



# Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan 2003 Monitoring Report

The Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership launched its first set of 23 individual habitat and species action plans in 2002. In 2003 a further 10 action plans were produced.

These plans set targets for the conservation of key plants, animals and habitats, and identify the actions required to meet those targets. For each action a lead organisation or individual responsible for implementing it and a timescale for completion is set.

2003 saw the first attempt at monitoring how well the Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership was doing at implementing these actions. This second monitoring round looks at progress implementing actions due to be undertaken in 2003. It will help tell us whether the action plans are being effectively put into practice and whether we need to make changes to the process to make it work better.

The monitoring was done via a simple questionnaire sent to all those signed up to take action during 2003. It asked how each action was progressing (whether it was completed, ongoing, not started etc.), what constraints there had been to completing the action and, in some cases, how much funding had been secured to implement the action.

This report summarises the results of the monitoring process and some of the many successes of 2003.

In 2003 37 partners were responsible for leading on the

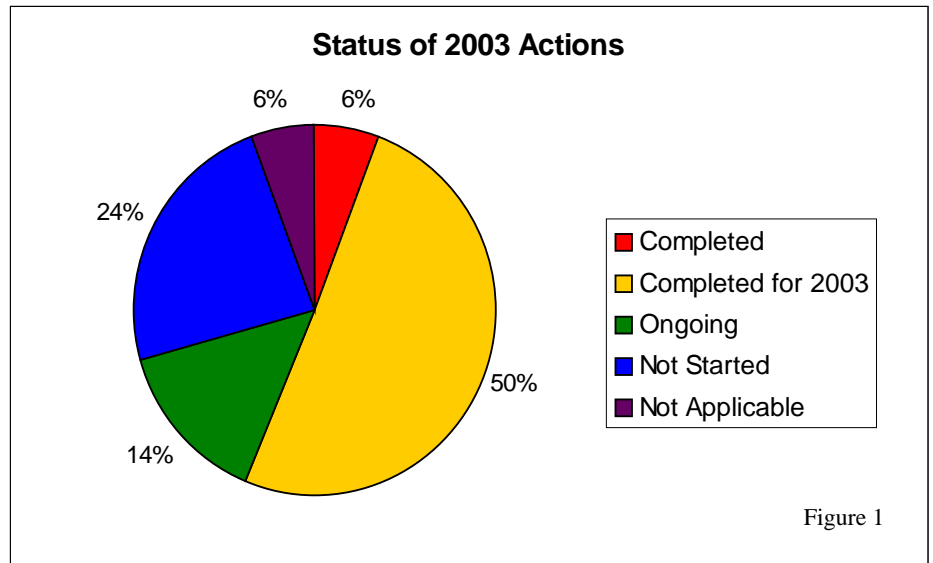


Figure 1

implementation of 413 actions. At least a further 21 individuals or organisations assisted with these actions.

The above chart illustrates the percentage of 2003 actions that were:

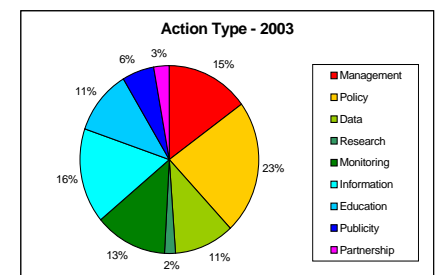
- Completed
- Completed for 2003 (i.e. satisfactorily completed for 2003 although the action has to be undertaken on an ongoing basis.)
- Ongoing (i.e. started but not yet completed.)
- Not started
- Not applicable (i.e. action only required under certain circumstances that did not arise in 2003.)

70% (291) of the actions scheduled for 2003 were at least started, with 56% (232) satisfactorily completed. While the proportion of actions completed is down on 2002 the actual number of actions completed has risen by 70.

The 2003 actions range from policy formulation to publicity,

habitat management to data gathering. An indication of the variety of different types of action is given below.

This data is a useful indication of the type and variety of work that the Biodiversity Partnership is undertaking and can be used to assess whether some types of action are being more effectively implemented than others.



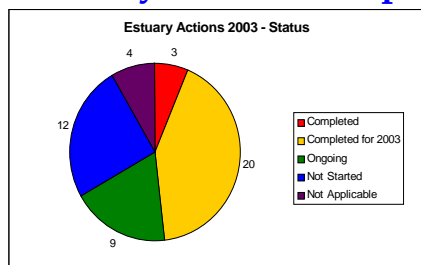
Key:

- Management – Habitat/species management
- Policy - Policy & Strategy development
- Data - Survey and data collection
- Research - Securing / undertaking research
- Monitoring - Monitoring habitats, species and plan implementation
- Information - Information provision / advice / training
- Education – Education provision / support
- Publicity - Publicity / awareness raising / encouraging participation
- Partnership - Partnership development, liaison and assistance

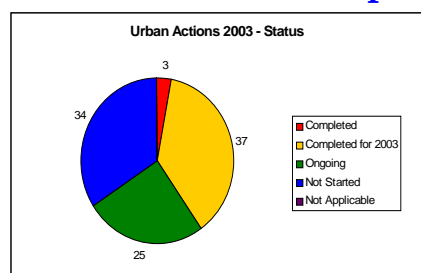
Each of eight action groups was busy during 2003 overseeing implementation of the various action plans. This included carrying out actions themselves and encouraging others to take action.

Not all the actions for 2003 have been completed but many have. Below is a summary of how each of the action groups have done.

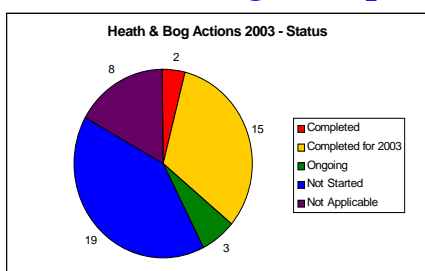
### Estuary Action Group



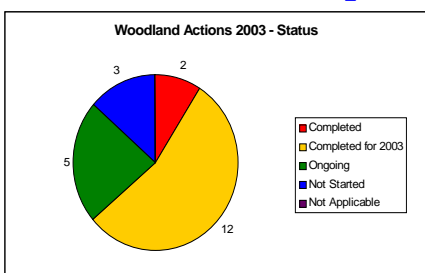
### Urban Action Group



### Heath & Bog Group

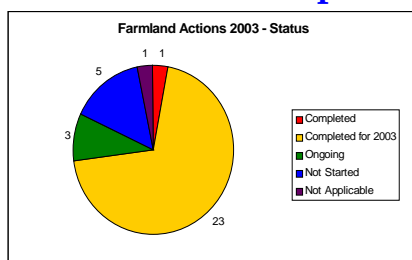


### Woodland Group

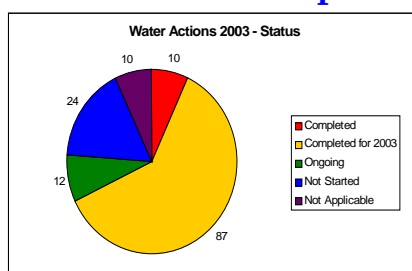


(Note: the charts indicate the number of actions scheduled for 2003 that are completed, started etc. - see key in column 2, page 1)

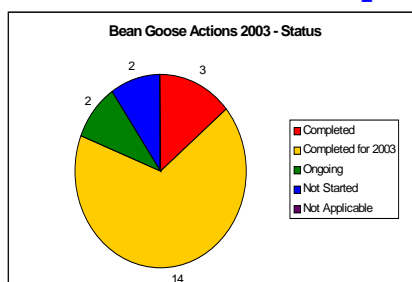
### Farmland & Grassland Action Group



### Water & Wetland Action Group



### Bean Goose Group



### Successes for biodiversity in 2003 included ....

- ❖ Completion of the new bird hide at Kinniel Kerse, a partnership project between SWT and BP.
- ❖ The start of the High Limerigg Bat Box project, which involves putting up and monitoring around 30 bat boxes on the woodland edge.
- ❖ Co-operation between Plantlife Scotland, Falkirk Council, the local Scottish Wildlife Trust group and others to set up a monitoring & management programme for the very rare Young's helleborine orchid.

- ❖ Completion of a water vole survey to see how 'ratty' is doing on Falkirk's rivers and streams.
- ❖ Publication in the local press of a series of articles to promote gardening for biodiversity.
- ❖ Continued monitoring and work to conserve the local wintering bean goose flock.
- ❖ Completion of work to remove an obstruction on the Castlerankine burn to allow fish to pass upstream.
- ❖ Work by various LBAP partners to bring several valuable woodland sites under management that is beneficial to biodiversity.

While the action taken in 2003 was constrained by various factors, particularly staff time and the availability of resources, considerable progress was made. 2004 will see the publication of several new habitat and species action plans. Additional actions may mean a need to prioritise the work LBAP partners undertake and get more people onboard to assist with implementation. There's plenty to be done and an enthusiasm for more action on the ground in 2004.

For more information about the Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan process or details of these monitoring results contact:

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