantings/bird spp along cycle way
Scottish Agricultural College	The Highland Water Vole Pilot Project	Perthshire	14,974.00	3,576.00	Water Vole surveys and preparation of management plans

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Tummel Shingle Islands - First year	Perthshire	5,370.00	5,000.00	Removal of Non-native Invasive plants - shingle islands
Scottish Agricultural College	Perthshire Barn Owl Project - Phase 2	Perthshire	5,265.00	3,900.00	Continued creation of Barn Owl Management Plans/provision of nestboxes
FWAG Perth & Kinross	Fingask and White Lochs Recovery Project	Perthshire	10,300.00	2,848.00	Tayside Lochs Project (tackling water quality problems)
Murton Wildlife Trust	Grey Partridge Breeding Programme	Angus	11,499.00	3,560.00	Breeding Programme Grey Partridge - 1 Year
Murton Wildlife Trust	Murton Sand Martin Wall Extension	Angus	3,017.00	952	Materials to extend Sand Martin Wall
Angus & Tayside Cons Group	Little Tern Breeding Protection - Ph 3	Angus	35,500.00	13,000.00	Continuation of warden provision to assist volunteers
Broughty Ferry Env Project	FLOW - Phase 3	Dundee	10,500.00	6,380.00	Survey/management of 5 areas of urban wet grassland habitat
Angus Council	St. Margaret's House Bat/Swifts Boxes	Angus	3,572.00	2,752.00	Material for boxes and erection onto new office building
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Seaton Cliff - Maritime Cliff INNS Project	Angus	19,840.00	11,880.00	Removal of Non-native Invasive plants. Years 1 & 2
Murton Wildlife Trust	Little Ringed Plover Habitat Enhancement	Angus	5,541.00	2,227.00	Improvement of habitat for Little Ring Plovers
Scottish Agricultural College	Perthshire Calcareous Grasslands Ph 3	Perthshire	9,684.00	7,031.00	Calcareous Grassland Management - Highland Perthshire
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Tummel Shingle Islands - Second year	Perthshire	5,370.00	5,000.00	Removal of Non-native Invasive plants - shingle islands
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Osprey Protection Officer, Loch of the Lowes	Perthshire	4,666.00	4,666.00	Funding of P/T Protection Officer - 2nd of 3 Years
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Seaton Cliff - Maritime Cliff	Angus	9,920.00	5,940.00	Removal of Non-native Invasive plants. 3rd year
RSPB	Floodplain Grazing Marsh: Vane Farm	Kinross-shire	21,417.00	14,000.00	Vane Farm Marsh Biodiversity Enhancement project - 1st Year
Perth & Kinross Council	Project Bumble Bee	Perthshire	18,006.00	8,006.00	Creation of a species-rich meadow, Larghan Park (Coupar Angus)

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Balnaguard Glen - Juniper Regeneration	Perthshire	6,733.00	4,400.00	Eradication of bracken and other invasive species - 1st Year
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Northern Hay Meadow Protection	Perthshire	3,730.00	1,880.00	Management of rare meadow habitat for biodiversity
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Calcareous Grassland Improvement	Perthshire	9,835.00	4,700.00	Vigorous control of bracken/blackthorn to safeguard habitat
Tay Foundation	Tay District Invasive Plant Control	Perthshire	34,500.00	3,000.00	Control/removal of Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed.
Auchterarder Golf Club	Auchterarder Golf Course Pond Project	Perthshire	1,000.00	800	Pond habitat enhancement and creation of new pond
Auchterarder Golf Club	Lowland Heathland Mosaic Enhancement	Perthshire	3,600.00	2,040.00	Enhancement/expansion of heathland/acid grassland habitat
Auchterarder Golf Club	Auchterarder Golf Course Red Squirrel Project	Perthshire	3,050.00	2,440.00	Provision of feeding stations/ removal of inappropriate trees
Forest Research	Juniper Natural Regeneration - Phase 2	Perthshire	7,800.00	5,800.00	Continuation of project to safeguard Juniper
Murton Wildlife Trust	Murton Grey Partridge Breeding - Phase 2	Angus	8,118.00	6,100.00	Continuation of Grey Partridge Breeding Programme
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Inchture Redwood Ponds Project	Perthshire	17,000.00	4,000.00	Safeguarding project: rare avenue of Giant Redwood trees
Murton Wildlife Trust	Little Ringed Plover Habitat Enhancement 2	Angus	5,541.00	2,025.00	Continuation of Little Ringed Plovers project
Angus FWAG	Supporting Tayside Tree Sparrows - Angus	Angus	1,863.00	842	Angus-based continuation of Saving Tree Sparrow project
Scottish Native Woods	Highland Perthshire Aspen Restoration	Perthshire	5,750.00	5,250.00	Restoration Project - Aspen
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Montrose Basin Wetland Project	Angus	17,302.00	7,102.00	Wetland Grass Management - Montrose Basin
Bat Conservation Trust	Perth City Bat Project	Perthshire	17,594.00	6,478.00	Community Bat Project - Perth City
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Tummel Shingle Islands - Third year	Perthshire	5,370.00	5,000.00	Removal of Non-native Invasive plants - shingle islands

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Osprey Protection Officer: Loch of the Lowes	Perthshire	4,666.00	4,666.00	Funding of P/T Protection Officer - 2nd Year
Murton Wildlife Trust	Little Ringed Plover Habitat Enhancement	Angus	5,541.00	2,025.00	Continued improvement of habitat for Little Ring Plovers
RSPB	Floodplain Grazing Marsh Project (Vane Farm)	Kinross-shire	21,417.00	14,000.00	Vane Farm Marsh Biodiversity Enhancement - 2nd Year
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Balnaguard Glen - Juniper Regeneration	Perthshire	6,733.00	4,400.00	Eradication of bracken and other invasive species - 2nd Year
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Northern Hay Meadow Protection	Perthshire	8,180.00	3,760.00	Continued meadow management of rare habitat
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Calcareous Grassland Improvement	Perthshire	9,835.00	4,700.00	Vigorous control of bracken/blackthorn - 2nd Year
Forest Research	Juniper Natural Regeneration - Phase 2	Perthshire	9,670.00	7,190.00	Continuation of monitoring work - 2nd of 3 years
Murton Wildlife Trust	Grey Partridge Breeding - Phase 2	Angus	8,118.00	6,100.00	2nd year of Grey Partridge Breeding Programme
P&K Countryside Trust	Inchtute Redwood Ponds	Perthshire	17,000.00	4,000.00	2nd year of safeguarding avenue of Giant Redwood trees
Angus FWAG	Supporting Tayside Tree Sparrows - Ph2	Angus	7,404.00	7,368.00	Saving Tree sparrows (Angus project) - 2nd Year
Scottish Native Woods	Highland Perthshire Aspen Restoration	Perthshire	27,750.00	15,000.00	2nd year Restoration Project - Aspen
Bat Conservation Trust	Perth City Bat Project	Perthshire	4,500.00	3,037.00	2nd Year of Community Bat project
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels	Perthshire	66,827.00	10,000.00	Red Squirrel Project: first of 2 years funding (£10k per annum)
University of Dundee	Small Wynd Woodland Wildflower Area	Dundee	5,298.00	2,000.00	Pilot Project to improve urban wildflower area on campus
Dundee City Council	Baxter's Bugs, Bats & Birds Community Project	Dundee	4,500.00	2,000.00	Pilot Project to enhance natural parkland area for biodiversity
Southern Cross Healthcare	Muirtonhouse Care Home Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	1,385.00	1,100.00	Enhancement of grounds for biodiversity

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Dunbarney/Forgendenny Church	Church Wildlife Garden, Dunbarney	Perthshire	884	440	Creation of a wildlife garden for Eco Congregation
Auchtergaven/Moneydie Church	Bankfoot Church Centre Biodiversity Garden	Perthshire	11,209.00	1,467.00	Establishment of wildlife meadow for church grounds
Kincarrathie Trust	Kincarrathie House Care Home Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	1,000.00	500	Establishment of wildlife garden
RSPB	Floodplain Grazing Marsh Project (Vane Farm)	Kinross-shire	21,417.00	14,000.00	Vane Farm Marsh Biodiversity Enhancement - 3rd Year
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Balnaguard Glen - Juniper Regeneration	Perthshire	6,733.00	4,400.00	Eradication of bracken and other invasive species - 3rd Year
Forest Research	Juniper Natural Regeneration	Perthshire	6,650.00	4,940.00	Continuation of monitoring work - 3rd of 3 years
Scottish Native Woods	Highland Perthshire Aspen Restoration	Perthshire	27,750.00	15,000.00	3rd year Restoration Project - Aspen
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels	Perthshire	66,827.00	10,000.00	Grey Squirrel Control - project continuation
Kincarrathie Trust	Kincarrathie House Biodiversity	Perthshire	1,200.00	600	Continuation of project to establish a wildlife garden
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Whorled Solomon's Seal Protection Project	Perthshire	5,000.00	3,000.00	Protection of rare plant (Whorled Solomon's Seal)
Murton Wildlife Trust	Little Ringed Plover Habitat Enhancement	Angus	5,541.00	2,025.00	Continued habitat project to protect Little Ring Plovers
Lockett Agri-Environmental	Tayside Lochs Recovery Project - Phase 2	Perthshire	9,878.00	4,000.00	Continued projects to improve water quality on Lochs
Crieff in Leaf	Bridgend Biodiversity Garden	Perthshire	1,450.00	800	Creation of Community Wildflower Meadow
British Trust for Ornithology	Upland Wood/Heaths Management (Whinchats)	Perthshire	6,030.00	2,000.00	Breeding Whinchats survey to improve habitat
National Trust for Scotland	NTS Wildflower Meadow (Branklyn Gardens)	Perthshire	3,100.00	2,000.00	Management of Fairmount Terrace meadows for biodiversity
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Osprey Protection Officer: Loch of the Lowes	Perthshire	4,666.00	4,666.00	Funding of P/T Protection Officer - 3rd Year

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Dundee City Council	Lochan Enhancement - Riverside, Dundee	Dundee	6,000.00	3,000.00	Provision of fencing and hedging around Lochan
Perth & Kinross Council	Biodiverse Burial Grounds - Pilot	Perthshire	5,020.00	5,020.00	Survey/habitat enhancement for rare lichens and mosses
Volunteer Centre Angus	House of Dun Walled Garden Project	Angus	18,000.00	6,000.00	Creation of Community Wildflower Meadow
Perth & Kinross Council	MacRosty Park Butterfly, Birds & Bats	Perthshire	6,600.00	3,300.00	Creation of Wildflower Meadow
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Purchase of Ground - Loch of Lowes	Perthshire	66,000.00	5,000.00	Purchase of Ground adjacent to Loch of Lowes
RSPB	Wetland Biodiversity - Loch of Kinnordy	Perthshire	9,900.00	6,000.00	Removal of Willow Scrub to safeguard Water voles and Otters
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Osprey Protection Officer	Perthshire	7,500.00	5,000.00	Continuation of Osprey Protection project
Murton Trust	Lapwing Habitat Improvement Project	Angus	6,750.00	4,600.00	Habitat enhancement to safeguard breeding Lapwings
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Highland Perthshire Large Mammals Project	Perthshire	5,500.00	2,750.00	Community project to safeguard Otters and Pine Martins
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Balnaguard Glen Juniper Regeneration	Perthshire	11,520.00	4,500.00	Continuation of Balnaguard Glen project
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Tummel Shingle Non-native Invasives Project	Perthshire	5,760.00	1,500.00	Continuation of Tummel Shingle Islands protection
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Red Squirrels	Perthshire	9,000.00	8,950.00	Grey Squirrel Control project, Highland Perthshire
Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust	Churchyards NE Perthshire	Perthshire	12,545.00	10,000.00	Green Graveyard Biodiversity Initiative
Murton Wildlife Trust	Murton Grey Partridge Project	Angus	14,065.00	6,450.00	Continuation of Grey Partridge Breeding Programme
Braes of Carse Cons Group	Carse of Gowrie Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	11,100.00	4,075.00	Restoration of old tree lines, etc
Angus Council	Crombie Park Heathland Restoration	Angus	6,850.00	1,000.00	Heathland Restoration for biodiversity

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Littlewood Land Care	Tayside Tree Sparrows	Perthshire/ Angus	18,100.00	15,400.00	Tree Sparrows Phase 3
Lednock Millennium Path Group	Lednock Paths Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	6,380.00	4,500.00	Creation of Wildflower areas
Loons Brae Parknership	Bee Wild Pilot Project	Perthshire	1,714.00	1,200.00	Enhancement of the urban habitat to protect bee species
Littlewood Land Care	Lintrathen Loch Habitat Enhancement Project	Angus	22,000.00	9,000.00	Landscape-scale habitat enhancement for biodiversity
Perth & Kinross Council	Amphibians in Drains Pilot Project, Blairgowrie	Perthshire	6,691.00	4,800.00	Provision of wildlife kerbs to safeguard amphibian population
Lockett Agri-Environmental	Tayside Lochs Project - Loch Leven	Kinross-shire	20,000.00	5,000.00	Enhancement of habitat around Loch Leven
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Red Squirrels Phase 3	Perthshire	8,500.00	8,500.00	Continuation of Highland Perthshire Grey Squirrel control
Perth & Kinross Council	Graveyards - Bats & Bees Project	Perthshire	31,149.00	1,600.00	Enhancement of habitat to safeguard bat and bee species
Buglife Scotland	Get Muirton Buzzing Community Wildflowers	Perth	23,853.00	10,000.00	Creation of Community Wildflower Meadow, Perth
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Loch of the Lowes Osprey Protection Officer	Perthshire	7,500.00	5,000.00	Osprey Protection - continuation of project
Scripture Union Scotland	Lendrick Muir Pond Restoration Project	Kinross-shire	5,875.00	3,375.00	Restoration of pond for biodiversity
Milnathort in Bloom	Tillywhally Woodlands Restoration	Kinross-shire	1,597.00	1,397.00	Ground clearance to improve woodland habitat
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Brerachan Northern Hay Meadow- Phase2	Perthshire	1,280.00	640	Continued management of rare hay meadow habitat
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Balnaguard Glen: Drystane Wall Restoration	Perthshire	12,240.00	3,120.00	Drystane Wall re-build/protection (discovered ancient quern stone)
RSPB	Loch Leven Nature Reserve Floodplain Project	Kinross-shire	9,228.00	5,000.00	Vane Farm Floodplain Grazing - Ph 2
Carse of Gowrie Cons Group	Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation Project	Perthshire	35,607.00	10,800.00	Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation Project

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
TRACKS	Loch Leven Heritage Trail Ponds Project	Kinross-shire	30,000.00	15,000.00	Restoration/creation of ponds, waterways and reedbeds
Take a Pride in Coupar Angus	Blair Bend Wildflower Project	Perthshire	2,773.00	1,300.00	Community Wildflower project, Coupar Angus
Pitlochry Festival Theatre	Biodiversity Enhancement: Birds, Bats & Bugs	Perthshire	815	700	Management of campus grounds for birds, bees and bat species
Froglife	Loons Brae Pond Restoration	Perthshire	9,471.00	2,424.00	Pond clearance and restoration project, Blairgowrie
Lockett Agri-Environmental	Tayside Lochs Project: Loch Leven - Stage 2	Kinross-shire	17,500.00	2,500.00	Continuation of project to improve water quality
Scripture Union Scotland	Lendrick Muir Wildflower Grassland Creation	Kinross-shire	13,620.00	6,870.00	Wildflower grassland restoration/enhancement (adjacent to pond)
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Loch of the Lowes Osprey Protection	Perthshire	6,095.00	5,000.00	Osprey Protection - continuation of project
Carse of Gowrie Cons Group	Carse of Gowrie Swift Cons Project Ph2	Perthshire	6,450.00	4,900.00	Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation project Phase 2
Carse of Gowrie Cons Group	Carse of Gowrie Swift Cons Project Ph2	Perthshire	3,550.00	1,990.00	Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation project Phase 3
Rannoch & Tummel Tourism Association	Rannoch Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	5,204	1,370.00	Kinloch Rannoch community-led biodiversity projects
Perth & Kinross Council	Amphibians in Drains Project Ph2	Perthshire	8,018.00	3,800.00	Amphibian protection project: wildlife kerbs
Megginch Estate Partnership	Mowing the Meadow (Megginch)	Perthshire	6,901.00	5,420.00	Traditional Orchard Meadow management (horse-drawn mower)
Tayside Bat Group	Built-in Bat Box, Garden House	Perthshire	2,090.00	1,640.00	Provision of demonstration inbuilt roof bat box
Scripture Union Scotland	Lendrick Muir Ph3 Hedgerow Project	Perthshire	12,362.00	2,700.00	Planting of bumblebee hedgerow/wildflower corridor
Beautiful Perth	Glasgow Road (Perth) Wildflower Corridor	Perthshire	1,900.00	950	Planting of wildflower corridor, Perth Park & Ride and Glasgow Road
Tay Landscape Partnership	Birds, Bats & Biodiversity Project	Perthshire	201,520.00	5,175.00	Provision of bat and bird boxes to Buildings & Biodiversity Project

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made	Other Comments
Pitlochry Festival Theatre	Biodiversity Enhancement Ph2	Perthshire	2,640.00	850	Management of grounds for birds, bees & bat species Phase 2
National Trust for Scotland	Branklyn Garden Wildflower Meadow	Perthshire	2,100.00	400	Planting and management of wetland wildflower meadow
TRACKS	Loch Leven Trail Ph2 - Sand Martin Wall	Kinross-shire	21,600.00	3,950.00	Provision of sand martin wall adjoining new path extension
			£1,824,012.00	£758,728.00	

Projects Approved by Angus Environmental Trust & ENTRUST

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made
Angus Council	St Margaret's House Bat/Swift Boxes	Angus	2,572.00	1,000.00
RSPB	Kinnordy Wetland Habitat Enhancement	Angus	12,483.00	12,483.00
RSPB	Loch of Kinnordy Recovery Project	Angus	55,880.00	55,880.00
Littlewood Land Care	Tayside Lochs Phase 3: Lintrathen	Angus	18,000.00	9,000.00
SWT	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels	Angus	11,365.00	10,000.00
Froglife	Scottish Dragon Finder: Crombie Country Park	Angus	8,450.00	5,650.00
SWT	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Phase 2	Angus	11,365.00	10,000.00
Woodland Trust	Enhancing Biodiversity at Barry Buddon	Angus	88,176.00	37,000.00
SWT	Enhancing Access: Balgavies Loch Reserve	Angus	30,000.00	25,000.00

Name of Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project Value	Award Made
Angus Council	Angus Orchard Project	Angus	23,616.00	6,500.00
River South Esk Catchment Partnership	Invasive Non-Native Species project	Angus	91,725.00	35,000.00
Barry Buddon Bat Conservation Group	Project	Angus	2,954.00	2,954.00
Monikie Hall & Denfind	Barry Buddon Bat Conservation Project	Angus	7,085.00	7,085.00
TBP/Littlewood Land Care	Wildflower Meadow	Angus	23,070.00	18,700.00
River South Esk Catchment Partnership	Angus Barn Owl Project	Angus	17,000.00	6,000.00
Glamis Primary School	Emergency INNS Initiative	Angus	3,990.00	3,990.00
Monifieth West End Park	Eco Club Biodiversity Project	Angus	20,363.00	20,363.00
Angus Ranger Service	Wildflower Meadow Project	Angus	23,500.00	23,500.00
Monifieth Eco Group	Monikie Toads on Roads Project	Angus	4,000.00	2,715.00
Angus Council	Community Orchard Project	Angus	17,100.00	17,100.00
TBP Tayside Swifts	Elliot Links Restoration Project Phase 2	Angus	17,000.00	15,050.00
Angus Council	Going the Whole Hog	Angus	25,000	12,230
RSPB	Angus Corn Bunting Recovery Project	Angus	12,020.16	12,020.16
		Total	£526,714.16	£349,220.16
Total Leverage for SITA TBAF & AET projects = £2,350,726				
Total Funds for Tayside Biodiversity projects = £1,107,948				



Trottick Pond Restoration - © John Whyman



*Amphibians in Drains Surveying, Blairgowrie
© D Muir*



*Murton Nature Reserve sand martin project
© C A G Lloyd*



*Carse of Gowrie Swift
Conservation project
© C A G Lloyd*



Report Prepared by Catherine Lloyd, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership with input by Andrew Law – July 2015

Thanks are due to all those SITA TBAF and AET recipients who have supplied project details and photographs for the report.

Photographs sourced by Catherine Lloyd and Andrew Law

Front cover photograph - Amphibians in Drains Project (c) D Muir

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Loch Leven Recovery Project © Lockett Agri-Environmental



Swift Conservation Project - © D Muir

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



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