

RUSHCLIFFE NATURE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

Strategic Aim - To protect and enhance Rushcliffe's wildlife resources, thereby contributing towards local and national biodiversity action plan targets. To provide ready access to wildlife-rich green spaces, with an emphasis on species-rich grassland, woodland, wetland habitats, and LBAP species.

1) Promote the management of nature reserves to a high standard, by:

a) Seeking to ensure that reserves have a proper Management Plan to conserve the habitats and 'interest' of the site and sufficient resources to deliver the required management tasks over the long term.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC	Sharphill Wood – create management plan Carry out management tasks	2003 Ongoing	Woodland	RBC
ii)	RBC Committee	Meadow Covert – create management plan Carry out management tasks	2004 Ongoing	Woodland	RBC, Vol's
iii)	RBC	Green Line – create management plan Carry out management tasks	2003 Ongoing	Grassland	RBC, Vol's
iv)	RBC	Rushcliffe CP - create management plan Carry out management tasks	2003 ongoing	Grassland, lake & woodland	RBC, Vol's
v)	RBC ELPC /FMP	Meadow Park, E Leake - create management plan Carry out tasks.	2003 Ongoing	Grassland, pond	RBC Vol's
vi)	NWT	Wilford Claypits - update management plan Carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, ponds	RBC Vol's
vii)	NWT	Skylarks - create up to date management plan Carry out tasks	2003 Ongoing	Grassland, lake	Vol's, NWT, Barclays + other funding
viii)	NWT	Wilford Hill Wood - carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Woodland	NWT
ix)	NWT	Wilwell Farm Cutting - carry out management task to management plan, including grazing regime	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, marsh	EN, Carlton, Vol's
x)	EA NWT	Gresham Marsh - develop site as nature reserve and reintroduce grazing onto the site	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, marsh	STW support for grazing
xi)	KPC	Keyworth Meadows - carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, pond	Vol's
xii)	SBPC	Sutton Bonington - carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, pond	Vol's
xiii)	NCC	Notified Road Side Reserves - carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	NCC
xiv)	NWT	Bunny Wood - carry out management tasks as per management plan	Immediate & ongoing	Woodland	Vol's, NWT
xv)	NCC	Cotgrave Country Park – create Management Plan and carry out tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland lake	NCC, Vol's
xvi)	BTC FoBLP	Bingham Linear Park – carry out management tasks	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	BTC, Vols
xvii)	NWT	Arrange meetings of wardens of all Rushcliffe nature conservation sites	Immediate & ongoing		NWT

b) Encouraging local community involvement with reserve management, wardening, work parties and survey work. All nature reserves to have volunteers working on them by 2006.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	FoRCP RBC	Rushcliffe Country Park – wardening, work party and surveying	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, lake & woodland	RBC Vol's
ii)	RBC Committee	Meadow Covert - management committee	Immediate & ongoing	woodland	RBC, Vol's
iii)	RBC ELP	Meadow Park in East Leake – Friends of Meadow Park	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	Vol's
iv)	NCC RBC	Cotgrave Country Park – establish Friends of group	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, lake	Vol's
v)	RBC	Support local groups adopting and managing sites with training, in kind and financial assistance	Immediate & ongoing	all	RBC

vi)	NWT	Bunny Wood - wardening, work party and surveying	Immediate & ongoing	Woodland	Vol's
vii)	NWT	Skylarks - wardening, work party and surveying	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, lake	Vol's
viii)	NWT	Wilford Hill Wood - wardening	Immediate & ongoing	Woodland	Vol's
ix)	NWT	Wilford Claypits - wardening and work party.	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, ponds	Vol's
x)	NWT	Wilwell Farm Cutting - wardening, work party and surveying	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, marsh	Vol's
xi)	EA NWT	Gresham Marsh - surveying grassland	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, marsh	Vol's
xii)	KPC	Keyworth Meadows - wardening	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, pond	Vol's
xiii)	SBPC	Sutton Bonington - wardening	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, pond	Vol's
xiv)	BTC	Bingham Linear Park – work party and surveying	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	Vol's

c) Promoting the recreational value of sites through a range of opportunities to visit and learn, with all sites with public access having an annual organised event or some form of trail guide.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC FoRCP	Rushcliffe Country Park - booklet + signed trails provided	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, wood, lake	RBC FoRCP
ii)	RBC	Meadow Park in East Leake	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	ELPC Vol's
iii)	NWT	Wilwell Farm Cutting - produce reserve booklet	2003	Grassland marsh	STW
iv)	NWT	Bunny Wood - open day + nature trail + guided walks + booklet provided	Immediate & ongoing	woodland	Vol's
v)	NWT	Wilwell Farm Cutting - open day + guided walks provided	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland marsh	Vol's
vi)	KPC	Keyworth Meadows - open day each year	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	Vol's
vii)	SBPC	Sutton Bonington – to be arranged	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	SBPC Vol's
viii)	CTC	Cotgrave Country Park – to be arranged	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland lake	NCC Vol's
ix)	EA	Gresham Marsh – to be arranged	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	EA Vol's

2) Promote sympathetic land management in the countryside and urban areas, by:

a) Promoting the protection and management of Rushcliffe's important wildlife in order to reduce loss of habitat through damage or neglect, by encouraging landowners to undertake optimal management practices. A minimum of 75 SINC's and all SSSI's to be visited and advised on by 2006.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC NWT	Investigate Borough wide grant scheme to encourage SINC management and small scale habitat creation	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	Being sought
ii)	NWT FWAG	Approach land owners with SINC's to explain the site's interest & discuss the site's management	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland marsh	NWT, FWAG Other funding
iii)	MFDS	Manor Farm Animal Centre - manage farm to encourage wildlife especially meadow & pond	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland, pond	Manor Farm
iv)	NWT	Lings Farm site - sheep grazing regime to maintain grassland	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	NWT
v)	NWT	Advise East Leak Town Lands Charity on managing their pasture	2001	Grassland	NWT

b) Encouraging farmers to develop sympathetic management practices and increase the take up of Agri-Environment Schemes, with double the number of agreements by 2006. Target habitats are hedgerows, field headlands, ponds, wetlands, grassland and woods.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	FWAG NWT RBC	Promote Agri-Environment Schemes e.g. Countryside Stewardship, Organic Farming Scheme, LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and Woodland Grant Scheme.	immediate & ongoing	Farmland and Hedgerows	FWAG, NWT, DEFRA
ii)	FWAG NWT RBC NCC	Advise farmers as requested on good wildlife and environmental stewardship	immediate & ongoing	Farmland and Hedgerows	FWAG, NWT DEFRA
iii)	RBC FWAG NFU	Re-establish Sustainable Farms Project	2006	Farmland and Hedgerows	RBC
iv)	NWT FWAG FC	Promote optimal take up of woodland grant scheme to promote sustainable local forestry	immediate & ongoing	Woodlands	FWAG, NWT, FC

c) Promoting the concept of sustainable development, supporting markets for the sale of local produce, waste minimisation, improved levels of waste recycling, energy efficiency and sustainable transport systems.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC	Implement policies in Community Strategy	immediate & ongoing	Generic	LSP

d) Encouraging wildlife-friendly management of corporate landscaping, public open space, school grounds and private gardens. All relevant RBC sites to have nature conservation policies by 2006 and 25% of schools with wildlife areas by 2006.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC	The Hook	2004	Wet Grassland	RBC
ii)	RBC	Edwalton Golf Course	2004	Grassland	RBC
iii)	RBC	Other playing fields and amenity areas	2004	Grassland	RBC
iv)	NWT RBC	Training workshop on management of amenity land for wildlife	2004	Generic	RBC NWT
v)	NWT RBC	Support and advise schools on wildlife creation projects	Immediate & ongoing	Generic	NWT
vi)	RNCSG	Develop and promote guidance on urban wildlife	2008	Urban	RBC, NWT
vii)	RNCSG	Start a tree warden scheme in Rushcliffe		Generic	RBC +
viii)	BGS NWT	Manage land at British Geological Survey for nature conservation	Immediate & ongoing	Pond	BGS
ix)	Owner EN	Rushcliffe Golf Course	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland	Owner EN

e) Supporting programmes to increase the numbers and range of barn owls, water vole and otter and other BAP species.

	Org	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RNCSIG	Investigate developing a mink action plan	2006	Water Vole	RNCSG
ii)	NWT	Provide advice on habitat management for riparian mammals to land owners	Immediate & ongoing	Otter and water vole	NWT
iii)	RuBOP	Install and maintain barn owl nest boxes around the Borough	Immediate & ongoing	Barn owl	REACT 21 Vol's
iv)	RuBOP	Encourage landowners to manage habitat to encourage Barn Owls	Immediate & ongoing	Barn owl grassland	Vol's
v)	RuBOP	Active Barn owl conservation work around the Borough	Immediate & ongoing	Barn owl grassland	Vol's

f) Promoting the development of Notified Road Verges where appropriate, with three more sites notified by 2005.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	NCC	Identify additional sites with potential as NRVs	2004	Grassland	NCC

ii)	NWT	Support identification process	2004	Grassland	NWT
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g) Participate in the development of plans and management of the Grantham Canal corridor

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RNCSIG, BW, IWA	Develop a joint approach to the development of the Grantham Canal corridor	2004	Canals	To be identified

h) Promoting the use of local provenance planting (all).

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	RBC	Ensure trees provided through the Parish tree scheme are from local provenance stock	2007	Generic	RBC
ii)	RBC	Encourage developers to use local provenance stock in landscaping schemes	2007	Generic	RBC Developers
iii)	Tree Warden NWT CW REACT21 RBC	Support the development of local nurseries growing local provenance stock	2005	Generic	To be identified

3) Ensure a comprehensive audit of Rushcliffe's wildlife interest, by:

a) Supporting the work of the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre and the County Wildlife Sites survey and monitoring programme.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Support the NBGRC Partnership by entering a service level agreement	2004	RBC
ii)	NBGR EN NWT	Highlight sites that are at risk or degrading	Immediate & ongoing	All councils EN
iii)	NBGR	Co-ordinate the County Audit of Wildlife Sites (SINCs)	Immediate & ongoing	All councils
iv)	NBGR	Provide information on sites and species to aid planning and land management decisions	Immediate & ongoing	All councils
v)	NWT	Promote collection of records and data exchange with the NBGR	Immediate & ongoing	NWT

b) Supporting the various species survey programmes, as well as encouraging local initiatives to record wildlife.

	Org.	Description	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	NWT	Complete otter and water vole survey programme	By mid 2003	Water Vole, Otter	Being sought
ii)	NWT NBGR	Harvest Mouse Survey	Immediate & ongoing	Harvest Mouse	Vol's
iii)	BTO	Undertake a continuing programme of Bird Census and Bird ringing around the Borough	Immediate & ongoing		Vol's
iv)	BuC	Maintain records of Butterflies seen in area	Immediate & ongoing		Vol's
v)	BAG	BAG Annual Survey	Immediate & ongoing		Vol's
vi)	NWT	Organise other public participation surveys	Immediate & ongoing		Vol's / LAs / REACT21

4) Improve access to wildlife and the countryside, by:

a) Work towards a long term aim of 1 LNR per parish.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Designate 4 LNRs by end of 2004	2004	RBC
ii)	RBC	Agree fresh targets during 2005	2005	
iii)	RBC	Promote access to reserves via public transport	immediate	

	NCC		& ongoing	
v	NWT RBC BTC	Bingham Linear Walk – work towards LNR designation.	2003 onwards	BTC RBC

b) Developing rights of way and permissive routes, where appropriate, to provide sustainable access to the countryside and wildlife sites. Working to improve access for the disabled.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Use Local Plan Policies to improve access to countryside	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
ii)	All	Participate in the Local Access Forum	Immediate & ongoing	NCC
iii)	NWT FWAG RBC NCC	Work with landowners to achieve 5 km of additional rights of way through Stewardship or other agreements	2006	DEFRA
iv)	NWT	Assist Skylarks Winged Fellowship with a wildlife holiday for the disabled	Immediate & ongoing	Skylarks

5) Raise awareness of nature conservation issues by:

a) Exploiting opportunities to publicise nature conservation issues, in particular targeting groups not usually associated with nature conservation and promoting a range of conservation related activities around Rushcliffe.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Publicise conservation activities in council publications and local media	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
ii)	NWT	Site visits for RBC officers/staff – 1 per year	Immediate & ongoing	NWT, RBC
iii)	RBC	Produce guidance on sites open to the public	2004	RBC
iv)	NWT NRCC	Promote conservation activities locally in parish magazines, council publications and local media.	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
v)	NWT	Ongoing production of a regular local newsletter + website	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
vi)	RuBOP	Ongoing production of regular newsletter + website	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
vii)	FoRCP	Ongoing production of a regular newsletter + website	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
viii)	NWT	Run an annual programme of walks, talks and site visits	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
ix)	NWT	Attend various summer events in Rushcliffe to promote nature conservation	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
x)	NWT	Bunny Wood Open Day	Annual	Vol's
xi)	NWT	Wilwell Farm Cutting Open Day	Annual	Vol's
xii)	KPC	Keyworth Meadow Open Day	Annual	Vol's
xiii)	NWT	Reserve work parties	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
xiv)	FoRCP	Events based around Rushcliffe Country Park	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
xv)	RuBOP	Promote Barn Owl Conservation at events	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's

b) Extending wildlife education opportunities, by developing youth wildlife groups, enhancing wildlife education programmes in schools and colleges, and looking for increased opportunities for adult wildlife education.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC NWT	Rushcliffe Country Park Watch Group (for 8 to 14 year olds) monthly meeting	Monthly	RBC
ii)	BTCV	Conservation training programme in the Borough	Immediate & ongoing	REACT 21 RBC
iii)	NWT	Create a Watch Group in the Radcliffe on Trent or Bingham area	By end 2004	NWT, Vol's
iv)	NWT	Seek accommodation for the Wilford Watch Group (for	By end	NWT, Vol's

		8 to 14 year olds) monthly meeting	2004	
v)	NWT	Provide advice & support to local schools on educational conservation issues	Immediate & ongoing	NWT
vi)	NWT	Training sessions on wildflower ID, mammal signs and hedgerow survey and other survey techniques	Immediate & ongoing	NWT, Vol's

- c) Commissioning an account of Rushcliffe's wildlife to bring out the distinctive character of Rushcliffe's biodiversity.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Commission an account of Rushcliffe's wildlife	2004	RBC

- d) Promoting continued contacts at all levels amongst groups and organisations associated with nature conservation

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC NWT	Link the NCS action plan to the community strategy action plan	Annual	RBC
ii)	NWT	Maintain contacts with other bodies and groups involved in conservation in Rushcliffe	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's
iii)	CLAW	Provide a multi-organisation forum in which a wide range of issues can be discussed	Immediate & ongoing	Vol's

6) Control the impact of development on wildlife, by:

- a) Ensuring that the nature conservation and environmental policies in the Adopted Local Plan are taken into account when considering planning applications and development briefs. No designated sites (SSSIs, SINCs or LNRs) should be lost or materially damaged through development without appropriate mitigation.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	NWT	Seminar on planning and conservation issues for RBC officers and councilors	By end of 2003	RBC
ii)	RBC	Produce information leaflet highlighting wildlife and planning issues and issue with all planning and building control application forms	By end of 2003	RBC
iii)	RBC	Take into full account Nature Conservation related Planning Policies when assessing planning applications and development briefs	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
iv)	NWT EN	Monitor, investigate and respond to planning applications with a potential effect on wildlife or habitat	Immediate & ongoing	NWT EN
v)	NWT CPRE	Monitor planning applications for their effect on the countryside	Immediate & ongoing	CPRE NWT

- b) Ensuring that nature conservation and wider countryside issues are considered during the development of the emerging Rushcliffe Local Plan and the County, Minerals and Structure Plans.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Review the impact of the emerging Rushcliffe Local Plan on wildlife and the adequacy of the nature conservation related policies	2003+	RBC
ii)	NCC	Review the impact of the new County Structure Plan on wildlife and the adequacy of the nature conservation related policies	2002/03+	NCC RBC
iii)	NWT CPRE EN	Represent wildlife interests during the development of the new Rushcliffe Local Plan and at the Public Inquiry	2003 onwards	NWT CPRE EN
iv)	NWT CPRE EN	Represent wildlife interests during the development of the new County Structure Plan.	2002+	NWT CPRE EN

- c) Minimising loss of countryside to development through appropriate Local Plan policies and looking to compensatory habitat creation schemes to compensate for lost countryside.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Consider the impact of proposed developments on	Immediate	RBC

	NWT	wildlife and wildlife habitats, avoid impacts where possible and provide compensation where necessary	& ongoing	NWT
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d) Ensuring that opportunities are taken to benefit wildlife through the design of buildings and landscaping.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Promote wildlife friendly building and landscaping	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
ii)	RBC	Promote the use of local native species in landscape schemes	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
iii)	RBC	Protect protected species and BAP species	Immediate & ongoing	RBC

e) Use Hedgerow regulations and Tree Preservation Orders appropriately to protect important features.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Making and enforcing Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)	Immediate & ongoing	RBC
ii)	RBC	Implement the Hedgerow Regulations to protect the most important hedgerows found in the Borough	Immediate & ongoing	RBC

f) Implementing policies to reduce levels of environmental pollution in Rushcliffe.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RBC	Monitor levels of air quality	Immediate & ongoing	RBC, NCC
ii)	EA	Monitor levels of water pollution	Immediate & ongoing	EA

g) Seeking to influence regional, national and European decision-making to promote wildlife-friendly policies.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	NCC RBC NWT EN EA	Be actively involved in responding to the review of Planning Policy Guidance no. 9	2003-2004	NCC RBC NWT EN EA
ii)	NCC RBC NWT EN EA	Actively engage in the development and review of the Regional Environment Strategy	2002 onwards	NCC RBC NWT EN EA

7) Focusing habitat creation efforts, by:

a) Identifying areas suitable for a targeted approach, using the Wildlife Sites inventory and a revised Rushcliffe Green Corridor Network.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
	RNCSG	Review the Rushcliffe Green Corridor Map	2004	RBC
	RNCSG EN	Look at funding options	immediate & ongoing	NWT RBC
	RNCSG	Identify clusters of sites or areas that could be targeted special attention	2003	NWT

b) Seeking opportunities to create additional nature reserves, extend existing reserves, reduce isolation of wildlife sites and encourage sympathetic land management practices around sites, with a long-term aim for an extra 40 hectares of land being managed for conservation by 2006.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	LBAP Habitat or Species	Funding
i)	NWT BG RBC GPC	Promote Gotham Hill Pastures as a reserve	2003	Grassland	NWT BG RBC
ii)	RBC	Sharphill Wood – produce and implement	2003	Woodland	RBC

		management plan and work towards LNR designation.	onwards		
iii)	RuBOP CLA NFU	Investigate projects to create barn owl "friendly" areas in the Borough	2002 onwards	Barn Owl	RuBOP CLA NFU
iv)	NWT	Promote development of Lings Farm as a reserve and assist in ensuring gravel pit restoration project works towards marshland creation.	Immediate & ongoing	Grassland Marsh	RMC
v)	NWT FWAG CLA, NFU	Increased conservation management of SINC's on farms.	Immediate & ongoing	Generic	NWT FWAG CLA NFU
vi)	RNCSIG	Develop a plan for selected targeted areas	Immediate & ongoing		

- c) Examine the options for creating at least one new large area for wildlife within Rushcliffe of at least 10 hectares by end of 2007.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RNCSIG	Investigate options for creating large wildlife friendly area of at least 10 ha	2006 - 2010	RBC +

8) Monitor the effectiveness of the Nature Conservation Strategy, by:

- a) Establishing a steering group, to be called 'Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group' (RNCSIG) to focus on delivering the strategy's objectives by 2003.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	NWT RBC	Develop the role of the steering group and relationship with other groups	2002/03	RBC
ii)	NWT	Act as lead agencies for nature conservation	Immediate & ongoing	NWT EN
iii)	NWT	Represent nature conservation on REACT 21 Management Board and Local Strategic Partnership	Immediate & ongoing	NWT

- b) Groups and organisations developing their activities to support the above objectives

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	All	Consider the strategy when reviewing objectives and programmes	Immediate & ongoing	All

- c) Producing an annual report on what has been achieved to progress nature conservation in Rushcliffe and the deficiencies that need to be addressed.

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RNCSIG	Produce an annual report on nature conservation	Annual	RBC

- d) Embedding the relevant aims of this strategy in the Rushcliffe Community Strategy

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	NWT, RBC REACT 21	Ensure aims are embedded	Immediate & ongoing	RBC

- e) Reviewing the strategy during 2010, or sooner if appropriate

	Org.	Action Points	Time Scale	Funding
i)	RNCSIG	Review of strategy	2010	RBC