



Summary Report Tayside Swifts Projects 2013 - 2020



Swifts in Tayside

As it is 20 years since the first swift surveys began in Tayside we thought a summary document would help report our own projects. Much has been achieved, but a great deal more is needed to safeguard our ever-declining swift populations.

There continues to be widespread demolition of old buildings that have housed swifts, restoration of others that have unintentionally excluded them and, until recently, many new developments that have overlooked the needs of many of our native species, especially swifts.

Funding continues to be needed to offer free advice and nestboxes to local communities. We are also increasingly working with environmentally-responsible businesses, large and small.

Our swifts may be Scottish-born but they only spend three months here: we are now raising awareness beyond our shores, working with schools in Africa to twin them with our local schools.

We take part in World Swift Day and the UK Swift Awareness Week, liaising with other Swift Groups and specialists across the world. Our projects also achieve targets in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan which in turn contribute directly to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

We rely heavily on local communities and individuals who can 'adopt' their local area to survey for existing nest sites and suggest new sites for nestboxes – just a few hours during the summer will suffice. If you can help with this, please contact either Daniele or Catherine. Please also add all sightings of swifts to swiftmapper.org.uk

It all starts locally.
'Every Action Counts' –
and anyone can help
safeguard our swifts.
We hope that includes
you?



Tim Rogers

Swift action

Swift populations in Scotland have fallen by over 62% in the past 25 years (BTO surveys)

The first swift conservation project in Tayside started in 2001 in Dundee

The aim of our Swift Conservation Projects is to work with local groups to raise awareness of what is happening to swift numbers, locate and protect existing nest sites, map swift colonies and help populations expand again by erecting nestboxes

We have given Swift Conservation talks & delivered Swift Walks to schools across Tayside

18

9

Training sessions for professionals, including the Buildings for Biodiversity Conference

We have been working with local authority Planners in Angus and Perth & Kinross to create Swift Priority Zones



33

Community events
attended

14

Guided walks and
survey training events

We have worked with

8

church groups

13

Exhibitions to
demonstrate how
people can help
swifts



15

Schools have
had a swift
nestbox
erected on
their building



80 occupied swift nest sites discovered

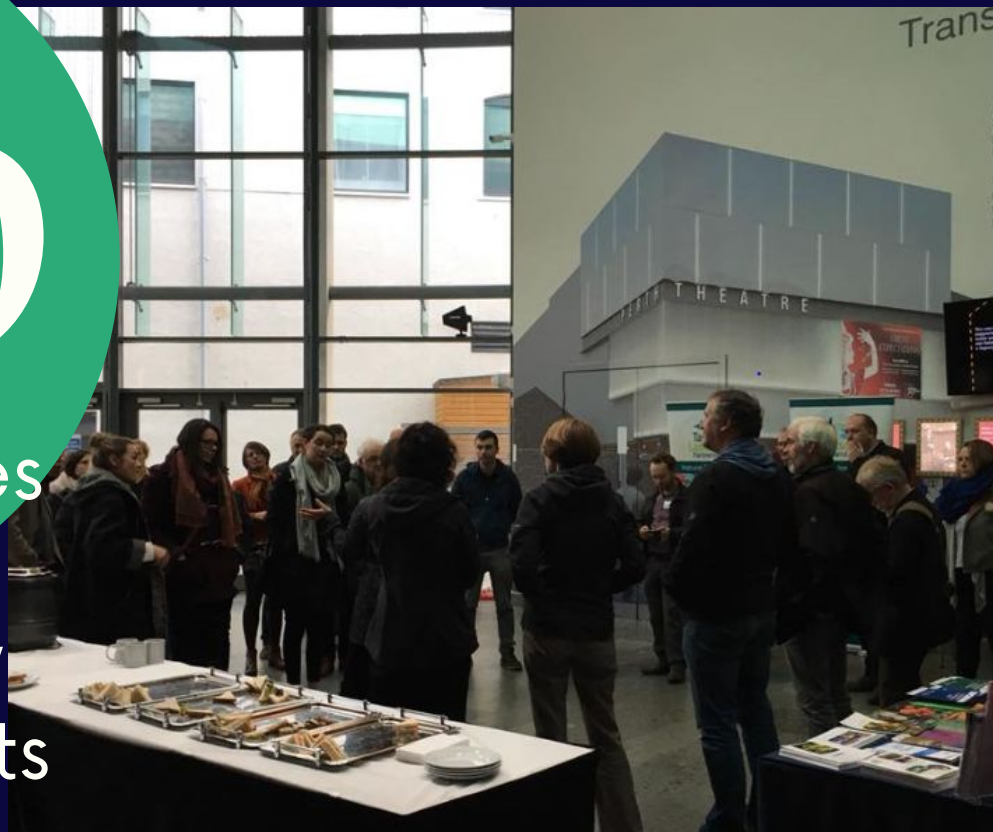


We have worked with
36
businesses

Swift Conservation Projects have taken place in the Carse of Gowrie, the Pitlochry area, Strathearn, Stanley, Kinross, Crieff and Tay Landscape Partnership area, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Edzell and Carnoustie

269

Swift nestboxes erected,
creating new homes for swifts





We prepared
the 'Swift
Best Practice
Advice Note'
for
NatureScot

15

Bat boxes
erected

Our Facebook
page was set up in 2012,
now with 519 followers, and
we have a dedicated
Swift section on
taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

We have
produced four
'Tayside Swifts'
Newsletters



Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our partners, business champions, and the Provost of Angus, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, MBE, who has been our Swift Champion for the past few years.

We have had the pleasure of working with many local community groups, adding a swift focus to their wider projects or helping groups set up their own swift initiatives. Enjoy the 10 minute video at vimeo.com/198993788

The projects would not have happened without funding from Hillcrest Housing Association, Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust, SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund, Kirriemuir Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, Andie Miller Trust, Angus Council Town Centre Fund and Perth & Kinross Community Environment Challenge Fund – thank you.

Tayside Swifts is a member of the UK Swifts Local Network – actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk

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Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



Tayside Swifts Interest Group
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
c/o Pullar House
Kinnoull St
Perth
PH1 5GD
taysidebiodiversity.co.uk
Facebook: TaysideSwifts

caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk & dmuir@taysideswifts.co.uk