



Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2024

Annual Report – published 2025

1.0 Introduction

The strategy 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.

Member organisations of the implementation group include:

- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group

And various local wildlife groups, interest groups and parish councils

The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and action plan was reviewed and updated and adopted in 2010, 2015, with the latest 2021-2025 strategy and plan adopted in 2021. The actions are to be carried out by a range of organisations including those on the implementation group. The strategy is published online at

<https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/aboutthecouncil/documentsstrategiesandpolicies/accessiblepoliciesandotherdocuments/rushcliffenatureconservationstrategy/#d.en.57563>

Nature conservation in Rushcliffe is provided by broadly based community activity, with work carried out by a range of 'Friends' groups, work parties and other groups and individuals, as well as "official" organisations. A key role for RNCSIG is to bring together the organisations and community-based activities to provide both an overview of Rushcliffe conservation activities, but also to seek ways and means to further extend conservation activity in a strategic fashion.

The strategic aim is to protect and enhance Rushcliffe's wildlife resources, thereby contributing towards local and national biodiversity action plan targets.

The progress of the strategy is assessed and reported in the appendices.

For more details see www.facebook.com/RNCSIG

2.0 **Chairman's Statement**

Overview

Rushcliffe as a whole is dominated by agricultural activity, dotted with substantial villages and criss crossed by roads and using reasonably optimistic figures perhaps 13-14% of the land in Rushcliffe (out of approx. 41,000 ha's) could be called wildlife friendly (this includes better road verges/hedgerows, wood copses and unused fields etc. That is not to claim that wildlife doesn't exist in the fields and villages, but they are dominated by our activity and realistically will be principally used by organisms that can tolerate our human orientated habitats and activities e.g. garden birds, "weeds", insects, small mammals etc. That is a reality we need to understand and work within.

But there is a lot going on in Rushcliffe to support wildlife. There are 39 nature reserves (507 hectares) - wildlife friendly, managed for wildlife and with a degree of public access, in addition we have identified another 507 ha's as Strategic Wildlife Friendly sites. It also includes 17 work parties and some 38 wildlife related projects and activities.

Around the Borough

For sites in Rushcliffe the year has seen the traditional range of good news and bad news. Meadow Park, East Leake has been designated a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for its flora (congratulations) and Bunny Wood is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary as a nature reserve in 2025. Whilst the Crown Estates are in the process of planting some 100 hectares of woodland near Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham. This includes some big plantings adjacent to Bingham Linear Park and lots of broad linear plantings along field edges in previously open field system. In addition, there is now a volunteer led native tree nursery being hosted by the Eco Farm at Screvington. Overall, in 2024 there were 219 sites designated as LWS (of County Importance) covering 1931 hectares, most are in private ownership.

Whilst Ash Die Back (ADB) has not yet hit Rushcliffe hard a couple of sites are taking pre-emptive action, principally because of public safety issues. Stonepit Wood, used by the Scouts, are in the process of reducing the number of ash trees and similarly at Sharphill Wood the Borough Council plans to thin out an area (the wood is now directly adjacent to a housing estate). It will be replanted with a variety of native species to increase future resilience against infections and potentially support diversification in biodiversity in the long run, but in the short run it will be very disruptive. The issue in both cases is not ADB itself, but the risk that dead or dying Ash is notorious for shedding branches.

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Whilst most activity is carried out at habitat level there are some species level programmes. Of course, there are the old faithful's Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project (now part of Notts Birders) putting up nest boxes and ringing Barn Owls and the Grizzled Skipper Project carrying out habitat work to encourage GS's (and other species), as well as site surveys. Much newer is the Black Poplar Action Group which is starting work across Nottinghamshire to identify where we have native Black Poplars (there is thought to be some in Rushcliffe) and how to increase their numbers.

Delivering on the ground

Notts Wildlife Trust manages four reserves in Rushcliffe and also supports other local groups, partly funded via the Rushcliffe Service Level Agreement. However strategically NWT is focusing on four key areas across Notts, two of which are relevant to us - Trent Corridor (in conjunction with Derbyshire WT) and the Greater Nottingham Conurbation (including West Bridgford).

Rushcliffe Borough Council continues to fund a range of nature conservation related activity including the Biodiversity Grant, the Green mower activity on a number of local sites, Service Level Agreement, and revitalise the Tree Warden Scheme, not forgetting Rushcliffe Country Park. They have also appointed an officer to help manage Biodiversity Net Gain.

Notts County Council also have an input and are currently putting time and effort into Cotgrave Country Park (along with local volunteers) and continue to support the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group.

But local groups are still the backbone of much of our wildlife and nature conservation activity carrying out practical work on sites, species recording (moths, birds, butterflies, wildflowers etc etc) and also engagement work such as Forest Schools, Wildlife WATCH for children, wildlife walks and open days etc. But for many groups an ageing volunteer base and limited new recruitment continues to be an ongoing concern, as it is for many voluntary sectors. Be under no doubt that volunteer input is a significant contribution to local nature conservation efforts, in 2023 at least 13,250 hours of practical conservation valued at £250,000 and takes no account of all the other volunteer activity noted above. Volunteers can make a real difference.

Planning and Development

Biodiversity Net Gain is likely to create a significant input into habitat improvement and creation (although at the cost of ongoing development), but as yet no new schemes have actually come forward since the start date of the BNG funding. Rushcliffe are

intending to charge 20% BNG (higher than the 10% norm). The first BNG site was expected to be the Radcliffe on Soar power station redevelopment, but that has been delayed. Another expected to start will be the major development around Tollerton airport.

Over and above land already allocated in the current Local Plan for housing, it is unclear if current government policy will lead to pressure for additional allocations. Whilst not actually in Rushcliffe, but sited right on the border Barton Hill quarry has rematerialized potentially effecting a cluster of designated Local Wildlife Sites and a SSSI - some in Rushcliffe or on the border therefore of particular concern. In the long-term wetland habitat will be created, but the concern is what can be lost in the meantime.

Controversially solar farms are becoming a notable feature in the Rushcliffe landscape with several small sites already operational, but several significantly larger ones are proposed or already agreed. If they deliver the surrounding habitat promised in the applications, then they might be seen as a benefit creating areas of species rich grassland, but others view them as the industrialisation of the countryside.

The delivery of Ecological Planning conditions has become quite a topic this year with news items, articles in newspapers and questions in the Commons. It all started when an East Leake resident (who is also an ecologist and planning specialist) undertook a study of local housing sites and came to the conclusion that 75% of the conditions were wholly or partly met. This led to a national sample carried out by Sheffield University and the conclusion that poor delivery was pretty much endemic in the building industry. Part of the problem is that very few Councils feel able to dedicate resources to checking delivery over the years a new housing build, lasts.

Countywide developments

The draft Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been published for comment. A process driven by legislation, it seeks to identify where habitats maybe improved and/or created across the county, including Rushcliffe. In part this is to help guide Biodiversity Net Gain efforts, but to also encourage other projects. But whilst it identifies potential opportunities and priorities, the fundamental issue will be and always has been getting resources to deliver anything at real scale.

Whilst the LNRS may help concentrate efforts, the intention that the whole of Nottinghamshire will be reorganised into two or three Unitary Councils is likely to create a lot of change and turmoil and loss of the relatively close contact the Rushcliffe nature conservation community has with its local council as Rushcliffe will get merged into a larger grouping. The particular funding that Rushcliffe supports will be at risk, we assume

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that the Strategy and Steering Group will cease (they are currently an adopted Rushcliffe policy). According to Central Government policy it is intended that this should happen in 2027 or 2028.

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy going forward

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy was first published in 2003 and has gone through several iterations over the years and is currently undergoing it's latest update for 2026 – 2030 and will incorporate locally relevant factors from the LNRS. The underlying principles remain essentially unchanged, as the threats and opportunities that we face remain pretty much the same as they did back in the day. In part the strategy reflects what is going on in terms of local action for wildlife, but also supports the buy in from Rushcliffe. The updated document should come out for public consultation later this year.

Gordon Dyne Chair - RNCSIG






Gordon Dyne
Chair - Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

Appendix A Indicators of Achievement

As part of the strategy, eleven indicators of achievement were selected to measure the success of the strategy. Listed below are the indicators with the results for the year from January 2021 to December 2021.

Key

Improving	
No change / no previous data	
Deteriorating	

1. % of nature reserves (as listed in our 'Nature of Rushcliffe Annual Reports') with current management plans. Target = 100% sites (Objective 2)



As of December 2024, there are forty-four sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty-nine of these sites have current management plans (88%).

2. Hours of practical work carried out on nature reserves by volunteers. Target = Maintain or increase year on year across the Borough (Objective 2).



In the year January 2024 to December 2024, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 9,844; down from 13,520 hours in 2023.

3. Increased proportion of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) managed in an appropriate manner. Target = Increase year on year towards 100% from a base of 23% at March 2018/19 (Obj 2/3.)



Data not available for 2024

4. Number of schools / Youth Organisations in Rushcliffe engaged in NWT related education activities. Target = 6 schools each year (Objective 5)



NWT are no longer able to deliver this service.

5. Number of barn owl boxes installed and available for use and number of barn owl chicks raised in boxes. Target = maintain number of boxes available for use and sustain level of barn owl chicks raised (Objective 3 & 6)



The number of boxes available in 2025 was 180 boxes. The three-year average numbers of chicks ringed, increased from 60 chicks in 2023 to 85 chicks in 2024. This is within normal variation for the species. Further details are shown in appendix E.

6. % of nature reserves with wildlife related public events (at least one per year). Target = 70% of sites with at least one event per year (Objective 5).



Sixteen sites (that we are aware of) held public events during 2024 or 36%.

7. % of Parishes / WB Wards with publicly accessible natural green spaces (39% in 2015, 48% in 2018). Target = 3 more parishes/wards with at least one accessible natural green space by 2025. (Objective 6).



53% of parishes and West Bridgford wards have accessible natural green spaces. The accessibility of 'green' sites in Rushcliffe is shown in Appendix F.

8. No of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Target = No net loss of LWS sites (Objective 1/2/3/4/6).



As of March 2025, there are 222 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall increase of 2 site from March 2024. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 1932ha up from 1928ha (NBGRC), an increase of 4ha.

9. Percentage of Tree canopy cover in Rushcliffe. Target = increase up to 20% from a base of 11.1% in 2020 (Obj 3).



By 2025 the percentage of tree cover in Rushcliffe had increased to 12.27%.

10. Area of BAP habitat created, restored or bought under active conservation management in order to link or buffer existing wildlife habitat. Target = 30 ha`s grassland, 10 ha`s woodland, 10 ha`s wetland between 2021 and 2025 (Objective 1/2/3/4).



Work financed / carried out partners during 2024/25 (this does not include gains provide through planning developments):

Wetland works at The Hook, Ladybay – de-silting and bank side vegetation reduction on 450m of the dyke (~900m²), and a new pond at Keyworth (6 m²); Tree Planting carried out on RBC sites, in partnership with NCC / Greenwood Community Forest including 0.4ha extension to the Jubilee Woodland at The Hook, Ladybay and 1.04ha extension to woodland at Mill Hill, Bingham (1042 trees, of which 590 are outside woodlands). The councils tree schemes also provided 1127 trees outside woodlands.

Cumulative Total (since Jan 2021) - Wildlife Grassland: 3.2ha; Woodland: 2.34ha; Wetland: 3.21ha; Ponds: 0.0006ha, Hedgerow: 2500m, Number of trees planted (outside woodlands): 9168.

Additionally, NCC / Greenwood Community Forest have supported circa 110 acres (76.9ha) of new woodland planted by the Crown Estate, across their Bingham Estate and 100 hectares (247 acres) of Agroforestry (11,900 trees outside woodland) at Kingston on Soar.

11. Management of SSSI units to achieve a favourable condition according to Natural England assessment. Target = 95% of SSSI`s managed to a favourable or recovering condition. (Obj 2/3).



In March 2024, 5.9% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. Full results are shown in Appendix D.

12. Percentage of available Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support Grant allocated each year. Target = 100% of grant (Obj 1/2).



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Five applications to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant were paid during 2024, totaling a value of £2,606.37 (65%), this is up from £1,168.16 (29%) in 2023/24.

Appendix B Nature Reserves

For the purposes of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, nature reserves are described as sites with a reasonable wildlife value that are managed with nature conservation as a major priority and generally with some degree of public access.

Reserves support Obj 2, Obj 4 and Obj 5 of the Strategies Aims & Objectives

Site		Ownership (Management)	Area Ha`s	Desig.	Habitats	Mngmt Plan (last update)	Public Access
1	Bingham - Archer's Lake*	Barratt and David Wilson Homes, Encore Estate Management	24.06		Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	Yes (2021)	Yes
2	Bingham - Linear Walk	Bingham Town Council (Friends Group)	12	LWS LNR	Grass Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
3	Bingham - Warners Paddock	Bingham Town Council / Crown Estate	1.8		Grass	?	?
4	Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford	Southwell Diocese / East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Grass	Yes (2020)	Yes
5	Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
6	Bunny Old Wood	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	16	LWS	Wood	Yes (2019)	Yes
7	Collington Common, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4		Grass	Yes (ongoing)	Yes
8	Costock Pond	Costock Parish Council	0.8		Pond Grass	Yes (2017)	Yes
9	Cotgrave Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group)	60	LWS	Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2004?)	Yes
10	Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Nottinghamshire County Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council / (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group))	8.6	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes (2024)	Yes
11	Fairham Green*	Bloor Homes / Management Company	11.27		Grass, Wood, Ppnd, Lake, Reedbed	Yes (2020)	?
12	Gotham Railway Path	Gotham Parish Council	0.9		Wood Grass	?	Yes
13	Gotham Sandbanks Nature Reserve	British Gypsum (Gotham Nature Reserve Trust)	1.05	SSSI, LWS	Grass, Wood	Yes	Yes
14	Grantham Canal	Canal & River Trust	25	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Reedbed	Yes	Yes
15	Green Line, West	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4	LWS	Grass	Yes (2018)	Yes

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	Bridgford				Wood		
16	Gresham Marsh, West Bridgford	Environment Agency	8.8	LWS	Grass Marsh Reedbed	Yes (2018)	Yes
17	Greythorne Dyke Open Space, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2.67		Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	Yes (2020)	Yes
18	Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust /Serco)	109	(part LWS)	Grass Wood Pond	?	Yes
19	Keyworth Burial Ground	Keyworth PC	1.05		Grass	Yes	Yes
20	Keyworth Meadows	Keyworth PC (Friends Group)	1.25	LWS, LNR	Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
21	Langar Community Wood	Naturescape	4.7		Wood	Yes	Yes
22	Langar Village Pond	Langar Parish Council	0.02		Pond	?	Yes
23	Lily Ponds, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group)	4.7	Part LWS	Grass Pond	Yes (2024)	Yes
24	Meadow Covert Wood, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2	LNR	Wood	Yes (2016)	No
25	Meadow Park, East Leake	Rushcliffe Borough Council (ELPC / Friends Group)	18		Grass Stream	Yes (2017)	Yes
26	Orston Millennium Green	Orston PC	1		Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
27	Orston Plaster Pits	Girl Guides	4.72	SSSI	Pond Grass Woodland	Yes	Guides
28	Queens Wood	Whatton in the Vale PC	0.3		Woodland	Yes (2019)	Yes
29	Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council	85	LWS, LNR	Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	Yes (2020)	Yes
30	Sharphill Wood, Edwalton	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group).	9.6	LWS, LNR	Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
31	Sharpley Hill, East Leake*	Barratt Homes and Premier Estates	4.83		Grass Hedgerows Wood Ditch	Yes (2024)	Yes
32	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee)	10.4		Grass	Yes (2018)	Yes
33	Silverdale	Rushcliffe Borough Council	3.72		Grass Trees	Yes (2020)	Yes
34	Skylarks, Holme Pierrepont	Notts Wildlife Trust	47	LWS	Grass Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2016)	Yes
35	Springdale Wood, East	East Bridgford Parish Council (Friends Group)	1.4		Wood	Yes (2021)	Yes

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	Bridgford						
36	Stone Pit Wood, Gotham	Rushcliffe Scout District	3.1	LWS	Wood Grass	Yes	Scouts
37	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood, Pasture Ln	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	19		Wood	Yes	Yes
38	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood, Soar Ln	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	10		Wood	Yes	Yes
39	Sutton Bonnington Spinney and Meadow	Sutton Bonnington Parish Council	2.5	LNR	Grass Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
40	The Hook, Lady Bay	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	15	LNR	Grass Stream	Yes (2020)	Yes
41	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve	Upper Saxondale Parish Council	3.2		Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
42	Wilford Claypits, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	4.3	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Grass Wood Reedbed	Yes (2013)	Yes
43	Willoughby Wood, Willoughby on the Wolds	Woodland Trust	2.5		Wood	Yes (2016), now out of date	Yes
44	Wilwell Farm Cutting, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	7.5	SSSI, LNR	Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	Yes (2013)	Yes
		Total Area in hectares	552.54				

Designations	ELS - Entry Level Stewardship	LWS - Local Wildlife Sites (previously called SINC - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)
	LNR - Local Nature Reserve	SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

Habitats (significant areas)	Grass - grassland habitat (including species rich)	Wood - woodland (including scrub)
	Pond, Lake, Stream, River, Reedbed and Marsh as described	

* Additional sites included this year

Appendix C Voluntary practical nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe

Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

Site	Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)
Bingham Linear Park	56
Bridgford Park / Bridge Park	0
Bridgford St. Meadow, EB	3
Bunny Wood	35
Collington Common	0
Costock Pond	Assumed 0
Cotgrave Country Park	895
Gotham Nature Reserve	Assumed 70
Grantham Canal (inc. partners)(GCS – 750; Estimated WeBCan 500;)	1250
Green Line – West Bridgford	133
Gresham Marsh	Estimated 60
Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG)	277.5
Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG)	0
Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Assumed 0
Keyworth Meadow & Burial Ground	Assumed 0
Langar Village Pond	Assumed 0
Meadow Covert	Assumed 0
Meadow Park - East Leake	778
Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)	513
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project	120
Rushcliffe Country Park	2116.5
Saxondale Nature Reserve	Assumed 350
Sharphill Wood	314
Sheldon Field	Assumed 350
Skylarks	1721
Springdale Wood	183
Stonepit Plantation	Assumed 0
Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood	Assumed 0
Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse	Assumed 0
The Hook	273
Wilford Clay Pit	195
Willoughby Wood	Assumed 0
Wilwell Cutting	151

Total Hours: 9844

Value for this work based on Volunteering England guidance 2014, equating to £18.69 per hour

£183,984.36

Please note:

1. These figures do not include educational work such as talks, open days, guided walks etc.
2. These figures are for known work – other unknown projects will have also occurred.

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3. These figures are estimates of time volunteered.

4. Total hours for 2015 = 9788

Appendix D Condition of SSSI's in Rushcliffe (as assessed by Natural England)

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 Mar 2010	Assessment at Mar 2020	Assessment at Mar 2024	Assessment at Mar 2025
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 17)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 17)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 17)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	7.41	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.06	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 22)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 22)
Kinoulton Marsh and Canal	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.73	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)
Kinoulton Marsh and Canal	Standing open water and canals	0.99	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.42	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	6.92	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 05)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.11	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 22)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 22)
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	3.54	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 22)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 22)

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Orston Plaster Pits	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	0.51				
Orston Plaster Pits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.54				
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Calcareous grassland - lowland	13.87	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	5.62	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 16)
Wilford Claypits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.42	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)
Wilford Claypits	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.68	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)
Wilford Claypits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.08	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)
Wilwell Cutting	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	2.14	Favourable (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
Wilwell Cutting	Neutral grassland - lowland	4.24	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
Wilwell Cutting	Standing open water and canals	0.97	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
No of units in favourable condition			6 out of 19	2 out of 17	1 out of 17	1 out of 17

Further details available from <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Appendix E Barn owl results

Year	No. boxes at start of year (available for breeding)	Breeding totals (no. of young birds ringed)	3 year running average of young
2000	38	4	
2001	62	8	
2002	88	16	9
2003	101	35	20
2004	112	25	25
2005	120	58	39
2010	165	51	63
2015	160	47	82
2016	180	106	112
2017	178	102	85
2018	180	82	97
2019	180	126	103
2020	?	11	73
2021	172	94	77
2022	Not available		
2023	180	76	60
2024	180	86	85

Figures provided by Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project, a project of Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers that aims to conserve and increase the population of barn owls in Rushcliffe and surrounding areas (see https://rushcliffewildlife.co.uk/rubop/rubop_index.html).

Appendix F Access to NatureParishes / WB wards without designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

Aslockton; Hawkesworth; Newton; Scarrington, Shelton;
Sibthorpe; Thoroton; Tollerton

Out of 56 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 8 parishes contain no LWS's

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

Parish	Accessible Natural Green Space
Bingham	Bingham Linear Park, Archer's Lake
Bunny	Bunny Old Wood
Car Colston	Large Green
Colston Bassett	Grantham Canal
Costock	Costock Pond
Cotgrave	Cotgrave Country Park, Grantham Canal, Rushcliffe Oaks (memorial grounds)
Cropwell Bishop	Grantham Canal
Cropwell Butler	Grantham Canal, Sheldon Field
East Bridgford	Springdale Wood
East Leake	Meadow Park, Sharpley Hill, Manor Farm Animal Sanctuary
Gamston	Grantham Canal
Gotham	Gotham Nature Reserve and Gotham Railway Walk
Hickling	Grantham Canal
Holme Pierrepont and Gamston	Holme Pierrepont Country Park, Grantham Canal, Skylarks, Trentside and Pinders Pond
Keyworth	Keyworth Meadow Nature Reserve, Keyworth Burial Ground
Kinoulton	Grantham Canal,
Langar cum Barnstone	Naturescape, Langar Village Pond
Orston	Orston Millennium Green
Owthorpe	Grantham Canal
Radcliffe-on-Trent	Dewberry Hill, The Lilly Ponds, The Cliff Top Walk
Rempstone	Open Space
Ruddington	Rushcliffe Country Park, Fairham Green
Sutton Bonington	Sutton Bonington Coppice and Meadow, Sutton Bonington Diamond Woods
Saxondale	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve
Upper Broughton	Top/Daffodil Green
Whatton in the Vale	Queens Wood, Whatton
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	Willoughby Wood
W Bridgford Wards: Abbey	Grantham Canal, Abbey Park
Compton Acres	Collington Common, Gresham Marsh, Greythorne Dyke, Lyme Park, Trentside, Compton Acres open space, Wilford Claypits and Wilford Field
Edwalton	Sharphill Wood, Meadow Covert
Gamston South	Grantham Canal
Ladybay	The Hook and Grantham Canal
Lutterell	Wilford Cemetery
Musters	The Green Line
Trent Bridge	Grantham Canal

Out of 56 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 34 have accessible natural green space (including all

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West Bridgford wards).












Parishes without accessible natural green space are: Aslockton; Barton in Fabis, Bradmore; Clipstone on the Wolds; Elton on the Hill; Flawborough; Flintham; Granby cum Sutton; Hawksworth; Kingston on Soar; Kneeton; Newton; Normanton on Soar; Normanton on the Wolds; Ratcliffe on Soar; Scarrington; Screveton; Shelford; Shelton; Sibthorpe; Stanford-on-Soar; Stanton-on-the-Wolds; Thoroton; Thrumpton; Tithby and Wiverton; Tollerton; West Leake; Widmerpool; Wysall and Thorpe-in-the-Glebe

All areas have at least some public footpath networks although the amount varies.
















Information is partly sourced from

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx>





Appendix G Progress report for the Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 - 2025






Actions		
	During 2024:	
1a. Continue using the BOM Focal Areas to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects.	Cotgrave Wood Focal Area has continued to be surveyed. As part of the BOM work, some ride management work was undertaken; managed by RNCSIG partners	
1b. Seek opportunities for delivery of aspirational large-scale projects	Skylarks Nature Reserve continues to be developed by NWT. The development of Edwalton Community Park has continued. Planning gain sites at Bingham (Roman Quarter), Newton and Fairham have begun development.	
1c. Provide advice and support to organisations whose land holdings or interests have a significant role in nature conservation in Rushcliffe.	The RNCSIG has continued to be represented on the Notts BAG and in the development of the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Conservation Strategy.	
1d. Support the Nature Recovery Network plans for Rushcliffe and the county	Partners have developed a draft Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The LNRS is being developed by Nottinghamshire County Council and is expected to be published in Autumn 2025	
2a. Seek to ensure that all nature reserves have a current Management Plans	No new management plans have been developed this year.	
2b. Seek to ensure that all nature reserves have sufficient resources available to deliver the management plan and assist with provision of resources	Five applications to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant were paid during 2024, totalling a value of £2,606.37. Volunteering continues to be promoted, particularly via NWT Skylarks Nature Reserve and NWT South Notts Local Group programme, the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park newsletter and social media produced by 'friends of' groups, RBC, NBAG and NWT. A remote mowing machine was provided to eleven nature conservation sites across the borough over 10 days.	
2c. Encouraging local community involvement in the management of nature reserves	Twenty-Three public events were held by NWT / South Notts Local Group across the borough, at sixteen sites. NWT is working to encourage community involvement at Green Line, Gresham Marsh, The Hook and Sharphill Wood	
3a. Promoting the sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	No action taken during 2024.	
3b. Develop sympathetic farming management practices and agri-environment schemes	NWT's Nature in the Farmed Landscapes project has delivered advice to several farms and practical conservation measures at 5 farm holdings NWT advice was also delivered to 9 other external landowners / interested bodies (not all are farm holdings) NWT provided support at Farm Eco's Biodiversity Day on 23 April	
3c. Encouraging wildlife friendly management of buildings, corporate landscaping, public open space, school grounds and private gardens	NWT have provided advice to 9 external landowners / interested bodies Partners continue to work to support community groups working on the Grantham Canal NBAG have continued to work with Great Central Railway through the Grizzled Skipper project.	
3d. Supporting programs for national priority species and habitats and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species and habitats	Funding has supported LBAP target habitats (see Appendix A)	

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3e. Promoting the management of Notified Road Verges and to maintain and create habitats alongside our transport corridors	No action taken during 2024. as far as we are aware NNC are continuing to mow according to the agreed cycle, including cut & remove on Notified Road Verges	
3f. Protect enhance and expand appropriate tree and woodland cover and access	1732 trees and shrubs were planted by RBC, and 1056 trees were supplied to the public in 2024/25. In addition the Notts County Council has funded planting of circa 110 acres on the Crown Estate around Bingham and a new 100ha (11,900 tree) agroforestry project at Normanton on Soar.	
3g. Support projects that benefit our freshwater environment	900 sq m of ditch and banks at the Hook was desilted and scrub control works implemented.	
4a. Work in partnership with the Records Centre and support monitoring of the Local Wildlife Sites network	Partners continue to support this work through membership of the Nottinghamshire Ecological and Geological Data Partnership (NEGDP) and its sub committees.	
4b. Support species survey programmes and local initiatives to record wildlife and submission of records	Survey work was carried out by member groups in 2024, but no cross-organisation surveys were completed.	
4c. Support Notts BAG and reporting against LBAP targets	Funding has supported LBAP target habitats (see Appendix A)	
5a. Promote the work of local nature groups and issues	The NWT continues to support local groups through the SLA, Twenty-Three public events were held by NWT / South Notts Local Group across the borough, at sixteen sites. Groups and local issues are promoted via the Facebook page and other media outlets. A First Aid course was provided for volunteers. A Green Flag for The Hook was applied for and awarded (in addition to ongoing Green Flags for Rushcliffe Country Park and Sharphill Wood).	
5b. Extending wildlife education opportunities	Wildlife Watch continues to run at Rushcliffe Country Park and Forest Schools operate in Sharphill Wood, Edwalton; and Meadow Park, East Leake, other private forest schools also operate in the Rushcliffe area.	
5c. Promoting contacts amongst groups and organisations	The partnership operates Facebook and Twitter feeds, sharing feeds from local groups and organisations. Partner organisations also provide social media and news feeds.	
5d. Promoting access to wildlife and countryside	Access continues to be promoted through the network of publicly accessible nature reserves managed by partners, events and activities (see 2c above) run by partners.	
6a. Ensure that local planning policies relate to the NPPF mitigation hierarchy	Partners have commented on planning applications in 2024.	
6b. Ensuring new BGI benefits people and wildlife and meets NE and WT guidelines	No specific action taken during 2024	
6c. Use Hedgerow Regulations and TPOs to help protect important features	3 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were made and confirmed in 2024. Currently there are 254 TPOs (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, therefore more than 254 trees are covered by TPOs). This has decreased from 261 in 2015. 3 hedgerow removal notices were received by RBC in 2024, 2 were allowed to go ahead, 1 retention notice was served	
6d. Reduce pollution; seek good ecological status for rivers; and mitigate and adapt to climate change	Partners continue to develop climate change policies and actions. No specific river or pollution actions have been undertaken by partners in the last 12 months.	
6e. Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision	The governments proposed revisions to planning policies within the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, have been subject to campaigns led	

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making	by the Wildlife Trusts.	
6f. Promoting the use of native local provenance planting	No specific action taken during 2024.	
7a. Continue support for the RNCSIG	Membership of the partnership remains constant, with partners contributing to the strategy and actions. An SLA between RBC and NWT continues. Financial support continues to be provided by RBC	
7b. Produce an annual report	This report is for 2024 activities	
7d. Reviewing the strategy during 2025, or sooner	Revision of the strategy has begun and will be completed by Dec 2025	

Action Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue; No longer assigned
	Unassigned; Not Started; Check Progress
	Resuming; In Progress; Assigned
	Completed

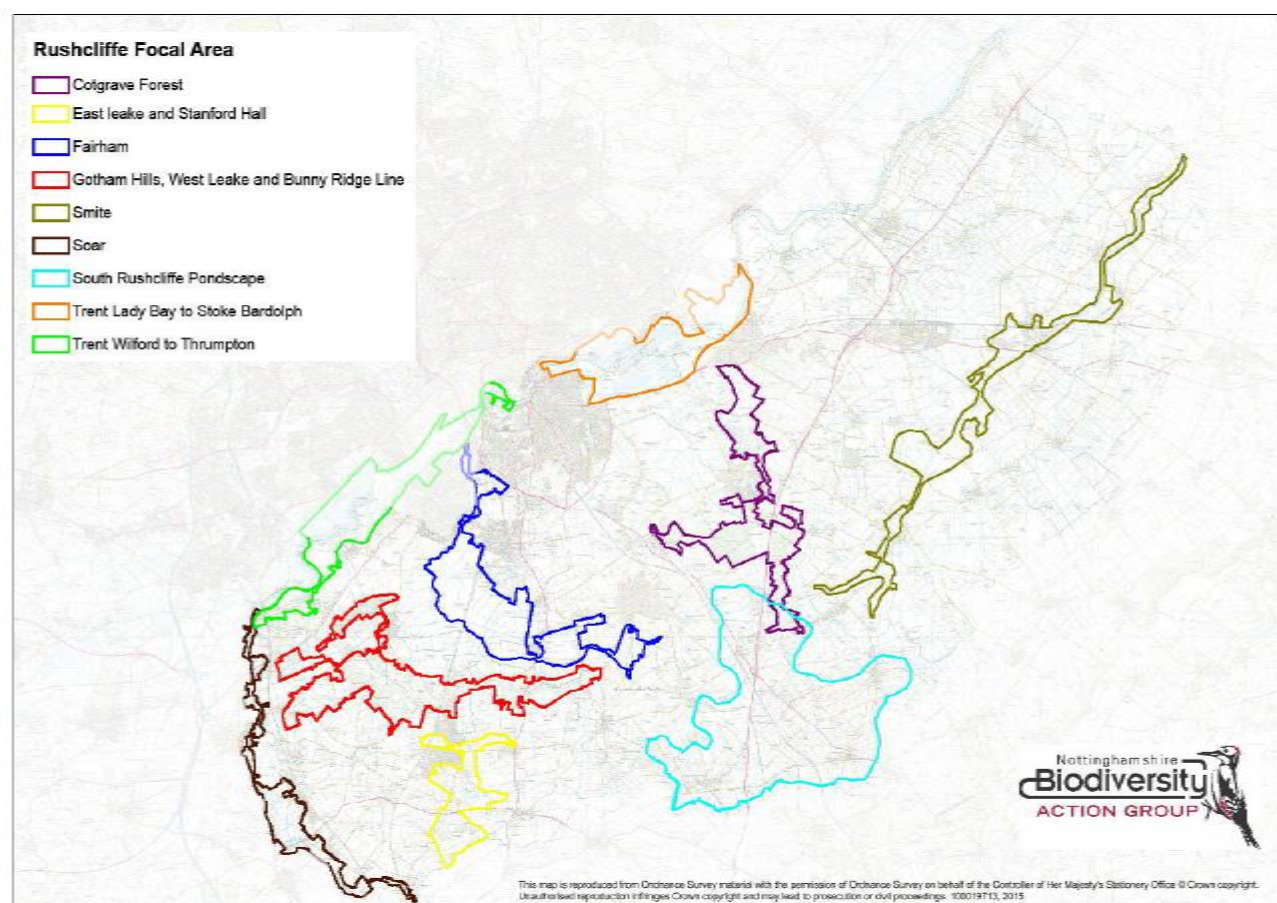
Note: Actions cancelled or completed in previous years have not been included in this table

Appendix H Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project

The Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping exercise (completed in 2015) covered the whole of the Borough; it highlighted the important wildlife sites in Rushcliffe and identified potential opportunities for biodiversity improvements. This looked at our local grassland, woodland and wetland habitats in terms of opportunities for making them Better, Bigger and more Connected.

The maps show that there are areas where existing habitats and associated opportunities are concentrated, in these areas there are substantial opportunities in both the short and long term to enhance and expand these habitats, to buffer them and to link them up to create a stronger habitat network across the landscape.

These Focal Areas are shown on the enclosed map:



BOM data and the Focal Areas have been incorporated into the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (more detail online at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>)

With thanks to everyone who has helped compile the data for this report, especially Gordon Dyne (NWT Southern Member Group) and Ben Driver (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust).

www.facebook.com/RNCSIG

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/natureconservation

www.nottsbag.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SouthNottsWildlifeGroup

www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org

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RNCSIG is a member of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, which seeks to protect and enhance Nottinghamshire's wildlife. See www.nottsbag.org.uk