



TAY VIEWS

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

ISSUE 22: Winter 2008

Festive Greetings!

As 2008 draws to a close, work on the TEF Management Plan continues- A final version will be completed in early 2009 and the finished plan will be launched at the:

TEF 2009 CONFERENCE: THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2009 at WEST PARK CENTRE DUNDEE.

(Look out for booking forms and conference programme in the Spring 09 newsletter)

The plan will also be made available to download on the TEF Website.

The conference will cover topics such as River Basin Planning, Biodiversity, Marine Litter and Sea Level Rise. We hope you can join us!

Until then, have a Merry Christmas and Best wishes for the New Year!

Laura (Project Officer)



In this Issue...

1. TEF Update
2. Field trip: Newburgh Waterfront
3. Adopt a Christmas Turtle!
4. Carnoustie Sea Front
5. Guardbridge Paper Mill Closure
6. SNIFFER Flood Risk Conference
7. Green Blue Volunteering

1: TEF UPDATE

- The last Steering Group meeting was held on **10th October 2008**.
The Project Officer as well as Steering Group members have been collating information to the Plan and the Project Officer continues to meet with stakeholders regarding input to the plan. A Management Plan Review meeting was held on 10th December to discuss the 2nd draft.
- Next Steering Group meeting will be held in January.

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

Contact:

Tay Estuary Forum
Project Officer Laura Booth
Room 7014 Matthew Building
University of Dundee
Dundee
DD1 4HN



TayEstuaryForum@dundee.ac.uk

01382 384933

2. TEF Field Trip: Courtesy of the Fife Rural Partnership 10th October 2008

Newburgh Waterfront



Linoleum factory site after demolition: M. Burgess

As featured in the last issue of "Tay Views", the TEF Steering Group members saw first-hand the redevelopment at Newburgh Waterfront after the October meeting. Thanks is expressed to Maureen Burgess (Newburgh Community Trust) and Patricia Galfskiy (Tay Regeneration Trust) who gave an informative tour of the site. They will be updating on further progress and plans of the Trust at the 2009 Annual Conference in April; providing an excellent opportunity to hear about a successful community-led initiative.



Information Panel: M. Burgess



Newburgh Waterfront today: M. Burgess



One of the many landscaped piers at Newburgh: R. Duck



TEF Steering Group Members: R. Duck

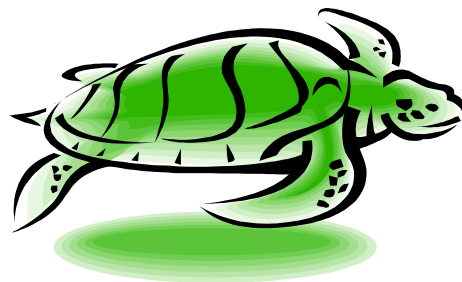
3. Endangered marine turtles urgently need help.

Marine turtles have swum the world's oceans for over 110 million years, but, tragically, due to egg poaching, developments on nesting beaches, fishing net entanglement and marine litter, six of the seven known species of marine turtle have become critically endangered. Only 1 in 1000 turtle hatchlings survives into adulthood. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is helping marine turtles survive these threats and offering the public a way to help make sure that these wonderful animals survive the 21st Century and long into the future.

By giving an Adopt-a-Turtle pack as an attractive and distinctive gift this Christmas, you will be supporting MCS by providing vital funds for turtle conservation projects. The pack is presented in a beautifully printed folder with a gorgeous cuddly toy, window sticker, pen, adoption certificate, species poster and fact sheet, turtle poster, pocket good fish guide and newsletters. Call 01989 566017 or visit www.mcsuk.org to Adopt-a-Turtle today. Just £3 per month will really make a difference to their chances of survival.

The Marine Conservation Society, the UK charity caring for our seas, shores and wildlife, gives vital support to endangered marine turtles through their Adopt-a-turtle scheme. MCS is making a difference, but there is still so much to be done and many turtle conservation projects that need help.

With your help, MCS can work towards ensuring a safer future for endangered turtles, so please offer your support and Adopt-a-turtle for someone special this Christmas.



4. Carnoustie Seafront Revamp Gets Underway:

Thanks to Roy Madden, Angus Council

An exciting £1.2 million project to redevelop the seafront at Carnoustie started in December 2008. The work is being undertaken for Angus Council by Dundee Plant Ltd and will be completed by the summer of 2009.

Carnoustie has long been a favourite seaside holiday resort; well known for its fine sandy Carnoustie Bay; and of course as the 'home of golf' it attracts golf lovers from around the world.

To ensure that the town has modern and exciting facilities for both locals and visitors the Council decided it was time to redevelop the seafront.

The proposals were drawn up by the Council following a consultation exercise with residents who were encouraged to give their comments on the seafront and a list of suggested improvements.

Roy Madden, Regeneration and Countryside Planning Manager, explained "The earlier consultation undertaken by the Council gave us a clear idea of what people would like to have in the area. The intention is to create an exciting and imaginative leisure and play area that will make the seafront a major attraction for local residents and visitors."

Central to the seafront redevelopment is the proposed enlargement and enhancement of the play area. The proposal is to retain some of the existing play equipment and add to it giving a wide variety of play opportunities ranging from toddlers through to teenagers.

"We were particularly keen for the young people to have their say on this project as they will be the ones who will be using many of the facilities on the seafront. We had 680 replies from schoolchildren to our initial consultation on the project so it shows they are really interested in what is happening"

The seafront redevelopment at Carnoustie will involve the enlargement of the existing play area and the installation of new equipment to create a major attraction for local residents and visitors.

The works include:

- Complementing the existing play equipment with new modern-style equipment
- Enclosing the enlarged play areas with a landscaped fence and wall that will include extra seating
- Building a two-meter high horizontal climbing wall
- Reshaping the existing paddling pool into a fun pool with stepping stones and lined with rubberized non-slip material
- Installing a new nine-hole crazy golf course
- Constructing a youth shelter and a street course for skateboarding
- Improved signage to direct people to the public toilets located in the nearby leisure centre.
- A general upgrade of footpath links between the promenade and the central path, additional earth mounding to provide better shelter, picnic/barbecue areas, improved signage and CCTV cameras on the leisure centre
- The rest garden will be cleared of overgrown vegetation to enhance the sense of security and be retained as an informal area.

Guardbridge Paper Mill closure will have implications for the Eden

In July this year Curtis Fine Papers Ltd closed the doors of the Guardbridge Paper Mill for business. The administrators, KPMG, have spent a number of months addressing the possibilities for the Mill to be re-occupied and managed by a similar business, but unfortunately this option has proven to be unviable, and now GVA Grimley Ltd has started to engage in a consultation process to explore the other possibilities for the site.

The Guardbridge Paper Mill site sits at the head of the Eden Estuary, which is part of the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary Special Area of Conservation. The Eden Estuary and its reaches form the Eden Estuary Local Nature Reserve that is protected by a number of designations. In 1971 it was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and it also has international importance under its designations as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, primarily for its wintering wildfowl and waders.

As Les Hatton (Eden Ecology Ltd and former LNR warden) commented:



"Guardbridge paper mill were always good neighbours for the Eden Estuary LNR, and from the shop floor to the boardroom I was always impressed with the commitment and concern they showed for the estuary and its wildlife. It is a tremendous shame that they are no longer able to play that role and I wish all the workforce the very best for the future. As for the site, this is a time of great concern, as no one knows what will replace the paper mill. It will be important for the estuary that any future use of the site is compatible with its nationally and internationally important designations, and protects both its wildlife and its rather special nature. After all the Eden is not a wilderness, it is much more interesting than that, with layers of interlinked human and natural history, a place people have a real connection with and a passion for".

During its lifetime, discharges from the paper mill into the river have had known consequences to the ecology of the estuary. For example, coloured swans as a result of pigments being released into the estuary were recorded during the 1960's and early 1970's, and the high organic loading that the paper mill once released into the Eden waters may actually have been having a positive effect by increasing the numbers and density of macroinvertebrates that are the dominant food source for waders and wildfowl. More recently, the recovery of paper fibre and the development of more sophisticated water treatment have produced a reduction in suspended solids and organics waste discharged to the estuary.

Since the Paper Mill has passed into receivership this leaves in doubt the future of the areas of coastal waters normally managed by the mill operation. There are a number of issues involved with the closure that could affect the Eden Estuary and need to be examined. For example, the infrastructure involved in diverting water from the Motray burn will need to be managed, the weir will need to be maintained in a state of good repair, and an old landfill will need to be protected from coastal erosion. Future uses of the land will need to take into account the additional pressures on sewage treatment works and also the need to ensure that coastal defences are adequately maintained particularly in a time of increasing pressure from predicted sea level rise and increased storminess.

Whilst a regeneration strategy will seek to improve life within the Guardbridge village, we would hope that any future strategy would also take into account that the Eden Estuary is an integral part of village life, is a valuable ecosystem providing many goods and services to our community, and continues to require our help and protection.

Thanks to E. Defew, St Andrews University

Please register by
31st January 2009 at
www.rise-frm.org.uk/seminarreg
or by completing the fax back
registration on page 2 of this document.



This is a free event being organised by
the Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum
for Environmental Research (SNIFFER)
and supported by:



Flood Risk Management Conference 2009

Free event to be held at:

The City Chambers, Glasgow
Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th February 2009

Purpose

- To provide an update on the status of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill and implementation of the EU Flooding Directive.
- To promote and disseminate new flood risk management research of relevance to Scottish stakeholders and practitioners.
- To provide an update from last year's conference.

Who should attend?

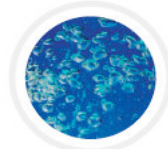
All those with an interest in flood risk management in Scotland (and across the UK) including:

- Policy and decision makers (councillors, elected members, planners and chief executives from local authorities);
- Senior practitioners;
- Researchers;
- FLAG and RBAG members;
- Emergency services; and
- Engineers and consultants.

Outline programme

Tuesday, 24 February 2009

- Introduction and policy developments:
 - Ministerial welcome
 - Update from last year's conference
 - Update on progress with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill
- FRM (Scotland) Bill: implementation:
 - Perspectives of the competent and responsible authorities
- Flood warning and dissemination:
 - Flood warning service for Scotland
 - Met Office developments in extreme rainfall alerts
 - Assessing the benefits of flood warning
 - Scottish Flood Forum
- Drinks reception and conference dinner.



Wednesday, 25 February 2009

- Research supporting practitioners:
 - Natural flood management: a scoping study
 - Natural flood management in action: Pontbren, Wales
 - Coastal flooding in Scotland: beyond phase 1
 - Groundwater flooding: risk maps and options for measures
 - Earth flood embankments
 - The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan: the story so far
- Optional field trip to The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan catchment.

A location map for the City Chambers, Glasgow is available at
http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Care_Support/SensoryServices/Visuallyimpaired_blindpeople/Guides/guidetocitychambers.htm



Volunteering Opportunities with The Green Blue

Do you enjoy using the water?

Ever wondered what you could do to help the environment?

Purpose

The Green Blue is a joint venture by the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association. The overall aim of this project is to promote the sustainable use of coastal and inland waters by water sports participants and the sustainability of the recreational marine industry. We aim to educate and inform our target audience about their environmental impacts, emphasising how they can avoid or minimise these impacts and promoting good practice through practical projects, training, research and visual materials.

To meet these ambitions The Green Blue is establishing a network of volunteer supporters across the country to represent the project on a regional/local level.

Expectations

As a volunteer you will also be asked to attend a number of boating events which will include weekend and occasional evening work. Your role is to be an ambassador representing The Green Blue at events such as evening/seasonal talks, boat shows, boat jumbles and regattas around your region and could include transporting and setting up a mobile display, running competitions, talking to the boating public about environmental issues and giving talks to local and regional clubs and interested groups.

What will volunteers do?

1. Represent The Green Blue at pre-agreed events. This will involve transporting display materials to the site, setting up displays and interacting with members of the public.
2. Provide feedback to the Green Blue Project Development Officer after each event and ensure they keep enough stock of project material to carry out their tasks.
3. Be able to talk confidently about the project to interested groups and individuals at shows, yacht clubs and any other event attended on behalf of The Green Blue.
4. Be aware of opportunities for The Green Blue to enhance its work in your area whether it is through practical projects or partnerships and pass on any details to the project staff.

We are looking for people who are:

1. Actively involved or have an active interest and passion about sailing and boating activities.
2. Some knowledge and enthusiasm about environmental issues, however training will be provided.
3. Friendly, helpful and confident manner when dealing with members of the public and ability to communicate the aims of The Green Blue to different audiences.

Making the environment second nature

The Green Blue

Scotland, Caledonia House
South Gyle, Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ
Tel: 0131 317 7388
scotland@thegreenblue.org.uk
www.thegreenblue.org.uk



Main Admin Office
Tel: 023 8060 4100
Fax: 023 8060 4294