



**Forth Estuary Forum 22nd Annual Conference
Routes of the Forth
19th November 2015**

Speaker Biographies

Professor Robert Duck:

On the Edge: the physical impact of the railways on the Forth

Rob Duck has been the Chair of the neighbouring Tay Estuary Forum since 2001. Until recently (August 2015) he was Dean of the School of the Environment in the University of Dundee, where he now holds the post of Emeritus Professor of Environmental Geoscience. His research specialises in coasts and estuaries, and furthering the public understanding of science and climate change.

He is the author of "This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coasts" (Dundee University Press, 2011) and "On the Edge: Coastlines of Britain" (Edinburgh University Press, 2015). His talk today is based on the latter book.

David Anderson:

Bird Migration Routes

For the past three years David has been working on RSPB Scotland's Inner Forth Futurescape project that aims to deliver landscape scale conservation by creating and enhancing habitats that benefit both the wildlife and people of the Inner Forth. He is local to the area having been born and brought up in Clackmannanshire and this provides a great incentive to make the Futurescape project a success.

Prior to working on the Inner Forth project David studied at Edinburgh Napier University graduating with an MSc in Conservation and Management of Protected Areas. His degree included a research thesis that examined what may be behind the decline of Ring Ouzels in the UK. He also spent two seasons working with ospreys at RSPB's Abernethy Forest Nature Reserve and a year working on whale and dolphin conservation around the Moray Firth.

Tom Brock OBE:

The North Berwick/Anstruther Ferry



After studying Zoology at Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities, Tom was a Countryside Ranger before working for British Waterways for 15 years, promoting, managing and developing canals for leisure and tourism throughout the UK. He was appointed as Chief Executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre in 1998, prior to its opening in 2000 and was awarded an OBE for services to tourism in 2006.

Tom is a Sir Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow and a graduate of Common Purpose. He was Chairman of the national Tourism and Environment Forum and the Sustainable Tourism Partnership. He is currently a trustee of Keep Scotland Beautiful and a director of the Forth Estuary Forum.

A consultant on wildlife tourism projects internationally, Tom has also worked with communities in Kenya and the Galapagos islands to identify how local communities and wildlife can both benefit from sustainable and responsible wildlife tourism.

Scott Aston:

The North Berwick/Anstruther Ferry

After studying Civil Engineering at Glasgow University Scott spent a number of years working for MJ Gleeson PLC in their Water and Waste Treatment department before rejoining the family business in 2007 as skipper of the Maid of the Forth and the Seafari Explorer.

From a young age Scott has always had a keen interest in water sports, particularly surfing and windsurfing, although his main interest has always been slalom canoeing. From the age of 12 he has been a member of the Scottish Slalom Canoe team and earlier this year he won a silver medal in the Scottish Canoe Slalom Championship.

Ken Patterson

Long Distance Paths in Fife

Ken graduated from the University of Stirling with a BSc(Hons) in Biology. After graduating he worked as a countryside ranger, senior ranger, and Principal Officer (Countryside & Tourism) which latterly assumed responsibility for the Museum Service. The 1996 Local Government reform provided a change of direction to Client Services Manager managing catering, cleaning, school transport, and school crossing patrols for Education & Leisure Services. The remit then broadened to encompass Sports Development, Arts Development, and Ranger Service. He was then involved in the setting up of a Leisure Trust, becoming its first General Manager. Thereafter, he moved to HM Revenue and Customs until taking early retirement in 2014. Now back working with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust as Inland Team Leader, and back with countryside rangers.

On a personal level he loves walking in the countryside, swim 2.5km a day, and runs along the coast from Lower Largo to Elie every Sunday.

Ranald Strachan*Long Distance Paths in Fife*

Born in Singapore, but raised in Edinburgh Ranald served in the Royal Air Force before becoming involved in the land management sector in 1997. Primarily he has been concerned with Arboriculture, woodland management, reserve management and countryside management throughout this time.

In 2007 he joined the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust as a Countryside Ranger with remits covering the Fife Coastal Path between Newburgh and Kingsbarn, the Eden Estuary Nature reserve and the beaches and coast of St Andrews. He is a keen walker, mountaineer, cyclist and sea kayaker with the latter allowing him to explore what he describes as "the fantastic landscape of the Forth".

Ian McCrory*Fife Harbours Strategic study 2015*

Ian McCrory is the Lead Professional for Economic Regeneration within Fife Council's Economy, Planning and Employability Service and has a wide-ranging remit which covers the whole the Kingdom. He has been involved in local government in Fife since 2001 and was part of the team which commissioned the Strategic Harbours Study in 2014 the aim of which was to identify the demand and potential for growing leisure opportunities along Fife's coast.

Morag Campbell*Marine Planning in Scotland -an overview.*

A Policy Officer in the Marine Planning and Strategy Division of Marine Scotland, she is working, together with a colleague, to develop Regional Marine Planning in Scotland, beginning with the Clyde and Shetland areas. They work on the legal and ministerial requirements necessary to establish Marine Planning Partnerships, the organisations that will create Regional Marine Plans, and also ensure transparent and effective communication during this process with stakeholders. They will be supporting Marine Planning Partnerships in developing their plans with policy, science and data hosting assistance. Her background is in marine and environmental science, with over ten years working in the field of fisheries research for both demersal and pelagic species