



Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan 2004 Monitoring Report

The Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership aims to protect and enhance our local wildlife. A key focus for its work is implementation of its 33 habitat and species action plans.

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 also set.

This is the third year of monitoring how well the Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership is doing at implementing actions. This third monitoring round looks at progress implementing the actions scheduled for 2004. 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.

This monitoring was done via a simple questionnaire sent to all those signed up to take action during 2004. 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 successes of 2004.

In 2004 over 55 partner organisations and individuals

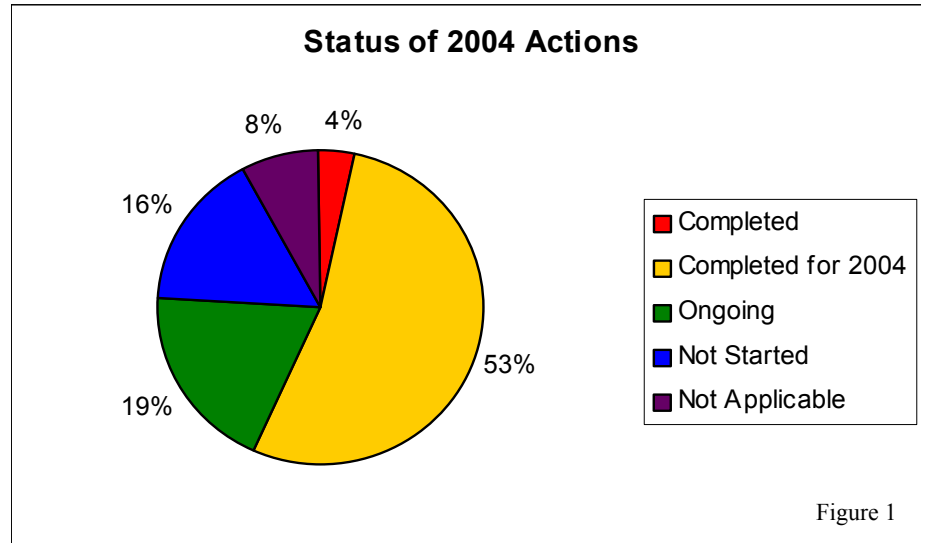


Figure 1

led on the implementation of 437 actions. Many other individuals and organisations assisted with these actions.

The above chart illustrates the percentage of 2004 actions that were:

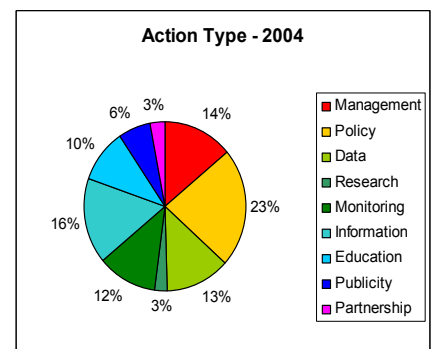
- Completed
- Completed for 2004 (i.e. satisfactorily completed for 2004 although the action has to be undertaken on an ongoing basis.)
- Ongoing (i.e. started but not yet completed.)
- Not started
- Not applicable (i.e. action only required under certain circumstances that did not arise in 2004.)

76% (331) of the actions scheduled for 2004 were at least started (up 6% on last year), with 57% (246) satisfactorily completed.

The 2004 actions ranged 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.



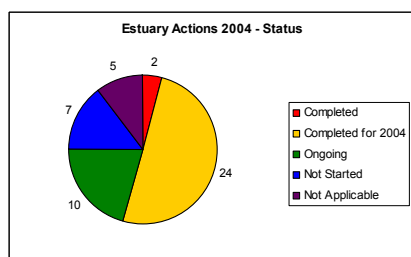
Key:

- 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

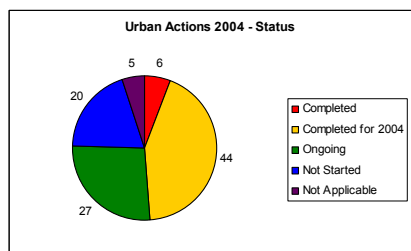
Action Groups were busy during 2004 overseeing implementation of the various action plans. This included carrying out actions themselves and encouraging others to take action.

Not all the actions for 2004 have been completed but many have. Below is a summary of how each of the 6 action groups has done.

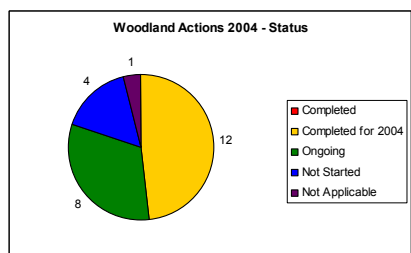
Estuary Action Group



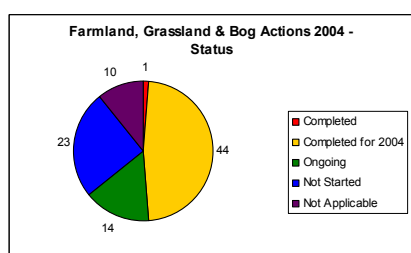
Urban Action Group



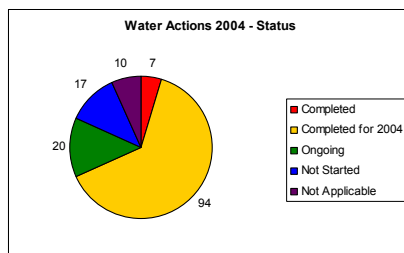
Woodland Group



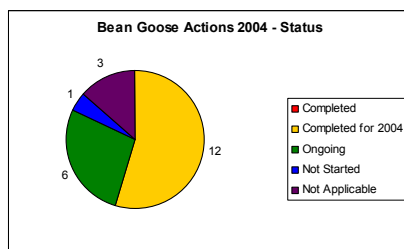
Farmland, Grassland, Heath & Bog Action Group



Water & Wetland Action Group



Bean Goose Group



(Note: the charts indicate the number of actions scheduled for 2004 that are completed, started etc. - see key in column 2, page 1)

Successes for local biodiversity in 2004 included ...

- ❖ A farm walk to promote farming practices that benefit biodiversity.
- ❖ Monitoring of the rare Young's helleborine orchid by local volunteers with the assistance of Plantlife Scotland and Falkirk Council.
- ❖ Collection, under licence, of seed from Young's helleborine for attempted propagation by the Hardy Orchid Society.
- ❖ A wide range of school grounds projects supported by the Green Schools Grant scheme run by Falkirk Council in partnership with SNH.
- ❖ Production of a leaflet about the birds of the Forth

estuary and the Kinniel Bird Hide

- ❖ Management of the Bonnyfield Nature Park by the local management group, including cutting and removal of grass from meadow areas.

2004 also saw the Biodiversity Officer post become job share with Caroline Peacock joining Anna Perks as Falkirk Biodiversity Officer. Two heads are better than one!

To sum up 2004

While the action that partners could undertake was inevitably constrained by limited time and resources, 2004 saw considerable progress made and many biodiversity actions completed. Local partners continue to play a vital role in delivering the LBAP.

Nationally the publication of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and coming into force of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 both helped to reinforce the message that biodiversity conservation is the responsibility of a wide range of organizations across Scotland.

The final set of several habitat and species action plans is due for publication in 2005. Additional actions will mean a need to prioritise the work partners undertake and get more people onboard to assist with implementation!

For more information or details of these monitoring results contact:

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