



Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2018

Annual Report – published August 2019

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

2.0 **Chairman's Statement**

There continues to be a wide range of wildlife/nature conservation activity in Rushcliffe, all contributing to the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

Wildlife Projects

Grassland management has continued to be a significant issue for RNCSIG and there are signs that Notts County Council are thinking about embracing changes to road verge management that may see overall less mowing of verges and potentially a trail of limited, selected wildlife friendly mowing, so fingers crossed there is some genuine action. In addition, locally Rushcliffe are looking at funding the use of a specialist mower for "difficult" locations on a number of reserves in 2019 and action by one local person seems to have led to an improved (lighter touch) mowing regime on a species rich verge in West Bridgford. We had hoped that the Highways Agency would agree to fund a species rich grassland creation project along part of the A46 past Cotgrave Forest, however at present the cost of the temporary traffic safety measures prevented this from getting funding.

We are pleased to see that Rushcliffe Borough Council have continued funding their free native tree provision to local residents and parish councils this year and we understand next year as well. In 2019 they provided some 1,500 trees to residents and also batches of trees to 15 parish councils.

Other projects ongoing are the Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project (now part of Notts Birders) which ringed at least 90 chicks in 2018, the Grizzled Skipper Project that continues with habitat creation work along the Great Central Railway, as well as undertaking extensive recording on sites across the area, the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (BEVS) vaccinated a record 84 badgers in 2018 and is continuing into 2019 and 2020 (although there have been issues relating to herd breakdowns in adjacent areas) and the newly formed Notts Amphibian & Reptile Group (NARG) has been particularly promoting a survey in Rushcliffe that has led to the confirmation of Slowworms at Wilwell and evidence for extensive grass snake in that area.

Butterfly Conservation continue to run several butterfly transects in Rushcliffe transects at Bingham Linear Park, Wheatcroft Wood and Cotgrave Forest.

Rushcliffe Country Park are planning to run a second Bioblitz in 2020 studying the wildlife of the park and promoting an understanding of our local wildlife to a wider audience.

Sites

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Sharphill Wood has suffered significant tree die back in the last couple of years from multiple fungal infection (NOT Ash Dieback) and for safety reasons quite a few trees have had to be felled along paths. In addition, the adjacent housing development has involved considerable discussions with FofSW, RBC, NWT and the developers to ensure the agreed mitigation measures are implemented.

Water levels on a section of the Grantham Canal in the Kinoulton area have declined significantly in 2018/2019 and as there are no significant water replenishment sources, we may see a significant change of habitat from a pond habitat to a more marshy/scrub willow habitat along this section. Other stretches do not appear to be affected.

NWT are working to set up a Friends Group for the Gresham Marsh (West Bridgford) site. Some habitat management work has been undertaken with the help of a small group of local volunteers. The Dewberry Hill site (Radcliffe on Trent) now has funding from the Parish Council to carry out grassland management on one section of the site, they have also put up signage

A Friends of Group has been created to help in the managing of Skylarks nature reserve and the Wildlife Trust now also have a regular mid-week work party carrying out tasks on all the local NWT reserves.

Volunteers

The 2018 Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards saw Ian Workman & Tim Williams recognized for their work at Wilwell Farm Cutting, Bill Logan for his work running Friends of Sharphill Wood and Samuel Mark for his contribution to Skylarks nature reserve.

The 2018 Rushcliffe Volunteer Forum hosted by the East Bridgford Biodiversity Group focussed particularly on Trees & Woodland and 35 people attended. This year it will be at Upper Saxondale on the 28th Sept and focus this year is on Planning and Biodiversity Gain, full details will be circulated.

Whilst Carol Collins left the Steering Group after many years participation, Tim Williams (Wilwell) and Phil Taylor (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group) joined the RNCSIG committee, helping us to maintain a range of interests and local voices.

Keeping in Touch

With South Notts Local Group running their programmes of wildlife walks and talks and various U3A groups having specific wildlife sections there are a range of opportunities to have contact with local wildlife. In addition, via E Mail, press releases to local parish

mags and web sites we try to maintain contact with the wildlife community across the Borough and with individuals.

Planning Issues

The Strategy Group put a significant effort into responding to the latest version of the Rushcliffe Local Plan for Housing and Development commenting on both the policies relating to nature conservation and on the wildlife implications of the selected development areas. We also participated in the Net Biodiversity Gain consultation bought out by the government, looking at the means by which net gain could be funded by development.

Future

Work on a Strategy for a Wilder Trent Valley along the whole Trent Valley continues with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hosting a project officer. What this means for the Rushcliffe section is unclear but with major sites like Attenborough, Skylarks/Holme Pierrepont and Colwick (plus smaller locations such as Gresham Marsh, The Hook, Netherfield Lagoons and Radcliffe on Trent Lily Ponds) the sector is likely to part of the plan, potentially looking to exploit the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping exercise results.

On a smaller scale (but potentially linking in up with the Trent Valley Project) we continue to work on the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area.

Gravel extraction is going to have a significant impact for many years. The existing extraction at Lings Farm (East Leake) has been extended along Kings Brook. The eventual intention was that the main lake area become a nature reserve, but it's funding is an open question. In addition, there are proposals for gravel extraction at Shelford and Barton in Fabis and whilst the restoration plans many years hence are intended to create wildlife friendly areas, at least in the case of Barton, several existing Local Wildlife Sites will be damaged/lost as part of the extraction process.

First published in 2003, in 2020 we are due to have the third review of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and as on previous occasion there will be consultations with the Rushcliffe nature conservation community.




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. The management of LWS is no longer recorded; therefore indicator 3 has been withdrawn. Listed below are the indicators with the results for the year from January 2017 to December 2017.

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 2018, there are forty seven sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty four of these sites have current management plans (72%). Three sites have management plans in preparation. New reserves have yet to have management plans produced.

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 2018 to December 2018, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 12519 hours. Last year's voluntary work was 12,496.5 hours.

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



In 2018 a total of 8 activity sessions was run with 5 schools, engaging with 186 children. A further activity was held with a local cub scout group.

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 2018 was 180 boxes. The three-year average numbers of chicks ringed, increased from 85 chicks in 2017 to 97 chicks in 2017. This is within normal variation for the species, however the year was impacted by a prolonged hot and dry spell which caused breeding to fall away in late summer. 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).



Thirteen sites (that we are aware of) held public events during 2018 or 28%.

7. % 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).



48% 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 2019, there are 226 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall increase of 1 site. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 1889ha, down from 1891ha (NBGRC), a decrease of 2ha, possibly due to more accurate mapping.

9. No. of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's). Target = maintain or increase number as appropriate (261 in 2015) (Objective 6)



The number of TPO's as of July 2019 is 268, down from 277 (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, so much more than 268 trees are covered by TPOs).

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 2018/19:

Keyworth Meadow Pollarding; Brushcutting at Wilford Claypit.

Cumulative Total (since 2016) - Wildlife Grassland: 2ha; Woodland: 0 ha; Wetland: 0.8ha; Ponds: 0m², Hedgerow: 266m, No. trees planted (outside woodlands): 108.

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



In December 2018, 12.5% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. Full results are shown in Appendix D.

Appendix B Nature Reserves

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe as at March 2018, 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. Bridge Field Embankment, West Bridgford | Rushcliffe Borough Council | 0.79 | | Grass Wood | No | Yes |
| 3. Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford | East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group) | 0.5 | | Grass | Yes | Yes |
| 4. Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford | Southwell Diocese of the Church of England (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group) | 0.5 | | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 5. Bunny Old Wood | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust | 16 | LWS | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 6. Compton Acres, West Bridgford (Butterfly LWS) | Nottinghamshire County Council | 5.85 | LWS | Grassland Scrub | ? | ? |
| 7. Collington Common, West Bridgford | Rushcliffe Borough Council | 1.4 | | Grass | Yes | Yes |
| 8. Costock Pond | Costock Parish Council | 0.8 | | Pond Grass | Yes | Yes |
| 9. Cotgrave Country Park | Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group) | 60 | LWS | Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed | Yes | Yes |
| 10. Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe-on-Trent | Nottinghamshire County Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council) | 8.6 | LWS | Grass Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 11. Fishpond Wood, Owthorpe | Privately owned | 4 | LWS | Grass Marsh Pond Wood | ? | ? |
| 12. Gotham Railway Path | Gotham Parish Council | 0.9 | | Wood Grass | ? | Yes |
| 13. Gotham Sandbanks / Gotham Nature Reserve | British Gypsum (Gotham Nature Reserve) | 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 Bridgford | Rushcliffe Borough Council | 1.4 | LWS | Grass Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 16. Gresham Marsh | Environment Agency | 8.8 | LWS | Grass Marsh Reedbed | Yes | Yes |
| 17. Gypsum Way | British Gypsum / Nottinghamshire County Council | 0.3 | | Grass | ? | Yes |
| 18. Holme Pierrepont Country Park | Nottinghamshire County Council | 109 | (part LWS) | Grass Wood | ? | Yes |

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|----|--|---|---------|--------------|--|-----|-----|
| | | | | | Pond | | |
| 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 | LWS | Wood Pond Grassland | Yes | Yes |
| 22 | Langar Village Pond | Langar Village Pond Trust | 0.02 | | Pond | ? | Yes |
| 23 | Lily Ponds, Radcliffe-on-Trent | Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council | 4.7 | Part LWS | Grass Pond | Yes | Yes |
| 24 | Logan's Trail | Gotham Environmental Trust | 4 | | Wood Pond | ? | Yes |
| 25 | Meadow Covert Wood | Rushcliffe Borough Council | 2 | LNR | Wood | Yes | No |
| 26 | Meadow Park, East Leake | Rushcliffe Borough Council (ELPC / Friends Group) | 18 | | Grass Stream | Yes | Yes |
| 27 | Orston Millennium Green | Orston PC | 1 | | Grass Pond | Yes | Yes |
| 28 | Queens Wood, Whatton | Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council | 0.25 | | Wood | ? | Yes |
| 29 | Rushcliffe Country Park | Rushcliffe Borough Council | 36 | LWS, LNR | Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed | Yes | Yes |
| 30 | Sharphill Wood, Edwalton | Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group). | 9.6 | LWS, LNR | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 31 | Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler | National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee) | 10.4 | | Grass | Yes | Yes |
| 32 | Skylarks (incorporating Blott's Pit), Holme Pierrepont | Notts Wildlife Trust | 47 | LWS | Grass Lake Wood Reedbed | Yes | Yes |
| 33 | Springdale Wood, East Bridgford. | Woodland Trust (Friends of Springdale Wood) | 1.4 | | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 34 | Stone Pit Wood | Rushcliffe Scout District | 3.1 | LWS | Wood Grass | Yes | No |
| 35 | Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood's | Nottingham University / Woodland Trust | 19 + 10 | | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 36 | Sutton Bonnington Spinney and Meadow | Sutton Bonnington Parish Council | 2.5 | LNR | Grass Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 37 | The Hook, Lady Bay | Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group) | 15 | LNR | Grass Stream | Yes | Yes |
| 38 | Trentside - Adbolton | Private Ownership (part managed by RBC / Nottingham Sailing Club) | 2 | ELS | Grass River | Yes | Yes |
| 39 | Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve | Upper Saxondale Resident Association | 3.2 | | Grass Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 40 | Wilford Claypits | Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust) | 4.3 | SSSI/ LWS | Pond Marsh Grass Wood | Yes | Yes |

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|----|------------------------------|---|-----|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | Reedbed | | |
| 41 | Wilford Hill Wood | Private | 7.8 | LWS | Wood | ? | No |
| 42 | Willoughby Wood | Woodland Trust | 2.5 | | Wood | Yes | Yes |
| 43 | Wilwell Farm Cutting | Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust on 99 year lease) | 8 | SSSI, LNR | Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed | Yes | Yes |
| 44 | Notified Roadside Verges x 4 | Nottinghamshire County Council | | LWS | Grass | Yes | Yes |

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 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 | |

Appendix C Voluntary practical nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe

Jan 17 – Dec 17

| Site | | Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours) |
|---|---------|---|
| Bingham Linear Park | | 41 |
| Bridgford Park / Bridge Park | | 120 |
| Bridgford St. Meadow, EB | Assumed | 0 |
| Bunny Wood | | 150+ |
| Collington Common | | 0 |
| Costock Pond | | 150 |
| Cotgrave Country Park | | 970 |
| Gotham Nature Reserve | | 53.5 |
| Grantham Canal | Assumed | 1303 |
| Green Line – West Bridgford | | 68.5 |
| Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG) | | 292 |
| Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG) | | 0 |
| Holme Pierrepont Country Park | Assumed | 0 |
| Keyworth Meadow & Burial Ground | | 0 |
| Langar Village Pond | Assumed | 0 |
| Meadow Covert | Assumed | 0 |
| Meadow Park - East Leake | | 543 |
| Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill) | Assumed | 256 |
| Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project | Assumed | 260 |
| Rushcliffe Country Park | | 5051 |
| Saxondale Nature Reserve | Assumed | 350 |
| Sharphill Wood | | 413 |
| Sheldon Field | | 350 |
| Skylarks | | 864+ |
| Springdale Wood | | 97 |
| Stonepit Plantation | Assumed | 0 |
| Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood | Assumed | 0 |
| Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse | Assumed | 0 |
| The Hook | | 141 |
| Wilford Clay Pit | | 408 |
| Willoughby Wood | Assumed | 0 |
| Wilwell Cutting | | 638 |

Total Hours: 12,496.5

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

£233,560

- 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 2016 | Assessment at Mar 2017 | Assessment at Mar 2019 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| 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 no change <small>(last assessed 17)</small> |
| Gotham Hill Pasture | Calcareous grassland - lowland | 7.39 | Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 08)</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 15)</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> |
| 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> |
| Normanton Pastures | Neutral grassland - lowland | 9.51 | Unfavourable no change <small>(last assessed 09)</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 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> |
| 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> |

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|-------------------------------------|---|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Orston Plaster Pits | Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland | 0.51 | Favourable (last assessed 07) | No longer assessed | | | |
| Orston Plaster Pits | Fen, marsh and swamp | 0.54 | Favourable (last assessed 07) | No longer assessed | | | |
| 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) | Favourable (last assessed 09) | 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 16) | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 16) | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 16) | |
| Wilwell Cutting | Neutral grassland - lowland | 4.24 | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06) | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 16) | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 16) | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 16) | |
| Wilwell Cutting | Standing open water and canals | 0.97 | Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06) | No longer assessed | | | |
| No of units in favourable condition | | | 6 out of 19 | 3 out of 16 | 2 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 ringed) | 3 year running average of young |
|------|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 2000 | 38 | 2 | 4 | |
| 2001 | 62 | 2 | 8 | |
| 2002 | 88 | 4 | 16 | 9 |
| 2003 | 101 | 9 | 35 | 20 |
| 2004 | 112 | 10 | 25 | 25 |
| 2005 | 120 | 18 | 58 | 39 |
| 2006 | 131 | 20 | 59 | 47 |
| 2007 | 160 | 33 | 154 | 90 |
| 2008 | 160 | 17 | 54 | 89 |
| 2009 | 158 | 28 | 85 | 98 |
| 2010 | 165 | 29 | 51 | 63 |
| 2011 | 170 | 33 | 88 | 75 |
| 2012 | 165 | 31 | 92 | 77 |
| 2013 | 163 | 21 | 16 | 65 |
| 2014 | 160 | 39 | 182 | 97 |
| 2015 | 160 | 29 | 47 | 82 |
| 2016 | 180 | 40 | 106 | 112 |
| 2017 | 178 | 50 | 102 | 85 |
| 2018 | 180 | 50 | 82 | 97 |

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).

Appendix F Access to Nature

Parishes / WB wards without designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

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













Out of 56 parishes and 8 West Bridgford wards, 9 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 |
| Costock | Costock Pond |
| 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 |
| Whatton in the Vale | Queens Wood, Whatton |
| Willoughby-on-the-Wolds | Willoughby Wood |
| W Bridgford Wards: Compton Acres | Gresham Marsh, Greythorne Dyke, Lyme Park, Trentside, Compton Acres open space and Wilford Claypits |
| Edwalton | Sharphill Wood |
| 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, 31 have accessible natural green space.






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

| Actions | | |
|---|--|---|
| | During 2018: | |
| 1a. Using the Focal Areas to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects | Cotgrave Wood Focal Area has continued to be surveyed and public walks held to showcase the woodland. A SWOG local area meeting at Cotgrave Forest was supported by NWT. Wetland projects work was carried out at The Hook during early 2018. |  |
| 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 was delayed and is now expected to begin in 2019. |  |
| 1c. Identify and liaise with organisations | The RNCSIG has continued to be represented on the Grantham Canal Partnership Environmental Sub-group and Notts BAG. Highways England have carried out assessments of potential enhancement sites along the A46, and unsuccessfully applied for funding to implement works. |  |
| 2a. Ensuring that all nature reserves have a current Management Plans | Management plans have been updated for Gresham Marsh, Sheldon Field and The Green Line. |  |
| 2b. Resourcing Nature Reserves | Seven applications to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant were paid during 2018/19, to six organisations, totalling a value of £3,287.43. 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. The Nature Conservation Forum was held at East Bridgford on the theme of Trees. |  |
| 2c. Encouraging local community involvement | A series of 32 public activities were held by NWT across the borough, including at major council events. Education activity provided by partners has included 16 activity sessions run by NWT, with 5 schools, engaging with 186 children. Wildlife Watch continues to run at Rushcliffe Country Park and Forest Schools operate in Sharphill Wood, Edwalton; Meadow Covert, Edwalton and Meadow Park, East Leake, other private forest schools also operate in the Rushcliffe area. |  |
| 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. Partners continue to support the Grantham Canal Environmental Sub |  |
| 3a. Promoting the sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) | No action taken during 2018. |  |
| 3b. Develop sympathetic farming management practices and agri-environment schemes | Advice was delivered to 3 external landowners |  |
| 3c. Encouraging wildlife friendly management of grounds | Partners continue to support the Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group NBAG have continued to work with Great Central Railway through the Grizzled Skipper project. The partnership helped provided a woodland training course at Cotgrave Forest NWT have provided advice too 4 organisations and 2 individuals |  |
| 3d. Supporting programs for BAP species and habitats | Funding has supported LBAP target habitats (see Appendix A) |  |
| 3e. Promoting the management and designation of Notified Road | No progress has been made in 2018 |  |

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| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Verges | | |
| 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 | Survey work was carried out by member groups in 2018, 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. Groups and local issues are promoted via the Facebook page and other media outlets. Training has been provided on reptile and amphibian for 3 local groups The Nature Conservation Forum was held at East Bridgford on the theme of Trees |  |
| 5b. Extending wildlife education opportunities | Education activity provided by partners has included 8 activity sessions run by NWT, with 4 schools, engaging with 186 children, plus activities run for 30 Cub Scouts. Wildlife Watch continues to run at Rushcliffe Country Park and Forest Schools operate in Sharphill Wood, Edwalton; Meadow Covert, 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. |  |
| 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 | RNCSIG and Partners have contributed to consultations on the development of planning policy in Rushcliffe during 2018. Partners have commented on planning applications in 2018. |  |
| 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 2018. Partners have commented on planning applications in 2017. |  |
| 6c. Use Hedgerow Regulations and TPOs to help protect important features | Currently there are 277 Tree Preservation Orders (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, so much more than 277 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 | No action taken during 2018 |  |
| 6e. Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision making | Responses made by RNCSIG to national consultations on farming and planning |  |
| 6f. Promoting the use of native local provenance planting | No action taken during 2018. |  |
| 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 2018 has been published |  |
| 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 |  |

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| 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)

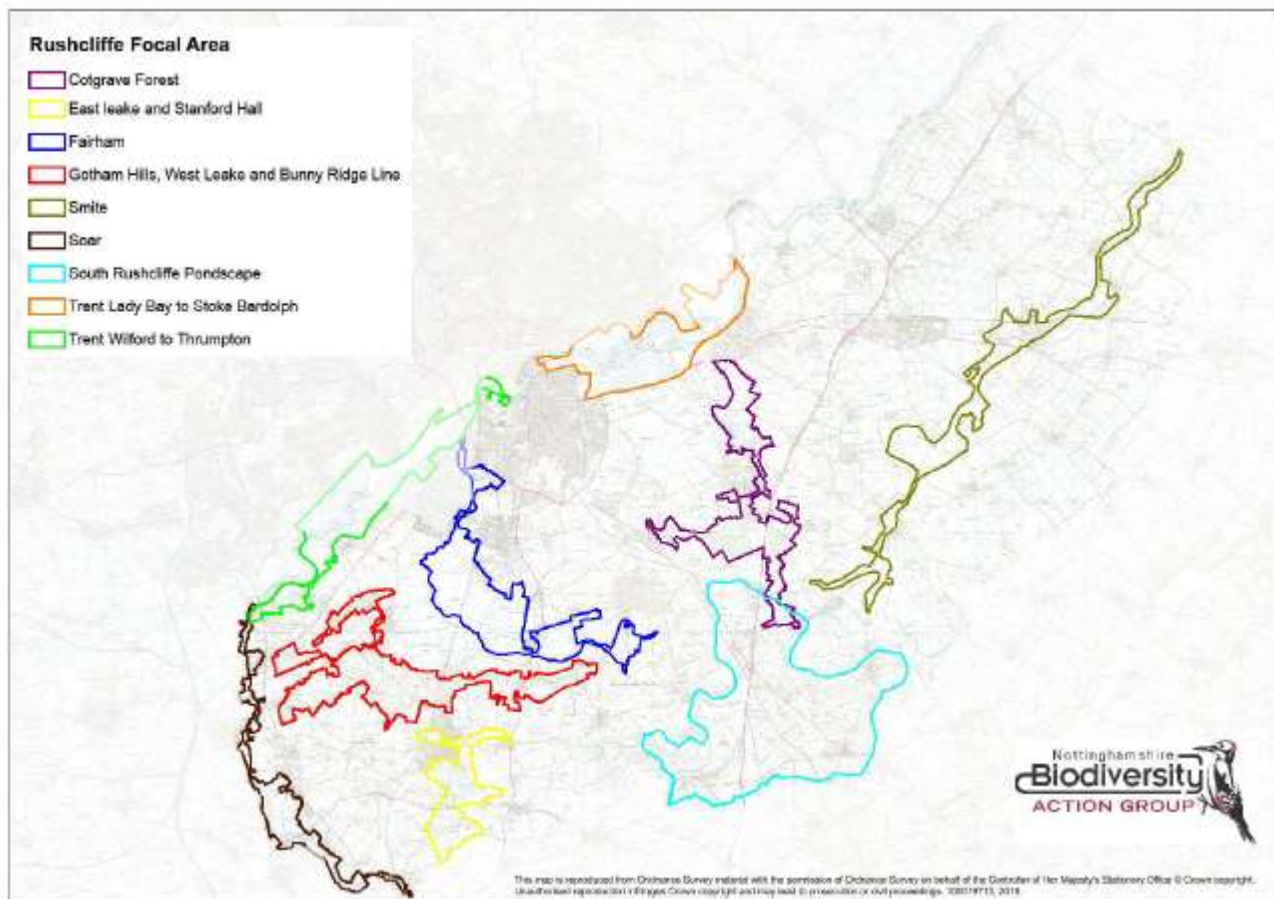
- Cotgrave U3A Birdwatching Group (Vols)
- Forest Schools at Sharpill Wood and Meadow Park, East Leake (Vols / Nurseries / Schools)
- **Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group (CRT / Grantham Canal Partnership)**
- Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum (RNCSIG)
- **Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group (Vols/NWT)**
- 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

www.southnottswildlife.org.uk

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
