2pOND

Study

August 201 t

Safety

Scoping

'SSW;"'

Dales

Mike

Lower Tay Canoe Trail

Safety Scoping Study

Contents

Executive Summary

Introduction

3. Methodology

4 Health and Safety Issues

42.

4.3.

44.

45.

4.6.

4.8 u

4.9.

4.10.

Health and safety legislation

User access

Commercial river traffic

Perth and Kinross Council Water Safety Policy

River levels

Mudflats and other hazards

Rescue facilities

Risk assessments for canoeing and kayaking

Poisonous plants

Resources

10

11

11

12

13

14

15

16

18

18

20

22

23

24

26

27

5. Opportunities

5.2

5.3.

5.4.

5.5.

5.6,

What is a canoe trail?

Other trails

Current use

Potential use / markets

Commercial opportunities

Conservation designations and invasive non-native species

SSSI and Ramsar

5.62. Natura designations — SPA and SAC

5.6.3. Implications of the designations for the canoe trail

5.6.4.

Invasive non-native species

5.6.5.

Promotion of conservation messages

5.7,

5.8.

5.9.

5.10.

5.11.

5.12.

Access and egress points

Educational opportunities

Infrastructure

Promotional channels

Coordination with other bodies

Ongoing trail management

6.

8.

Recommendations

Bibliography

Appendices

Risk assessment template

Useful Contacts

Canoe trail access and egress points

Map of Tay Landscape Partnership area and Lower

Tay Canoe Trail landings and places of interest

28

31

32

33

36

37

51

8.1

8.2.

8.3.

84 a

Appendix A —

Appendix B —

Appendix C —

Appendix D —

Executive Summary

The Tay Landscape Partnership is a four-year project celebrating the landscapes

of where the Rivers Tay and Earn meet. The E2.6-milIion-pound initiative is

principally funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will be accomplished through

29 individual projects. One of those 29 projects is the development of a Lower

Tay Canoe Trail between Perth, Newburgh and Bridge of Earn.

This study has considered the potential for a Lower Tay Canoe Trail and the

report discusses aspects of its development, such as health and safety

implications, environmental issues, marketing considerations, educational

opportunities and infrastructure requirements.

The research phase of this study comprised a series of stakeholder consultation

meetings, site visits and a paddle trip on the Tay and Earn, plus a desk study to

look into safety issues, market considerations and other canoe trails.

Health and safety will be a vital area of consideration in the development of a

canoe trail on the Tay and Earn, and the report discusses a series of issues that

need to be addressed, such as legislation, commercial river traffic, river levels,

rescue facilities, risk assessments and information and resources for

communicating to users of the trail.

The report highlights the work that has already been carried out in setting up

canoe trails in Northern Ireland and suggests learning from the way in which their

nine trails have been developed and promoted.

The current use of the rivers by canoeists is assessed and the potential for

increase in use discussed. A marketing approach has been adopted to segment

the market into various types of use by paddlers and non-paddlers, as well as

looking at the potential for commercial opportunities for guiding companies and

providers of other local tourism services such as accommodation, transport and

food and drink.

The Tay estuary is an area of high conservation importance and has five nature

conservation designations. The impact of the trail on these designated sites will

be a major consideration in the development of the trail, and liaison with Scottish

Natural Heritage will be a priority for the Tay Landscape Partnership.

The canoe trail should become a hub for information about the trail, and

communication channels such as a website and leaflet should promote a range

of educational messages relating to health and safety, conservation and invasive

non-native species, as well as interpretation about history, geology, landscape

and wildlife, plus relevant information about tourism services.

The report recommends the installation of a series of gauges to help paddlers

make assessments of water levels, as well as the provision of washing facilities

at the Willowgate Activity Centre and Newburgh. Other infrastructure projects,