

Landscape Scale Coastal Conservation in Tayside



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Marine and Coastal Working Group

Kelly Ann Dempsey, Angus Council



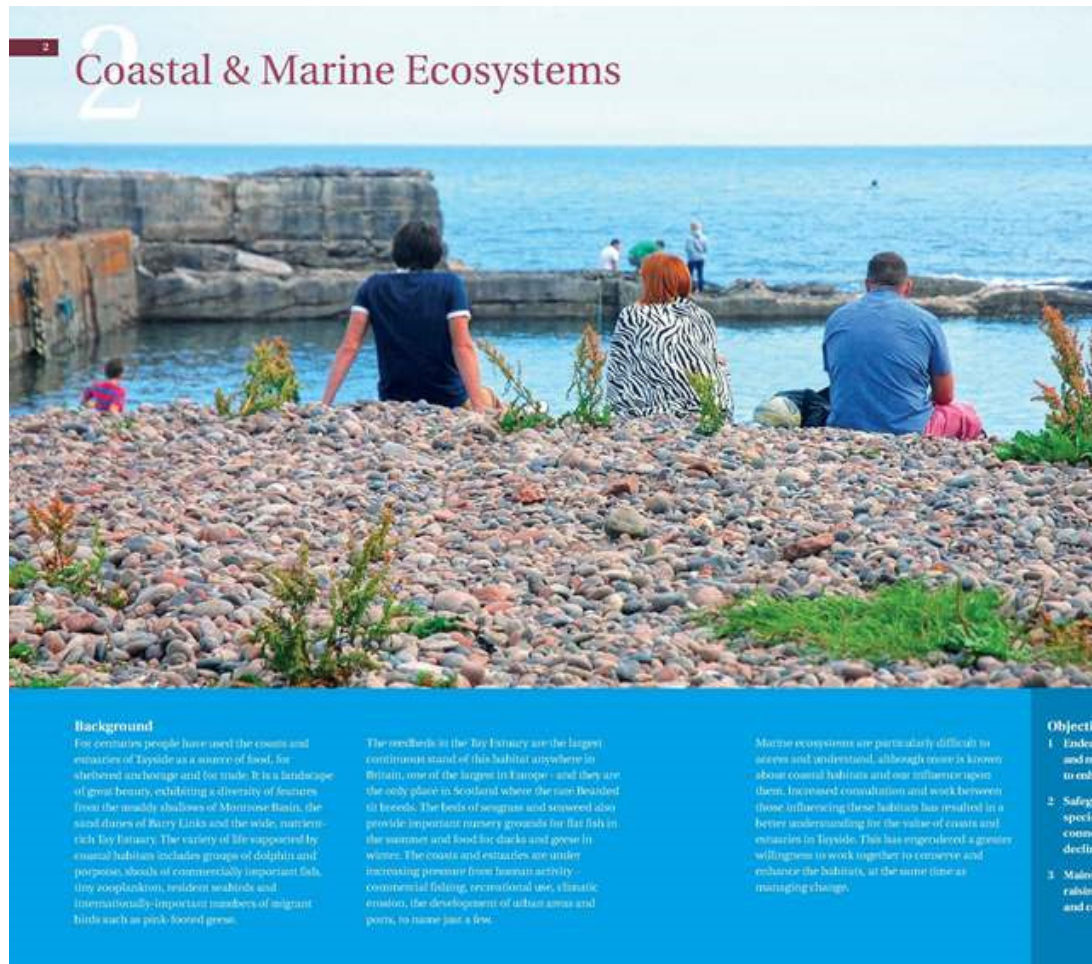
Covering:

- Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26 [Coastal & Marine Section](#)
- Landscape Scale Project 1: [Small Blue Butterfly Project](#)
- Landscape Scale Project 2: [Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording](#)
- Get Involved:



Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26

Coastal & Marine section



Background

For centuries people have used the coasts and estuaries of Tayside as a source of food, for sheltered anchorage and for trade. It is a landscape of great beauty, exhibiting a diversity of features from the rocky shallows of Montrose Basin, the sand dunes of Barry Links and the wide, nutrient-rich bay estuary. The variety of life supported by coastal habitats includes groups of dolphins and porpoises, shoals of commercially important fish, the zooplankton, resident seabirds and internationally-important numbers of migrant birds such as pink-footed geese.

The seashells in the Tay Estuary are the largest continuous stand of this habitat anywhere in Britain, one of the largest in Europe – and they are the only place in Scotland where the rare Bearded Noddy breeds. The beds of seagrass and seaweed also provide important nursery grounds for flat fish in the summer and food for ducks and geese in winter. The coasts and estuaries are under increasing pressure from human activity – commercial fishing, recreational use, climate erosion, the development of urban areas and ports, to name just a few.

Marine ecosystems are particularly difficult to access and understand, although more is known about coastal habitats and our reliance upon them. Increased consultation and work between those influencing these habitats has resulted in a better understanding for the value of coasts and estuaries in Tayside. This has engendered a greater willingness to work together to conserve and enhance the habitats, at the same time as managing change.

Objective

1. Endeavour to reduce the direct pressures on coastal and marine biodiversity by implementing projects to enhance ecosystem health
2. Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems, species and genetic diversity by enhancing connectivity and where possible preventing its decline
3. Mainstream biodiversity conservation action by raising awareness and the enjoyment of marine and coastal ecosystems of local communities

Objectives

1. Endeavour to reduce the direct pressures on coastal and marine biodiversity by implementing projects to enhance ecosystem health
2. Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems, species and genetic diversity by enhancing connectivity and where possible preventing its decline
3. Mainstream biodiversity conservation action by raising awareness and the enjoyment of marine and coastal ecosystems of local communities

Links to 2020 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy



Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26

Coastal & Marine section

4 Priority habitats

- Saltmarsh
- Intertidal mudflats
- Marine
- Maritime cliffs
- Sand dunes



Key sites (Designated) Estuaries

- Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SPA – 6,923.29 hectares
- Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC – 15,412.53 hectares
- Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary Ramsar – 6,918.42 hectares
- Inner Tay Estuary SSSI – 4,115.30 hectares
- Inner Tay LNR – 1,176 hectares
- Montrose Basin SPA, Ramsar, SSSI, LNR – approx. 986 hectares
- St Cyrus and Kinnaber Links SSSI - 304.91 hectares
- Lunan Water
- Elliot Links SSSI - 27.1 hectares
- Pitairlie Burn
- Boddon Burn
- Barry Links SSSI - 1027.51 hectares
- Monifieth Bay SSSI - 199.23 hectares



Maritime Cliff & Slope

Whiting Ness (next to Victoria Park in Arbroath) to Ethie Haven – most of this is covered by Whiting Ness to Ethie Haven SSSI. – 136.17 hectares

Rickle Craig (at the north end of Lunan Bay) to Scudlie Ness (just south of Montrose at Ferryden) which is all designated as an SSSI. – 72.17 hectares

Barry Links is also notified as an SAC and the Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar

Sand Dunes

The northern part of **Charleton and Kinnaber Links to Montrose** is included within the St Cyrus & Kinnaber Links SSSI

The **Arbroath to Broughty Ferry** area contains Elliot Links SSSI, Easthaven SSSI (designated for greater yellow rattle), Barry Links SSSI and Monifieth Bay SSSI

Key species

- Wintering waterbirds
- Cetaceans
- Maritime plants
- Breeding seabirds
- Coastal invertebrates



Angus Cetacean Awareness Project

The cetacean survey incorporating the coast from the Tay to St Cyrus continues to focus on the collection of anecdotal sightings data from the Angus community, awareness raising and the promotion of coastal locations in Angus. The website www.marine@angus.co.uk was launched on the International Day of Biodiversity (May 2012) and was promoted by a second print run of

small business card size cards in 2013 and 2014. These went out to a wide range of visitor attractions etc along the Angus and Aberdeenshire coasts. The website reaches a wide audience having been promoted by VisitScotland on their website and on the new Angus Ahead website.

Since recording began in 2011 sightings from members of the Angus community have included bottlenose dolphins, minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin and even humpback whales have occurred at many locations along the coastline of Angus. All sightings are fed into national recording schemes and help to conserve species and habitats.



Copyright: Peter Hoyle

Back from the brink:

Using a local, collaborative approach to aid in the rescue of a vulnerable, fragmented *Cupido minimus* population in North East Scotland.

Butterflies are a species like many others that are vulnerable to 21st century anthropogenic threats such as climate change, habitat destruction and unsympathetic land management practices. The UK has seen a decline in many species and our smallest native species the Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*) has seen a great decline in numbers over recent years. Scotland holds some strongholds for the butterfly but in recent times, they too have faced challenges that have led to the demise of populations.

The fragmentation of colonies has been identified as the most limiting factor on population size followed by a decline in the favoured plant host Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllus vulneraria*).

Angus in North East Scotland has suffered the same declines as the rest of the UK but still has

pockets of populations of both species. Surveys of both species have been carried out at locations along the coastline since the late 1970's in a generally sporadic manner. This has produced a wealth of data which has recently been revisited by Butterfly Conservation and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. Records of Small Blue are numerous whilst Kidney vetch data is not so. Since 2012 both organisations have worked together to facilitate annual surveys of both species along the coastline. Historical survey records and current Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage survey data from Seaton Cliffs Local Nature Reserve and St Cyrus National Nature Reserve respectively have been used as a starting point for where to focus survey efforts. Investigation will hopefully lead to the discovery of extant populations.



Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26

Coastal & Marine section

Actions – 22

“Support tern populations and encourage appropriate site management”.

Action breakdown – 80 smaller actions

“Review inappropriate nesting sites such as industrial site roof-tops and advise on Management”.

Partners – 28+



Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26

Coastal & Marine section



Landscape Scale Projects

[Angus Maritime Plant Projects](#)— monitoring and restoring sea pea and kidney vetch populations.

[Linking & Exploring Tayside’s Coastal Wildlife Sites](#) – Marine Life Angus website and Nature on track.

[Treating Invasive Coastal Species](#) – Himalayan balsam at Montrose basin NNR, Japanese rose and gorse at Elliot links and intertidal species first defence.

[Monitoring Beach Cleans](#) along the length of the Angus coastline.

[Angus Coastal Butterfly Projects](#) – Small blue and grayling surveying, monitoring and habitat enhancement projects.



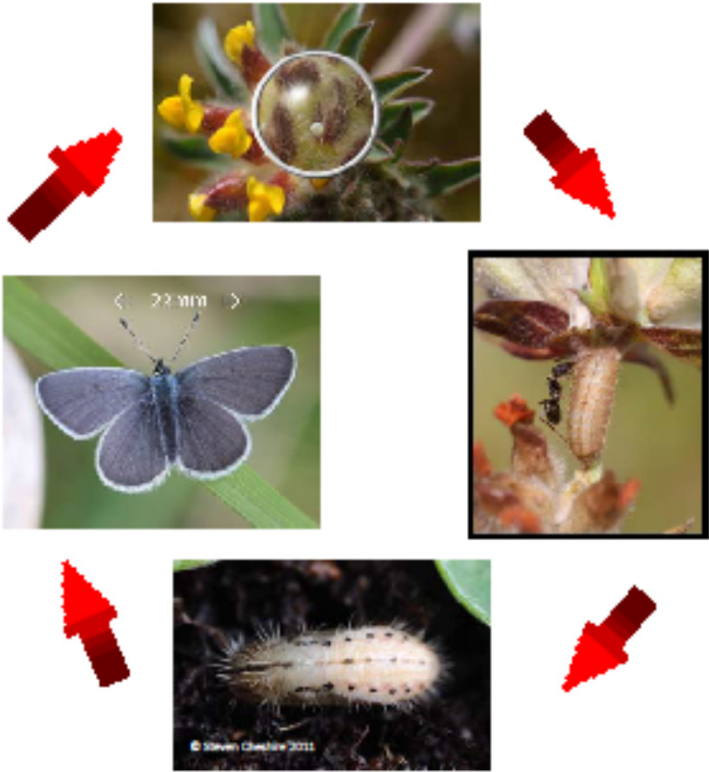
Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26

Coastal & Marine section

Individual Projects



Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project



Text and photographs by Iain Cowe, Barry Prater and Steven Cheshire

Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project

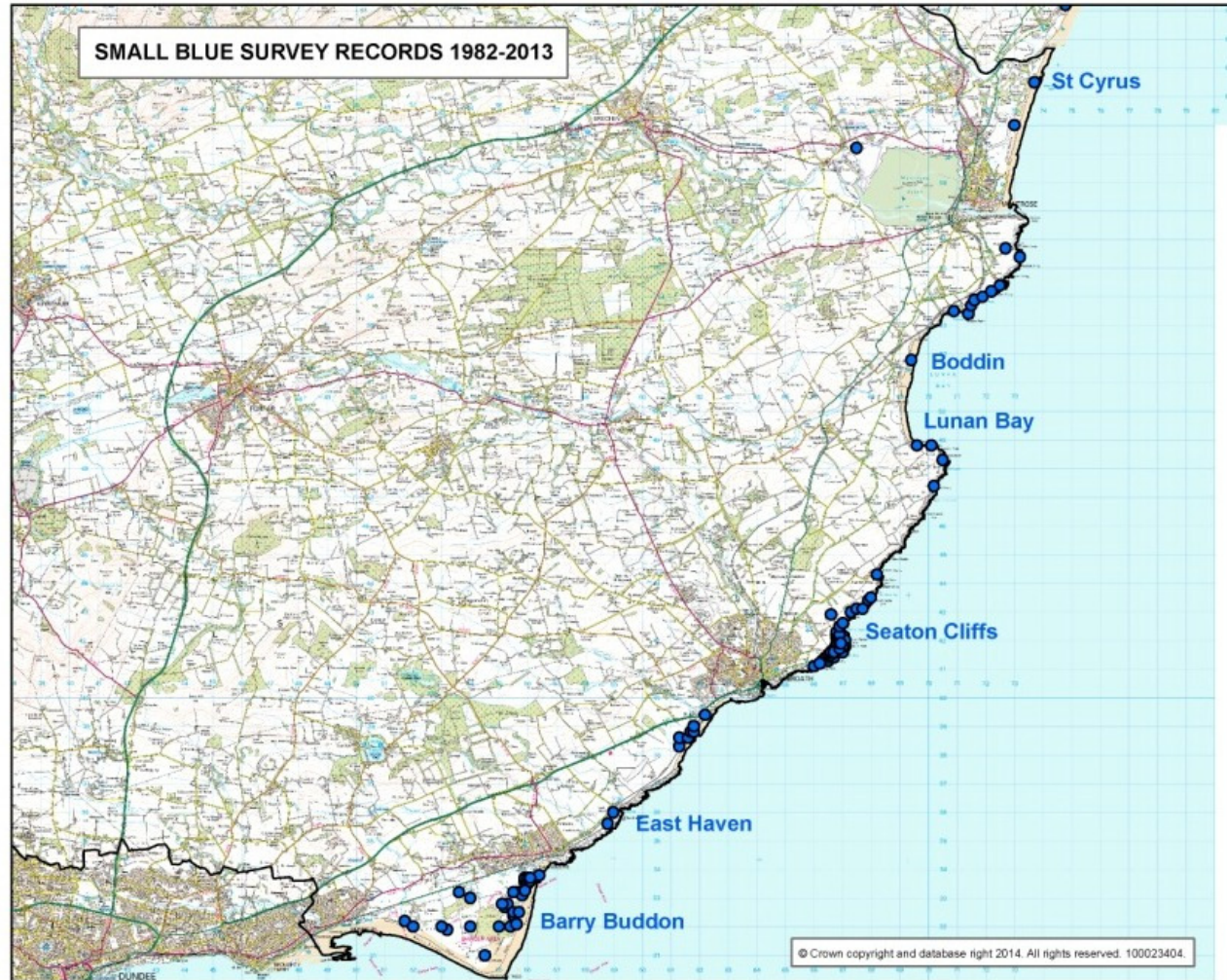


BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

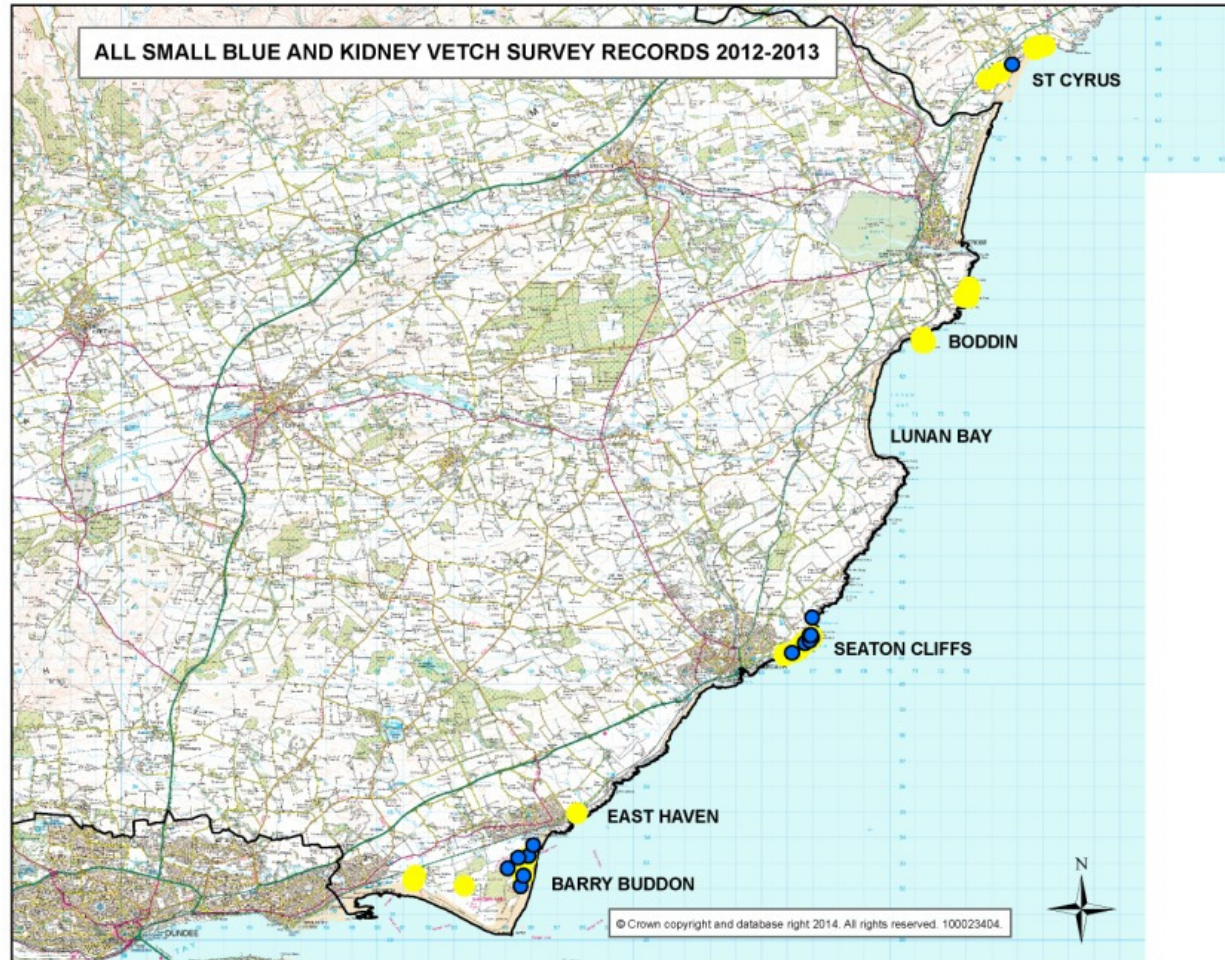



MARINE LIFE ANGUS

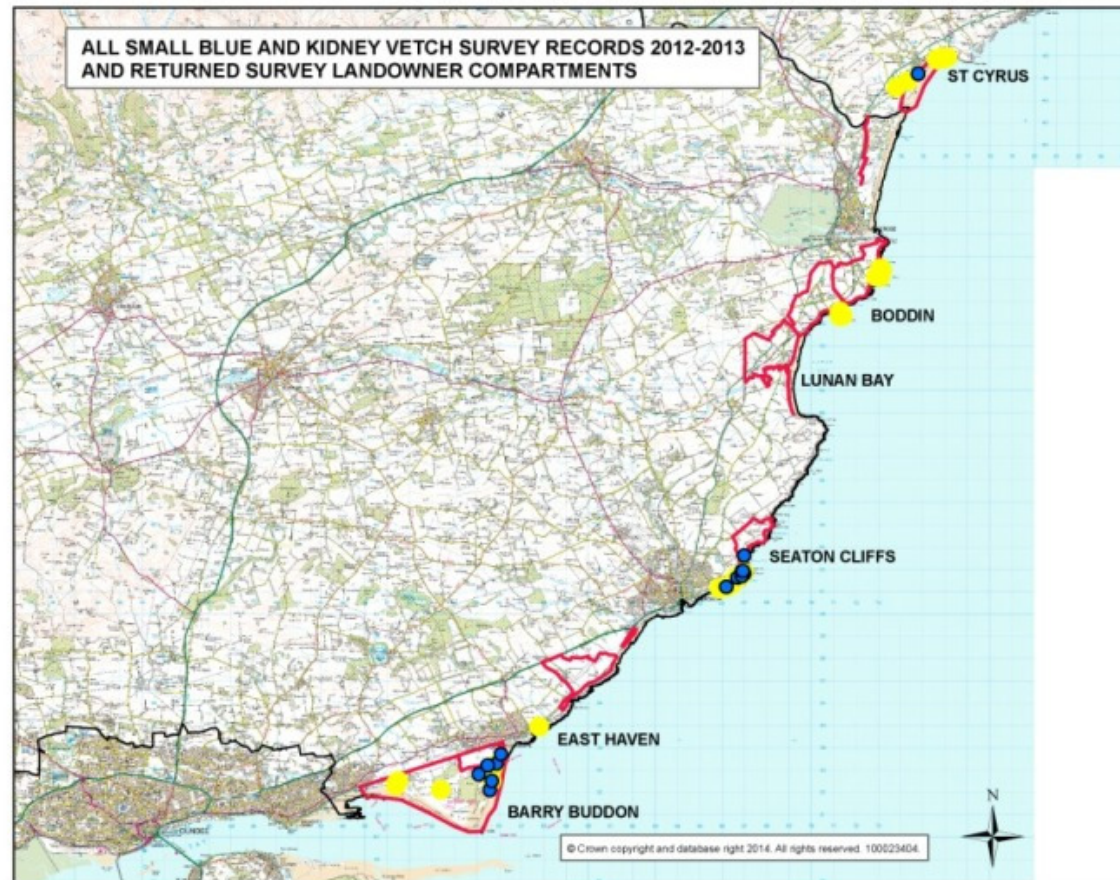
Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project



Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project



Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project



Landscape Scale Project 1: Small Blue Butterfly Project



Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording



Home About Explore the coast Species ACAP Projects News Submit a sighting Contact

Wkh#d#qj#xv#f#rd#wl#gh#l#w#d# # kg#dih# # dw#k#qj# #h#f#h#w#d#g#g#h# # krp#h#r# #l#gh#d#g#h# #r#f#rd#w#d#k#g#g#p# d#l#gh# #d#e#l#w#d#w# # d#g#g#s#h#f#l#v#l

The Marine Life Angus website is an introduction to some of these sites and species and gives you the opportunity to log any special sightings.

This information is used to help understand and conserve our maritime habitats and species.



WkH#d#Q#J#X#V#F#R#D#W# # #D#U#H#D#V#R#I# #Q#W#H#U#H#W#

- Montrose Bay, St Cyrus & Kinnaber Links
- Montrose Basin
- Scouriness to Boddin Point
- Lunan Bay
- Whitingness to Ethie Haven
- Auchmithie
- Seaton Cliffs
- Barry Buddon SSSI
- Monifieth



V#S#F#I#H#V#



The Angus coastline has a remarkable range of marine & coastal species

V#h#h#k#o#h#s#h#f#l#v#e#

U#h#s#r#U#W#d# #L#J#K#W#I#Q#J#



If you have sightings of whales or dolphins along the Angus coast please let us know about it

U#h#s#r#U#W#d# #L#J#K#W#I#Q#J#

D#Q#J#X#V#F#H#W#F#H#D#Q#D#Z#D#U#H#Q#H#W# #S#U#R#M#H#W#

A.C.A.P is a cetacean survey and data collection project in Angus waters and along the coastline. The purpose of the project is to learn more about cetacean presence in the Waters off Angus and to report this information to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and bodies like the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.



F#r#q#w#l#e#o#e#w#d# # #F#u#l#g#l#w#

This project has been made possible by the valued contribution of organisations and individuals.

U#h#d#g#p# #r#u#h#e#


O#d#w#l#w#Q#h#z#v#

21/09/2015 - Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation Open Please take a moment to respond. Give your views on the sections in this first phase which include:

U#h#d#g#p# #r#u#h#e#




Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording



[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Explore the coast](#)
[Species](#)
[ACAP](#)
[Projects](#)
[News](#)
[Submit a sighting](#)
[Contact](#)

YOU ARE HERE: HOME > EXPLORE THE COAST > LUNAN BAY

- [Gightburn](#)
- [Montrose Bay](#)
- [Montrose Basin](#)
- [Scurdiness to Boddin Point](#)
- [Lunan Bay](#)**
- [Ethie Haven to Whitingness](#)
- [Auchmithie](#)
- [Seaton Cliffs](#)
- [Barry Buddon](#)
- [Monifieth Bay](#)

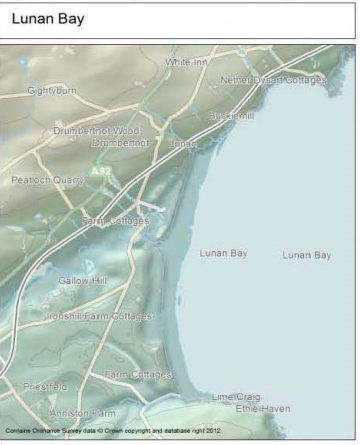



Lunan Bay


The sand dune system to the north and south of the Lunan water consists of mobile dunes backed by an established links area. In the northern section there is thick mantle of Marram Grass. Inland of the mobile dunes the habitat changes into a shorter dune pasture area.

The dune habitat also supports a number of invertebrate species, including grasshoppers, earwigs, many species of beetle, butterflies and moths. Cliff headlands bound Lunan Bay and fossil cliffs run along the back of the raised beach ranging from 250m-50m inland of the High Water Mark. The southern upper raised beach (15m OD) sits on the fossil cliffs and consists of rough pasture.

An extensive area of inter-tidal sand flats runs virtually uninterrupted for 3.5 km of Lunan Bay. There are also areas of estuarine Mud/ Sand Flats, Saltmarsh and Wet Grassland.




<http://www.marinelifeangus.co.uk/explore-the-coast/lunan-bay/>




[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Explore the coast](#)
[Species](#)
[ACAP](#)
[Projects](#)
[News](#)
[Submit a sighting](#)
[Contact](#)

YOU ARE HERE: HOME > SUBMIT A SIGHTING



Your name
 Email
 Date of sighting
 Time start
 Time end
 Location
 Latitude / Longitude
 6 figure grid ref no
 Sea state
 Weather conditions
 Distance from shore
 Species
 Quantity
 Behaviour
 Direction of travel
 Additional notes



Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording

Most common species recorded – Bottlenose dolphin – **73%**

More sightings submitted from North Angus – **66%**

Most sightings were from 0-100ms from shore – **45%**

Most encounters were approximately 15 mins – **34%**

Most common behaviour was traveling – **48%**

Feeding behaviours more commonly seen near river mouths and bays – **59%**

Most common pod sizes are between 1 & 5 animals – **57%**

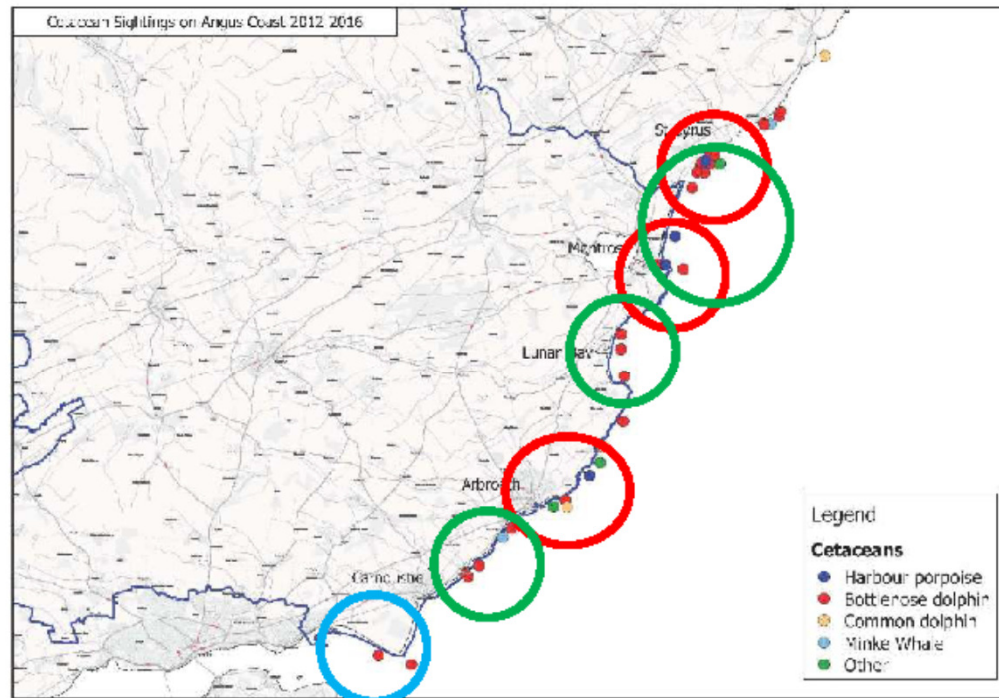
Calves seen on five occasions

Only two sightings are from boats & one surf board!

Used for planning application, Atlas of living Scotland, encouraging land based viewing and local tourism



Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording



Sightings Hot Spots Feeding Hot Spots Socialising Hot Spots

Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording

“I was surfing and the Dolphin came within 20m. It appeared to be feeding and was being followed around the bay by 5-10 gulls. The Dolphin was also having fun riding the waves. A great experience!”

“Female and calf spent over half an hour in the shallows just off the shore. Spent circling around then headed towards Tentsmuir”.

“Riding bow waves of small fishing boat”.

“Tide falling - feeding at approx: 56.702421, -2.435832, 8 individuals were seen but more may have been present. Spectacle was enjoyed by a walking group”.

“WDC St Cyrus training day. Bottlenose dolphins viewed feeding from cliff top”

“Several pods travelling south feeding and playing in different groups. Probably the largest group I have seen this year”

“Many seabirds feeding in area (e.g. 60 manx shearwaters). Very small calf seen in this group - the smallest I've ever seen”

Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording



Landscape Scale Project 2: Marine Life Angus Cetacean Recording



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
BIODIVERSITY
 THE VARIETY OF LIFE



MARINE LIFE ANGUS

Get involved !!



www.marinelifeangus.co.uk

@marinelifeangus

<http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/>

@taysidebiodiversity



HELP US FIND Small Blue Butterflies & Kidney Vetch plants

The Small Blue is the UK's smallest butterfly and is becoming increasingly rare. Volunteer surveyors are needed to check current and historical sites on both the Angus coast and key sites inland. Please join us for an informal training afternoon searching for this charismatic little butterfly and its food plant, Kidney Vetch.

FREE Survey Training, BARRY BUDDON
Sunday 5th June 2016 (1pm – 4pm)

1:00pm Meet at the Monifieth Recreation Grounds car park (adjacent to the railway line, off Marine Drive – NO502324): you will receive an information pack about the Small Blue

1:15pm Guided walk to search for Kidney Vetch plants, the Small Blue and its eggs

This training event will be led by David Lampard (Dundee Museums and Galleries and Moth Recorder for the area). Adults and children over 12 are very welcome. Please bring suitable outdoor clothing/footwear and a drink.

The course is **FREE to attend, but places are limited, so booking is essential.**

To book a place, contact David Lampard:
Tel. 01382 489670/e-mail dlampard@clara.co.uk

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

A JOINT TAYSIDE & NORTH EAST SCOTLAND BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT working in association with Butterfly Conservation Scotland



Crew at Broughty Ferry save dolphin's life

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPe5FMqIkq0>
- The small female had been trapped on the River Tay in Perth on 19 May and, as the water fell, she became disorientated and started thrashing in panic. A complex rescue then ensued involving Tayside Police, Tayside Fire and Rescue's water rescue unit, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, the Shanwell Wildlife Rescue Trust and the RNLI's Broughty Ferry crew.

