

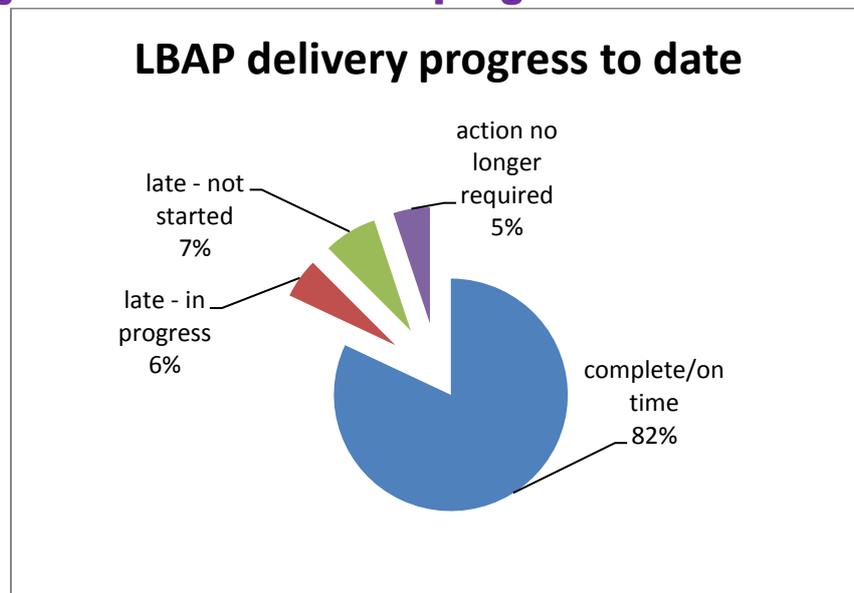
Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2013/4 annual report

December 2014

Background

The Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is co-ordinated by City of Edinburgh Council. It is in its third iteration, containing 252 actions that span 2010-2015. These actions are delivered by the 31 members of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership (EBP), many of which are third sector organisations largely dependent on volunteers. In preparation for the next LBAP, a review of the current LBAP has taken place at a stakeholder workshop in November 2014.

Summary of LBAP 2010-2015 progress to date



Key achievements of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership

- The Council chaired and co-ordinated the **Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership**;
- The Council's **Planning and Building Standards Service (P&BS)** ensured that biodiversity remains an important consideration through its inclusion in the revised Local Development Plan (LDP) and in the determination of planning casework. A review of **Local Nature Conservation Site boundaries** was also completed for inclusion in the second proposed LDP;
- P&BS staff delivered a **protected species seminar** for CEC Estates staff, with a particular focus on bats;

- **Directly engaged the public** by co-ordinating **Edinburgh Biodiversity Week 2013**; writing articles for park notice boards; meeting and advising local groups;
- Co-ordinated a programme of events for **Year of Natural Scotland 2013**
- Published **Trees in the City: Trees and Woodlands Action Plan 2014** for Council owned trees and woodlands;
- In the Council's 12 **Natural Heritage Parks and the Pentland Hills Regional Park**, a programme of practical habitat management and conservation tasks was delivered **in partnership with community and corporate group volunteers**. A total of 1,481 people contributed 5,744 hours of voluntary work.
- **Species surveys were carried out for wildflowers, butterflies, bees and wetland birds on Council owned Natural Heritage sites** at 12 biodiversity survey events. Ongoing support given to trained Biodiversity volunteers who carried out additional surveys on several sites.
- The **Living Landscape Project**, in partnership with the Council, Edinburgh University, Scottish Wildlife Trust and others, has introduced a more natural approach to grassland management. This includes 26 wildflower meadows and creation of natural grassland areas across the City.
- A number of **habitat creation and improvement projects** were carried out by the Council **Neighbourhood Teams**. This has included 3000m² of wildflower meadow creation in the East Neighbourhood; Hedgerows have been planted at Harrison Park and Bloomiehall Park; and fruit tree planting in Ferniehill Community Park;
- **Increased the number of registered Eco-Schools in Edinburgh to 93%**;
- The Partnership continued to link **community involvement with the Planning service** by including volunteers' data on protected and other species in the Uniform constraints layer. This data is co-ordinated by The Wildlife Information Centre;
- The Wildlife Information Centre completed assessments of seven Local Biodiversity Sites;
- Edinburgh Lothian and Fife Habitat Network Partnership and the Woodland Trust Scotland supported additional landowners in **securing funding for woodland creation** on the north east slopes area of the Pentland Hills. This marks a significant local contribution to delivery of the **Central Scotland Green Network**, increasing and improving connectivity of the woodland habitat network;
- Historic Scotland, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Tarmac Limited and the Council have continued to collaborate on the **LBAP Rare Plants project** to expand the populations of our rarest plants;
- New leaflet produced by Council's Natural Heritage Service and Lothian and Borders Geo Conservation on the **Geology of the Pentland Hills**;
- Volunteers at the **Water of Leith Conservation Trust** carry out a variety of tasks each year to look after the river environment. The Trust deliver ongoing projects which benefit wildlife. This year volunteers have carried out a comprehensive survey of invasive species upstream of the visitor centre and trained volunteers will be treating some plant species in an effort to reverse the spread of invasive species;
- **Lothian Bat Group** and the **Edinburgh and Lothian Badger Group** continue to deliver **Species Action Plans** and actively monitor bat and badger populations across the city;
- **Lothian Raptor Study Group** and **RSPB** are working on urban **Sparrowhawk** conservation projects, monitoring sparrowhawk populations across Edinburgh and have a nest camera set up in the Botanics for educational use;
- Many habitat improvement projects were carried out in parks by **'Friends' groups** supported by the Council or other partners. For example, the Friends of the Hermitage of and Blackford Hill completed work on the Walled Garden at the Hermitage of Braid. This project is supported by Heritage Lottery Funding.

Further information can be found in a [detailed report on how the Council is delivering its statutory duty towards biodiversity](#).