

# Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

## Issue 4: December 2002

*Thanks everyone who sent in updates for this fourth newsletter, I hope that they are proving useful! We hope to get this one circulated more widely so are continuing to build a distribution list to include all LBAP officers, members of the Scottish Biodiversity Forum and its subgroups, and Scottish Lead Partners. If you have any suggestions for additions to the distribution list please do keep sending them in. Over the last two months, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is now at the end of its consultation phase. All comments and concerns are now being pulled together and the feedback will be ready in the New Year. The deadline for the next newsletter will be **Wednesday 5 February 2003**. Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter are very welcome, please e-mail or [Jo Lenthall \(joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk\)](mailto:joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk).*

## Local Updates

### Argyll & Bute

**North Argyll Red Squirrel Group**, Janie Steele (Forest Enterprise Ranger) summarised her red squirrel work to date. Janie worked on the RS Project in Thethford Forest for 5 years which involved researching best conservation practice and how red squirrel interacts with the grey, and a re-introduction programme. She advised the group about a set of Practice Notes on red squirrel that can be received or downloaded from the Forestry Web site [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk), and of a species sighting database for Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise. Janie visits schools and runs events. A recent visit was to Strath of Appin PS, which involved putting out hair tubes to help identify red squirrel in the area. Marina (LBAPO) said that the LBAP SAP does not identify red Squirrel north of Connel Bridge but recent sightings contradict this. This local school's Red Squirrel project should generate more interest and help raise awareness about this important species. The group's next meeting is 8 January 2003 at 7pm, at Kilbowie House, Oban. Marina is currently working on setting up another group in Argyll, interest so far has come from people in mid-Argyll.

**Education & Biodiversity Project (Bio/Ed Project)** - meeting between representatives from SNH, Dept of Education (A&B Council) and the LBAPO was held to set up a project to meet the needs of schools in monitoring their Wildlife Garden activities. The project will help to raise awareness about biodiversity and the action required to maintain it in school grounds. This initial meeting explored possibilities of putting an action planner in place with various stages attracting certification. The group are aware that a lot of effort has gone into creating wildlife gardens and that they are used as a resource to support the 5-14 Environmental Studies curriculum. The group would like to introduce a management context with some of the actions for biodiversity such as monitoring, surveying and conservation management techniques to ensure that the habitats that are created are maintained and information gained through this process is used for informing future management decisions. In the meantime the curriculum development unit at A&B Council are carrying out a scoping exercise to ascertain what the Wildlife Garden resource is in our school grounds. Further meetings in the New Year, with a launch date in April 2003.

**PRESS RELEASE - Land Use Biodiversity Forum takes on new challenges** - inaugural meeting of the Land Use Forum (sub-group of A&B Local Biodiversity Partnership) was held on December 4 in Kilbowie House, Oban. Members of the Forum are NFUS, SCF, SLF, SNH, RSPB, SSE, Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, SEPA, FWAG, West Highland Native Woods, Forestry Conservancy, Forest Enterprise, SAC and SEERAD. Jamie Mellor (Chair Local Biodiversity Partnership) extended a warm welcome to everyone. He said 'that many challenges lie ahead for those involved in land management' and continued by saying that 'the Forum will provide a means of looking at and learning more about integrating different management systems in order to provide quality, sustainable resources'. A Chair, Gordon Gray-Stephens (West Highland Native Woods) was elected. Marina Curran-Colthart (LBAPO) reported that 'most of the actions set out in the LBAP were active and few gaps exist in the plan so far', however 'the next two years will see an increase in activities in raising awareness with local communities involved in biodiversity projects'. The Partnership has been involved in drawing up the RSS list of 30 habitats and species since the scheme was introduced. The Forum has been asked to make any

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adjustments for next years round of applications, which will be passed to SEERAD for adjustment. An explanatory leaflet with images and details about the habitats and species on the list along with aligning them with their relevant prescriptions set out in the RSS, which would be included in the grant application pack will be produced (Helen Bibby (SAC)). Marina has produced a paper on Catchment Management – The Issues, supported by Appendix 1 in the LBAP. The main issues are related to freshwater quality and the impact of activities adjacent to watercourses, freshwater lochs and the marine environment. The EU WFD will require member states to draw up River Basin Management Plans that will use a number of important habitats to ensure good quality water. Catchment management is focussed on more localised activity. The Forum wish to draw up catchment management plan guidelines to raise awareness about what can be achieved at local level.

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Marina Curran-Colthart, Biodiversity Officer on 01631 562125 or [marina.curran-colthart@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:marina.curran-colthart@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

## Ayrshire

**Contact:** Morven Buchanan, Environment Officer, East Ayrshire Council 01563 554041 [morven.buchanan@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:morven.buchanan@east-ayrshire.gov.uk); Ken Gibb, LA21 Co-ordinator, South Ayrshire Council 01292 616288 [ken.gibb@gw.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ken.gibb@gw.south-ayrshire.gov.uk); Tonia Sobieraj, Policy/Administration Officer, North Ayrshire Council 01294 324131 [tsobieraj@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:tsobieraj@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Cairngorms

**Contact:** Peter Cosgrove, Biodiversity Officer 01479 873630 [petercosgrove@cairngorms.prestel.co.uk](mailto:petercosgrove@cairngorms.prestel.co.uk)

## Clackmannanshire

The Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership produced the first tranche of BAPs this summer and is now working on a second tranche of plans to be in draft by Christmas, if all goes well. The number of consultation drafts will be limited so please contact Lynn if you would like a hard or electronic copy. Together these two tranches will form the first instalment of the final BAP in Spring 2003, a date slightly later than originally proposed, however this should encourage more feedback on the draft from communities and partners.

Other news was the involvement of the Partnership with the Royal Visit on 29 November. Prince Andrew came to visit the *wee county* for a variety of events, including an afternoon visit to the Black Devon Wetland, a *managed retreat or realignment* by the Forth Estuary. Members of the Biodiversity Steering Group and Countryside Rangers were actively planting 200 native trees at the entrance to the wetland with five students from the local primary school. A local woodworker, Philip Coles, also produced a beautiful sycamore platter from local tree for the event as a memento of the day.

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Lynn Campbell, Biodiversity Co-ordinator on 01259 452639 or [lynncampbell@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:lynncampbell@clacks.gov.uk)

## Comhairle non Eilean Siar

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Anne MacLellan, Crofting & Biodiversity Development Officer, 01870 603428 or [amaclellan@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:amaclellan@cne-siar.gov.uk).

## Dumfries & Galloway

**Funding:** SNH have offered a grant for a further 3-year implementation phase of the Dumfries & Galloway LBAP, and by the time you read this article, we should know whether Dumfries and Galloway Council have agreed to the match funding. Much has been achieved since the launch of the LBAP in 1999, but much remains to be done, with many people only now realising that the plan is not just about preventing damage to locally important species and habitats, but also provides numerous opportunities for businesses, communities and tourists.

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Biodiversity is at the heart of a large **Heritage Lottery Fund application** currently being prepared in Dumfries and Galloway. A number of meetings have taken place with HLF and a wide range of partners, but a decision on funding remains some way off. Meanwhile a number of smaller projects involving Black Grouse management, restoration of heather moorland, and a community greenspace project are actively seeking their own funding.

**Wildlife-tourism projects** continue to be developed. The newly reintroduced Red Kites are arousing much interest, so much so that the establishment of public viewing facilities is being planned by RSPB. Other projects include ideas for a community led wildlife and walking festival, and a Red Squirrel trail. Meanwhile, Butterfly Conservation are actively recruiting volunteers for their Butterfly Guardians Scotland project, and will be running a series of free workshops in 2003 with the aim of encouraging people to look for local priority species such as Northern Brown Argus and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

Use of the LBAP in the **planning** system continues to increase, with planners, developers, and objectors all referring to the document. One case in particular has filled up many columns of the local newspaper. Extension of a landfill site near Dalbeattie has been given the go-ahead by Councillors, although the Biodiversity Officer advised that it was likely to result in the extinction of Scotland's only known colony of Bog Bush Cricket, a local priority species in the LBAP. The decision has to be reviewed by the Scottish Executive before a final verdict.

Hot on the heels of the Annan Catchment Co-ordination Plan launched in the summer, comes a **catchment management plan** for the second of the region's major rivers – the Dee-Ken system. A draft plan, which seeks to guide the sustainable use of the natural resources, is available for consultation via SEPA's website at [www.sepa.org.uk/guidance/dgcatch/index.htm](http://www.sepa.org.uk/guidance/dgcatch/index.htm).

The annual **meeting of rangers, wardens and other countryside staff** across the region was hosted by NTS at Threave and themed around the LBAP. Almost 50 delegates attended, and were treated to wide ranging presentations on local wildlife, as well as a workshop on raising awareness of biodiversity.

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Peter Norman, Biodiversity Officer, 01387 260172 [peter.norman@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:peter.norman@dumgal.gov.uk) or [www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity).

## East Dunbartonshire

**Contact:** Paul Baker, Biodiversity Officer 0141 578 8642 or [paul.baker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.baker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk).

## East Lothian

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Stuart MacPherson, Biodiversity Officer 01620 827242 or [smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk).

## Edinburgh

**Contact:** Susan Steel or Caroline Peacock, Biodiversity Officers 0131 469 3920 or [susan.steel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:susan.steel@edinburgh.gov.uk) and [caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk).

## Falkirk

**Contact:** Anna Perks, Biodiversity Project Officer on 01324 504863 or [anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk).

## Fife

**Contact:** Rachel Sherman, LBAP Co-ordinator on 01592 413437 or [rachel.sherman@fife.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.sherman@fife.gov.uk).

## Glasgow

The **winter feeding of farmland birds**, aimed primarily at maintaining and increasing the overwintering population of Tree Sparrows, by RSPB volunteers is already underway for this

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season. Glasgow City Council, Kelvin-Clyde Greenspace and the Scottish Wildlife Trust are also working on a joint project to put up 50 nest boxes and plant standard hedgerow trees to improve habitat for Tree Sparrows and other associated species. This project has been developed with full support from Caledonian Properties and their land agents Cluttons.

New ponds have been created on farmland adjacent to Cathkin Braes in conjunction with the Carts Greenspace, GCC and the local farmer. Several other ponds have been created across the City which helps meet targets set out in the **Standing Open Water** habitat action plan.

The Biodiversity Officers are currently assessing the feasibility of linking **grassland management** of key sites to existing and new composting schemes. Discussions have also taken place with AMEY to look at the grassland management regimes of the verges of the M8 motorway.

Habitat creation and management for **Water Voles**, linked to the **Rivers and Streams** habitat action plan and wetland restoration, is planned at a key site in the east of the City, led by Kelvin-Clyde Greenspace. This builds upon the work currently being carried out by Glasgow City Council at other key sites, such as Robroyston and Hogganfield.

Glasgow City Council Land Services are being advised on the management of the Clyde riverbanks at Glasgow Green, in line with the **Rivers and Streams** HAP, as part of a major environmental improvement project on the River Clyde.

The Land Services Conservation Group continues to monitor breeding and migrant waterbirds at various wetland habitats, and to survey farmland for key species such as **Skylark, Tree Sparrow and Reed Bunting**, in association with the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.

Site base maps have been reviewed and data transferred as part of the development of the **Local Record Centre**.

Various **habitat management** tasks, through the SWT Wildlife Heritage of Glasgow Project, are being carried out at several sites including wetland creation/management in Castlemilk, scrub control on key grasslands and heathland management.

A Landfill Tax application has been successful for a **pond naturalisation project** at Bingham's Pond, next to Gartnavel Hospital. Work is planned to commence on finalisation of complete funding package, including the establishment of emergent vegetation and the construction of an island.

Meetings with **Local Agenda 21 / Sustainable Development** Officers to increase collaboration on broad range of linked issues e.g. recycling, composting, energy efficiency, biofuels and green procurement.

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Keith Watson or Catherine Scott, Biodiversity Officers on 0141 287 5665 or [keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk) or [Catherine.scott@land.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.scott@land.glasgow.gov.uk).

## Highland

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Janet Bromham, Biodiversity Officer on 01463 702274 or [janet.bromham@highland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.bromham@highland.gov.uk).

## Midlothian

**Contact:** Geoff Mather, Senior Projects Officer, Midlothian Council, 0131 271 3462 or [geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk).

## NE Scotland LBAP

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Maria Hardy, LBAP Co-ordinator on 01224 711120 or [maria.hardy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:maria.hardy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

## North Lanarkshire

**Contact:** Brian Thomson, Conservation and Greening Manager on 01236 780636 or [thomsonb@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:thomsonb@northlan.gov.uk).

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## Orkney

**Contact:** Nadine Russell, Orkney Biodiversity Officer on 01856 888760  
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## Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, and Inverclyde

**Contact:** Jenny Gough, Biodiversity Officer on 0141 842 5235 or  
[jenny.gough@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.gough@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## Scottish Borders

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Andy Tharme, Natural Heritage Officer on 01835 825063 or [atharme@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:atharme@scotborders.gov.uk).

## Living Shetland Update 4

**Community Representatives** - we are pleased to have recently recruited 4 more part-time community representatives. They will be developing BAPs with local communities (Fetlar, Yell, Bressay and Sandwick). The first community rep has drafted a community BAP for the area of Bigton and is going back to the community to finalise it and set out how it can be implemented.

**Roadside BAP** - we have had some action take place before the final draft has been completed. The council has altered its cutting regime and consulted with Community Councils about cutting in their areas. The LBAP is involved with new major roadworks to ensure biodiversity is considered for the duration of the works and for the future.

**Education** - we have created a monster! Over the course of a few years, schools environment week has evolved from a one-off NNR promotional day to 9 days of educational activities with over 600 bairns. This takes up considerable time for various organisations. To help manage this monster, Living Shetland is involved in developing a local environmental education strategy. This will be for people of all ages, not just schools.

**Awareness** - the "Living Shetland: Loving Shetland" art competition/exhibition has been put on hold. However, we and the rangers are organising an ambitious art exhibition and book concerning biodiversity in the agricultural environment to coincide with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ESA scheme. Twenty artists will spend a year on a croft, recording wildlife and the crofting calendar, then have finished work exhibited and (funding secured) published. We hope local schools will be involved.

We are still collecting local names for all things biodiverse. We have asked SWRIs, heritage groups and care centres to be involved.

Query... Does anyone know of any study into how beneficial open days, talks, display boards etc is for the time and effort put in. I sometimes wonder if we'd be better knocking on people's doors and taking them out for a walk and a chat?

**Hope you all have a fantastic festive season!**

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Helen Moncrieff, Living Shetland Project on 01595 690832 or [helen.moncrieff@fwag.org.uk](mailto:helen.moncrieff@fwag.org.uk).

## South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership

**Contact:** For further information on any of the above contact Stephen Corcoran, Biodiversity Officer on 01355 806858 or [stephen.corcoran@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.corcoran@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

## Stirling

**Contact:** Jonathon Willet, Biodiversity Officer on 01786 442768 or [willetj@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:willetj@stirling.gov.uk) (in the New Year).

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### Tayside

Professor David Bellamy joined the Provost of Perth & Kinross, the Tree Wardens and local people at the Fortingall Yew near Aberfeldy, in November, to honour the tree as one of the **"Fifty Great British Trees"** chosen in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The tree is reputedly Europe's oldest living thing and could be anything between 3,000 and 5,000 years old. Before leaving, Professor Bellamy made a surprise gift to the local Tree Wardens - two 15 year old saplings grown on in England from cuttings from the Fortingall Yew. He has expressed a wish for more cuttings to be taken and perhaps a ring of 'new' trees grown in the same diameter of the parent tree - 56 feet. The Tree Wardens are already taking part in biodiversity projects throughout Perthshire and Kinross-shire, but this is going to be an unusual challenge to say the least!"

The **Barn Owl Interest Group** is a group of Tayside Biodiversity Partners who are taking forward the writing of a Species Action Plan, together with a number of practical projects. Two areas are being targeted before widening out the project Tayside-wide. The first is an area to the north of Perth along the River Tay. Five pilot surveys will be made this winter, management advice given and, if appropriate and when funding becomes available, A-frame or internal nestboxes provided. In the meanwhile the second area chosen has benefited from monies made available from the adjoining LBAP region. The **Cairngorms Biodiversity Partnership** has given a £500 grant to site nestboxes on farms known to have barn owls in the vicinity. The Angus Glens project will be based predominantly in the glens foothills with a view to encouraging barn owls back into the Cairngorms Partnership area. The Barn Owl Interest Group, which includes partners from NTS, FWAG, SAC and RSPB, is planning to officially launch its Tayside Barn Owl Survey form during National Nestbox Week in February 2003. The survey results will direct the group to other areas within Tayside where conservation work or on-the-ground advice will be needed.

The **Bat Conservation Trust** will be helping local batworkers plan a public awareness campaign for next spring. In the meantime: **following the rabies incident in Angus, the public are being asked not to handle bats. If an injured or grounded bat is found, current advice is to telephone Andy Douse (SNH) direct: 0131 446 2424, or any SNH office immediately. Alternatively, further details and advice are available on the Bat Conservation Trust Helpline on 0845 1300226"**

**Contact:** For further information of the Survey or on any of the above contact Catherine Lloyd, Biodiversity Officer on 01738 476481 or [tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net](mailto:tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net).

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## Events

### SNH - Sharing Good Practice programme

#### **ADDING VALUE TO THE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE THROUGH SCOTLAND'S WILDLIFE**

**6 February 2003**

**Who for?** - This event is for tourism operators, small and large, Area Tourist Boards, Local Enterprise Companies and Local Authority staff who help, support and advise tourism businesses.

**Why Come?** - The last 5 years has seen a **40%** growth in dedicated wildlife tourism businesses; **62%** of ALL Scottish visitors say wildlife is very important to their visit; **80%** of visitors to wildlife sites look for accommodation within 20 miles; UK Wildlife Conservation Charities have over **4 million** members – are any coming through your door? **This event will show how Scotland's outstanding wildlife is used by successful businesses to deliver what their customers want.**

**Content** - Through presentations from private sector operators and small group sessions you will

- hear how other tourism businesses successfully capitalise on wildlife
- find out how to provide *your* customers with a wildlife experience to remember and know where to find the information you need
- be better informed as to the shape of the market place
- learn some marketing tips, including where to advertise
- find out how your business *and* wildlife *can* be sustained into the future

Free Information packs to help you and your customers get more from wildlife will be available.

The workshop will begin at 10.00am (registration and coffee at 9.30am) and finish at 4.15pm. To book a place please complete and return the attached form.

**Venue:** SNH, Battleby Centre, Redgorton, PERTH, PH1 3EW

**Organiser:** SNH

**Workshop Leader:** Bill Taylor, SNH

**Cost:** £50 (includes lunch & refreshments)

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I/we wish to attend **Adding Value to the Visitor's Experience Through Scotland's Wildlife**  
**6 February 2003**

Name .....

Organisation: .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... Telephone ..... E-mail .....

I / we enclose a cheque for £..... or please send an invoice YES / NO

Dietary / Special Needs .....

**Please return to Kate Murray, SNH, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW-**

**Tel: 01738 444177 Fax: 01738 458612 E-Mail: [kate.murray@snh.gov.uk](mailto:kate.murray@snh.gov.uk)**