



Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

The Nature of Rushcliffe Annual Report - March 2005

1.0 Introduction

The implementation group was set up in 2003 to implement the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and consists of a range of organisations and groups with an interest in Rushcliffe's wildlife. The Nature Conservation Strategy forms part of the Rushcliffe Community Strategy.

Member organisations of the implementation group in 2004 were:

- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE)
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Friends of Meadow Park
- Bunny Wood Group
- Meadow Covert Group
- South Notts Bird Ringers

On 7 October 2003 the borough council endorsed the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and implementation of the strategy began from April 2004. The actions are to be carried out by a range of organisations including those on the implementation group.

The strategic aim is to protect and enhance Rushcliffe's wildlife resources, thereby contributing towards local and national biodiversity action plan targets. The strategy aims to provide ready access to wildlife-rich green spaces, with an emphasis on species-rich grassland, woodland, wetland habitats, and Biodiversity Action Plan species.

2.0 Progress

A large part of the first year's work has involved setting up initiatives that will allow the aims of the strategy to be achieved and the implementation group has overseen this work:

2.1 Community Ranger Service

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has obtained the agreement to provide a community and site based development programme across Rushcliffe, funded by the borough council. The Trust will provide an average of 12 hours work per week in the Rushcliffe area, developing the management of nature conservation sites not already managed by the Trust, developing community involvement in these sites and raising the awareness of nature conservation across the borough. A report from the wildlife trust is given in Appendix C.

2.2 Rushcliffe Pond and Wetland Grant

Wetlands are a traditional part of Rushcliffe's heritage, and they are also of great wildlife value. We want to encourage pond and wetland creation and restoration to enhance wildlife variety within Rushcliffe. This grant will help to secure their future as wildlife habitats and will provide opportunities for the public and schoolchildren to observe the associated wildlife.

2.3 Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Support Grant

Volunteers carry out much of the nature conservation work in Rushcliffe. We recognise and value this work and this support grant is provided to encourage voluntary work to continue.

2.4 Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Data Partnership

Biological and geological records for Nottinghamshire are maintained by Nottingham City Museum service under the guidance of the Biological and Geological Data Partnership. To give access to the records held by the partnership, Rushcliffe Borough Council has entered into an agreement. This provides up to date details of the important nature conservation sites in Rushcliffe. The Community Environment Officer has joined the partnership's management group.

The records office has also been contracted to carry out a survey of the ponds historically and to date across Rushcliffe. This will identify what resources have been lost and those that are still retained in Rushcliffe.

2.5 Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (NBAG)

The Biodiversity Action Group works to maintain and improve the biodiversity of Nottinghamshire and the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy seeks to implement this at the Rushcliffe level. Both Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust provide officer time to the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and the Biodiversity Officer attends the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group. Additionally, the borough council has provided financial support to the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group.

2.6 Tree Warden Scheme

Rushcliffe Environmental Action for the 21st Century (REACT 21) has led on establishing a Tree Warden Scheme for Rushcliffe, under the title of 'Trees across Rushcliffe'. Tree wardens are volunteers, appointed by REACT 21, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods.

There are now twenty two tree wardens across Rushcliffe from eleven parishes plus West Bridgford.

2.8 Agri – Environment Schemes

Two farmers' advice events have been held, one in April and one in November 2004. A third event is planned for April 2005.

2.9 Publicity

A wildlife gardening leaflet was published in the summer of 2004 to encourage people to take an interest in encouraging wildlife in their garden.

A number of articles have been printed in the local newspapers, Rushcliffe Reports (the Council's magazine) and have been put on to the Rushcliffe Borough Council website. Details of sites for the public to visit are publicised on the borough council website and the wildlife trust southern member's website (<http://dyne.members.beeb.net>).

2.10 Surveys

An otter and water voles survey has been completed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, this showed that water voles still have a stronghold in Rushcliffe, especially on the Grantham Canal, the survey did not replicate the sites of the previous survey carried out in 2000 and therefore makes it difficult to identify if the population has altered. The survey has shown that otters are frequent visitors to Rushcliffe.

A survey of harvest mice has also been carried out by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

A survey of ancient trees is ongoing. Surveys of cowslips and hares are being carried out by Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group.

3.0 Site Management

3.1 Sharphill Wood - Edwalton

Development of a management plan for Sharphill Wood was started, but has now halted due to a proposal for housing development in the vicinity. Some essential tree work has been carried out early in 2005, paid with a grant from the landfill tax environmental body, Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN).

3.2 Rushcliffe Country Park - Ruddington

Rushcliffe Country Park rangers continue to work to their management plan and countryside stewardship agreement. The detailed prescriptions in the management plan needs to be updated.

3.3 Meadow Park – East Leake

A management plan for Meadow Park, East Leake continues to be developed by the Community Environment Officer, in partnership with the Friends of Meadow Park and East Leake Parish Council. Work towards the objectives of the management plan has been carried out by the 'Friends'. The mowing regime has been implemented with a hay crop being taken twice per year.

3.4 Green Line

Engineering work has been carried out along the Green Line, to build a new cycle/pedestrian path, a management plan is to be developed by the Community Ranger Service working with the local community.

3.5 Cotgrave Country Park

A new 'Friends of Cotgrave Country Park' group has been established by Nottinghamshire County Council. The county council is still developing the management plan.

3.6 Gotham Hill Pastures SSSI

Gotham Hill Pastures SSSI is still deteriorating on part of the site, contact with British Gypsum has been established and an offer to transfer land ownership for this part of the SSSI to Gotham Parish Council, was made. Voluntary work clearing scrub has been carried out, organised by NWT Southern Members Group and Gotham Parish Council. English Nature has drawn up a Management Prescription for the site and has agreed new management measures with the farmer for the rest of the SSSI.

3.7 Bingham Linear Walk

Bingham Linear Walk was declared a Local Nature Reserve in September and opened by David Bellamy on 17th September 2004.

3.9 Rushcliffe Golf Course SSSI

Funding has been provided by English Nature to improve habitat management, enabling the wildlife trust to introduce conservation grazing to the species rich areas.

3.10 Public amenity sites

In addition to the sites already mentioned, a trial of altered mowing regime is being developed, to be carried out on a number of sites in Compton Acres and Cropwell Bishop; this should develop new tall grass habitats, supporting a wider range of species.

4.0 Still to do

These actions are those that have not been completed by the target date.

- 4.1 Develop conservation management plans for Sharphill Wood, Meadow Covert, Green Line, The Hook and Edwalton Golf Course.
- 4.2 Advise East Leake Town Lands Charity on managing their pasture.
- 4.3 Develop a joint approach to the development of the Grantham Canal corridor.
- 4.4 Recruit leaders and establish South Nottinghamshire Wildlife Watch groups.
- 4.5 Develop a public conservation training programme.
- 4.6 Approach landowners with designated Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) to explain the site's interest and discuss the site's management.

5.0 Key actions for 2005-2006

- 5.1 Develop conservation management plans for Sharphill Wood, Meadow Covert, Green Line, The Hook and Edwalton Golf Course.
- 5.2 Develop Gresham Marsh as a local nature reserve and carry out public events.
- 5.3 Develop Gotham Hill Pastures as a local nature reserve.
- 5.4 Carry out a public pond survey.
- 5.5 Identify possible Local Nature Reserves and develop action to achieve their designation.
- 5.6 Develop the Bingham to Melton Corridor as a wildlife and recreational corridor, approximating the line of the disused railway.
- 5.7 Develop proposals for establishing a Trent Park South, between Lady Bay and Radcliffe.
- 5.8 Establish sources of 'local provenance' trees.
- 5.9 Develop a list of potential large projects and investigate funding options.
- 5.10 Arrange site visits for RBC officers/staff and members to nature conservation sites in Rushcliffe.
- 5.11 Investigate if there is need to control mink in Rushcliffe.
- 5.12 Develop the Blue Butterfly scheme in Rushcliffe.

6.0 Chairman's Statement


The genesis of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy can be traced back to a memo written in 1999, although the process of fleshing it out took several years. But from the beginning a crucial objective was to ensure that the Strategy did not become a set of "good intentions" left mouldering on the shelf.

Thus setting up the Steering Group was a vital step in taking the strategy forward. Rushcliffe have committed a significant proportion of Paul Phillips time to conservation and agreed significant additional funding. As you will see from Paul's report a number of projects are being developed. Of particular interest is the Bingham to Melton Wildlife Corridor which is notable for two reasons, one is that the concept was suggested by somebody outside of the group and secondly it is a cross border project with Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council. However creating the right conditions to carry out these projects takes time and patience!

A number of other people have played an important role over the years in getting us this far, in particular Julian Branscombe (now Director of another Wildlife Trust) and Janice Bradley from the Wildlife Trust, and Keith Wood from Rushcliffe Borough Council. My thanks to them and everybody else who have given time to the Implementation Group.

It should not be forgotten that many of the activities listed in the Action Plan, as contributing to the strategy are carried out by local people simply because they believe the preservation of our local wildlife is important. Also contributing are people who feed birds and maintain wildlife friendly ponds and gardens. So a BIG thanks to all the people out there who give their time (paid and unpaid) to nature conservation related activities.

Now all we need to do is a bit more in 2005.



Gordon Dyne
Chair Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

Appendix A Indicators of Achievement

As part of the strategy ten indicators of achievement have been selected to measure the success of the strategy. Listed below are each of the indicators with the results for the year April 2003 to March 2004.

Key

Improving



No change / no previous data



Deteriorating



1. % of nature reserves with management plans (as listed in Appendix B). Target = 100% sites →

As of April 2004 there are twenty two nature reserves, thirteen of these sites have current management plans.

2. Number of man hours of voluntary work carried out on nature reserves. Target = Increase year on year →

In the year April 2003 to 2004 the number of hours of voluntary work varied out was 3138.5 hours. Previous year's data is not available.

3. % of nature reserves with public events (at least once per year). Target = 100% →

Of the twenty two sites (listed in appendix B), two do not have open public access. Public events were held on 7 of the nature reserves.

4. Number of Local Nature Reserves, Target 66 LNR across borough by 2066 (i.e. 1 per parish and West Bridgford borough wards), milestones = 10 by 2010. ↑

On 17th September 2004 Bingham Linear Park was designated a Local Nature Reserve by Rushcliffe Borough Council, working in partnership with Bingham Town Council and the Friends of Bingham Linear Park. This increased the number of Local Nature Reserves to four. The accessibility of 'green' sites in Rushcliffe is shown in Appendix G

5. % of SSSI units in favourable condition. Target = 100%. ↓

In 2003, 44% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. In 2005 this has dropped to 29%. This is due to a change in the methodology used by English Nature. Full results are shown in Appendix E

6. No of SINCs. Target = No net loss. ↓

Between 2004 and 2005 twenty two biological Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been removed from the register. The total number of SINCs has reduced from 219 to 197 SINCs. (Source of data – Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre, Wollaton Hall)

7. No. of Agri-Environment Schemes. Target = 50% of all agricultural holdings. →

During 2004-2005 no new entries to agri-environmental schemes were accepted, due to the planned launch of the new Environmental Stewardship scheme in April 2005.

8. Schools with wildlife areas. Target = 25%. 

We are aware of fourteen schools in Rushcliffe that have school nature areas, out of forty nine or 29%. There may be other schools with nature areas of which we are unaware.

9. Ratio of barn owl young raised in barn owl boxes. Target = Sustain barn owl numbers 

The ratio of average young to the number of barn owl boxes has increased from 2003 to 2004. Full results are shown in Appendix F. This shows that the habitats required for barn owls food sources are available in addition to the availability of nest boxes.

10. % of nature conservation actions completed by completion date. Target = 100% 

Fifteen actions were due to be completed during 2004, of these; five have been completed, five have commenced but have not been completed, four have not yet started and one has been withdrawn. Full details are shown in Appendix H.

Appendix B Nature Reserves

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe used for the purposes of this report. This replaces Appendix 1 of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy.

Bingham Linear Walk (SINC). A 2½ km disused railway track that has been taken over by wildlife. Woodland and grassland habitats are home to wildflowers and butterflies. The main entrance is on Nottingham Road, Bingham. Owned and managed by Bingham Town Council..

Bunny Old Wood (SINC). A 16 ha ancient deciduous woodland with animal and flower interest. Managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Cotgrave Country Park (SINC). Developed on part of the old colliery, extensive tree planting has been carried out, with lakes and a restored section of the Grantham Canal. Owned by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Fishpond Wood, Owthorpe (SINC). Private woodland containing medieval fishponds. The owner allows informal public access.

Grantham Canal (part SINC). This disused canal runs from the River Trent near Lady Bay Bridge through to Grantham. Most of the canal has had the towpath restored and can be walked or cycled along. Many parts are important for a wide range of wildlife.

Green Line, West Bridgford (SINC). An attractive stretch of urban disused railway, vegetated by scrub and grassland. From Boundary Road to Melton Road, West Bridgford. Owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Gresham Marsh (SINC). A 4 ha area containing a mixture of marshland and degraded species rich grassland. This site is owned by the Environment Agency, who, assisted by NWT, are looking to manage this as a nature reserve.

Keyworth Meadows (SINC, LNR). Owned and managed by Keyworth Parish Council, the meadow is about 2 ha containing species-rich grassland, with small wetland areas associated with the Fairham Brook. Over 80 species of wildflower recorded, plus a wide variety of butterflies, dragonflies and amphibia.

Holme Pierrepont Country Park (part SINC). A 270-acre country park, dominated by the lake used for water sports, but surrounded by areas of woodland, small ponds and grassland. Part of the National Watersports Centre, a Sports England site managed by Leisure Connections.

Meadow Park, East Leake. Owned by RBC this a meadow of varying quality with the Kingston Brook running through it and being managed with a primary conservation purpose.

Meadow Covert Wood. Owned by RBC, a small area of woodland in Edwalton, now completely enclosed by development. The site adjacent to the Edwalton Primary School site.

Rushcliffe Country Park. A large park, with 36 hectares devoted to wildlife habitats. It contains areas of tree planting and grassland, plus a small lake and bat cave and barn owl boxes. Leased and managed by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Sharphill Wood, Edwalton (SINC). Mature mixed broadleaf woodland with plant and animal interest. Owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Skylarks, Holme Pierrepont (SINC). Owned by Tarmac, managed by NWT, the site is 10 ha in size and is a disused gravel pit surrounded by scrub woodland. The nature of the site is good for wildfowl, dragonflies and amphibia, but also contains orchids and other wildflowers.

Springdale Wood, East Bridgford. A new native woodland planted on farmland in 1999, off Springdale Lane. Owned by the Woodland Trust.

Stonepit Plantation (SINC). Owned by West Bridgford Scouts this woodland site is managed by a small group of volunteers and used by local scout groups.

Sutton Bonington Meadow and Spinney (LNR). A 4 ha site containing grassland, woodland, a dyke and a pond. Ridge and furrow patterns can be seen in the meadow. Adjacent to the River Soar. Owned by Sutton Bonington Parish Council.

The Hook, Lady Bay. Meadow and recreational area alongside River Trent. Owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Wilford Claypits (SSSI). A 4 ha site managed by NWT on behalf of RBC, it is surrounded by development. The area contains permanent shallow pools, making the site good for dragonflies and amphibia. The surrounding grassland contains over 80 different species of flower.

Wilford Hill Wood (SINC) - a small 3 ha piece of old woodland on the edge of West Bridgford. NWT manages the site on behalf of the owner. The site contains a range of woodland flowers.

Willoughby Wood, Willoughby on the Wolds. A new native woodland planted on farmland in 1999. This site has a wildlife pond and ridge and furrow patterns. Access from Bryans Lane, off Main Street. Owned by the Woodland Trust.

Wilwell Farm Cutting - (SSSI, LNR) an 8 ha site managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on a 99-year lease from RBC. It is a prime wildflower site, with over 130 species recorded. It is an abandoned stretch of the Great Central Railway with a mixture of species-rich grassland, marsh areas and scrub woodland, plus a limestone based habitat along the old trackbed. Access is from the B680 between Ruddington and Wilford.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



Community Ranger Service – Rushcliffe Borough Council

1.0 Introduction

The Community Ranger Service will enhance existing relationships and build on new partnerships to carry out activity in the Rushcliffe area that will directly contribute to all eight principle objectives of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) will use the skills and experience acquired through managing five nature reserves in Rushcliffe to benefit other wildlife-rich green spaces and the communities that surround them.

This service will provide local communities with the opportunity to take part in informal recreation opportunities close to where they live. There is potential to benefit individuals health through non-traditional forms of exercise including activities such as healthy walks and practical volunteering tasks. NWT has existing links with local groups assisting people with disabilities, the unemployed and the probation service and will use these links to expand on existing activities on non-NWT managed green spaces in the borough.

Through a series of community events and educational activities this service aims to contribute to life-long learning, raising awareness of environmental issues and increasing understanding of the natural environment.

2.0 Service Delivery

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) will use the skills and expertise of staff across three teams to deliver a co-ordinated programme of community activities in the borough of Rushcliffe. The service will consist of 12 hours dedicated officer time per week with delivery focusing on the following areas;

- **4 hours per week of Conservation Officer time** – Focusing on promoting sympathetic land management in countryside and urban areas by providing advice to landowners, farmers, corporate landscaping, school grounds, private gardens and public open space.
- **4 hours per week of Education Officer time** – Focusing on raising awareness of nature conservation issues and increasing the number of learning opportunities available to schools, colleges, local community groups, youth groups, interest groups and societies.
- **4 hours per week of Reserves Project Officer time** – Focusing on improving access to wildlife and the countryside by increasing the opportunities to become practically involved in the management of local wildlife sites, raising awareness of their recreational value and encouraging communities to take pride and ownership in their environment.

Rather than being delivered in isolation this service will work in partnership with the local authority, community groups and volunteers to achieve the overall aims of the Nature Conservation Strategy. These include the promotion of high quality management of all nature reserves, promoting sympathetic land management, improving access to the countryside and raising awareness of nature conservation.

2.1 Getting Started

A meeting has taken place between Rushcliffe Borough Council and the service deliverers to establish the extent of our knowledge of education, volunteering and other activities already taking place and the number of sites already being worked on.

There are already volunteers and members of the community doing excellent work on sites in the Borough. NWT will look to use our own promotional mechanisms such as newsletters, local groups, Watch groups and other contacts as well as those available to Rushcliffe Borough Council to advertise these activities to local communities to encourage wider participation. With support from NWT staff these activities will further benefit from the expertise and experience of the Trust.

3.0 Site Summary

A scoping exercise has been carried out to establish what sites could potentially be included in the SLA and what work is already taking place on them. This will act as the benchmark from which the Community Ranger service delivered by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will be measured. A copy of the site summary is included with this report.

3.1 Site Priorities

During our initial investigations, it was identified that the activities and level of community involvement varies enormously from site to site. To enable the Community Ranger Service to focus on the areas with most need, i.e. those sites with the least amount of activity taking place on them, or those with the highest environmental or community need, we have established a scale to indicate levels of priority.

1 - High Priority

Site considered neglected. Very little activity. A priority for bringing back into favourable management. Possible LNR designation.

2 - Medium Priority

Sites where we need to establish contact and agree way forward. Some small community involvement existing.

3 - Existing Groups

Existing Friends of Groups, possibly with management plans already written. Contact needs to be established and help/ assistance offered. Copies of management plans to be requested

4 - Low Priority

Responsibility of management with others e.g. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust or County Council. These sites will be included in the study for completeness rather than having any specific actions associated with the site.

4.0 Next Steps

- Site visits are to be arranged for service deliverers to properly assess the areas of greenspace to be worked on.
- Management Prescriptions will be identified for all sites without management plans.
- Work programmes will be created, to run over the 3-year period of this service, for all sites without management plans.
- Co-ordination of volunteers and staff at NWT to create a work programme, reviewed annually to deliver the service.
- Continuation of the provision of land management advice to private, public and corporate concerns in the borough.

Site Summary													
Site	Owner	Priority Level	Designation	Friends Group	Pr of Mgt	Work Party	Warden	Open Day	Visits	Guide Book	Web Site	Mgt Plan	Notes
Bingham LP	Bingham PC	3	LNR	YES		YES	YES		YES			YES	LNR designation should ensure that site is in good condition. First action to check and update. Butterfly Conservation Trust uses this site for Moth Trapping and Butterfly work.
Keyworth Meadow	Keyworth PC	3	LNR	MNGR - regular group		TASKS	YES	YES	?		YES		LNR designation should ensure that site is in good condition. First action to check and update.
Sutton Bonington	S Bon PC	3	LNR	YES ?		TASKS	YES						LNR designation should ensure that site is in good condition. First action to check and update.
Rushcliffe CP	RBC	4		YES	YES	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	
Cotgrave CP	NCC	4		YES		YES	?						
Gresham Marsh	Env Agency	2										YES	Need to establish contact and agree an action plan over and above the existing grazing agreement.
Meadow Park	RBC	3		YES		TASKS	YES					DRAFT	Paul Phillips at RBC involved in. Developing management plan.
Meadow Covert	RBC	1							YES ?				Access to site through School. This site is an RBC priority. Current Headteacher of school is interested in reserve. Some community liaison role needed. Councillor Debbie Mason involved in the site in the past. Old committee no longer meets.
Green Line, WB	RBC	1		Used to have one!									Has recently has cycleway installed! Scrub has been cut back from path which requires annual mowing. Community liaison required. Paul Phillips is due to write the management plan.
Stonepit Plantation	WB Scouts	3	Private NR SINC??	YES ??		TASKS	YES						Left to WB scouts legacy! Management is happening. Area used as adventure area and camping.
Possible Reserves													
Sharphill Wood	RBC	1											Eventually would like LNR designation. Part of a plan for development. Await the results of the

Appendix D Voluntary practical nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe

Apr 03 – Apr 04		
Site	Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)	
Bingham Linear Park	6 work parties per year, 5-6 people for 2 hours	66
Bunny Wood		272
Cotgrave Country Park	14/3/04, 5 hrs, 40 people over the day	100
Fishpond Wood, Owthorpe	Assumed	0
Gotham Hill Pasture		70
Grantham Canal	4 days tree management (GCRS)	80
Green Line – West Bridgford	Assumed	0
Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Assumed	0
Keyworth Meadow		196
Meadow Covert		96
Meadow Park - East Leake	No figures received	0
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project	50 days x 3 people x 5 hours	750
Rushcliffe Country Park		1050.5
Sharphill Wood	Assumed	0
Skylarks		150
Springdale Wood		0
Sutton Bonington Meadow and Coppice		60
The Hook	Assumed	0
Tree Wardens	Scheme not started in Rushcliffe	0
Wilford Clay Pit		140
Willoughby Wood		0
Wilwell Cutting		108
	Total Hours	3138.5
Value for this work based on Countryside Agency, Market Towns grants (2003) for voluntary unskilled labour at £6.50 per hour		£20,400.25

Please note:

1. These figures do not include educational work such as talks, open days, guided walks etc.
2. These figures are for main nature conservation sites only – other smaller projects will have occurred.

Appendix E Condition of SSSI's in Rushcliffe (as assessed by English Nature)

The number of SSSI's in Rushcliffe is 8, however these are split into units which have been individually assessed.

Key

Red	Unfavourable condition and declining
Pink	Unfavourable condition with no change
Yellow	Unfavourable condition but recovering
Green	Favourable condition

SSSI name	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment at July 2003	Assessment at Feb. 2005
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	Unfavourable, no change	Unfavourable, declining
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	7.39	Unfavourable, no change	Unfavourable, recovering
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.05	Unfavourable, declining	Unfavourable, declining
Kinoulton Marsh And Canal	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.65	Unfavourable, recovering	Unfavourable, recovering
Kinoulton Marsh And Canal	Standing open water and canals	0.95	Favourable	Unfavourable, no change assessment methodology changed
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.51	Unfavourable, no change	Unfavourable, no change
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	7.04	Unfavourable, recovering	Unfavourable, recovering
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.10	Unfavourable, no change	Unfavourable, no change
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	2.49	Favourable	Favourable
Orston Plaster Pits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.54	Favourable	Favourable
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Calcareous grassland - lowland	13.87	Unfavourable, recovering	Unfavourable, recovering
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	5.62	Unfavourable, recovering	Unfavourable, recovering
Wilford Claypits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.42	Favourable	Favourable
Wilford Claypits	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.68	Favourable	Favourable
Wilford Claypits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.08	Favourable	Favourable

Wilwell Cutting	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	2.14	Favourable	Favourable
Wilwell Cutting	Neutral grassland - lowland	3.64	Favourable	Favourable
Wilwell Cutting	Standing open water and canals	0.97	Unfavourable, recovering	Unfavourable, recovering
No of units in favourable condition (total no units = 18)			8	7

Further details available from <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/Special/ssi/search.cfm>

Appendix F Barn owl results

Year	No boxes at start of year (available for breeding)	No boxes used for breeding	Breeding totals (no. of young birds)	3 year running average of young	Ratio of average young to boxes (average young / boxes)
2000	38	2	4		
2001	62	2	8		
2002	88	4	16	9	0.102
2003	101	9	35	20	0.198
2004	112	10	25	25	0.223
2005	120				

Appendix G Access to NatureParishes without Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) 2005

Aslockton
 Flawborough
 Hawksworth
 Kingston-on-Soar
 Rempstone
 Scarrington
 Shelton
 Sibthorpe
 Thoroton
 Tollerton

West Bridgford Wards: Abbey
 Lutterell
 Melton

Out of 58 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 13 contain no SINC's

Parishes with publicly accessible nature reserves or public open space managed for wildlife (2005)

Parish	Accessible Green Space
Bingham	Bingham Linear Park
Bunny	Bunny Old Wood
Cotgrave	Cotgrave Country Park and Grantham Canal
Cropwell Bishop	Grantham Canal
Cropwell Butler	Grantham Canal
East Bridgford	Springdale Wood
East Leake	Meadow Park and Manor Farm Animal Sanctuary
Hickling	Grantham Canal
Holme Pierrepont and Gamston	Holme Pierrepont Country Park and Grantham Canal and Skylarks
Keyworth	Keyworth Meadow Nature Reserve
Kinoulton	Grantham Canal
Langar cum Barnstone	Naturescape
Owthorpe	Fishpond Wood and Grantham Canal
Ruddington	Rushcliffe Country Park
Sutton Bonington	Sutton Bonington Coppice and Meadow
Tollerton	Grantham Canal
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	Willoughby Wood
West Bridgford Wards	Compton Acres Wilford Claypits and Gresham Marsh Ladybay The Hook and Grantham Canal Musters The Green Line

Out of 58 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 20 have accessible green space.

Appendix H 2004 Actions

The following actions were to be completed during 2004.

	Action Points	Monitoring	Status
1aii	Meadow Covert – create management plan	A joint visit by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Rushcliffe Borough Council has been made to the site and priorities have been identified.	Commenced
2di	Develop nature conservation policy for The Hook	A joint visit by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Rushcliffe Borough Council has been made to the site and priorities have been identified. A draft policy has been written, this is to be developed with the local community.	Commenced
2dii	Develop nature conservation policy for Edwalton Golf Course	A visit by the Community Environment Officer has been made to the site and outline proposals have been discussed with the site grounds staff. A draft policy and map is to be developed.	Commenced
2diii	Develop nature conservation policy for other playing fields and amenity areas	A trial of altered mowing regimes is being carried out on a number of sites in Compton Acres and Cropwell Bishop, this will be used to inform future policies.	Commenced
2div	Training workshop on management of amenity land for wildlife	This was not pursued during the year.	Not started
2fi	Identify additional sites with potential as Notified Road Verges (NRVs)	Nottinghamshire County Council have notified one new NRV in Rushcliffe and extended another.	Completed
2fii	Support identification process of additional sites with potential as NRVs	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust provided support.	Completed
2gi	Develop a joint approach to the development of the Grantham Canal corridor	This was not pursued during the year.	Not Started
3ai	Support the NBGRC Partnership by entering a service level agreement	A service level agreement has been entered into by Rushcliffe Borough Council	Completed
4ai	Designate 4 LNRs by end of 2004	Bingham Linear Park has been declared as a Local Nature Reserve	Completed
5aiii	Produce guidance on sites open to the public	Guidance is available on the Rushcliffe Borough Council Website. www.rushcliffe.gov.uk	Completed
5bi	Create a Watch Group in the Radcliffe on Trent or Bingham area	Volunteer leaders are still being sought	Not Started

5biv	Seek accommodation for the Wilford Watch Group (for 8 to 14 year olds) monthly meeting	Still being sought, but is also dependant on finding leaders	Not Started
5ci	Commission an account of Rushcliffe's wildlife	The biological records office has been asked to carry out a survey of ponds in Rushcliffe, this and subsequent surveys will build up into a comprehensive account of Rushcliffe's wildlife	Commenced
7ai	Review the Rushcliffe Green Corridor Map	Green corridors have not been included in the draft revised local plan for Rushcliffe, therefore it was decided that there was no need to review the Green Corridor Map at this time.	Withdrawn

Produced by:
 Paul Phillips
 Community Environment Officer
 Rushcliffe Borough Council

Tel. 0115 914 8595

Email. pPhillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Write to: Civic Centre
 Pavilion Road
 West Bridgford
 Nottingham
 NG2 5FE

Website. www.rushcliffe.gov.uk