

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Celebrating 6000 volunteer hours with an evening reception and awards ceremony, with guest speaker Dougie MacLean © George Logan

www.taylp.org

Your Tay Your Adventure



conserving

natural and built features

connecting

people with the inner Tay Estuary

participating

in the landscape's heritage

training

in local, traditional skills

About The Tay Landscape Partnership

2015-16 saw the Tay Landscape Partnership (TayLP) complete Year 2 of its 4 year delivery. Progress is now established on all 29 projects across 250km² of the inner Tay estuary. The TayLP is a partnership between Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council.

Vision

We will celebrate and enhance for people and wildlife the landscapes where the rivers Tay and Earn meet.

We want residents and visitors to love and reconnect with their natural, built and cultural heritage.



Goals

We will achieve this by:

- conserving and restoring 120 different locations
- erecting 800 new nest and roost sites for bats and birds
- completing 114 archaeological and wildlife surveys
- actively involving 10,000 people between 2014-2018
- planting 1,300 new trees and creating new hedgerows
- producing literature, resources, training materials and publications for future learning
- organising over 70 events promoting the unique landscape of the Inner Tay Estuary
- improving access paths to link communities to the wider landscape

Achievements



Chairman's Report

Another very busy year for the Tay Landscape Partnership which has seen work get under way on many of our plans.

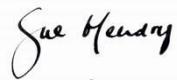
The Clayfest in Errol last June was most successful and we were delighted with the participation and enthusiasm of local residents during this when they had opportunities to attend workshops with practical training in different earth building techniques. The EBUK conference, also in Errol, went very well too. In August we organised "Unearth – The Mystery of Prehistory" in Perth city centre. This was very well attended and certainly helped promote awareness of TayLP. Those attending enjoyed taking part in the various activities and demonstrations. In October we had a Fruit Festival in Bellwood Park.

In September we had a month long excavation of the hill fort on Moredun top and this again was very successful and will be repeated this year. One of the most rewarding elements of the work of the TayLP is the participation of volunteers. To date we have had over 6,000 hours of volunteer time on our various projects and in April we held a reception to thank volunteers and were delighted when 52 of them turned up.

Work is under way with the Historic Orchards project and we are running a series of Orchard Skills training courses. Various bird and bat boxes have been installed in different locations and we have also established several bee hives – including one on top of Perth Concert Hall! We are also involved in getting new hedging planted and coppicing.

Shirley Paterson, our Scheme Manager, had a daughter last year and was absent for 8 months on maternity leave – congratulations Shirley. Our thanks go to Lindsey Gibb, our Volunteer Co-ordinator who took over Shirley's role in her absence. Shirley was thrown in at the deep end on her return as so much had happened during her absence but she caught up remarkably quickly – well done!

I could not finish this without thanking Shirley, Lindsey, Sophie, Catriona and Lisa for all the hard work they have been doing for TayLP and the successes they are achieving.



Sue Henry





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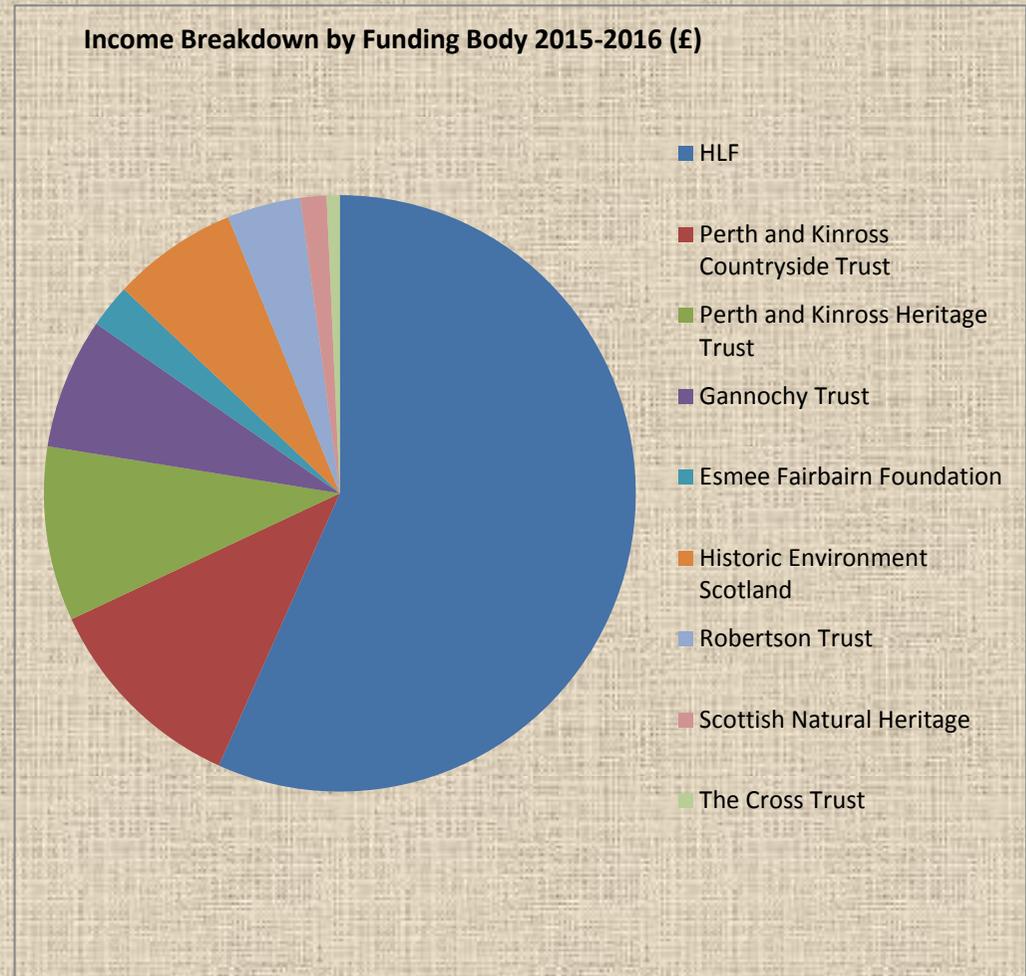
The Cross Trust

Funding

Between 2014 – 2018, the Tay Landscape Partnership will support £2.6 million of environmental and historical projects. The Heritage Lottery Fund is the principal funder offering £1.4 million towards all 29 projects. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council are lead partners. The page opposite acknowledges the financial support received by all of TayLP’s funding bodies.

Analysis of Annual Income

- Pledged Income from funding bodies between 2015-2016: £595,074
- Actual Income received from funding bodies in financial year 2015-2016: £ 422,619
- Actual Income to date September 2014- March 2016: £787,122



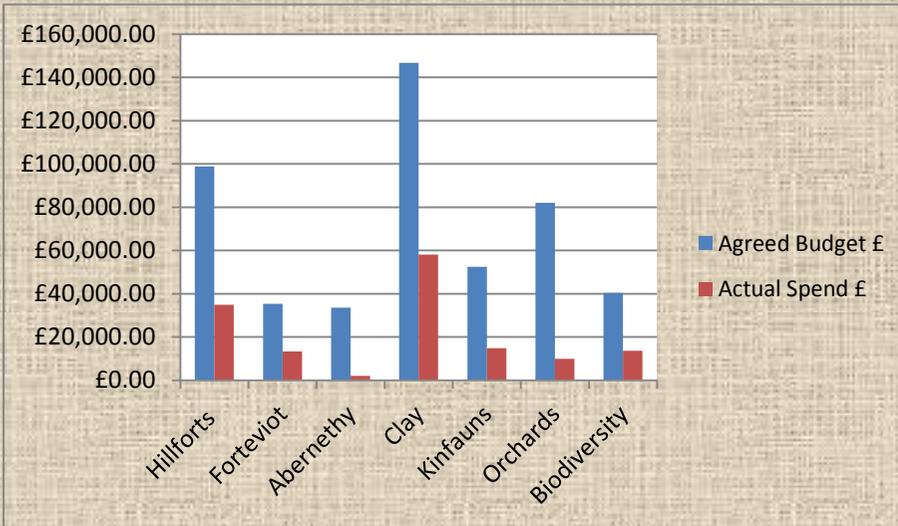


Learning how to harvest fruit

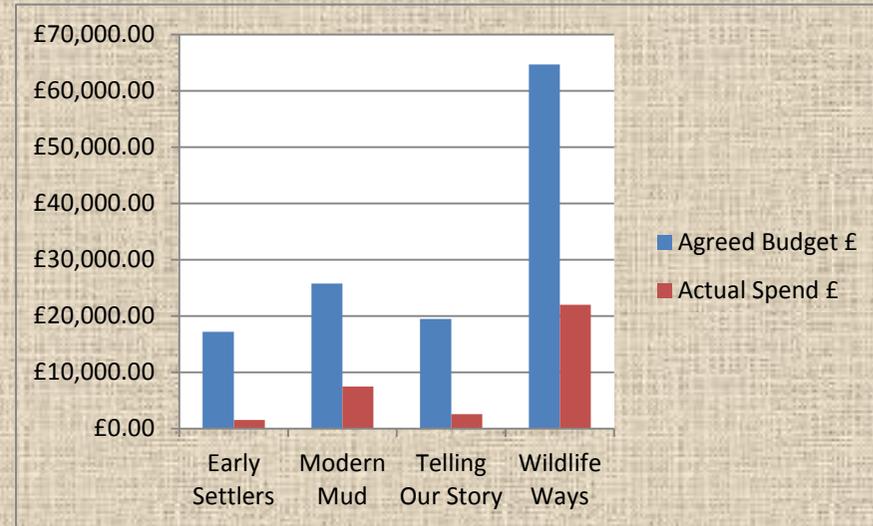
Analysis of Annual Expenditure

Expenditure in financial year 2015-2016 has been £406,301.07. There has been over 722 hours of in-kind contributions from Lead Partners and over 4400 hours from volunteers. The following graphs highlight annual expenditure against each project.

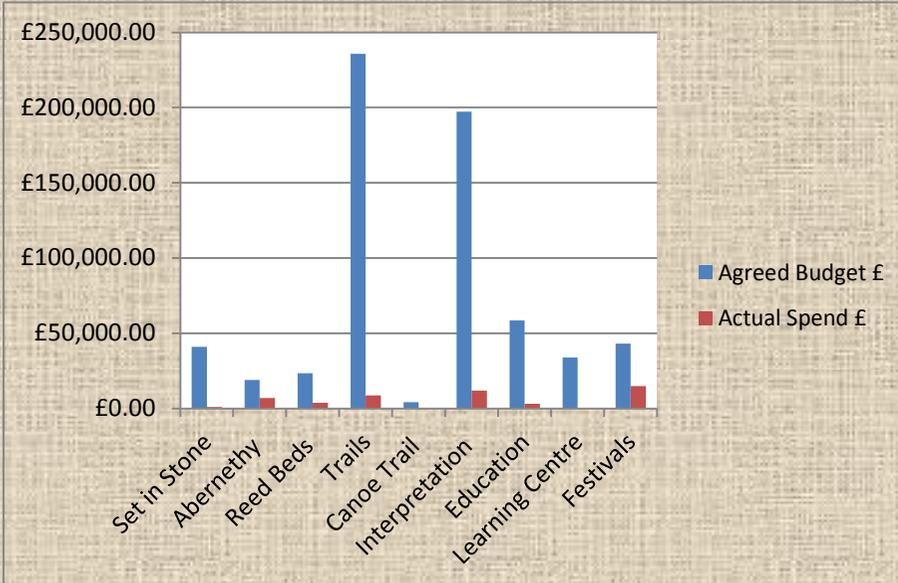
Conserving and Restoring



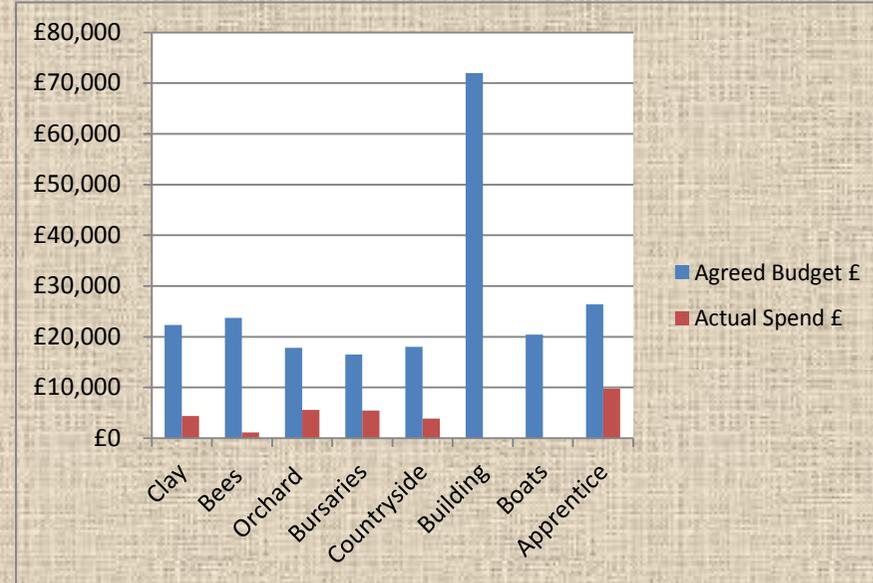
Community Participation



Access and Learning



Training and Skills



Conserving and Restoring (Built Heritage)

We have:

- Excavated 2 hillforts over 6 weeks with the help of 123 volunteers; this included Moredun Top Hillfort and Moncreiffe Hillfort near Perth. Large stone walls and defences were found, alongside various artefacts – including worked stone tools, gaming pieces, stone beads, pottery and lithics.
- Completed one topographical survey of Deuchny Hillfort in Perth, training people in this archaeological skill.
- Removed extensive ivy growth from Kinfauns Church to reduce damage to the walls and. A contractor has been appointed to progress repairs to both Kinfauns and Rait churches.

Kinfauns Church: Ivy Growth before and after removal



- Appointed a contractor to recreate a carved heraldic unicorn finial, to replace the finial that once stood on Kinfauns aisle.
- Conserved 7 pictish stones and 1 undated carved stone bowl. Each item has been laser scanned to record sub-mm detail of the carvings. The stones now form part of the Cradle of Scotland Exhibition and will return to Forteviot Church in 2016.
- Engaged with Abernethy & Errol home owners in supporting grants towards traditional conservation buildings repairs.
- Engaged 45 members of Abernethy community during the Wee Big Dig. Volunteers helped supervise excavations and 12 private gardens were excavated with over 100 volunteer hours offered from families.
- Completed the restoration and a feasibility study into the future use of a 200 year old clay building.
- Continued with clay wall repairs to a second vernacular building whilst training two apprentices the skills needed to undertake this work.



Above: Moredon Top Hill Fort excavation
 Left: Lightly West collects Forteviot pictish stones for conservation & display

A volunteer survey following Moredun Top excavation indicated 100% agreed or strongly agreed they learned about field work; 76% learned how to identify archaeological features and over 80% understood how to carry out archaeological fieldwork.

Conserving and Restoring (Natural Heritage)

We have:

- Installed 72 small bird boxes, 15 bat boxes and 3 swift boxes at several sites across the TayLP area. A contractor has been appointed to progress locating nest boxes for priority species such as swifts, barn owls, tree sparrows and bats. Four more swift boxes are due to go up at Dunbarney, Forgandenny, Forteviot and Strathallen Primary schools.
- Delivered 5 orchard work parties involving 31 volunteers in orchard maintenance.
- Carried out restorative pruning on 232 heritage fruit trees across 6 historic orchards. Pruning has now been completed in 4 of the 13 historic orchards, accounting for more than half the trees to be pruned (73%).



Top: maintaining the fruit tree nursery at Scone Palace

Left: restorative pruning & removing dead wood from historic orchards with Orchard Services



Planting a new native hedgerow at Rait



Searching for flints and signs of early settlers

Community Participation

We have:

- Completed 10 days of field walking, despite problems accessing fields due to severe flooding. Over 200 important lithic finds have been discovered by a total of 75 volunteers.
- A clay building pop-up exhibition and leaflet which has toured the Carse of Gowrie, Perth and Dundee.
- Consulted Errol community and with them have designed a clay legacy structure. The two-way fencing bench for the park is both practical and celebrates the clay culture in the area. Planning permission is now being sought with the community helping to build and shape the structure, and hopefully enjoy its use for years to come.
- Carried out a Telling Our Story Project at Dunbarney Primary School called 'Humans of Bridge of Earn'. The school engaged the local community to learn about life in the village in the past.
- Sown a 150m² wildflower meadow.
- Planted 541m of new native hedgerow with volunteer assistance.
- Reached in excess of 40,000 people via press and social media in our road verge champion appeal, including regional television.



Community consultation in Errol to design and locate the clay legacy structure

70% of volunteers field walking agreed or strongly agreed they learned more about early settlers and how to record finds



Hands on Heritage Festivals: (Left) UNEARTH! Pre History Fair, Perth City Centre © George Logan; (Right) Cooking with fruit and drinking fresh apple juice, Perth © Lindsey Perth

Access and Learning

We have:

- Conserved and professionally displayed 2 pictish stones with the Museum of Abernethy.
- Completed 6.4km of path improvements between Port Allen – Cottown and Newburgh – Abernethy, improving access to and views over the River Tay.
- Begun development of a virtual, digital tour of the River Tay and the estuary's unique heritage features.
- Delivered “UNEARTH! The Mystery of Prehistory” street festival in Perth City centre, attracting approximately 900 people. A legacy item from this was the creation of Moredun Top hillfort in Minecraft which has been used across the country as a learning tool in Iron Age construction and life.
- Delivered an Orchard Festival at Bellwood Park celebrating the importance of bees and the history of fruit production in the area. Approximately 200 people attended.
- Delivered 5 professional training events for teachers introducing new outdoor learning techniques and engaging 136 teachers.
- Engaged 723 children in learning activities linked to the following projects/themes; Early Settlers, Modern Mud, Set in Stone, Orchards, Biodiversity, Ancient Abernethy, Hillforts of the Tay, Bees and Telling Our Story.



Training Skills

We have:

- Facilitated Clayfest in Errol, a week-long celebration of clay buildings with workshops and expert speakers from around the world. In conjunction with Earth Buildings UK and Historic Environment Scotland, the event comprised 60 events;
 - ❖ 208 people/days' workshop training provided
 - ❖ 104 people attending the conference
 - ❖ Over 240 members of the public attending free events
 - ❖ People from more than 18 countries attending: Scotland, England, Eire, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Slovakia, Poland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Iceland, USA, Brazil, Argentina and Botswana
- Supported installation of 2 new bee hives in Perth.
- Planted 700 new fruit tree rootstocks into two fruit tree nurseries
- Delivered 9 orchard skills training sessions on subjects such as pruning, grafting and budding.
- Awarded 10 bursaries to further research or college work.
- Supported one Modern Apprentice complete their Level 2 Business & Administration MA qualification.



The Future

Whilst developing relationships with local prison services, unpaid work teams, social enterprises and socially disadvantaged groups, during 2016-2017 we will support and deliver:

- 20 days excavation at Moredun Top hillfort
- A 3 day community Wee Big Dig in Abernethy
- Display pictish stones in Forteviot Church
- 12 botanical illustrations of fruit specimens
- DNA analysis of 40 fruit varieties
- Maintenance and drainage of historic orchards
- Kinfauns Church repairs
- Installation of bat and bird boxes

- One fruit heritage festival
- Creation of a new pictish stone in Forteviot
- 10 bursaries
- 2 modern apprentices
- New field equipment for the new outdoor learning centre and organise outdoor activities
- Improvement of path networks
- A canoe feasibility study for future excursions on the Tay



- Building of a new clay structure in Errol
- New interpretation and benches overlooking the Tay estuary
- Planting 5000 trees and 1000m of hedges
- A new community orchard being planted

- Traditional building skills training
- 8 hedge laying training events
- 8 coppice skills training events
- 8 green woodworking training events



Schools site visit to Moredun Top Hillfort



Collecting budwood at Elcho Castle

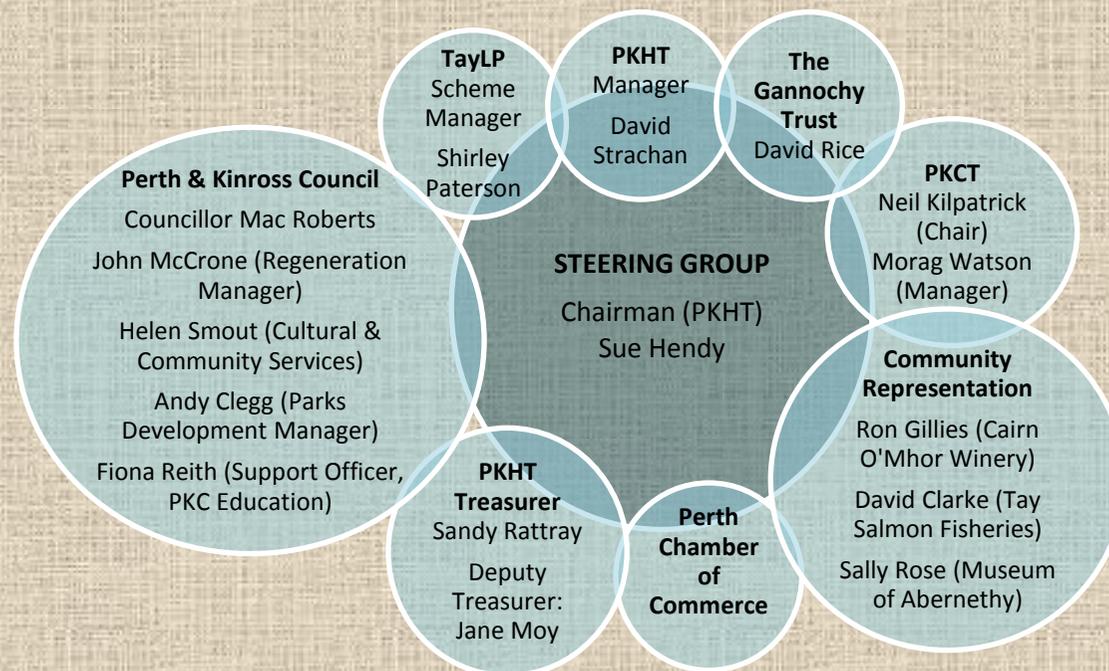
Testimonials

“TayLP is such an exciting and positive development of the Earn/Tay valley...a positive and enjoyable volunteering experience”

“just to congratulate you on the huge variety of events and activities you run”

“I have enjoyed participating in the digs and really enjoy the educational bit too”.

Steering Group Members





www.taylp.org

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PKHT Scottish Charity No. SCO03139