



TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE

ISSUE 21: Autumn 2008

The Management Plan is now well underway and we thank everyone who has been involved with the process so far. The preliminary draft will be discussed in January by a focus group who will help to refine it before the April 2009 Annual Conference.

The Summer has been a busy time for the TEF attending various events such as the Broughty Ferry Sea Shore Festival in June, the Eden Estuary Local Nature Reserve 30th Anniversary Event in August and the Keep Scotland Beautiful Scottish Beach Conference in St Andrews this September.

We also attended a Marine Bill Consultation event, organised by the Scottish Coastal Forum at Dundee's Discovery Point on September 5th. The TEF will be compiling a response to the Marine Bill Consultation so feel free to let us know your views. Responses need to be in by October 6th! See Item 3 for more information.

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To join the mailing list of the TEF or to put forward your views, articles or pictures

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1: TEF UPDATE

- The last Steering Group meeting was held on **Thurs 31st July 2008**.
- Management Plan progressing well. TEF will be attending various meetings to discuss the Plan with local groups/ stakeholders and welcomes any offers of interest or assistance in compiling the plan.
- Currently compiling Marine Bill Consultation response
- ◆ Next Steering Group meeting to be held on Fri 10th Oct 2008.



Tay Regeneration Project

2.

Tay Regeneration Project

Thanks to Maureen Burgess, Newburgh Community Trust

After more than thirty years during which time the town of Newburgh turned its back on the River Tay, a major community- based initiative is now underway looking at the economic and environmental benefits that could accrue from turning the focus back to the river.

Newburgh Community Trust was only formed three years ago, but already it has purchased a large section of the waterfront using the Community Right to Buy legislation. The next move is to upgrade piers that have lain disused and unattended for decades.

Bob Batchelor, the vice chairman of the Trust, said that people tended to forget that Newburgh owed much of its historic importance and status to the trade carried out by small coastal vessels that plied their trade up and down the river and then along the East coast of the UK.

Two hundred years ago, boats were used to take bolts of linen from the cottage weavers in Newburgh both upriver to the merchants in Perth or down to Dundee to the traders in the city.

Then there was a trade with coasters loaded with barrels of salted Tay salmon heading for London and even sometimes to the coastal cities on mainland Europe.

Halfway through the last century, loads of hard stone from the Clatchard Craig quarry outside of the town were loaded onto boats. This time the markets for the stone were literally the streets of London and also the dams and dykes that helped create the polder land in Holland.



While most of the trade was commercial, in the 1920s and 1930s there were also Summer excursions on Sundays with pleasure boats loaded with the good people of Dundee taking a trip upriver to Newburgh.

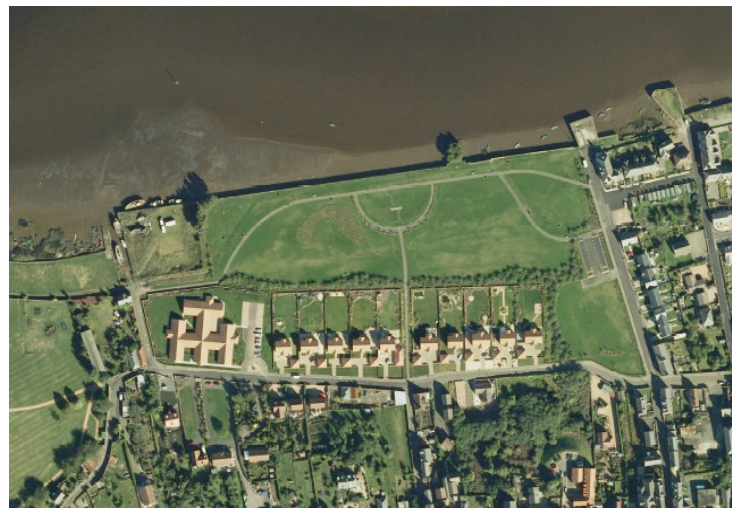
And now, along with local businessman, David Clarke of Tay Salmon Fisheries Limited, the Newburgh Community Trust, intend again, to raise awareness of the benefits from using the river. This will include running Water Taxis, initially from Newburgh to Elcho Castle and Perth. River Stewards will act as guides.

"Not many people realise just how much wildlife there is in this area," said Maureen Burgess, the secretary of the Trust. "We believe there is potential for an eco-tourist trade."

The build up of such a business would obviously bring benefits to the town which is already seeing an economic upturn with visitors coming to walk along the riverside in the new park. This waterside walk owned by the community will form part of a heritage trail linking with the core path network. The community of Newburgh was recently awarded a Fife Council Excellence award for Innovation, in partnership with Fife Rural Partnership and Council Officers.

Among the longer term aims of the Trust is a visitor centre on one of the former piers which they now own. But first of all, a major investment will be made in repairing and upgrading the seawall and the piers along the river front.

No work has been carried out on the retaining walls or piers for the past fifty years and one of the first priorities of the Trust is to ensure they are safe and fit for the future.





3. The Scottish Coastal Forum held a free briefing on the proposals for a Scottish Marine Bill on Friday 5 September at Discovery Point, Dundee. Richard Lochhead and senior members of the Scottish Government were on hand to outline the ideas and answer questions on what they might mean for those with an interest and connection to Scotland's marine and coastal resources. This briefing is part of the programme of events taking discussion of the Scottish Marine Bill all over the country and encouraging a response to the ideas for delivering sustainable planning, use, management and economic growth in the marine environment.

The deadline for responses to the Scottish Government is 6 October

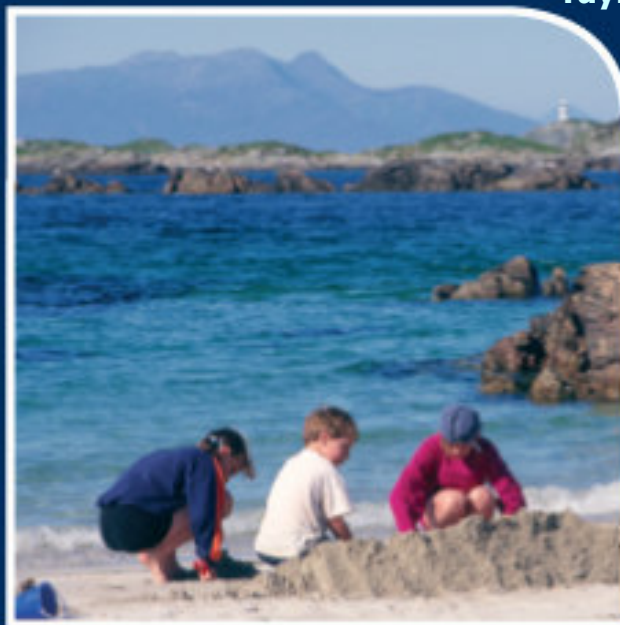
SUSTAINABLE SEAS FOR ALL

a consultation on Scotland's first marine bill

You are encouraged to submit your own responses to the consultation online at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment/firstmarinebill.asp>

**or feed into the TEF collective response by e-mailing:
TayEstuaryForum@dundee.ac.uk**



Friarton Trout Lake & Wildlife Ponds

The vision from the Tay Salmon Fisheries Company is to rejuvenate an area of scrub land into a thriving natural habitat for wildlife.

The site, located 2 miles from Perth City centre is the former home of the Tay Salmon Limey fishing station, in its day one of the most productive salmon fishing stations on the Tay.

Work commenced on the 9-acre trout lake & wildlife ponds in mid 2007. The first task was the clearance of all scrub and debris. Once the site had been cleared the formation of the lake and ponds could take place. All material excavated from the pond was used to widen the flood defence and grade the banks to allow for easier maintenance. With the flood banks now easier to maintain it will therefore be able to support the extension of the footpath along the bank of the Tay. The lake has been carefully designed with different areas to suit an array of wildlife including islands formed for ground-nesting birds which will not be subject to tides.

The next phase is to convert the existing fishing bothy into a River Station; a base from where a River Steward can operate wildlife boat trips, guided walks & talks, also housing a heritage centre, tackle & coffee shop. The centre will be run from renewable energy sources. This next phase is subject to obtaining permission from the various statutory bodies.



Thanks to Patricia Galfskiy, Tay Regeneration Project

Wildlife

Friarton lake & ponds are already home to an incredible range of wildlife. Bird life varies throughout the year with the winter seeing large numbers of wildfowl, teal, golden eye, whooper & mute swans together with wading birds such as the redshank. The smaller birds were also in large numbers such as chaffinch, goldfinch and siskin. In summer, masses of insects swarm above the pond attracting swifts, swallows, house martins and sand martins in large numbers. There has also been a number of visits from the Kingfisher, Osprey and Otter family.

Other wildlife attracted to the ponds include birds, foxes, deer, pipistrelle bats and other small mammals; all of which use the ponds as a feeding area. Hides and feeding stations are planned to be built around the ponds and lake, some of which will have views over the Tay.

Trout Fishing

The lake has been stocked with a mixture of Brown, Blue and Rainbow Trout with a minimum size of 3lb to help alleviate the problem of predators. The lake will be fly only water and will open to the public all year round welcoming novices and experienced anglers alike. Tuition will be available along with a selection of tackle from the shop. The lake has been designed with the fisherman in mind to allow easier access and pontoons are also being installed. Anchorage points are positioned around the lake for anyone wishing to fish from a boat.

Education

The Tay & Earn Trust will provide exciting opportunities for people to learn and discover more about the wildlife around them.

- Our aim is bringing learning to life.
- Our education work with schools, families and adults aims to inspire people about Perthshire wildlife.
- Provide “hands on” outdoor learning opportunities under the guidance of our River Stewards and encourage a positive and caring relationship with the natural environment.



The Green Blue
Making the environment second nature

WHAT CAN THE GREEN BLUE DO FOR YOUR ORGANISATION...? COME AND FIND OUT AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Green Blue encourages a sustainable recreational boating community, through information, practical projects and research.

One of Brunel's great engineering triumphs, S.S Great Britain in Bristol, will set the scene for this year's The Green Blue Annual Conference being held on Tuesday 4th November.



Now in its second year, the conference has steadily gained momentum and provides the marine industry a great platform to discuss environmental issues and learn how best to go about being more environmentally friendly in their particular organisation.

The Green Blue's Project Manager Sarah Black explains; "The Green Blue is designed to help all boaters and marine businesses get access to relevant environmental information. The success of the conference last year told us that this is a really good way of getting information out in a way which is useful.

This year the conference also involves a workshop element, Sarah continues; "We are looking forward to some robust discussions in our workshops. They are a chance for the delegates to ask any questions they want in a friendly atmosphere - last year the discussions kept coming back to recycling - as a result, this year we are delighted to be joined by our new Recycling Officer Dan Reading"

As well as the opportunity to discuss environmental issues which matter to you and your organisation, The Green Blue team will also be showcasing their new Environmental Self Assessment Toolkit. By answering a set of questions online the toolkit assesses environmental practices and offers advice on how to make sure you are operating within the law.

To book a place on the conference or to find out more information about it contact the Green Blue team on 0845 345 0400.