



Tayside Recorders' *Bulletin* **2022**





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Introduction – our Annual Recorders' Day

September 2022 saw the Tayside Recorders' Forum return to its annual in-person Recorders' Day at Perth Museum, to date the 14th such event. The date unfortunately clashed with the Big Picture's conference next door at the Concert Hall but we still welcomed 50 delegates and enjoyed a great day's "networking", catching up on all the news from the past three years when such meetings were not possible.

We were very pleased to welcome the Chief Executive of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), Lisa Chilton, who outlined just how long we have been waiting for a joined up biological recording data project in Scotland. She confirmed that news from a funding bid will hopefully be announced soon to get the NBN's Better Biodiversity Data Project off the ground. It has been a very long wait.

As ever we enjoyed updates from the recording world, local wildlife groups and various projects:

- Conserving the Northern Brown Argus Butterfly in Tayside - David Hill, Butterfly Conservation Scotland
- The Urban Flora Project – Brian Ballinger, Botanical Society of Scotland
- Scottish Dragonflies and Damselflies - Daniele Muir, British Dragonfly Society

As the Angus County Moth Recorder, David Lampard outlined some rare finds 'From the Angus Glens to the Coast via Ninewells, Dundee: Discovering Rannoch Brindled Beauty and other Moths'. He was also the Recorders' Day Chair for the afternoon. The quickfire Citizen Science updates included:

- Brilliant Beavers - Daniele Muir, Perthshire Wildlife
- All Things Batty in Tayside - Jean Oudney, Tayside Bat Group
- Strathmore B-Lines: People & Pollinators - Claire Pumfrey, Buglife (recording)
- Tayside Fungi - Jim Cook, Tayside & Fife Fungi Group
- Skills for Bees: Saving the Sound of Summer - Annie Ives, Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Every single one of these updates had the usual request at the end – for people to get involved, find out more and, if possible, sign up to help with future recording. If you would like further information or want to contact one of the speakers just let us know.

The Chair for the morning was Mark Simmons, Culture Perth & Kinross: he gave an 'Introduction to iNaturalist' by outlining the highly successful Perth Museum Garden BioBlitz App.

Catherine Lloyd followed briefly by officially launching its successor, the 'Every Action Counts' Tayside iNaturalist Project. This is in an early stage with plans to add specific surveys and projects across all the Dundee, Angus and Perth & Kinross sections.



Two case studies were also given to show recording very much in action:

- 'Ecosystem Explorers': Protecting Habitats to Support the Wildlife that Relies on Them - Samantha Suter, University of Glasgow, and
- Monitoring and Recording Wildlife at the Rewilding Denmarkfield Project, Luncarty - Ellie Corsie, Rewilding Denmarkfield

It was a full and fascinating day and huge thanks are owed to all the speakers and the two Chairs; also to Perth Museum who kindly hosted the event for the Forum. Angus Council has proposed hosting the 15th Recorders' Day next September and it is hoped Dundee can host the 16th Day in spring 2024 in time to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Dundee Naturalists' Society. Keep an eye open for dates and further details on the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's website and on the Tayside Wildlife Recorders Facebook page.

How Can we Engage Tayside's Young People in Recording?

This subject has been discussed for years with a general agreement that it is very much easier to encourage an interest in wildlife with primary school children than it is for secondary school students and beyond. The N.E. Scotland Biodiversity Partnership published its findings in 2018 – [Young Wildlife Recorders Project in the North East of Scotland \(nesbiodiversity.org.uk\)](http://nesbiodiversity.org.uk), but as far as we know no other local groups or partnerships have gone further, yet this is an increasingly important audience to engage. This is more so now that a number of schools across the region are benefitting from school orchards and enhanced school grounds as well as taking part in Mind the Gap Hedgehog Projects and being loaned trail cameras.

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's (TBP) Teachers' Guide will be published soon which will outline all the current resources available to schools to raise awareness of wildlife opportunities within the Curriculum of Excellence.



*(above) Wild Cat School Species Champions (Angus);
(below) St Madoes & Glencarse Biodiversity Village launch – both © C A G Lloyd*



There is much expertise within the Tayside Recorders' Forum and we would greatly appreciate help. We are proposing at least one online 'Youth Committee Discussion' on how we can engage Under 25s in local recording – we would welcome information on what other organisations are offering for this audience and how the Forum members, as a whole, might contribute. By the end of the year, the TBP will be setting up an Education Hub on its website. This will house the new Teachers' Guide, but there is an opportunity for Forum members to add training days and opportunities for the younger generation to join in their events or future BioBlitzes.

If there is sufficient interest, it would be good for the Forum to approach funders not just to set up a larger Tayside Counts Initiative where we can embed recording with practical volunteering, species

apprenticeships and specific recording projects, but to specifically work with partners and members to set up a Tayside Youth Committee to explore the issue further. The latter is Barry Caudwell's idea and all ages and all levels of recording experience could be called upon to make this work and to expand it to encompass all of Scotland.

If you would like to take part in the online discussion on how to plan a Tayside-wide Youth Committee, please contact Catherine at caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk in the first instance so that a date can be arranged before the end of the year. Even better would be an offer of a 10-minute update on what your organisation or group is doing for the Under 25s, so that Forum members can see where the gaps are and how best they can add to all this. It will also be important to capture any ideas you have to share with Forum members and approach others to bring it all together to make it happen.

Recording Moths

It is three years since the UK National Moth Atlas was published and five years since the survey was finished. Moth and butterfly recording was affected by COVID restrictions, meaning that for many of us for a long time moth trapping in the garden was our only option. Even so there were quite a number of records coming in from recorders.

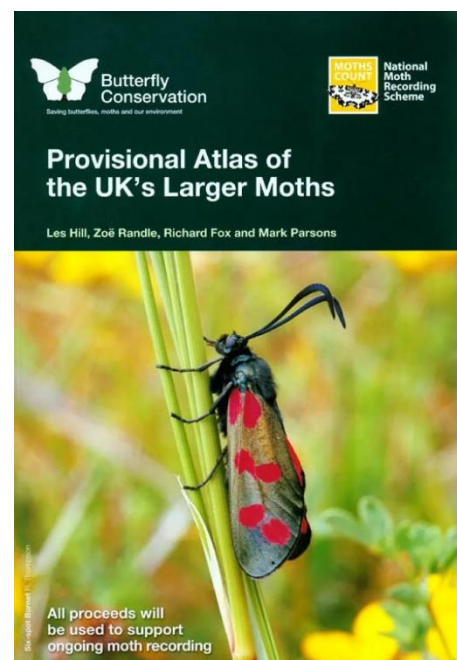
However last year it was possible to meet up with local groups and I worked with the Ninewells Community Garden Volunteer Group to encourage them to look at moths. The garden is a therapeutic space in the grounds of Ninewells Hospital Dundee and is adjacent to the Ninewells Arboretum, so there is a range of habitats, from the garden itself, carefully mown lawns and the various trees in the arboretum. All in close proximity.

We ran a session a month between July and October 2021. This involved meeting up at the garden just before sunset and running the trap for a few hours depending on moth activity. At our first session in July we had about six participants and I warned them at the start not to expect too much as trapping is all weather dependant. Fortunately, it was a warm overcast, muggy evening and moths started flying immediately. Not far from the trap the Rosebay willow herb and long grass were covered in Snout moths.

The session went even better because of the refreshments provided by the Friends' group.

We turned off the trap just before 2.00 am. This was followed up by a morning identification session starting in the garden at 10.00 am. The records for this session were entered as moth night records. We recorded over thirty species. We were equally as fortunate in August 2021 when the most abundant species was the Mother of pearl. The last session of the year was in October when we were down to just two species. More sessions have taken place this year.

Part of the job of County Recorders is to encourage people into moth trapping: however professional traps can be quite expensive. In 2020 members of the East Scotland Branch of Butterfly Conservation designed a simple trap that can be made from easily available parts. See <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/east-scotland-branch/budget-bucket-moth-trap>.



However, a recent initiative by the Branch is to supply readymade traps to County Recorders for loan to people who would like to try moth identification. I have two I can now lend out. If anyone is interested, please contact me at dlampard@clara.co.uk.

Moth Night this year was between 19th and 21st May - the theme was “woodlands” at a time of year when they were at their colourful best. May is a particularly diverse month for moth populations in woodland with some attractive species on the wing and the shifting seasons evident with the mixing of stragglers from the early spring and fresh examples of the early summer species. Daytime recording was also encouraged as there are some enigmatic day-flying species on the wing then, including, in Scotland, speciality species such as Kentish Glory, Netted Mountain Moth, Small Dark Yellow Underwing and Satyr Pug on the wing. Although the event is now past, see [Welcome to Moth Night 2022 - Moth Night](#) for more details about the specific moths that were spotted.

In final moth news there is a new County Moth Recorder for East Perthshire – welcome to Cathy Caudwell who can be contacted via: c.m.caudwell@fireflyuk.net.

New County Record of an Upland Moth!

Butterfly enthusiast, Neil Patton, posted a photo on the East Scottish Butterfly Facebook page of a Rannoch brindled beauty moth (*Lycia lapponaria*) which he had discovered during a walk in Glen Prosen. This is a new record for Angus. Paul Brooks then found a number between Glens Prosen and Clova, on the watershed.

Camouflage in action © Paul Brooks



A UK Priority Species, this moth has historically only been found in the central Scottish Highlands, particularly around Rannoch. New areas include the Dee catchment and scattered records at Flanders Moss and further north and west towards Fort William and the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. The moth is similar in appearance to the Belted Beauty, but with orange spots along the length of its abdomen instead of rings around it; the two species also differ in their distribution and habitat preferences.

Rannoch brindled beauty likes damp habitats with Bog myrtle and Cross-leaved heath. The caterpillar generally feeds on Bog myrtle, but is also found on Bilberry, Bell heather, Cross-leaved heath and Eared willow. Adults are seen between March and May. They are often perched on fence posts, rocks and stems. The female is flightless and covered in long hairs.

It may be too late to spot them this year, but please make a note of it and if you enjoy any upland walking next spring, please keep a look out for this lovely little moth and other species. Records of upland moths are quite rare and there are several that can be seen during the day. As we see here there is always the chance of finding something new. Sightings can be sent to the County Recorder by email, or online [Home | National Moth Recording Scheme Online](#) via iRecord or on the East Scottish Moths Facebook page - [\(8\) East Scottish Moths | Facebook](#).

Article written by David Lampard

The Bog Squad at Portmoak

The Butterfly Conservation Bog Squad has been helping in several sites across Scotland, including Portmoak where their last visit involved assisting the Community Woodland Group and the Lothian Conservation Volunteers with conifer removal from the moss. An Autumn/Winter Programme of work parties will include a return visit to Portmoak; if you would like to lend a hand in the future or find out more, just contact pPhillpot@butterfly-conservation.org.

'Saving Our Swifts' is Shortlisted for an Award!



When we went along to the Scottish Parliament on 6th September to be part of the Nature of Scotland Reception, it was, admittedly more to network than with any expectation of being shortlisted. When you glance down the list of who else is in the running, you think they are all worthy winners. It was therefore fantastic to hear within the Community Initiative Award category that the Tayside Swifts project was mentioned! We will return to Edinburgh mid-November to take part in the prestigious Award Ceremony dinner and see how we fare. Just to be shortlisted is an accolade in itself!

The full shortlist is here: [2022 NoSA shortlist \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk/2022-NoSA-shortlist).

Swifts Need Our Help

It is very worrying to realise that Swifts have now joined 69 other birds in the UK on the Red List, which highlights species of greatest conservation concern in the UK. This means our projects across Tayside are more vital than ever. The Tayside Swifts' Summary Report was published last year and outlines what we have achieved so far - [Swift Summary Report 2021 – Tayside Biodiversity](#) but with the Red Listing the pressure is now on to help swifts by expanding these projects as quickly as possible.

Our Swift project in Forfar ensured 32x woodcrete nest boxes were installed throughout the town and working with the Crieff Swifts group a similar number were installed there too. These specialist nest boxes have a lifespan of 20-25 years and do not need any maintenance or cleaning out so they should give Swifts a safe, warm and reliable nesting place for years to come.

Photo: young swift about to fledge © D. Muir



From the outset, both local communities created a "Dots on a Map" to pinpoint the exact location of Swift nest boxes and screaming parties across the two towns. The details are shared with the local authority Planning Service GIS so that a series of Swift Priority Zones can ultimately help conserve Swifts and their young well into the future.

Councillor Ronnie Proctor MBE is Tayside Swifts' long-term Swift Champion. Commenting on the project in Forfar he said "any measures taken to actively encourage the nesting of these enigmatic migratory birds is welcome as they enrich their surroundings and the population who dwell in them". Our hope is that the news of their Red List status will spur as many people on as possible to actively champion more conservation projects to give our Swifts the opportunity to flourish as a species in our patch. To record nesting swifts please use [Swift Mapper | The RSPB](#).

Swift Articles written by Catherine Lloyd

Nature Restoration Fund Projects – Survey Help Needed

With short-term grants made available from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership joined many others last winter rushing to complete a number of projects. These included:

- A **BeeWild Pollinator Project** at a Sheltered Housing Complex in Perth;
- The **Schools 'Mind the Gap' Hedgehog Project** for 20 schools (which included planting wildflowers to create a wildlife area to help the hedgehogs);
- A joint **Park & SuDS Ponds Enhancement Project** with TayARG and the British Dragonfly Society where we enhanced six sites;
- A **Snowdrops for Pollinators Project** in 20 Green Graveyards;
- The **Homes for Wildlife Project** – encouraging schools and local communities to set up hedgehog hibernation boxes and install bat and swift nest boxes. In Luncarty volunteers not only surveyed the best place to install 10 triple Tree sparrow boxes, but they then put them up and have promised to monitor them.



Photo © C A G Lloyd

Most of the projects still need some survey input from volunteers or Recorders reading this Bulletin. None of the hosts taking part in these projects are species experts so we need help in general pollinator, bat and bird surveying to ensure there is some monitoring of the sites involved. If anyone is willing to run an informal species identification training event anywhere within Perth & Kinross where these communities can get involved, please contact caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk. The same goes for sharing news of any online training events we can share with the same communities - we would really welcome any help you can offer.

Recording Butterflies

Coastal Butterflies – Species on the Edge

Three species of butterfly mentioned in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (2nd Edition 2016-26) are now getting further help from lottery funded projects. The Small Blue and Northern Brown Argus are already the subject of conservation projects supported by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. However, they are the subject of a new Species on the Edge Project 'Rockin' the Blues' which will implement conservation action to preserve populations of Small Blue and Northern Brown Argus butterflies on the coast of Angus, Caithness and around the Moray and Solway Firths.



Northern Brown Argus © David Hill

Species on the Edge is a bold and ambitious partnership of eight of Scotland's nature conservation organisations striving to conserve Scotland's native wildlife. Led by NatureScot with the Rethink Nature Partnership (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife and RSPB) - and with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund - a programme of work is being developed to improve and secure the survival chances of over 40 nationally and internationally vulnerable species in seven landscape-scale areas around Scotland's coast and islands. As part of the preparation for the funding application a thorough Kidney Vetch survey was carried out under the guidance of Butterfly Conservation. The results of this survey, undertaken by 'Bel Grainger, can be seen at [A-Survey-of-Kidney-Vetch-along-the-Angus-Coastline.pdf](https://taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/files/2022/01/A-Survey-of-Kidney-Vetch-along-the-Angus-Coastline.pdf) (taysidebiodiversity.co.uk). For further details of the larger project (and the vacancies available during October 2022), please contact David Hill of Butterfly Conservation Scotland at dhill@butterfly-conservation.org or on [01786 459813](tel:01786459813).

Helping Hands for Butterflies

This project will encourage people all over Scotland to volunteer to help Butterfly Conservation with its work in conserving butterflies and moths, whatever their skills and background.

There will be workshops to train new volunteers to identify and record butterflies in their local areas, aiding our understanding on how butterfly populations are changing with the climate and environment. And in some urban areas of central Scotland, beautiful new wildflower meadows will be created in parks to look after the best places for butterflies.

The project is generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and NatureScot; its Project Officer is Anthony McCluskey who can be contacted via amclluskey@butterfly-conservation.org. Anthony has already produced guides to identification and how to help attract butterflies - <https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/scotland/helping-hands-for-butterflies>.

Help us Record the Grayling

One of the butterflies in our area that really needs help is the Grayling, also a Tayside LBAP species. Anthony has already run a conservation day at Tentsmuir NNR in Fife and Grayling is known in Angus

at Barry Buddon. Contact me for further details so that we can plan some surveying days in 2023 – dlampard@clara.co.uk.

Article written by David Lampard

Rewilding Denmarkfield

‘Rewilding Denmarkfield’ is a 90-acre rewilding scheme situated between Luncarty and Perth with the goal of enhancing biodiversity with the formation of a mosaic of natural habitats. These include species-rich grassland, scrub, wet habitats and mature woodland.

The Friends of Denmarkfield have been observing the plot through camera trapping and bee, butterfly and bird transects. This will help to track the progress of all the practical tasks being undertaken by the group. If you are interested in joining the group or helping with any of the recording side of things, please get in touch with ellie@denmarkfield.co.uk - you will be made very welcome and no prior work experience is needed.

Both photos © E Corsie



BTO Surveys - Get involved!

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has, in recent times, broadened its horizons, and is now observing other organisms, in addition to birds. The overall vision of the BTO, which has worked in co-operation with volunteers since 1933, is ‘of a world where people are inspired by birds and informed by science’.

As part of BTO’s bird monitoring system in the UK, the organisation assists in the running of a variety of different citizen science surveys that provide to a vast span of capabilities and passions. If you have an interest in birds and want to help BTO in its goals of monitoring the UK’s birds, now is the perfect time to think about the way in which you could help the organisation and what scheme you will choose to achieve this.



BTO Scotland offers a range of surveys and schemes to suit all abilities and levels of bird watching experience. From monitoring a blue tit nest box in the garden for Nesting Neighbours or keeping track of wildlife in the garden each week through Garden Birdwatch you can make a valuable contribution to the UK's amazing citizen science data whilst learning about and enjoying nature. BTO also run the Breeding Bird Survey and the Wetland Bird Survey (largely a winter survey). If any of these schemes seem a little daunting then you could simply register (for free) to use BirdTrack to log, store, and share your bird sightings. You can do this via the website or a smartphone app.

The BTO website has a nice summary of the various surveys and schemes - why not take a look and find a survey that suits your skill level and free time?

Finally, BTO Scotland run training courses on bird identification - delivered by Zoom and also now with the opportunity for face-to-face training. If you are interested then drop me an email at steve.willis@bto.org. If you want to find out more about what BTO is up to in Scotland, and to be the first to see about our training then sign up to the free BTO Scotland e-newsletter.

Article written by Steve Willis (BTO Scotland)



Angus Cairngorms Heritage Horizon Project

The River South Esk Catchment Partnership is working with 45 other organisations to establish the National Lottery Heritage Fund-backed Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030. The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) spearheaded the official project and the 1.5-year growth stage will result in the construction of a stage two funding application to the NLHF in June 2023.

This exciting large-scale project will deliver schemes that will help to combat the biodiversity and climate threats that have arisen in North East Scotland. The Partnership is establishing three Angus programme proposals that centre around environmental resolutions to flooding in at-risk zones. Representatives from the Partnership, the Esk Fisheries, RSPB and CNPA will be investigating wetland improvement, riparian planting and river repairing projects that will cost in the region of half a million pounds across the rivers South Esk, North Esk and Loch of Kinnordy. For extra details on this exciting project and to find out what recording opportunities there will be, please contact dempseyK@angus.gov.uk.



Both images: 'Heritage Horizons' project scoping in Glen Esk, Angus © Kelly Ann Dempsey

Help Needed with Park Wildlife Records in Dundee

Dundee City Council has identified areas in over 25 parks that could benefit from the provision of naturalised zones to increase biodiversity. Work has started to manage these zones. Plans are now in place for engagement with the local communities and community councils in line with the work under way at Magdalen Green. In the meantime, the areas provisionally identified will be allowed to develop without herbicide use or grass cutting. A new Community Environment Officer, Josh Lawton, is working with local community groups to progress the work in these zones. Josh would like to encourage wildlife recording at these sites to help monitor their development. If you can help, please email him - josh.lawton@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Article written by David Lampard

Scottish Pollinators' Blog

Raising awareness of the challenges facing pollinators has never been more important. Pollinators are a vital part of our biodiversity and wider environment. Scotland's wild and managed pollinators also help to support our economy by contributing to our food and farming industries.

For us all, the familiar sight and sound of pollinators at work in our gardens, urban parks or in the wider countryside is something we value, and which contributes to our enjoyment of the outdoors and our health and wellbeing. However, our wild pollinators are facing a number of significant pressures arising from changes in land use, habitat fragmentation, diseases and pesticides.

We recognise there are very real threats to some pollinator populations and are committed to halting and reversing the decline in our native pollinators. The Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017 – 2027 sets out how we can make Scotland a place where pollinators can thrive, and the actions we need to take if we are to achieve our objectives.



(above) Red Mason Bee © Lorne Gill; below Riverside Avenue © Jim Jeffries (both NatureScot)

You can get involved in many different ways. From planting for pollinators, to taking part in



monitoring exercises, and encouraging your local community to embrace pollinator-friendly approaches. The Scotland's Pollinator blog features projects and events designed to help and raise awareness of pollinators and publishes a wide range of fascinating insights on species and habitats. The annual Pollinator Strategy Progress Report describes the many activities taking place across Scotland to help pollinators and support our Pollinator Strategy.

Article written by Jim Jeffries (NatureScot)



The New “Get Sett” Badger Survey

Over the next three years Scottish Badgers will be resurveying the 1,000 1km squares surveyed during the 2006 - 2009 national survey. The aim is to find out whether the number of badger setts in Scotland is stable, increasing or declining and to also discover any changes in habitat – for instance, are the original squares still as they were or has development, forestry or agriculture noticeably changed the habitats badgers are currently living within? Have these changes caused setts to become disused, or have badgers adapted?

Scottish Badgers are recruiting monitors for the survey with training given. If you are interested, please contact morag@scottishbadgers.org.uk as soon as possible, giving your location and level of experience.

Museum Updates

The McManus

The McManus Galleries are open again but will be under constant review with regard to COVID as we head into winter. The enquiries system has re-started.

The temporary exhibition Time and Tide: the Transformation of the Tay was open and then closed owing to the COVID restrictions in 2020; however it ran until October 2021 and was well received.

One of the important parts of the exhibition was the use of landscape paintings to illustrate lost or changed areas such as Magdalen Green, which was a pleasant sandy bay until the building of the embankment that carried the Dundee to Perth railway line.

There are three big projects at the moment, one involving all the curatorial staff and two specific natural history projects. One is transcribing paper accession registers onto our electronic Collections Management System (CMS) which involves all disciplines but is useful for us to check for the accuracy of information.

Complimenting this we are also auditing under-documented collections. In particular the Herbarium has large numbers of individual specimens which have a general catalogue entry for the whole collection, but none for individual plants, i.e. the collection record may say “200 specimens from Angus”, whilst the individual sheet has the details of collection location etc. for the specimen. Mike Sedakat is painstakingly working his way through the collections, transcribing each label and making record photographs for the CMS. An opportunity has also been taken to re-house the collections in proper conservation quality herbarium boxes.

I am working on a similar project with the insect collections, in particular the butterflies of Derek Robertson, a local expert who bequeathed his collection to the museum in 1999. This collection too is being re-housed in custom-made drawers and cabinets.

Article written by David Lampard

Angus Museums

Angus has eight museums and galleries for you to visit: listed here - www.angus.gov.uk/museums/. Kirriemuir’s Gateway to the Glens Museum tells the story of both the town and the Angus Glens. Keep up to date with what is happening via [Exhibitions \(angusalive.scot\)](http://Exhibitions(angusalive.scot)).



Perth Museum & Art Gallery

There is always a fascinating array of objects from the collections on display. Explore the natural history of the area in Wild and Wonderful or view a range of artworks. There is a changing programme of temporary exhibitions which offer something for everyone. The museum holds important collections of zoological, botanical and geological material – it houses the 6th largest collection of natural history in Scotland. Details of upcoming exhibitions can be found at: <https://www.culturepk.org.uk/museums-and-galleries/perth-museum-and-art-gallery/>. Please note that the museum is closed on Wednesdays but is open all weekend.

Small Blue Butterfly Review

Although better than 2020 COVID was still an issue and no formal events were held last year. The cold May delayed the Small Blue (SB) season with the first sighting on June 2nd (10 days later than the previous year) and the highest counts towards the end of June.

Review of the sites in 2021 -

Glamis continues to be the best site to see SB with a peak number of 56. This was down on some previous years but sightings throughout the 2km length of the site indicates that the population is doing all right. The broom on the old railway line is growing again and will soon need flailing to prevent it smothering the Kidney Vetch (KV). As well as butterflies, Glamis is home to a large colony of mining bees and supports a substantial number of Northern Marsh Orchids.

Barry Buddon – there were no results for 2021 - the MOD seem to have had a busy period and access to the site was less than usual.

Carnoustie - we set up an official transect - the route was walked five times during the flight season but only 4 butterflies were recorded. There was a lot less KV at the Barry Burn area than previous years but on the plus side 2 of the butterflies were found on KV that we planted a couple of years ago.

Elliot Links – this continues to be our main success story for areas we have planted KV. A maximum of 9 adults were recorded towards the end of June. Elliot is also good for Common Blues, Small Heath, Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Six-spot Burnet and Yellow Shell moths so it is well worth a visit.

Seaton Cliffs - in the section just south of Deil's Heid an excellent 28 SBs were recorded towards the end of June. This is by far the highest number for this area in recent years. The KV is also doing well, again after several years where the number of plants was in decline.

Unfortunately, there were no records from **Carlingheugh Bay**, or any of the other more northerly sites. These are areas where we will need to concentrate our survey work in 2022.

Monifieth cycle path - there was only one record from this area. The KV we planted in 2020 has disappeared - probably eaten by rabbits. There are several good patches of KV on the MoD roadside nearer to the south end of the MoD range.

Interpretation boards – in 2022 during some fine weather this May we formally unveiled the long-awaited interpretation panels at Carnoustie Golf Links. The local Woodlands School, who have been part of the project for a long time, came along and many of the volunteers who have been involved joined us too. We were very grateful for a grant from the Carnoustie Links Communities Fund and for Carnoustie Links welcoming us for refreshments afterwards.

Photo © Minekhia Irune (right)

Both photos below © Wendy Murray



Future Egg Surveys - one problem encountered when looking for adult Small Blues is that you generally need sunny weather. Even when the sun is shining the butterflies are not always active so are not seen. A more reliable method of checking whether the butterflies are present - and breeding - is to conduct an egg survey. Further details will be published nearer the time, but please contact Glyn Edwards for further details as we want to arrange as many egg surveys as possible in 2023 and beyond: glynedwards19@yahoo.com.

Article written by Glyn Edwards

BioBlitz - Wildlife Where You Live

One of the very first survey projects set up by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership 20 years ago was the “Wildlife on our Doorstep” survey masterminded by Perth Museum. In those days it consisted of a leaflet and a survey form to fill in and post to the Partnership. The information gathered then had

to be typed into a database to capture and use. In 2021, however, Perth Museum was able to introduce a similar “BioBlitz - Wildlife Where You Live” survey, but this time via an online database which enabled anyone to register via the iNaturalist app to share observations of local wildlife.

The Perth & Kinross BioBlitz project launched in May 2021 and finished at the end of January 2022. The scheme was a great success and resulted in 3,278 observations, 1,062 species reported, 500 different identifiers and 395 different observers. The most observations of local wildlife by one totalled 159; the highest number of species reported was 106. Finally, the most observed species was the fungi, Fly Agaric (*Amanita Muscaria*), which was reported on 26 different occasions by observers.

A full overview of statistics from the project and a map of observations can be found via <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/perth-kinross-bioblitz-wildlife-where-you-live>. This project was a great way to connect with nature and share wildlife observations with friends and community members with similar interests. The observations will contribute towards new scientific data that will help in important wildlife conservation and research.



Introducing the Tayside Every Action Counts iNaturalist Project

During September 2022, a new version of the Perth Museum project was launched which will cover all of Tayside - <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/tayside-s-local-patch-project-perth-kinross>. We hope as many people as possible will use it and make it as popular as the Perth & Kinross BioBlitz project.

Anyone interested in being part of this will need to sign up to iNaturalist itself but there is nothing to do beyond that except to start surveying! If you are unsure of the species you have found, iNaturalist will give options to narrow things down a bit – all sightings will need verification and, importantly, all the data will end up on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

It is early days yet, but we will be setting up individual “projects” within the iNaturalist pages and working with Angus and Dundee to publicise some of their surveys too. First off, though, we are featuring TayARG (the Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group) which has an Amphibian & Slowworms in Graveyards Survey as well as its Tayside Pooling our Ponds survey. There will be further information and survey details included in the “Project Journal” section so please keep a look out for this.

Managed for Wildlife Trials Public Consultation

To encourage biodiversity and help mitigate climate change Perth and Kinross Council is managing some areas in selected parks and other green spaces in a different way in 2022 on a trial basis. These trial areas have been selected to give more space for nature and help attract bees, butterflies and other insect pollinators by letting the grass and native plants grow and flower. Pathways will be mown through larger trial areas so that access is not restricted, while other areas will continue to be mown to cater for other amenity interests.

The public consultation encourages everyone to comment on both the trial aims and on the specific areas which form part of the trials. Volunteers are required to help with monitoring and/or management of these areas, with some as far afield as Dunkeld, Abernethy and Guildtown already having committed to monitoring their areas throughout the year.

A basic survey form is available and can be requested from phiggins@pkc.gov.uk should you wish to help monitor and adopt a site.

The results from the survey and site monitoring will help PKC Community Greenspace plan how they can best support nature in future.



North Muirton Flood Defence grassland, Perth © C A G Lloyd

The public consultation will close at the end of October so there is still time to comment. More information on the Managed for Wildlife Trials Public Consultation, including a video explanation and a 5-minute online survey can be accessed via this link:

<https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/managed-for-wildlife/>.

Article written by Patrick Higgins



Managed for WildlifeTrials

Public Consultation



We plan to manage parts of this site for the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife and welcome your opinions. Management of this site will include:

- longer grass*
- more wild flowers*
- less chemicals*
- less strimming*



For more information on proposals and to take part in our survey, please scan the QR code or see <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/managed-for-wildlife/>



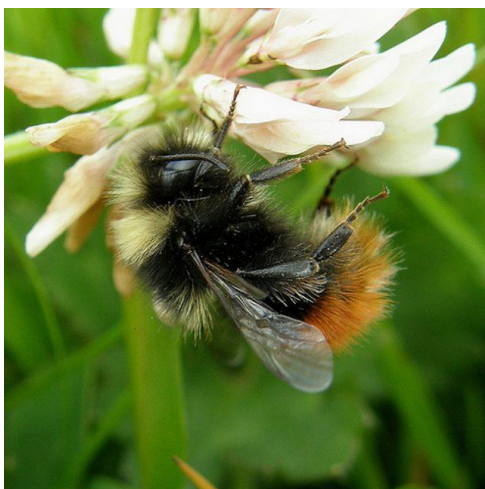
Postal copies can be sent on request, please telephone 01738 475000 or email communitygreenspace@pkc.gov.uk

Strathmore B-Lines: People & Pollinators

An exciting new conservation project was announced by Buglife Scotland this spring. The Strathmore B-Lines 'People & Pollinators in Strathmore' project will help to re-establish approximately 50 acres of grassland and nectar-rich environments. The project will run for two years, finishing in March 2024. The exact location of the project is from Dunkeld to Montrose. Alyth, Blairgowrie, Kirriemuir, and Brechin will also be positively impacted by the scheme. The conservation project will enhance the area, and the condition of pollinator-friendly wildflower habitats surrounding the B-Line, at 20 locations between Dunkeld and Montrose.

Presently, Strathmore has a range of fragmented pollinator habitats in the foothills of Highland Perthshire and Angus. The B-Line intersects several of the most agriculturally intensive land in Scotland but through this initiative Buglife will work with land managers and communities across

the area to enhance flower-rich habitats for pollinating insects, creating habitat corridors and stepping-stones which will allow them to freely distribute themselves and re-colonise the region and local landscape. The Strathmore B-Lines project will focus on threatened species such as the Bilberry



Bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*), the Near Threatened Small Blue Butterfly (*Cupido minimus*) in Angus and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*).

Buglife is now looking for volunteers for a variety of habitat creation events, to help out with monitoring habitat creation works at sites for progress and for the monitoring of sites for pollinators. If you can help in any way along Tayside's first B-Line please contact Claire Pumfrey (the Project's Conservation Officer) at Claire.Pumfrey@buglife.org.uk. General information about the B-Lines in Scotland is available via [B-Lines Scotland - Buglife](#).



Photo (left): Bilberry bumblebee © S Falk; (above): Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries © Scott Shanks

Tayside Geodiversity

The Tayside Geodiversity Group has been relatively inactive for the past few years, partly due to the COVID lockdown. A meeting of the Scottish Geology Trust has shown more than half of Scottish geodiversity groups are in a similar position. However, this did not stop members of the group working with Robert Wills of Perth and Kinross Council Planning to designate Perth and Kinross Geodiversity Sites. One of the members, Carol Pudsey, surveyed all the potential sites and produced



a series of standard format reports. Other members formed an Expert Panel to consider the sites under a number of criteria. These included:

- (i) **Value for geodiversity** - the geological interest and context of the site for professional and amateur Earth scientists. Sites help illustrate the geology or geomorphology of an area.
- (ii) **Site access and safety** - sites should be publicly accessible, and safe to visit.
- (iii) **Value for education and research** - sites should aid fieldwork in schools, at undergraduate level and in adult education courses.
- (iv) **Cultural, heritage and economic value** - includes such topics as significance in terms of the history Earth science, importance to local history and contribution to the local economy such as quarrying, mining and potential for tourism.

Forty-one sites were surveyed and considered in three main geological age groups:

- Dalradian (x11 sites) 800-MYA (million years ago) to 500MYa and associated with the highland boundary fault
- Devonian and Carboniferous (x23 sites) 419 MYA to 299 MYA
- Quaternary (x7 sites) from about 3 MYA to the present and associated with the Ice Age

Further information about what is happening across Tayside is in this leaflet – [LNCSFlyer.pdf](#) (taysidebiodiversity.co.uk); details about the LNCS designations can be downloaded from here: [Local Nature Conservation Sites | NatureScot](#).

Article written by David Lampard

Remembering George Ballantyne

It seems fitting to record here a short memorial to George Ballantyne who died in 2020.

A librarian by profession, he undertook research at the historic Signet Library for the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet (a private society of Scottish solicitors dating from the 16th century). His interest in wildflowers began in the mid-1950s. From 1969 he was the Vice-county Recorder for Fife & Kinross where he remained sole Recorder for 40 years: his publications included *The Flowering Plants of Kinross* (1977, with a second edition in 1985) and *Wild Flowers in Fife & Kinross* (2002). He was a regular exhibitor at the BSS/BSBI Scottish Exhibition Meeting and supplied many articles for the annual BSBI Scottish Newsletter. He became President of the Kirkcaldy Naturalists' Society and was involved with the Botanical Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, acting as editor of its Fife Fawn Newsletter.

George's specialist interests started with alien plants when he was botanising around Kirkcaldy harbour. He went on to study roses and brambles. A lecture on the latter at the first Scottish Recorders' Weekend at Kindrogan in 1983 led to it being published and from then on he was acknowledged as an expert on Scottish brambles. He contributed to the *Atlas of British & Irish Brambles* (Newton & Randall, 2004).

George Hodge Ballantyne – November 1934 to July 2020.

Based on an Obituary by Chris D Preston in the BSBI News January 2021



Useful National and International Websites

- The State of Scotland's Nature 2019 - [State of Nature Scotland 2019 - Scotlink](#)
- It is not too late to reverse biodiversity decline by 2030, UK's five leading nature bodies say – <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/its-not-too-late-to-reverse-biodiversity-decline-by-2030-uks-five-leading-nature-bodies-say>
- Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy 2022 - <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity-strategy-2022-2045>
- United Nations – Biodiversity - [Biodiversity | United Nations - CEB \(unsceb.org\)](#)
- National Biodiversity Network - [National Biodiversity Network \(nbn.org.uk\)](#)

What's On

Please check the Tayside Biodiversity website for a variety of events. If you have an event to publicise, please send brief details as early as possible to caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk. Information can also be shared on the Tayside Biodiversity and Tayside Wildlife Recorders' Facebook pages. There is a quarterly Tayside Biodiversity E-News too and we are happy to include details there.

Editorial Opportunity

We have been extremely fortunate in past years to welcome a number of students and graduates who gain invaluable experience in researching and compiling the Bulletin. This is not a short-term newsletter, but a well-liked document which is featured on the Tayside Biodiversity website for the entire year of its publication and is then available via the website's archives in perpetuity: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk. If you would like to be involved in compiling and editing the 2023 issue, please contact Catherine at caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk. Next year the task will need commitment throughout the first part of the year, i.e. mid-January through to March/April.

Archived Recorders' Bulletins

These Bulletins started in 2012 and we have not missed a year since! All of them can be downloaded via the TBP website, or just click whichever one you wish to read below -

- 2012 - https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TaysideRecordersBulletin_March_2012.pdf
- 2013 - https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TaysideRecordersBulletin_April_2013.pdf
- 2014 - https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TaysideRecordersBulletin_April_2014.pdf
- 2015 - https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TaysideRecordersBulletin_Feb_2015.pdf
- 2016 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2016-Recorders-Bulletin-07-16.pdf>



- 2017 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Recorders-Bulletin.pdf>
- 2018 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-FINAL-Tayside-Recorders-Bulletin-ED-CL.pdf>
- 2019 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Tayside-Recorders-Bulletin-2019-ED-CL-edited-FINAL.pdf>
- 2020 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-Tayside-Recorders-Bulletin-FINAL-11-03-20-CL.pdf>
- 2021 - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-Tayside-Recorders-Bulletin-FINAL-NM-CL-17-4-21.pdf>

Don't forget to share your surveying news with the Tayside Wildlife Recorders' Facebook page –
or indeed any of the other Facebook pages we run:

Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership also shares news via its regular E-Newsletters so if you have any special survey or project news, please let us know. Articles can be between c100 and 450 words and if possible, please provide a photograph with copyright details. The current and past E-Newsletters can be downloaded from www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk.

With thanks to all contributors to this Bulletin



***Tayside Recorders' Forum, c/o Tayside Biodiversity Partnership,
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The 2022 Bulletin was researched, compiled and edited by Cameron Smith (Perth UHI), with additions and updates by Catherine Lloyd, for the Tayside Recorders' Forum: 2022. All photographs and logos are copyright © as shown. If you would like paper copies for an event please contact caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk