

BIODIVERSITY

Communications Toolkit

Taypack potatoes, Inchtute, Tayside

Lead and main partner organisations

- Taypack Potatoes
- Scottish Lowlands Barn owl project
- BTCV Scotland
- Taylor Farms Ltd
- FWAG
- Local Biodiversity Projects Officer

Aims and objectives

- To improve the biodiversity value on site
- Meet local and national objectives for conservation

Background

Taypack Potatoes is owned by the Taylor Family Businesses and is a packing and distribution facility based in Inchtute, Tayside. The plant has a rural location with an adjoining farm which is also owned by the Taylor Family. Taypack Potatoes was credited with ISO14001 in 1995 due to the standards met through their environmental management system. Although they are not required by their clients to have an ISO14001 standard, obtaining such an award helps them stand out from their competitors. A key element of ISO14001 is the need to demonstrate continuous improvements. Taypack identified biodiversity as an area where they could have a positive impact.

Summary of activity

The biodiversity review of the site was undertaken by the Business Environment Partnership (BEP) to help deliver an action as part of the company's demonstration of their commitment to ISO14001. The review highlighted several management options that could be delivered on site to improve the biodiversity value and where there were opportunities to meet local and national objectives for conservation. This included assisting with the Barn owl project occurring in the area which is now forming part of the Scottish Lowlands Barn Owl Forum.

A representative for the Scottish Lowlands Barn owl project was invited to talk with staff on the conservation of the Barn owl, its ecology and the project locally. Employees from five different departments were challenged to build Barn owl boxes in one month using guidelines given to them by the FWAG officer that delivered the presentation. The boxes were then erected in the surrounding tree lines around the farm with the help of BTCV Scotland. The positioning of the boxes coincides with the access routes being created by Taylor Farms Ltd, and therefore allows local people to view these boxes as well.

There has also been Tree Sparrow boxes and bat boxes erected on site to help provide nesting opportunities for these endangered and protected species.

Work is continuing on the delivery of the action plan and developments are being made on the farm including pond creation, beetle banks and hedgerows. All of which tie in with the Barn owl project. The Barn owl boxes will be monitored by employees or local volunteers to provide feedback on occupancy rates and successful breeding as the second phase of the project. Audits of the site to monitor the effects of these actions are planned for 2008.

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Outcomes

- Demonstrating continual improvement of ISO14001
- Delivering actions from the site Biodiversity Action Plan to improve the biodiversity value of the site
- Creating beneficial partnerships
- Engaging with employees to deliver project
- ISO 14001 leads to more contract wins and other awards such as VIBES
- Projects completed

Five Barn owl boxes have been made and erected in appropriate trees in the surrounding farmland, 12 bat boxes and 13 bird boxes have also been put up.

- Volunteers engaged

30 employees were engaged over one month to build the Barn owl boxes and there were 4 BTCV volunteers involved in erecting the boxes around the site as well.

- Business benefits

- Company improved image with local environmental bodies
- Demonstrating continual improvement with ISO14001
- Employee engagement and team building
- Publicity

- Community benefits

- Local environment improved for Barn owls, a local priority species
- Company supporting the delivery of the local biodiversity objectives
- Raising awareness of the Barn owl to the local community by providing access to the sites