

## FOREWORD

I am delighted to be asked to hansomel this very important publication. In the decade since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, much work has been going on behind the scenes all over Britain to put the action into the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Few areas have been harder at work than Tayside – and thank goodness for that! Tayside, which covers the three local authority areas of Angus, Dundee City and Perthshire & Kinross is a very special place indeed. It covers 10% of the landmass of Scotland, it provides winter quarters for more than half of the world's population of pink-footed geese, it houses a third of Britain's breeding population of ospreys, it has the largest reedbeds in Britain and boasts the oldest living tree in Europe – the Fortingall Yew, which is between 3,000 and 5,000 years old. So there is an immense amount of biodiversity to take action over!

Mercifully, much of it depends on voluntary action. I say 'mercifully' because I am a strong believer in voluntary action to back up political decisions. It is the voluntary coming together of Local Biodiversity Partnerships which will see much of the national and local action implemented.

But there is no point in publishing Biodiversity Action Plans, however all-encompassing, and then sitting back to admire them. Biodiversity Action Plans have to be dynamic. They have to evolve. This is just the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's first tranche; the second tranche will be published next year, and specific Species Action Plans will be added.

Then there is the task of ensuring that all the actions listed are out into practice and their effect monitored. That's where the real work starts, and it depends on us – on all of us: not just the statutory bodies, local authorities and agencies charged with safeguarding Tayside's biodiversity, but the people most intimately involved – farmers and foresters, land managers and business entrepreneurs, hoteliers and tourist operators, pupils and students of our schools and colleges. We all have a vital part to play in taking care of Scotland's natural heritage and to passing on our inheritance to future generations in even better shape than when it was bequeathed to us.

I wish every possible success to the many organisations and individuals who will be working to maintaining and improving this wonderfully diverse part of Scotland. Remember, biodiversity isn't something only to be found away in the far blue yonder. Biodiversity starts on your own doorstep. Go to it!



Magnus Magnusson, KBE

August 2002

## THE TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Incorporating the local authority areas of Angus, Dundee City, and Perth and Kinross

Co-ordinated and distributed by

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership  
c/o Environment Services, Perth and Kinross Council  
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The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan may be viewed on:

[www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)  
[www.dundee.gov.uk](http://www.dundee.gov.uk)  
[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)  
until such time as the Partnership has its own website

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Published by

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership  
August 2002

The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by:



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership thanks all those who have contributed towards the production of the Action Plan.

### FUNDING PARTNERS

Angus Council, Dundee City Council, Forestry Commission, Perth and Kinross Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, SITA and to all its Partners who have so generously given of their time and in-kind, especially the voluntary bodies, statutory bodies and local authorities.

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All the Action Plans drew on a wide range of information and advice by a variety of specialists and organisations. Our thanks go to everyone involved, especially all the Sub-Group members and those who submitted comments on the Consultative Drafts of the Action Plans. Also to Lorne Gill for his invaluable assistance.

Special thanks to **Catherine Lloyd** for undertaking the herculean task of co-ordinating, editing and orchestrating the production of the document.

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### GIS MAPPING

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### DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY

Alasdair Hamilton & Bill Thompson, Ordie Interpretive Design.

### PRINTED BY

Miller Print & Distribution, Glasgow

on environmentally-friendly paper (chromomat club paper, manufactured from wood pulp originating from managed, sustainable forests) using biodegradable inks.

**The broad aim of the Tayside LBAP is:**

***To co-ordinate existing actions, as well as initiating and co-ordinating new actions, to conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, taking into account both local and national priorities***

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

