



TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE **ISSUE 25: AUTUMN 2009**

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *Tay Views*!

This issue has a distinctly "Halloween" feel to it, covering articles on Bats, Tombstones and much more! Currently, the TEF are working hard to implement Actions set out in the Management Plan, released at the April 2009 conference. Updates on our progress will be made regularly on the website. There are several projects in the pipeline at present and we will keep you up-to-date, as always via the newsletter. If you are interested in becoming involved with TEF initiatives, we'd love to hear from you.

Best Wishes,
Laura (Project Officer)



In this Issue...

1. TEF Update
2. Dangers of "Tombstoning"
3. Perth City Bat Project
4. SNH Event: Non-native Species
5. Dundee Renewables

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

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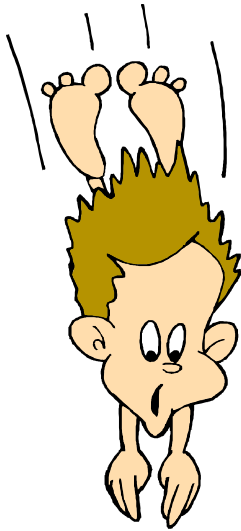
<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/crsem/TEF/>



1: TEF UPDATE

- Last Steering Group meeting held on **Thursday 1st October 2009**.
- Online updates to be submitted on Management Plan Action Progress.
- For presentations or copies of the TEF Management Plan, please contact the Project Officer.
- Read the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee Stage 1 report on the Marine (Scotland) Bill on TEF web pages.
- Next Steering Group meeting Feb 09.

**New TEF Occasional Paper:
Ecology of Bottlenose
Dolphins in Montrose
Bay, Scotland.
Kelly Ann Dempsey
See TEF Website**



2. TOMBSTONING



Arbroath is a seaside town which has a working harbour and a cliff area. *Tombstoning* is a problem which occurs in the summer months here, whereby persons either jump into the sea from the cliffs or from the harbour wall near to the harbour entrance.

There are the obvious dangers associated with jumping from the cliffs which can cause injuries such as broken bones, spinal injuries/paralysis and ultimately death.

The main problem with jumping from the harbour wall is the danger of being struck by a craft entering or leaving the harbour and the associated risk from drowning not to mention the evasive action which may need to be taken by persons in charge of the vessel.

Tombstoning often results in other emergency services (Lifeboat, coastguard) being called upon to rescue persons either trapped on the cliff face or in trouble in the water. These emergency services are mainly volunteers who are putting their lives at risk to rescue those partaking in this activity.

The problem is at its peak in the summer months, mainly on Saturday afternoons from 1600 - 2000 hours. It also becomes more prevalent during the school holidays where it occurs on a daily basis.

Alcohol also adds to the risk as water and alcohol don't mix. On striking the water, persons can become injured or disorientated and unable to get out of the water. It is also common for youths, especially if they are under the influence of alcohol not to contact emergency services when someone gets into trouble in the water and to run off and leave them instead of assisting.

Persons involved range from 8 years old to adult, with 3 at- risk groups having been identified:

8-13 year olds- obvious concerns due to their age

13-16 year olds - enjoy the thrill of jumping into the water

17 years - early 20s - under influence of alcohol therefore increasing risk

These persons are both locals and tourists. This is an added concern as tourists may be unfamiliar with this stretch of coast and will not know the safest areas along the cliffs for this activity and therefore tend to move further along the cliffs away from the locals, to dangerous spots and copy them, not knowing of the dangers beneath the water. People involved in this craze can also be unaware of the sea conditions, assuming that if the weather is good, the sea will be calm but this is often not the case. Water depth can change significantly with tides, rocks may not be visible from the surface and the cold water can be a shock to the body.

Tayside Police have been working alongside H.M Coastguard to monitor the situation using focussed patrols. The main aim is to educate people, especially children and to make them aware of the dangers associated with this activity and also to ensure that they know who to contact if things go wrong.

There have recently been several press releases in the local papers to highlight the dangers and to make parents aware of what their children might be doing during the holidays.

At the end of May 2009, a male was charged with a Breach of the Peace for jumping off the cliffs as he required rescuing, causing alarm to members of the public. This option is always open to the police but hopefully, only as a last resort. Our main aim is education to prevent any injuries, hopefully getting the message across as it is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously injured.

3. Perth City Bat Project

Partnerships along the Tay working to improve Biodiversity



The Perth City Bat project is a joint venture between Perth and Kinross Council Countryside Ranger Service, Perth Bat Group and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), supported by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and SITA Landfill grants scheme. Following a successful pilot of a City wide survey project in Dundee in 2007, (which became hampered by a poor summer), discussions began between BCT and the Ranger Service in 2008 to see if the project could be replicated in Perth. With a bit of luck, (and fine weather!) the aim was to complete a full-city survey.

A series of surveys were planned in achieving this:

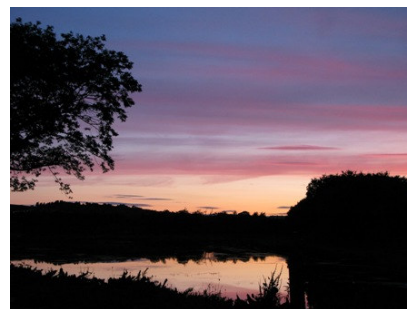


- A simple Survey – members of the public contacted the project if they saw bats in their local area or around their house. This was promoted by 8000 postcards distributed door to door asking for sightings as well as numerous press releases and has resulted in nearly 100 records being submitted thus far.
- Bat Detector Survey – Perth was divided into 21 one kilometre square areas, and volunteers were trained in the use of heterodyne and frequency division detectors, lent equipment and have twice-surveyed each square during May and August 2009. More than 40 volunteers have received training and taken part so far.
- Car Survey – using standard methodology (iBats) a car based survey of Perth was undertaken in late August using GPS and Time Expansion detectors.

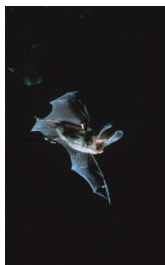
Three additional area specific surveys were carried out. These areas had been identified as potential bat hot spots, or areas where future work could be undertaken, or had (in the case of the Perth Lade) been highlighted in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. These took place at Craigie Golf Course, the Perth Lade and the Friarton Ponds area beneath the Friarton Bridge at Perth. These surveys used various methodologies depending on the work that was required, by members of BCT, the Perth Bat Group, wider volunteers and the Perth and Kinross Council Ranger Service.

Friarton Ponds Survey

The area on the north side of the Friarton Bridge, around the Limeyhaugh Fishing Bothy, has long been subject to repeated flooding by the Tay and has now been developed into a stocked fishing pool, which will open later in 2009. The pond offers an extensive area (approx 3.5ha) of open water, with vegetated banks, close to the Tay. Fringed by sparse woodland and hedgerows, the pools have the potential to be excellent bat habitat.



Perth Bat Group surveyed the Tay in 2006 approximately ¼ mile downstream of Limeyhaugh on both the north and south banks. Whilst there was minimal bat activity along the banks, the smooth waters of the Tay that particular evening allowed a wide variety of bats, including high numbers of Daubentons (*Myotis daubentonii*) to be present, feeding above the water of the river. It is considered likely that the new ponds may well provide a suitable feeding habitat for these bats as well.



The survey was carried out in early August, and three species of bat were found to be present in the immediate vicinity of the pond. Two species of pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P.pygmaeus*) were identified as well as Daubentons (*Myotis daubentonii*). The timings of sunset and bat activity around the Friarton Pond suggest that bats are travelling to the pond, rather than roosting in the immediate vicinity, but the habitat, although in its early stages of development, provides a good foraging area for all three species of bat. It is hoped that we can now encourage enhancement of the habitat at the pond for bats, and promote this to visiting anglers.

The Perth City Bat Project has been a tremendous collaborative effort between a number of agencies, but made possible only through the dedication of a hardy bunch of willing volunteers. Their efforts are to be applauded in helping achieve this ambitious plan, with Perth becoming the first city in Scotland to be completely surveyed for its bats.

Reports on the survey are available from www.pkc.gov.uk/countryside and a final report will be presented to the Scottish Bat Conference on October 31st and will be available from the above website at this time. Please contact Niall Lobley (nallobley@pkc.gov.uk) or Anne Youngman (ayoungman@bats.org.uk) for further details.

Thanks to Nial Lobley, Perth and Kinross Council Ranger Service. Images courtesy of A. Youngman, Bat Conservation Trust

4: OUT N' ABOUT 'N THE TAY!

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to encourage public involvement in the enjoyment of the Tay estuary and coastline. It highlights various attractions, walks, events and day trips for everyone to get out and about in their local region: this issue: [SNH Non-Native Species Event](#)

Responding to the Threat of Marine Non-Native Species

With invasive non-native species posing an increasing threat to our seas, coasts and estuaries, Scottish Natural Heritage will be holding an event for marine businesses to share best practice procedures on Tuesday 27th October at Battleby in Perthshire.

Non-native plants and animals can cause economic as well as ecological damage, often requiring expensive cleaning-up measures. This event is an opportunity for those who work in the marine environment to learn more about the risks and to consider possible responses to this threat.

The focus of the day will be on practical measures that businesses can use to reduce this threat. The emphasis will be on learning from each other and sharing experiences, both good and bad. Topics for discussion will include practical methods and strategies for the prevention, detection and control of invasive plants and animals. Recent case studies will be used to demonstrate the spread of non-native species, impacts on biodiversity, effectiveness of control methods and examples of successful management strategies.

Thanks to Fiona Manson, SNH. Email: fiona.manson@snh.gov.uk Tel: 01738 458641

Scottish Natural Heritage Sharing Good Practice



Caring for nature

Marine non-native species – responding to the threat 27 October 2009, Battleby

Purpose: Invasive non-native species pose an increasing threat to the biodiversity in our seas. This event is an opportunity for those who work in the marine environment to learn about and consider possible responses to this threat.

Who is it for? Representatives of marine industries, such as aquaculture, fisheries, shipping, marine tourism, and offshore renewables, as well as staff from conservation agencies, local authorities, coastal partnerships and NGOs.

Content: Presentations will highlight the economic and ecological costs of marine non-natives and give examples of practical responses to this threat.

Sharing knowledge, skills and experience



Scottish Natural Heritage Sharing Good Practice

Content: (continued) A selection of interactive workshops will cover:

- Identification of marine non-native species
- Research and monitoring
- Practical management
- Biosecurity and good practice
- Education and awareness-raising
- Planning, partnership and funding

Times: 09:45 to 16:15 (coffee and registration from 09.15 am) (provisional)

Venue: Battleby Conference Centre, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW

Organiser: SNH in association with Scottish Government, SEPA and Scottish Association for Marine Science

Cost: £55 – lunch & refreshments will be provided

Booking: Please register your interest by completing the separate booking form and returning it by Monday, 12th October to suzanne.kilbane@snh.gov.uk

5.



Dundee Renewables is a new initiative which is bringing together a strategic partnership incorporating the public, private and academic sectors in order to work together to build a renewable energy industry for the city of Dundee. This project currently involves Scottish Enterprise, Port of Dundee and Dundee City Council as they are the key partners in relation to this objective. However we expect the make up of Dundee Renewables and how renewables fits within sustainable development to be fluid and bring together other partners as further objectives are defined for the city.

Dundee has a strong history of successful partnership working and we hope this will prove to be the case again as we move forward with this initiative.

The renewables sector is growing and developing daily but Dundee has some key advantages which we hope will help us develop this industry further in the city. From initial discussions it was decided to focus on one objective, to focus our activity over the next 12 months. This is essentially to attract a wind turbine manufacturer to the city. The time is right to do this due to the Crown Estate's round 3 leasing programme for the delivery of up to 25 GW (gigawatts) of new offshore windfarm sites by 2020.

Dundee has the following key assets:

- Scotland's most strategically important and suitable port location for marine renewable
- 175 hectares of development land within the city which could be made available for renewable energy manufacturing
- The closest port to the majority of Scotland's' wind development zones.

In addition the city has a pool of relevant, highly skilled and highly educated workers suitable for this industry and higher and further education facilities to continually support this need.

Dundee benefits from a unique strategic position at the heart of the motorway and the rail network and we are only 60 minutes from Europe's oil and gas capital.

The port itself has a proven track record in offshore engineering and logistics. It also specifically offers access to

- 25 hectares of quayside development land
- 1800 metres of deep water berths
- A sheltered, riverside location with unrestricted access to the North Sea.

Next month the partnership will be exhibiting at BWEA31 which is the UK's premier renewable energy event; a three day conference and exhibition, in order to meet with industry representatives and inform them of Dundee's offer in this area.

By 2020, wind, wave and tidal energy can supply over 30% of the UK's electricity, resulting in £60 billion of investment and 60,000 new jobs.

Dundee Renewables aim to raise the profile of the city and capture the opportunity to ultimately create the following:

- Attract Inward Investment to Dundee
- Create jobs
- Generate Economic growth

There is concurrently work being undertaken to look at the broader objectives of a sustainable Dundee. Dundee Renewables has recently been one of a group from across the city working on a strategy to create a cohesive vision in this area for Dundee. Please visit the website for more information.

Thanks to C. Morgan, Dundee Renewables