



# ***Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group***

## **The Nature of Rushcliffe 2016**

**Annual Report – published July 2017**

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### **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 and again in 2015. The actions are to be carried out by a range of organisations including those on the implementation group.

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](http://www.facebook.com/RNCSIG)

## 2.0 **Chairman's Statement**

The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy for 2016 – 2020 identified seven principal objectives promoting wildlife and nature conservation and the following activities form the key contributions to taking the strategy forward.

1) Promote Landscape Scale Conservation to create a more resilient natural environment

Cotgrave Forest Focal Area - 2016 saw RNCSIG set up a sub group to exploit the Biodiversity Opportunity Matching exercise for Rushcliffe. This had identified a number of Focal Areas and it was decided to concentrate our efforts on the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area. Partly because of particular butterfly interest of the Forest and the changing ownership patterns with Woodlands for Sale marketing, but also the possibilities for improving linkages in the surrounding area, around Cotgrave and up to the A52. The Cotgrave Forest Focal Area working group has established contacts with the woodland landowners and is promoting a number of initiatives relating to the woodland and has also established contacts with some neighbouring farms and identified a number of other sites of interest. As part of this project the group is working on a Woodland Training Forum for 2017.

2) Promote the maintenance and enhancement of nature reserves

Currently some 40 sites in Rushcliffe (469 hectares) are classed as Nature Reserves.

RBC/NWT Service Level Agreement - the SLA has been extended for a further two years allowing Notts Wildlife Trust to carry out additional education work with local schools, continue to support local Friends of Groups, produce management plans, training events and providing land management advice.

Friends Groups - currently there are "Friends Groups" of various types for Bingham Linear Park, Meadow Park, Sharphill Wood, The Hook, RonT Lily Ponds, Green Line, Gotham Sandbanks, Cotgrave CP, Rushcliffe CP, Shelden Fields, Bridgford Park and Springdale Woods. In addition Skylarks, Wilford Claypits and Wilwell all have active work parties. At long last Costock Pond is now under the wing of Costock Parish Council and being managed as a nature reserve.

RBC Nature Conservation Grants - These continue to fund small scale local conservation activities, such as tools, habitat work and bird boxes.

3) Promote sympathetic land management for wildlife in rural and urban areas

Rushcliffe has an area of some 41,000 hectares, of which some 2,062 hectares are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (that is of County Importance).

## The Nature of Rushcliffe 2016

Road Verge Management - we are looking at issues relating to road verge management and how this might become more wildlife friendly. A difficult area, as several different branches of government are involved depending on the road – Highways England (trunk roads), Notts County Council (A roads) and Streetwise (minor roads). As part of this process we are trying to engage with Highways England's Grassland Management Feasibility Study, but also look in other areas whether some form of local verge management might be practical.

NWT Badger Vaccination Project - in 2016 the Vaccination Scheme in the Cropwell area successfully identified some 23 badger sets and contacted most land owners in the area (achieving a higher level of user participation than in any previous farm orientated scheme. Unfortunately problems over vaccine supplies meant no actual vaccination occurred. Whilst another 26 additional setts were identified during the year, this was potentially a major problem as a two year gap would invalidate the 2015 vaccination programme and raise doubts amongst farmers as to the effectiveness of the project. Fortunately the Trust has secured sufficient vaccines this year and plan to target all 49 setts with a team of staff and volunteers. Although partly funded by DEFRA it is also supported by contributions from landowners and supporters.

Other Projects - Wilford Cemetery is carrying out work to make areas of land wildlife friendly and the Grizzled Skipper Project continues to run survey and habitat work along the Great Central Line. The Swift & Swallow Project is also continuing to promote installation of nest boxes in suitable locations, it's "founding" site at Kinoulton having some success. As part of the 'Wetland for All' project, funding some work is going on at Skylarks and at sites adjacent to Rushcliffe along the Trent Valley. Groups like Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project are also actively promoting wildlife management in Rushcliffe.

### 4) Support surveying and reporting of Rushcliffe's biodiversity

There are various initiatives recording the Borough's wildlife, most figure in wider county and national schemes. Individuals and groups support various projects such as the Bird and Plant atlases, as well as recording schemes like the South Notts Bird Ringers, as well as butterfly recording transects and moth trapping exercises. All of which feed into the County Wildlife Recorder scheme. In addition the Nottingham Biological Recording Centre does regular surveys of Local Wildlife Sites cross the county

### 5) Raise awareness of nature conservation issues

Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch (children's activities) and South Notts Local Group (wildlife walks and talks, raising awareness) continue to be active in the Borough. In addition there are various U3A wildlife groups (adult wildlife activities) and Forest Schools. (children's wildlife activities). Skylarks runs family themed events and some other sites have Reserve Open Days.


### 6) Seek to influence the impact of development

## The Nature of Rushcliffe 2016

Rushcliffe Local Plan - as part of the long running saga of the Rushcliffe Local Plan for housing and industry in the area RNCSIG put together a response to the latest housing plans, specifically commenting on wildlife impacts. There will be considerable housing development in Rushcliffe and we are pushing for suitable compensation being consolidated into bigger packages, rather than being spent (or not spent in some cases) in penny packages.

### 7) Supporting the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy

RNCSIG Steering Group consists of people representing a diversity of wildlife interests in Rushcliffe from Friends Groups, to Parish Councils, to professionals. It's role is to look at ways of promoting and delivering the strategies objectives. Much of the activity is by all manner of groups and individuals pursuing their own specific agendas, contributing to the overall strategy and that diversity is in itself one of the aims of the strategy. Overall Rushcliffe has as active a nature conservation community as any area in the county, something which each engaged individual makes a small but important contribution.



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 from January 2016 to December 2016.

### 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 Dec 2016 there are forty five sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty four of these sites have current management plans (76%). Three sites have management plans in preparation.

### **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 2016 to December 2016, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 10,219 hours. Last year's voluntary work was 9,788 hours.

### **3. Increased proportion of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) managed in an appropriate manner. Target = Increase year on year from a base of 32.1% at March 2015 (Objective 2/3).**



This indicator has not been measured in 2015/16. For 2014/2015, 31.5% (69 out of 219) were in appropriate management.

### **4. % of SSSI units in favourable condition. Target = increase year on year from base of 24% in 2015 (Objective 2/3).**



In December 2016, 12.5% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. Full results are shown in Appendix D.

### **5. Number of schools in Rushcliffe engaged in NWT related education activities. Target = 6 schools each year (Objective 5)**



In 2016 a total of 6 activity sessions was run with 4 schools, engaging with 100 children.

**6. 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 2016 was 180 boxes. The three year average numbers of chicks successfully raised, increased from 82 chicks in 2015 to 112 chicks in 2016. Further details are shown in appendix E.

**7. % 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).**



Nine sites (that we are aware of) held public events during 2016 or 18%.

**8. % of Parishes / WB Wards with publicly accessible natural green spaces (39% in 2015). Target = 3 more parishes/wards with at least one accessible natural green space by 2020. (Objective 6).**



39% of parishes and West Bridgford wards have accessible natural green spaces. The accessibility of 'green' sites in Rushcliffe is shown in Appendix F.

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



As of March 2017, there are 220 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall increase of 4 sites. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 1991ha, down from 2051ha (NBGRC), a decrease of 60ha, however this is due to the correction of map data, not a change in area of habitats.

**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 2016 and 2020 (Objective 1/2/3/4).**



Work we have financed / carried out during 2016/17:

0.8ha of wetland restoration at Elton and 1.7ha of grassland management at East Leake, 0.3 ha new grassland at West Bridgford and 136m of hedgerow management at Keyworth.

**Cumulative Total (since 2016)** - Wildlife Grassland: 2ha; Woodland: 0ha; Wetland: 0.8ha; Ponds: 0m<sup>2</sup>, 136m Hedgerow.

**Appendix B Nature Reserves**

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe as at March 2016, which is used for the basis of this report.

Site	Ownership (Management)	Area Ha`s	Desig	Habitats	Mngmt Plan	Public Access
1. Bingham Linear Walk	Bingham Town Council (Friends Group)	12	LWS LNR	Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
2. Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Grass	Yes	Yes
3. Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford	Southwell Diocese of the Church of England (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Wood	Yes	Yes
4. Bunny Old Wood	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	16	LWS	Wood	Yes	Yes
5. Compton Acres, West Bridgford (Butterfly LWS)	Nottinghamshire County Council	5.85	LWS	Grassland Scrub	?	?
6. Collington Common, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4		Grass	Yes	Yes
7. Costock Pond	Costock Parish Council	0.8		Pond Grass	In prep.	Yes
8. Cotgrave Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group)	60	LWS	Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes	Yes
9. Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Nottinghamshire County Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council)	8.6	LWS	Grass Wood	In prep.	Yes
10. Fishpond Wood, Owthorpe	Privately owned	4	LWS	Grass Marsh Pond Wood	?	?
11. Gotham Railway Path	Gotham Parish Council	0.9		Wood Grass	?	Yes
12. Gotham Sandbanks / Gotham Nature Reserve	British Gypsum (Gotham Nature Reserve)	1.05	SSSI, LWS	Grass, Wood	Yes	Yes
13. Grantham Canal	Canal & River Trust	25	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Reedbed	Yes	Yes
14. Green Line, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
15. Gresham Marsh	Environment Agency	8.8	LWS	Grass Marsh Reedbed	Yes	Yes
16. Gypsum Way	British Gypsum / Nottinghamshire County Council	0.3		Grass	?	Yes
17. Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council	109	(part LWS)	Grass Wood Pond	?	Yes
18. Keyworth Burial Ground	Keyworth PC	1.05		Grass	Yes	Yes

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19	Keyworth Meadows	Keyworth PC (Friends Group)	1.25	LWS, LNR	Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
20	Langar Community Wood	Naturescape	4.7	LWS	Wood Pond Grassland	Yes	Yes
21	Langar Village Pond	Langar Village Pond Trust	0.02		Pond	?	Yes
22	Lily Ponds, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council	4.7	Part LWS	Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
23	Logan's Trail	Gotham Environmental Trust	4		Wood Pond	?	Yes
24	Meadow Covert Wood	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2	LNR	Wood	Yes	No
25	Meadow Park, East Leake	Rushcliffe Borough Council (ELPC / Friends Group)	18		Grass Stream	Yes	Yes
26	Orston Millennium Green	Orston PC	1		Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
27	Rushcliffe Country Park	Rushcliffe Borough Council	36	LWS, LNR	Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	Yes	Yes
28	Sharphill Wood, Edwalton	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group).	9.6	LWS, LNR	Wood	Yes	Yes
29	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee)	10.4		Grass	Yes	Yes
30	Skylarks (incorporating Blott's Pit), Holme Pierrepont	Notts Wildlife Trust	47	LWS	Grass Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes	Yes
31	Springdale Wood, East Bridgford.	Woodland Trust (Friends of Springdale Wood)	1.4		Wood	Yes	Yes
32	Stone Pit Wood	Rushcliffe Scout District	3.1	LWS	Wood Grass	Yes	No
33	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood's	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	19 + 10		Wood	In Prep.	Yes
34	Sutton Bonnington Spinney and Meadow	Sutton Bonnington Parish Council	2.5	LNR	Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
35	The Hook, Lady Bay	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	15	LNR	Grass Stream	Yes	Yes
36	Trentside - Adbolton	Private Ownership (part managed by RBC / Nottingham Sailing Club)	2	ELS	Grass River	Yes	Yes
37	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve	Upper Saxondale Resident Association	3.2		Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
38	Wilford Claypits	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	4.3	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Grass Wood Reedbed	Yes	Yes
39	Wilford Hill Wood	Private	7.8	LWS	Wood	?	No
40	Willoughby Wood	Woodland Trust	2.5		Wood	Yes	Yes
41	Wilwell Farm Cutting	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust on 99 year	8	SSSI, LNR	Grass Marsh	Yes	Yes

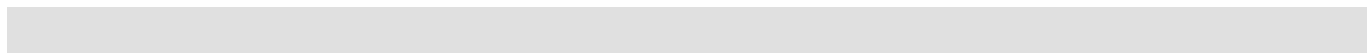


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		(lease)			Wood Reedbed		
42	Notified Roadside Verges x 4	Nottinghamshire County Council		LWS	Grass	Yes	Yes

Designations	<b>ELS</b> - Entry Level Stewardship	<b>LWS</b> - Local Wildlife Sites (previously called <b>SINC</b> - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)
	<b>LNR</b> - Local Nature Reserve	<b>SSSI</b> - 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	



**Appendix C Voluntary practical nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe**

Jan 16 – Dec 16

Site		Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)
Bingham Linear Park		126
Bridgford Park	Assumed	22
Bridgford St. Meadow, EB	Assumed / Included with Springdale Wood	0
Bunny Wood		206
Collington Common		0
Cotgrave Country Park		562
Gotham Nature Reserve	estimated	90
Grantham Canal	Assumed	1078
Green Line – West Bridgford		92
Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG)		300
Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG)		59
Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Assumed	0
Keyworth Meadow		0
Kinoulton Churchyard	Assumed	0
Langar Village Pond	Assumed	0
Meadow Covert	Assumed	0
Meadow Park - East Leake		394
Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)		110
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project		272
Rushcliffe Country Park		4360
Saxondale Nature Reserve	Assumed	51
Sharphill Wood		395
Sheldon Field		370
Skylarks		855
Springdale Wood		103
Stonepit Plantation	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse	Assumed	0
The Hook		132
Wilford Clay Pit		460
Willoughby Wood	Assumed	0
Wilwell Cutting		182

**Total Hours: 10,219**

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

**£190,993**

- 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.
  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 2014	Assessment at Mar 2015	Assessment at Mar 2016	Assessment at Mar 2016
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 12)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 12)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 12)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 12)</small>
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	7.39	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 15)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 15)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 15)</small>
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.05	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 15)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 15)</small>
Kinoulton Marsh And Canal	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.65	Favourable <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 09)</small>
Kinoulton Marsh And Canal	Standing open water and canals	0.95	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.51	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	7.04	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 05)</small>	Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 05)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 14)</small>
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.11	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	3.54	Favourable <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	Favourable <small>(last assessed 07)</small>

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Orston Plaster Pits	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	0.51	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>No longer assessed</b>				
Orston Plaster Pits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.54	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>No longer assessed</b>				
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Calcareous grassland - lowland	13.87	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 13)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 13)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> no change <small>(last assessed 16)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> no change <small>(last assessed 16)</small>		
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	5.62	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 09)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> no change <small>(last assessed 16)</small>		
Wilford Claypits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.42	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>		
Wilford Claypits	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.68	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>		
Wilford Claypits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.08	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 07)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 11)</small>		
Wilwell Cutting	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	2.14	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Favourable</b> <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 16)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 16)</small>		
Wilwell Cutting	Neutral grassland - lowland	4.24	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 16)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 16)</small>		
Wilwell Cutting	Standing open water and canals	0.97	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	<b>Unfavourable</b> recovering <small>(last assessed 10)</small>	<b>No longer assessed</b>			
No of units in favourable condition			6 out of 19	6 out of 19	4 out of 17	3 out of 16	2 out of 16		

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

**Appendix E 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	18	58	39	0.325
2006	131	20	59	47	0.359
2007	160	33	154	90	0.563
2008	160	17	54	89	0.556
2009	158	28	85	98	0.620
2010	165	29	51	63	0.382
2011	170	33	88	75	0.441
2012	165	31	92	77	0.467
2013	163	21	16	65	0.399
2014	160	39	182	97	0.606
2015	160	29	47	82	0.513
2016	180	40	106	112	0.622

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 [www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk](http://www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk)).

## Appendix F Access to Nature

### Parishes without designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

Aslockton  
 Hawkesworth  
 Newton  
 Scarrington  
 Shelton  
 Sibthorpe  
 Thoroton  
 Tollerton  
 West Bridgford Wards: Abbey  
 Melton











Out of 58 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 10 contain no LWS's

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










<b>Parish</b>	<b>Accessible Natural Green Space</b>
Bingham	Bingham Linear Park
Bunny	Bunny Old Wood
Car Colston	Large Green
Cotgrave	Cotgrave Country Park and Grantham Canal
Cropwell Bishop	Grantham Canal
Cropwell Butler	Grantham Canal, Sheldon Field
East Bridgford	Springdale Wood
East Leake	Meadow Park and Manor Farm Animal Sanctuary
Gamston	Grantham Canal
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	Fishpond Wood and Grantham Canal
Radcliffe-on-Trent	Dewberry Hill, The Lilly Ponds, The Cliff Top Walk
Rempstone	Open Space
Ruddington	Rushcliffe Country Park
Sutton Bonington	Sutton Bonington Coppice and Meadow, Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood
Saxondale	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	Willoughby Wood
W Bridgford Wards	Compton Acres
	Ladybay
	Musters
	Trent Bridge
	Gresham Marsh, Greythorne Dyke, Lyme Park, Trentside and Wilford Claypits
	The Hook and Grantham Canal
	The Green Line
	Grantham Canal

Out of 58 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 26 have accessible natural green space.

**Appendix G Progress report for the Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 - 2020**



<b>Actions</b>		
	<b>During 2016:</b>	
1a. Using the Focal Areas to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects	Cotgrave Wood Focal Area has been prioritised for work during 2016, with promotional material developed and a meeting held for woodland owners in Cotgrave Wood, to enable them to network and to encourage proactive interest in the ecology. Student projects have looked at invertebrates on the adjacent Moor Lane. Funding has been obtained to develop wetland projects across the Trent Valley, with The Hook and Skylarks being identified for work during 2017.	
1b. Seek opportunities for creating at least one large area for wildlife	Skylarks Nature Reserve continues to be developed by NWT. The development of Sharphill Wood / Community Park is still being considered along with the adjacent housing development.	
1c. Identify and liaise with organisations	The RNCSIG has continued to be represented on the Grantham Canal Partnership Environmental Sub-group and has made representation on the draft Grantham Canal Park Strategy. Notts BAG has continued to carry out scrub management work on the Great Central Railway as part of its Grizzled Skipper Project. Contact has been initiated with the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stamford Hall, to enable the support and guidance of the DNRC by RNCSIG in the future.	
2a. Ensuring that all nature reserves have a current Management Plans	Updates to the management plans for Meadow Park, East Leake and Meadow Covert, Edwalton were completed during 2016. Management plans are in preparation for Costock Pond; Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe on Trent and Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood's	
2b. Resourcing Nature Reserves	Nine applications to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant were approved during 2016/17, from eight organisations; of these seven have been paid, totalling a value of £2,173 Volunteering continues to be promoted, particularly via NWT Skylarks Nature Reserve HLF project, 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 volunteer forum was held in Gotham attended by 31. 8 training events were held, covering subjects including survey techniques, woodland management and first aid.	
2c. Encouraging local community involvement	A series of 38 public activities were held by NWT across the borough, including at major council events. Education activity provided by partners has included 6 activity sessions run by NWT, with 4 schools, engaging with 100 children. Wildlife Watch continues to run at Rushcliffe Country Park and Forest Schools operate in Sharphill Wood and Meadow Park, East Leake.	
2d. Make nature reserves bigger, better and more connected	NWT has continued to develop the Skylarks nature reserve Partners have continued to liaise with developers and planners on the proposed Edwalton Community Park. Informal contact has been maintained with Stamford Hall / DNRC Partners continue to support the Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group and have contributed to the development of a draft Grantham Canal Park strategy	
3a. Promoting the sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	No action taken during 2016.	
3b. Develop sympathetic farming management practices and agri-environment schemes	Advice was delivered to 10 external landowners, plus a further 8 through the 'NWT Farmland Bird Bed and Breakfast Project'	
3c. Encouraging wildlife friendly management of grounds	Informal contact has been maintained with Stamford Hall / DNRC Partners continue to support the Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group and have contributed to the development of a draft	






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	<p>Grantham Canal Park strategy NBAG have continued to work with Great Central Railway through the Grizzled Skipper project. The partnership helped initiate a Cotgrave Forest Owners Group</p>	
3d. Supporting programs for BAP species and habitats	Funding has been provided for the Notts BAG lead Grizzled Skipper project in the East Leake area. Funding has supported LBAP target habitats (see Appendix A)	
3e. Promoting the management and designation of Notified Road Verges	Plans for this work are in development	
4a. Supporting the work of the Records Centre and the Local Wildlife Sites survey	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	A mistletoe survey has been initiated in 2016	
4c. Support Notts BAG and reporting against LBAP targets	Funding has been provided for the Notts BAG lead Grizzled Skipper project in the East Leake area. 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. Groups were given a platform to promote themselves at the Nature Conservation Forum. Groups and local issues are promoted via the Facebook page and other media outlets.	
5b. Extending wildlife education opportunities	Education activity provided by partners has included 6 activity sessions run by NWT, with 4 schools, engaging with 100 children. Wildlife Watch continues to run at Rushcliffe Country Park and Forest Schools operate in Sharphill Wood and Meadow Park, East Leake.	
5c. Promoting contacts amongst groups and organisations	The partnership operates facebook and twitter feeds, sharing feeds from local groups and organisations. A volunteer forum was held in Gotham attended by 31.	
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 contributed to consultations on the development of planning policy in Rushcliffe during 2016. Partners have commented on planning applications in 2016.	
6b. Ensuring new buildings and GI benefits people and wildlife and meets NE and WT guidelines	Partners have contributed to consultations on the development of planning policy in Rushcliffe during 2016. Partners have commented on planning applications in 2016.	
6c. Use Hedgerow Regulations and TPOs to help protect important features	Currently there are 272 Tree Preservation Orders (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, so much more than 272 trees are covered by TPOs). This has increased from 261 in 2015.	
6d. Reduce pollution; seek good ecological status for rivers; and mitigate and adapt to climate change	Projects on the Kingston Brook and River Soar have been submitted to the River Soar Catchment Partnership.	
6e. Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision making	No action taken during 2016.	
6f. Promoting the use of native local provenance planting	No action taken during 2016.	
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	The report for 2016 is to published in July 2017	



## The Nature of Rushcliffe 2016

7c. Developing and Implement a marketing/ communications plan	A marketing plan was developed in 2016	
7d. Reviewing the strategy during 2020, or sooner	To be reviewed in 2020	

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 Nature Conservation Projects and Activities in Rushcliffe**

**Ongoing Activities** (of which we are aware) **(27)** (items in **bold** pre date start of the Nature Conservation Strategy in 2003). See also the list of current sites in Appendix B

### **Wildlife Projects (16)**

- Badger edge vaccination scheme –BEVS (NWT)
- Cotgrave Focal Area (RNCSIG)
- Blue Butterfly Scheme (NWT)
- Bird Bed & Breakfast Scheme (NWT)
- Cotgrave Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow (CTC)
- Grantham Canal Azolla Control (CRT (previously BW) / NBAG / NE)
- Grizzled Skipper Project (NCC / Butterfly Conservation / NBAG)
- Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG)
- Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Volunteers (RoT PC / Vols)
- River Soar Floating Pennywort Control (EA / CRT)
- **Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project (SNB)**
- Silver Seal Mine management (NCC / NWT +)
- **South Notts Bird Ringers – SNB (Vols)**
- Swift & Swallow Project (Vols)
- Trentside Fields, Adboulton, riverside management (RBC / NWT, Trent Sailing Club / FroTH)
- 'Wetland for All' project (NWT)

### **Wildlife Activities (11)**

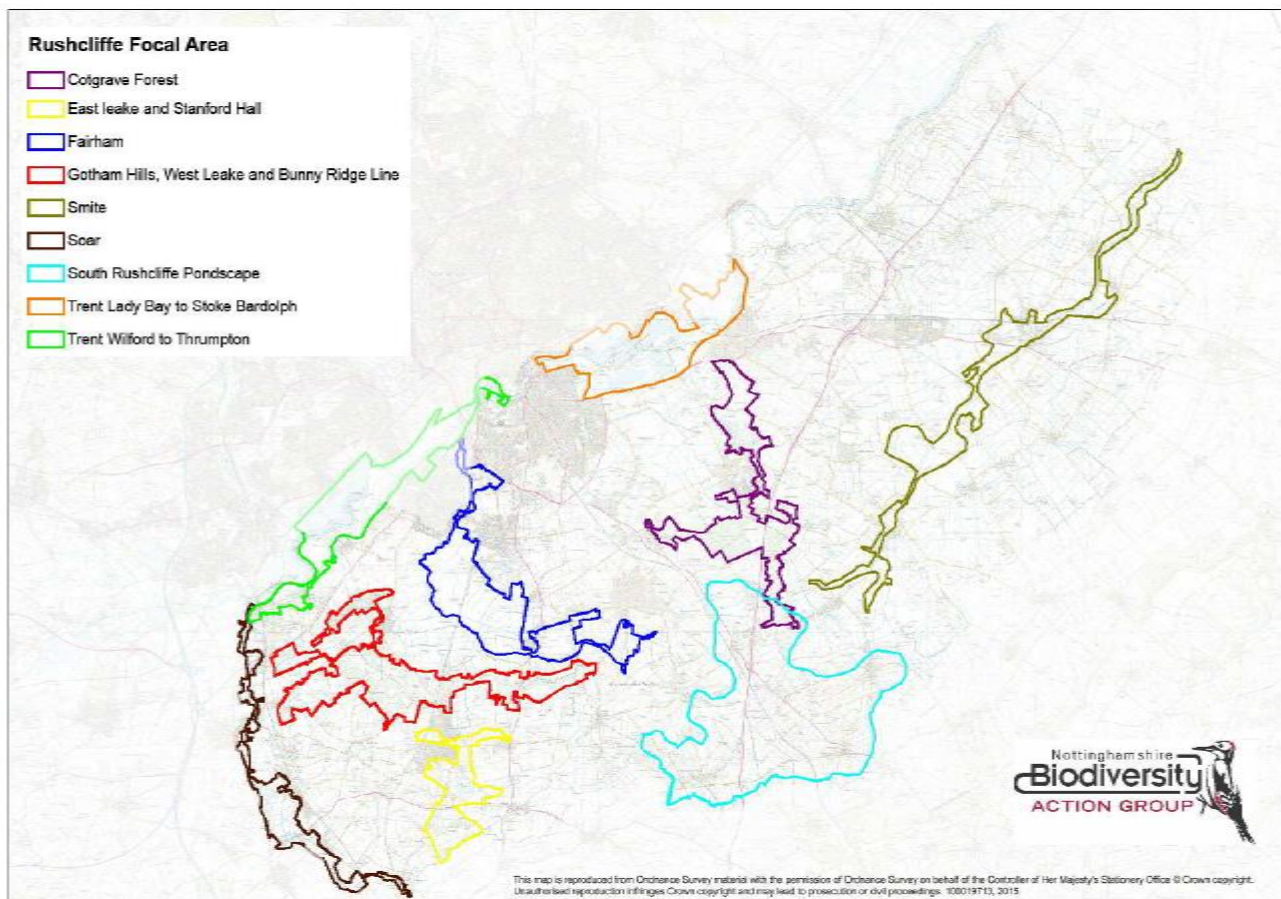
- Cotgrave U3A Birdwatching Group (Vols)
- Forest Schools at Sharphill Wood and Meadow Park, East Leake (Vols / Nurseries / Schools)
- **Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group (CRT / Grantham Canal Partnership)**
- Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum (RNCSIG)
- **Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group (Vols/NWT)**
- Rushcliffe Wildlife Web Site (Vols)
- **School Wildlife Education Visits (NWT)**
- Soar Valley U3A Nature & Bird Groups (Vols)
- **South Notts Local Group (Walks, talks, summer fetes, web site etc.) (Vols/NWT)**
- West Bridgford U3A Bird Group (Vols)
- Wildlife Training Programme (RNCSIG)

## Appendix I 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:



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](http://www.facebook.com/RNCSIG)

[www.southnottswildlife.org.uk](http://www.southnottswildlife.org.uk)

[www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org](http://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](http://www.nottsbag.org.uk)

