



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

## **The Nature of Rushcliffe 2015**

**Annual Report – published Sept 2016**

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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 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.

For more details see [www.facebook.com/RNCSIG](http://www.facebook.com/RNCSIG)

## **2.0 Progress (See also Appendix G and H)**

The final year of the 2010-2015 Strategy and action plan.

### **2.1 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust**

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has continued work as part of its Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Borough Council. Along with support for existing groups, the trust has this year supported work in Radcliffe on Trent (Dewberry Hill and the Lily Ponds), supported a farmland bird feeding and nest box scheme, 'blue butterfly' grassland scheme, ran a badger TB vaccination scheme, provided training for volunteers and supported nature activities in schools. With the development of the Skylarks Nature Reserve the trust has been able to provide a wider range of training and activities.

### **2.1 Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support Grant**

The grants provided through the Nature Conservation strategy have been amalgamated into one grant scheme. During the financial year 2015/16, seven grants have been approved and payed, amounting to a total value of £2800 and supporting six organisations / individuals.

## **3.0 Completed Work**

- 3.1 The Biodiversity opportunity mapping exercise started in 2013/14, has been completed. This highlights the important wildlife sites in Rushcliffe and identifies opportunities for biodiversity improvements. The final report can be downloaded from the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group website at [http://www.nottsbag.org.uk/pdfs/RushcliffeBOMReport2015\\_V3.pdf](http://www.nottsbag.org.uk/pdfs/RushcliffeBOMReport2015_V3.pdf).
- 3.2 A facebook page for the strategy implementation group has been established, providing updates and news on what is going on for nature conservation, this can be visited at [www.facebook.com/RNCSIG](http://www.facebook.com/RNCSIG)
- 3.3 The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Skylarks Nature Reserve has had major works completed and is open to the public. A number of open days have been held and an ongoing experimental archaeology project is underway.
- 3.4 A 'Nature Conservation Forum' was held in October 2015, for volunteers and professionals working on conservation in the Rushcliffe area. This event held in East Leake received 33 attendees.
- 3.5 Work on the Fairham Brook Restoration Project, which included creation of channel features, diversification of in-channel features, creation of fish passes, and cutting back of trees, was completed in 2015. This project was a joint project by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and was funded by the Environment Agency. More details online at [https://restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Case\\_study%3AFairham\\_Brook\\_Restoration\\_Project](https://restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Case_study%3AFairham_Brook_Restoration_Project)

## **4.0 New and Ongoing Actions**

- 4.1 A subgroup of the Strategy Implementation Group is considering how to use the

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opportunity mapping, looking in particular at a focal area based around Cotgrave and focusing on woodlands.

- 4.2 A badger TB vaccination programme (Badger edge vaccination scheme (BEVS)) has been launched by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in the south of Rushcliffe, with funding from various sources.
- 4.3 The Nottinghamshire Mammal Group, launched in 2014, held a Nottinghamshire Mammal Conference at Cropwell Bishop in May 2015. Ongoing projects include the garden mammal survey and running of training courses in survey techniques. A provisional mammal atlas can be downloaded from the website <http://www.nottsmammals.org.uk>.
- 4.4 Grant funding by Awards for All and Rushcliffe Borough Council has supported survey work and management work at Wilford Claypit and Wilwell Farm Cutting.
- 4.5 A BioBlitz was held at Ratcliffe on Trent Lily Ponds, identifying species present on the site, 56 species of animal life were identified, details are online at <http://www.rotpc.com/bioblitz-day-1/>

## 5.0 **Chairman's Statement**

From its inception RNCSIG's role has always been to seek the ways and means to promote wildlife and nature conservation locally and in terms of its committee make up has always looked to represent a diverse a range of interests as possible. Hence the group is made up of key organizations (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group), people from local nature reserves, wildlife groups and parish councils. In 2015 we released the latest version of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy (2015 – 2020) with updated strategic aims and objectives. In particular there was an increased emphasis on landscape scale conservation and utilizing the results of the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping exercise. See appendix I.

The Rushcliffe area continues to support a range of wildlife related projects with 44 sites classed as nature reserves (460 hectares), 16 wildlife projects and 8 wildlife activity programmes to engage with local people (and run by local people). Included in these areas of activity are such varied things as the Badger Vaccination Scheme (BEVS), the Swift Friendly Buildings Project and the Radcliffe on Trent Bioblitz, plus U3A wildlife groups being set up and the continued success of Wildlife Watch locally, as well as a number of training sessions to support local groups and individuals. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust continues to be active locally both through its management of local nature reserves and it's provision of support to the wider nature conservation community funded via the Rushcliffe Service Level Agreement.

Looking at local sites - a Pond Inventory by the Nottingham Biological Records Centre identified at least 138 countryside ponds in the Borough, the Collington Common meadow creation (next to Rushcliffe Arena) saw a second year of bumper Cowslips numbers (some 1,200 spikes counted), Swifts nested (and were filmed) in the specially created nest boxes in Kinoulton Church, the Fairham Brook Restoration Project was completed and the Wilwell/Wilford Claypits HLF funded habitat management project was well under way and Radcliffe on Trent Lily Ponds is starting to receive appropriate management. In addition Rushcliffe Borough Council produced the Nature in Rushcliffe leaflet and launched a revised consolidated nature conservation grant (amalgamating several existing schemes).

Whilst all this activity demonstrates a vigorous nature conservation community in Rushcliffe it can only influence a proportion of the areas biodiversity value. Hence the efforts put into the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping exercise across Rushcliffe, organised by the Notts Biodiversity Action Group and largely funded by the Borough Council. The exercise started in 2014 involving the local nature conservation community, this covers the whole of the Borough, looking at our local grassland, woodland and wetland habitats in terms of opportunities for making them Better, Bigger and more Connected.

From this data nine outline "Focal Areas" have been identified, where there is a concentration of opportunities that we may be able to improve over time. The majority are located in the eastern half of the Borough and we have decided to specifically target the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area as our principle priority for the next few years and a working group has been set up to carry this forward. In addition however Notts Wildlife Trust and RSPB are giving a high priority to the Trent Valley, which encompasses two more of the focal areas. The hope is that this will see the development of landscape scale conservation in Rushcliffe.




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 2015 to December 2015.

### Key

Improving 

No change / no previous data 

Deteriorating 

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



As of April 2016 there are forty four sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty two of these sites have current management plans (72%). Three sites have management plans in preparation.

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



In the year January 2015 to December 2015, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 9788 hours. Last year's voluntary work was 8378 hours.

#### **3. Increased proportion of SSSI's and LWS managed in an appropriate manner. Target = Increase year on year from a base of 6.4% in 2009.**



For 2014/2015, 31.5% (69 out of 219) of Local Wildlife Sites were in appropriate management. For 2013/2014, 32.1% (67 out of 209) were in appropriate management. The change is due to the increase in number of designated sites.

#### **4. % of SSSI units in favourable condition. Target = 100%.**



In March 2016, 19% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. Full results are shown in Appendix D.

#### **5. Number of schools with wildlife areas. Target = 60% of schools by 2015.**



Of those we are aware of, 25 out of about 43 primary schools have wildlife areas. This is 58%.

**6. Number of barn owl boxes installed and available for use and number of barn owl chicks raised in boxes. Target = maintain the number of boxes available for use and sustain the level of barn owl chicks raised.**



The number of boxes available in 2015 was 160 boxes. The three year average numbers of chicks successfully raised, decreased from 97 chicks in 2014 to 82 chicks in 2015. Further details are shown in appendix E.

**7. % of nature reserves with public events (at least once per year). Target = 70% of sites with at least 1 event per year.**



Twelve sites held public events during 2015 or 18%.

**8. Number of new Local Nature Reserves designated by 2015. Target = three new LNR's.**



No new sites have yet to be designated. The accessibility of 'green' sites in Rushcliffe is shown in Appendix F.

**9. Number of Local Wildlife Sites (previously SINCs). Target = No net loss of LWS sites.**



As of November 2015, there are 216 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall increase of 2 sites. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 2051ha, up from 1849ha (NBGRC), this is an increase of 202ha.

**10. Area of BAP habitat created, restored or brought under active conservation management in order to link or buffer existing wildlife habitat. Target = 30 ha's of wildlife grassland, 10ha's woodland, 10 ha's wetland between 2010 and 2015.**



Work we have financed / carried out during 2014/15:

Created 350m<sup>2</sup> of meadow at Barton in Fabis, restored 1.5ha of meadow at Bingham and restored 170m of hedgerow at Sutton Bonington.

**Cumulative Total (since 2011)** - Wildlife Grassland: 17.9ha; Woodland: 22.6ha; Wetland: 38ha; Ponds: 465m<sup>2</sup>.

**Appendix B Nature Reserves**

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe as at March 2015, which is used for the basis of this report. This is updated from Appendix 1 of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy.

| Site  | Ownership (Management)   | Area Ha's | Desig         | Habitats                                 | Mngmt Plan | Public Access |
|---|--|-----------|---------------|--|------------|---------------|
| 1. Bingham Linear Walk                                      | Bingham Town Council (Friends Group)   | 12        | LWS<br>LNR    | Grass<br>Wood                            | Yes        | Yes           |
| 2. Bridgford Street<br>Wildflower Meadow,<br>East Bridgford | East Bridgford Parish<br>Council (East Bridgford Wildlife<br>and Biodiversity Group)                 | 0.5       |               | Grass                                    | Yes        | Yes           |
| 3. Bridgford Street<br>Copse, East Bridgford                | Southwell Diocese of the<br>Church of England (East<br>Bridgford Wildlife and<br>Biodiversity Group) | 0.5       |               | Wood                                     | Yes        | Yes           |
| 4. Bunny Old Wood   | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust   | 16        | LWS           | Wood                                     | Yes        | Yes           |
| 5. Collington Common,<br>West Bridgford                     | Rushcliffe Borough Council   | 1.4       |               | Grass                                    | Yes        | Yes           |
| 6. Costock Pond   | Costock Parish Council   | 0.8       |               | Pond<br>Grass                            | ?          | ?             |
| 7. Cotgrave Country<br>Park                                 | Nottinghamshire County<br>Council (Friends Group)  | 60        | LWS           | Grass<br>Pond<br>Lake<br>Wood<br>Reedbed | Yes        | Yes           |
| 8. Dewberry Hill,<br>Radcliffe-on-Trent                     | Nottinghamshire County<br>Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent<br>Parish Council)                             | 8.6       | LWS           | Grass<br>Wood                            | In prep.   | Yes           |
| 9. Fishpond Wood,<br>Owthorpe                               | Privately owned  | 4         | LWS           | Grass<br>Marsh<br>Pond<br>Wood           | Yes        | ?             |
| 10. Gotham Railway Path                                     | Gotham Parish Council  | 0.9       |               | Wood<br>Grass                            | ?          | Yes           |
| 11. Gotham Sandbanks /<br>Gotham Nature<br>Reserve          | British Gypsum (Gotham Nature<br>Reserve)  | 1.05      | SSSI,<br>LWS  | Grass,<br>Wood                           | Yes        | Yes           |
| 12. Grantham Canal  | Canal & River Trust  | 25        | SSSI/<br>LWS  | Pond<br>Marsh<br>Reedbed                 | Yes        | Yes           |
| 13. Green Line, West<br>Bridgford                           | Rushcliffe Borough Council   | 1.4       | LWS           | Grass<br>Wood                            | Yes        | Yes           |
| 14. Gresham Marsh   | Environment Agency   | 8.8       | LWS           | Grass<br>Marsh<br>Reedbed                | Yes        | Yes           |
| 15. Gypsum Way  | British Gypsum /<br>Nottinghamshire County<br>Council  | 0.3       |               | Grass                                    | ?          | Yes           |
| 16. Holme Pierrepont<br>Country Park                        | Nottinghamshire County<br>Council  | 109       | (part<br>LWS) | Grass<br>Wood<br>Pond                    | ?          | Yes           |
| 17. Keyworth Burial<br>Ground                               | Keyworth PC  | 1.05      |               | Grass                                    | Yes        | Yes           |
| 18. Keyworth Meadows  | Keyworth PC (Friends Group)  | 1.25      | LWS,<br>LNR   | Grass<br>Pond                            | Yes        | Yes           |



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

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|    |                              |                                |  |     |       |     |     |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 41 | 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 15 – Dec 15

| <b>Site</b>  |   | <b>Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)</b> |
|--|---|---|
| Bingham Linear Park  |   | 214   |
| Bridgford Park   | Assumed                                 | 22  |
| Bridgford St. Meadow, EB   | Assumed / Included with Springdale Wood | 0   |
| Bunny Wood   |   | 234   |
| Collington Common  |   | 0   |
| Cotgrave Country Park  |   | 610   |
| Gotham Nature Reserve  | Assumed                                 | 195   |
| Grantham Canal   |   | 1078  |
| Green Line – West Bridgford                                      |   | 47  |
| Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG)                                  |   | 185   |
| Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG)                                  |   | 46  |
| 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   |   | 411   |
| Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill) | Unknown                                 | 0   |
| Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project                                      |   | 306   |
| Rushcliffe Country Park  |   | 3244  |
| Saxondale Nature Reserve   | Assumed                                 | 51  |
| Sharphill Wood   |   | 587   |
| Sheldon Field  |   | 490   |
| Skylarks   |   | 1367  |
| Springdale Wood  |   | 88  |
| Stonepit Plantation  | Assumed                                 | 0   |
| Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood                                    | Assumed                                 | 0   |
| Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse                                | Assumed                                 | 0   |
| The Hook   |   | 126   |
| Wilford Clay Pit   |   | 299   |
| Willoughby Wood  | Assumed                                 | 0   |
| Wilwell Cutting  |   | 188   |

**Total Hours: 9788**

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

**£182,938**

- 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 2013 = 7875; 2012 = 6593; for 2011 = 7042

**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                                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Barnstone Railway Cutting | Calcareous grassland - lowland | 1.52           | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 06)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 12)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 12)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 12)</small> |
| Gotham Hill Pasture       | Calcareous grassland - lowland | 7.39           | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 08)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 15)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 15)</small> |
| Gotham Hill Pasture       | Calcareous grassland - lowland | 1.05           | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 08)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 08)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 08)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 15)</small> |
| Kinoulton Marsh And Canal | Neutral grassland - lowland    | 1.65           | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>              |
| Kinoulton Marsh And Canal | Standing open water and canals | 0.95           | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>  | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>  | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>  | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>  |
| Normanton Pastures        | Neutral grassland - lowland    | 9.51           | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>  | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 14)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 14)</small> |
| Normanton Pastures        | Neutral grassland - lowland    | 7.04           | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 05)</small>  | Unfavourable no change<br><small>(last assessed 05)</small>  | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 14)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 14)</small> |
| Orston Plaster Pits       | Neutral grassland - lowland    | 1.10           | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 08)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | Unfavourable recovering<br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> |
| Orston Plaster Pits       | Calcareous grassland - lowland | 2.49           | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>              | Favourable<br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>              |

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|                                     |  |       |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------|---|---|---|---|
| Orston<br>Plaster Pits              | Broadleaved,<br>mixed and yew<br>woodland -<br>lowland | 0.51  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>                  | <b>No longer<br/>assessed</b>   | <b>No longer<br/>assessed</b>   |
| Orston<br>Plaster Pits              | Fen, marsh and<br>swamp                                | 0.54  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small>                  | <b>No longer<br/>assessed</b>   | <b>No longer<br/>assessed</b>   |
| Rushcliffe<br>Golf<br>Course        | Calcareous<br>grassland -<br>lowland                   | 13.87 | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 09)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 13)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 13)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>no change</b><br><small>(last assessed 16)</small>  |
| Rushcliffe<br>Golf<br>Course        | Broadleaved,<br>mixed and yew<br>woodland -<br>lowland | 5.62  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 09)</small>                  |
| Wilford<br>Claypits                 | Calcareous<br>grassland -<br>lowland                   | 1.42  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> |
| Wilford<br>Claypits                 | Neutral<br>grassland -<br>lowland                      | 0.68  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> |
| Wilford<br>Claypits                 | Fen, marsh and<br>swamp                                | 0.08  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 07)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 11)</small> |
| Wilwell<br>Cutting                  | Broadleaved,<br>mixed and yew<br>woodland -<br>lowland | 2.14  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small>                  | <b>Favourable</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small>                  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 16)</small> |
| Wilwell<br>Cutting                  | Neutral<br>grassland -<br>lowland                      | 3.64  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 16)</small> |
| Wilwell<br>Cutting                  | Standing open<br>water and<br>canals                   | 0.97  | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 06)</small> | <b>Unfavourable<br/>recovering</b><br><small>(last assessed 10)</small> | Not Assessed  |
| No of units in favourable condition |  |       | 6 out of 19   | 6 out of 19   | 4 out of 17   | 3 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   |

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

| Parish                       | Accessible Natural Green Space  |
|------------------------------|---|
| 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 2010-2015**

| Actions  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| NCS1.01 Manage additional sites as nature reserves under the SLA                           | During 2015:<br>The management plans for Dewberry Hill and the Lilly Ponds, Radcliffe on Trent have been completed.<br>Updated management plans for Meadow Park, East Leake and Meadow Covert, Edwalton are being developed.  |    |
| NCS1.02 Provide ongoing support under the Service Level Agreement for reserves             | Ongoing support from NWT for the Hook and Sharphill Wood, Meadow Covert, the Green Line has continued.  |    |
| NCS1.03 Promote the maintenance of up to date management plan / prescriptions              | The management plans for Dewberry Hill and the Lilly Ponds, Radcliffe on Trent have been completed.<br>Updated management plans for Meadow Park, East Leake and Meadow Covert, Edwalton are being developed.  |    |
| NCS1.04 Promote nature conservation volunteering   | NWT 'out and about programme continues to run.<br>Training provided in 2014/15 included: fundraising, butterfly identification, badger survey techniques, grassland and wildflower identification, how to lead volunteer conservation activities and scything and grassland management.<br>Two conferences were held during the year: Nottinghamshire Mammal Group conference and Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum.<br>News articles were circulated on the display of cowslips at Collington Common; the Radcliffe on Trent Bioblitz and the new Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy.<br>The RNCSIG facebook page provides a new opportunity to promote nature conservation.<br>Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch group meets monthly and won 'Highly Commended' category at the Watch Group of the Year awards in 2015. |    |
| NCS2.02 Promote wildlife friendly management of LWS's sites outside of nature reserves etc | A project supporting Grizzled Skipper has supported management on a number of sites across Rushcliffe.<br>NWT continues to provide advice to landowners through their service level agreement with RBC.<br>The Badger edge vaccination scheme (BEVS) has worked with a large number of farmers, providing opportunity to provide further biodiversity advice.   |  |
| NCS2.03 Promoting action for wildlife amongst Parish Councils and landowners               | One parish councils has taken up a Biodiversity Support Grant this year<br>NWT continues to provide advice to landowners through their service level agreement with RBC.  |  |
| NCS4.01 Designate three more Local Nature Reserves   | Local Nature Reserves designation is not seen as adding value, so this target is no longer pursued.   |  |
| NCS4.02 Provide training events for managing amenity grassland sites                       | No further action.  |  |
| NCS4.03 Arrange visits for RBC officers/staff and members to nature conservation sites     | No progress to date.  |  |
| NCS4.04 Promote Local Strategic Partnership Community Awards for the Environment           | The Local Strategic Partnership has ceased to operate.  |  |
| NCS5.01 Develop the Green Infrastructure List & Opportunity Mapping                        | The Rushcliffe Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted on 22 Dec 2014. Detailed work on green infrastructure is still proceeding.<br>A Biodiversity opportunity mapping exercise for all of Rushcliffe has been completed. This will highlights the important wildlife sites in Rushcliffe and identify potential opportunities for biodiversity improvements, including landscape scale opportunities.<br>Further work is being carried out to develop areas of particular  |  |



## The Nature of Rushcliffe 2015

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | interest (Focal areas) especially forests in the Cotgrave area.  |   |
| NCS5.02 Provide ongoing monitoring of developments  | NWT continued to monitor plan submissions  |  |
| NCS5.03 Provide ongoing input into Rushcliffe Local Development Policies and National/Regional policies | The Rushcliffe Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted on 22 Dec 2014. Underlying documents are still being developed and RNCSIG members have responded to consultations.   |  |
| NCS6.01 Explore and develop options for Landscape Scale Conservation in Rushcliffe                      | A Biodiversity opportunity mapping exercise for all of Rushcliffe has been completed. This will highlights the important wildlife sites in Rushcliffe and identify potential opportunities for biodiversity improvements, including landscape scale opportunities. Further work is being carried out to develop areas of particular interest (Focal areas) especially forests in the Cotgrave area. The extended Skylarks reserve at Holme Pierrepont contributes to a landscape scale improvement in that area. |  |
| NCS7.01 Organise an Annual Meeting for RNCSIG   | The 2015 annual meeting was held in October at East Leake (details online at <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t7aef6pbqjb0o40/AAAmXa714ouHnwXyeLaOSb8la?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t7aef6pbqjb0o40/AAAmXa714ouHnwXyeLaOSb8la?dl=0</a> ). The 2016 forum is planned for October.   |  |
| NCS7.02 Review the Nature Conservation Strategy   | A new Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy was adopted at the Forum event in October 2015   |  |

| 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) **(23)** (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 (15)**

- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (NBAG / RBC / EA / NCC)
- Blue Butterfly Scheme (NWT)
- Bird Bed & Breakfast Scheme (NWT)
- Fairham Brook Restoration project (NWT / EA / IDB)
- Grantham Canal Azolla Control (CRT (previously BW) / NBAG / NE)
- Grizzled Skipper Project (NCC / Butterfly Conservation / NBAG)
- River Soar Floating Pennywort Control (EA / CRT)
- **Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project (SNB/NWT/RBC)**
- Silver Seal Mine management (NCC / NWT +)
- **South Notts Bird Ringers**
- Trentside Fields Adboulton (RBC / NWT, Trent Sailing Club / FroTH)
- Swift friendly buildings promotion (RNCSIG)
- Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Volunteers
- Cotgrave Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow (CTC)
- Badger edge vaccination scheme (BEVS)

### **Wildlife Activities (8)**

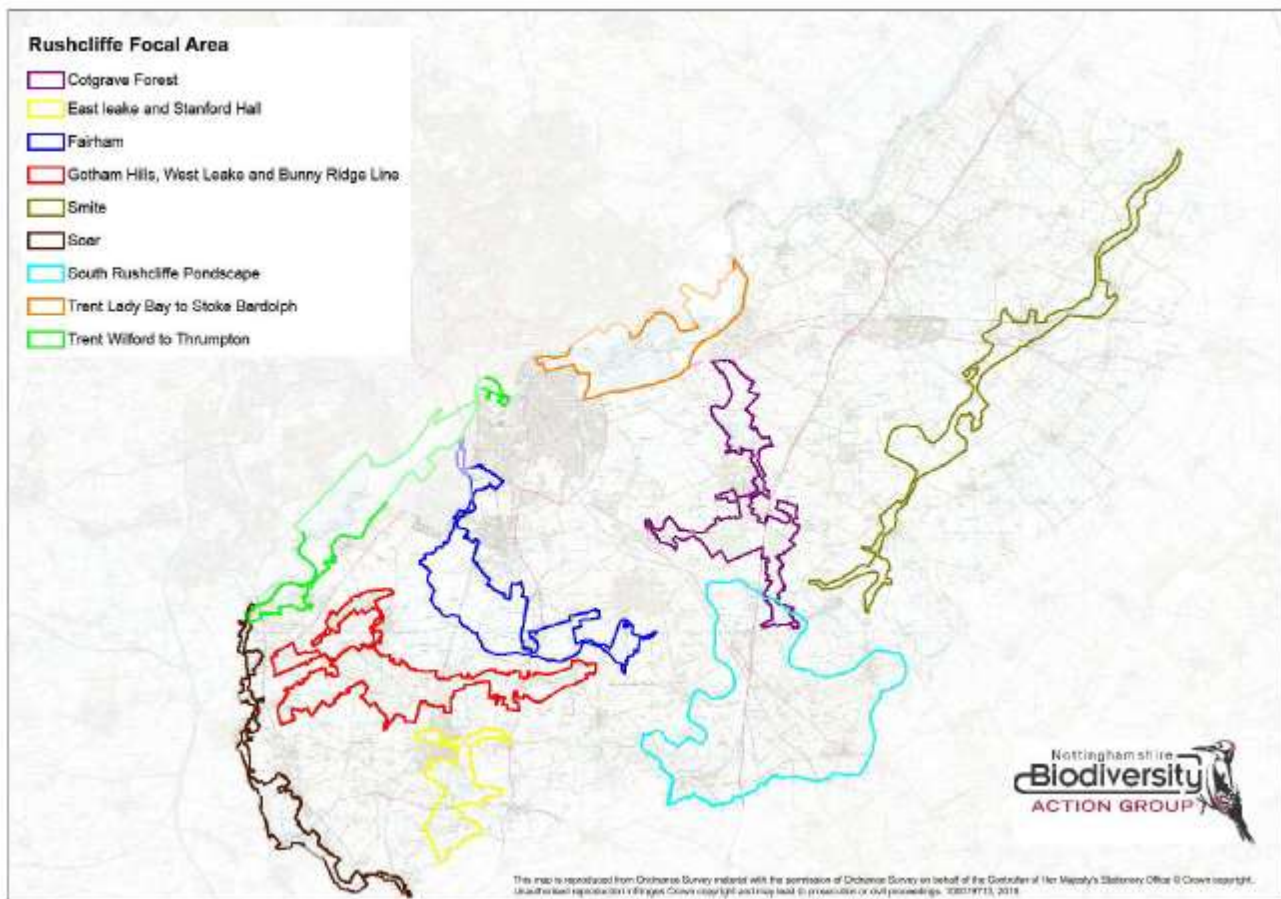
- **Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group (Vols/NWT)**
- Rushcliffe Wildlife Web Site (Vols)
- **School Wildlife Education Visits (NWT)**
- Soar Valley U3A Nature & Bird Groups (Vols)
- **South Notts Local Group (Walks, talks, summer fetes, web site etc.) (Vols/NWT)**
- West Bridgford U3A Bird Group (Vols)
- Cotgrave U3A Birdwatching Group (Vols)
- Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum (RNCSIG)
- 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)

