



Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2011 Annual Report - March 2012

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. The Nature Conservation Strategy forms part of the Rushcliffe Community Strategy.

Member organisations of the implementation group are:

- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
- Campaign to Protect Rural England - Nottinghamshire (CPRE)
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

And various local wildlife groups and parish councils

The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and action plan was reviewed and updated in 2009 and adopted by the strategy group in April 2010. 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 a range of Friends Groups, work parties and other groups and individuals, as well as more "official" organisations contributing. 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.

2.0 Progress (See also Appendix G)

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

2.1 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has provided work as part of its Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Borough Council, across the borough (including continuing work on Borough Council sites at The Hook, Meadow Covert, Sharphill Wood and Collington Common), assisting local communities, developing 'Friends' groups and supporting schools work.

2.1 Rushcliffe Pond and Wetland Grant

Grants for two pond and wetland restoration scheme, totalling £1168, have been approved during 2011/12.

2.2 Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Support Grant

Grants to three groups in Rushcliffe, totalling £353 have been approved during 2011/12.

2.3 Rushcliffe Biodiversity Management Grant

This grant was launched in April 2011. Grants to thirteen groups in Rushcliffe, totalling £6250 have been approved during 2011/12.

3.0 Completed Work

3.1 The development of the Rushcliffe Planning Policy Documents is on-going and partners have contributed throughout the process. The final Core strategy is expected to be adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council in May 2012.

3.2 Promotional information on nature conservation was forwarded to Parish Councils.

3.3 After discussions with local naturalists it was decided that a Natural History Group for Rushcliffe was not required and Natural History activities would be supported by the existing county and local groups.

3.4 Himalayan Balsam Survey was carried out in 2011, identifying a number of locations on Polsers and Kingston Brook. However at this point priority for action lies elsewhere.

4.0 Ongoing Actions

4.1 Support from partners working in Gotham has seen the establishment of Gotham Nature Reserve Trust, who seek to take on management of the Gotham Sandbanks (part of the SSSI).

4.2 Partners are supporting the management of Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler.

4.3 Partners have worked with the landowner and local interest groups to improve the management of the river edge at Adbolton.

4.4 Work to identify biodiversity opportunities, landscape scale work and Green Infrastructure are progressing

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- 4.5 Partners are seeking consultation with the Defence Rehabilitation charity that is planning take over this site to ensure that the grounds of the hall are managed in a sympathetic manner.
- 4.6 Partners are under taking active conservation work on the Green Line West Bridgford and working on a management plan and setting up a friends group.
- 4.7 NWT is looking at managing Ruddington Station under a S106 agreement for the foreseeable future.
- 4.8 Partners have undertaken the provision of conservation training (Health & Safety) for local groups in 2011 and have plans for additional training in 2012 including topics like first aid, management plans and wildlife skills.
- 4.9 Partners continue to work towards Costock pond becoming a parish reserve.

5.0 Key actions for 2011-2012 (in addition to the on-going actions above)

- 5.1 Partners looking at how Gypsum Way species rich verge can be managed in an appropriate way.
- 5.2 Grizzled Skipper habitat creation project (£60k funded by SITA) includes a number of Rushcliffe sites.
- 5.3 Bid for additional years funding for the Biodiversity Support Grant.

6.0 **Chairman's Statement**

The year as seen some progress in various areas, but also a few losses. On the positive side Gotham Sandbanks SSSI looks set to become a parish nature reserve, whilst Notts Wildlife Trust (NWT) are now actively engaged in getting the Green Line, West Bridgford into a managed state (possibly with a Friends Group). The Friends of Sharphill Wood continue to develop and have carried out tasks like planting hedgerows and Friends of The Hook are planning to create a wildflower meadow, as are Meadow Park, East Leake.

The Rushcliffe Service Level Agreement has been extended for a year, but we are awaiting decisions by RBC on what they will be funding in the future across the whole of RBC's activities. As part of the SLA there has been a survey of local training requirements and as a result there has been a well-attended Practical Nature Conservation Health & Safety Training morning and it is planned to have a First Aid training day in the future, as well as some species ID courses – such as wildflowers. Although most of the conservation activity is concentrated in the western side of the Borough Bingham Linear Park, the East Bridgford Biodiversity Group and Springdale Wood continue to fly the flag for the eastern half.

The RBC Biodiversity Grant was introduced this year and has proved popular with some £6.3K worth of projects funded. Designed to target small expenditures that come beneath farming and other grants hedgerow maintenance has proved particular popular, although I am glad to say that wildflower meadows got a look in. The RBC Nature Conservation Grant and Pond and Wetland Grant continue to be funded.

On the negative side Costock Pond's future is still undecided due to lack of progress with the developer despite the best efforts of the parish council. The possibility of funding some enhancement work along Fairham Brook has not come to fruition. However the Fairham Brook IDB is being merged with a much larger Newark IDB who used NWT as their environmental advisor, so we may get some progress via that. Construction work has started on NET tramline and resulted in the loss of a small part of Wilwell nature reserve – in the long term there should be some form of compensatory habitat creation.

In terms of housing development Edwalton and Cotgrave Colliery has received planning permission and the Rushcliffe Local Plan also proposes significant housing on an area of Clifton Pastures, Newton airfield and Bingham + some additional housing in the major villages (Radcliffe on Trent, Ruddington, Keyworth and East Leake. Whilst none of this appears to directly affect particular sites of particular wildlife interest, there is a further encroachment into general countryside. But as yet no substantial work has been done on the Edwalton housing. Presumably the developers are waiting for the housing market to turn.

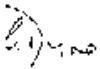
On individual species this year has seen a mini rash of reports on grass snakes confirming that there is a relative snake spot from Edwalton through Bunny to Costock. Other good news is that Notts County Council/Butterfly Conservation have secured some £66k funding for a project to enhance Grizzled Skipper habitat in the county including several sites in Rushcliffe. But a survey on behalf of the Notts Biodiversity Action Group

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has identified that Himalayan Balsam is established on Polsers Brook and other water courses in the area.

What about the future ? Of course one important question is will RBC continue to fund the Service Level Agreement and if so how much – in fact that as part of a wider question of how much Rushcliffe will spend on nature conservation related activities in this era of retrenchment. But on a brighter note it is anticipated that a management plan will be drawn up for Shelton Fields in Cropwell Bishop as part of the Service Level Agreement. In addition NWT are considering taking on the management of Ruddington Old Station under a S106 agreement for the foreseeable future. We are also looking at the implications of Stanford Hall (and it`s grounds) becoming a defence rehabilitation centre and have established contacts with the organisers with a view to influencing how the land is managed as part of the project.

In the longer term I am still hoping that we can develop the impetuous (another name for the resources!) for some form of Landscape Scale conservation project in the Rushcliffe area.



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 Jan 2009 to December 2009.

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 2012 there are thirty two nature reserves (an increase of six), twenty five of these sites have current management plans (78%). Five 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 2011 to December 2011, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 7042 hours. Last year's voluntary work was 6924 hours.

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



As of 31 March 2011 23.0% of Local Wildlife Sites were in appropriate management.

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



In Mar 2012, 32% 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 provided continues to increase, there are now 170 boxes. Numbers of chicks successfully raised has increase from 2010, from 51 chicks to 88 chicks. 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.



Nine sites have held public events during 2011 (28%); no figures were received last year for comparison.

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. No of SINCS. Target = No net loss of SINC sites.



As of March 2012, there are 224 sites designated as SINC's, this is an increase of 9 sites, the area of Local Wildlife Sites (SINCS) is 2084 ha (NBGRC), this is an increase of 330 ha.

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.



During 2011; 1.5 ha of meadow and a pond of 10m x 10m has been created at the Hook and a pond created at Kinoulton Primary School. A number of ponds have also been restored across the borough (Bingham Robert Miles Primary School and Holy Cross Convent, Costock), hedgerows layed and gapped up and enhancement of meadows at Meadow Park, East Leake and Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford.

Appendix B Nature Reserves

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe as at March 2012, 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
1. Bingham Linear Walk	Bingham Town Council (Friends Group)	12	SINC LNR	Grass Wood	Yes
2. Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	?		Grass	Yes
3. Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford	Southwell Diocese of the Church of England (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	?		Wood	Yes
4. Bunny Old Wood	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	16	SINC	Wood	Yes
5. Cotgrave Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group)	60	SINC	Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes
6. Collington Common, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4		Grass	
7. Fishpond Wood, Owthorpe	Privately owned	4	SINC	Grass Marsh Pond Wood	Yes
8. Grantham Canal	British Waterways	25	SSSI/ SINC	Pond Marsh Reedbed	Yes
9. Green Line, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4	SINC	Grass Wood	In development
10. Gresham Marsh	Environment Agency	8.8	SINC	Grass Marsh Reedbed	Yes
11. Gotham Sandbanks / Gotham Nature Reserve	British Plaster Board UK Ltd (Gotham Nature Reserve)	1.05	SSSI, SINC	Grass, Wood	In development
12. Keyworth Meadows	Keyworth PC (Friends Group)	1.25	SINC, LNR	Grass Pond	Yes
13. Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council	109	(part SINC)	Grass Wood Pond	
14. Meadow Park, East Leake	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	18		Grass Stream	Yes
15. Meadow Covert Wood	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	2	LNR	Wood	Yes
16. Orston Millennium Green	Orston PC	1		Grass Pond	Yes
17. Ruddington Old Station	Railway Heritage Trust (Notts Wildlife Trust)	0.9		Grass, Wood	In preparation
18. Rushcliffe Country Park	Rushcliffe Borough Council	36	SINC,	Grass	Yes

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				LNR	Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	
19.	Sharphill Wood, Edwalton	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group).	9.6	SINC, LNR	Wood	Yes
20.	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee)	10.4		Grass	In development
21.	Skylarks, Holme Pierrepont	TARMAC (Notts Wildlife Trust)	11	SINC	Grass Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes
22.	Springdale Wood, East Bridgford.	Woodland Trust (Friends of Springdale Wood)	1.4		Wood	Yes
23.	Stone Pit Wood	Rushcliffe Scout District	3.1	SINC	Wood Grass	Yes
24.	Sutton Bonington Meadow	Sutton Bonnington Parish Council	2.5	LNR	Grass Wood	Yes
25.	The Hook, Lady Bay	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	15	LNR	Grass Stream	Yes
26.	Trentside - Adbolton	Private Ownership (RBC / Nottingham Sailing Club)	19.8	ELS	Grass River	In development
27.	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve	Upper Saxondale Resident Association	3.2		Grass	Yes
28.	Wilford Claypits	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	4.3	SSSI / SINC	Pond Marsh Grass Wood Reedbed	Yes
29.	Wilford Hill Wood	Private (Notts Wildlife Trust)	7.8	SINC	Wood	Yes
30.	Willoughby Wood	Woodland Trust	2.5		Wood	Yes
31.	Wilwell Farm Cutting	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust on 99 year lease)	8	SSSI, LNR	Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	Yes
32.	Notified Roadside Verges x 4	Nottinghamshire County Council		SINC	Grass	Yes

Designation

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest
 SINC Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
 LNR Local Nature Reserve
 ELS Entry Level Stewardship

Habitat (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 11 – Dec 11

Site		Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)
Bingham Linear Park		216
Bridgford Park		80
Bridgford St. Meadow, EB		80
Bunny Wood		237
Collington Common		0
Cotgrave Country Park		612
Gotham Sanbanks	Assumed	0
Grantham Canal	Assumed	0
Green Line – West Bridgford	Assumed	117
Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Assumed	0
Keyworth Meadow		75
Kinoulton Churchyard		80
Meadow Covert	Assumed	0
Meadow Park - East Leake		236
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project		220
Rushcliffe Country Park		3373
Saxondale Nature Reserve		51
Sharphill Wood		483
Sheldon Field		214
Skylarks		0
Springdale Wood		120
Sutton Bonington Meadow		155
The Hook		150
Wilford Clay Pit		291
Willoughby Wood	Assumed	0
Wilwell Cutting		252
		Total Hours 7042

Value for this work based on Countryside Agency, Market Towns grants £45,773.00
(2003) for voluntary unskilled labour at £6.50 per hour

Please note:

1. These figures do not include educational work such as talks, open days, guided walks etc.
2. These figures are for main nature conservation sites only – other smaller projects will have occurred.
3. These figures are estimates of time volunteered.

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 2011	Assessment Mar 2012
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</small>	Unfavourable recovering <small>(last assessed 06)</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 10)</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>
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>
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>
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 10)</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 no change <small>(last assessed 05)</small>
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland -	1.10	Unfavourable recovering	Unfavourable recovering	Unfavourable recovering

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	lowland		(last assessed 08)	(last assessed 10)	(last assessed 10)
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	2.49	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)
Orston Plaster Pits	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	0.51	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)
Orston Plaster Pits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.54	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Calcareous grassland - lowland	13.87	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 09)
Rushcliffe Golf Course	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	5.62	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)
Wilford Claypits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.42	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)
Wilford Claypits	Neutral grassland - lowland	0.68	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 11)
Wilford Claypits	Fen, marsh and swamp	0.08	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 07)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 1)
Wilwell Cutting	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	2.14	Favourable (last assessed 06)	Favourable (last assessed 06)	Favourable (last assessed 06)
Wilwell Cutting	Neutral grassland - lowland	3.64	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)
Wilwell Cutting	Standing open water and canals	0.97	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)
No of units in favourable condition			6 out of 19	6 out of 19	6 out of 19

Further details available from www.ssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/ssi/reportIndex.cfm

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

Figures provided by Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project, a project that aims to conserve and increase the population of barn owls in Rushcliffe (see www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk).

Appendix F Access to Nature

Parishes without Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) 2011

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

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

Parishes with publicly accessible nature reserves or public open space managed for wildlife (2011)

Parish	Accessible 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 and Grantham Canal and Skylarks, Trentside, Pinders Pond
Keyworth	Keyworth Meadow Nature Reserve
Kinoulton	Grantham Canal
Langar cum Barnstone	Naturescape
Orston	Orston Millennium Green
Owthorpe	Fishpond Wood and Grantham Canal
Radcliffe	Dewberry Hill
Rempstone	Open Space
Ruddington	Rushcliffe Country Park
Sutton Bonington	Sutton Bonington Coppice and Meadow
Saxondale	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	Willoughby Wood
West Bridgford Wards	Gresham Marsh, Greythorne Dyke, Lyme Park, Trentside and Wilford Claypits
Ladybay	The Hook and Grantham Canal
Musters	The Green Line
Trent Bridge	Grantham Canal

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



Appendix G Progress report for the Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015

Generated on: 29 March 2012














Progress Bar






28%

Actions

NCS1.01 Manage additional sites as nature reserves under the SLA	<p>During 2011 / 2012: Work parties have been held on the Green Line and a Friends of the Green Line is being established. A Gotham Nature Reserve group has been established, hoping to take over the management of the Sanbanks at Gotham. Initial advice has been provided to the Sheldon Field Management committee, who carried out some conservation works. A management plan is in preparation. Work with Nottingham Sailing Club has led to scrub clearance on the Trentside at Adbolton. A management plan is in development. NWT are looking to take on the management of Ruddington Old Station under a S106 agreement on behalf of the owners</p>	
NCS1.02 Provide ongoing support under the Service Level Agreement for reserves	Ongoing support from NWT for the Hook and Sharpill Wood has continued progress during 2011/12 and additionally at Meadow Covert	
NCS1.03 Promote the maintenance of up to date management plan / prescriptions	Management Plans are in development for The Green Line, West Bridgford; Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler, Gotham Sandbanks and Trentside, Adbolton and Ruddington Station. The management plan for Meadow Park, East Leake was updated.	
NCS1.04 Promote nature conservation volunteering	<p>New 'friends' groups have been established please see NCS1.01 NWT 'out and about programme continues to run Nature Conservation Support Grant continues to be promoted Training on Risk Assessment for Nature Conservation was provided on 11 February 2012</p>	
NCS2.01 Identify additional Blue Butterfly sites in Rushcliffe	The review of mowing in Rushcliffe has identified 8 potential sites, which are being considered	
NCS2.02 Promote wildlife friendly management of SINC sites outside of nature reserves etc	<p>Grants for two pond and wetland restoration scheme, totalling £1168, have been approved during 2011/12. The Rushcliffe Biodiversity Management Grant was launched in April 2011. Grants to thirteen groups in Rushcliffe, totalling £6250 have been approved during 2011/12. Much of this however will not be on SINC sites. Bid for habitat funding along Fairham Brook was not successful, but alternative options are being considered.</p>	
NCS2.03 Promoting action for wildlife amongst Parish Councils and landowners	<p>Biodiversity Management has been promoted to all Parish Councils with a reminder of their Biodiversity Duty. The Biodiversity Management Grant was promoted to all Landowners and Parish Councils with take up by 3 Parish Councils and 10 other landowners. Talking to new owners of Stanford Hall about wildlife friendly management of site</p>	

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NCS2.04 Provide ongoing support for Bingham to Melton Railway Corridor Project	Case study and newsletter developed for circulation to landowners along the route.	
NCS3.01 Promoting the role of County Recorders/Biological Recording Centre	List of County recorders on SNG website along with articles on recording wildlife. This article has also been forwarded to parish magazines. Article about grass snakes promoted quite a few records	
NCS3.02 Promote the creation of a Natural History Group in Rushcliffe	There is little enthusiasm for such a group. NWT will continue to promote wildlife and wildlife recording	
NCS4.01 Designate three more Local Nature Reserves	No progress to date, but potential with new sites identified in NS1.01	
NCS4.02 Provide training events for managing amenity grassland sites	RBC staff advised of training event organised by GreenSpace East Midlands	
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	Awards launched for 2011, details circulated via RNCSIG and SNG. 7 nominees were entered for the environment theme. The winner was Anne Earl for establishing allotments at Kinoulton	
NCS5.01 Develop the Green Infrastructure List & Opportunity Mapping	Rushcliffe Planning Policy Core Strategy was published March 2012. Work on Green Infrastructure will follow this. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping is continuing, led by Notts BAG.	
NCS5.02 Provide ongoing monitoring of developments	NWT continue to monitor plan submissions	
NCS5.03 Provide ongoing input into Rushcliffe Local Development Policies and National/Regional policies	Rushcliffe Planning Policy Core Strategy was published March 2012. Underlying documents are now to be developed.	
NCS6.01 Explore and develop options for Landscape Scale Conservation in Rushcliffe	Progress at Trentside, Adbolton may help to develop this work. The development of Gotham Pastures as a nature reserve provides a second foothold (along with Stonepit Wood) in the potential South Wolds Landscape Conservation Area. Developments at Stanford Hall and on Gypsum Way may also be of value.	
NCS7.01 Organise an Annual Meeting for RNCSIG	The 2011/12 annual meeting is planned for Tuesday 17 April.	
NCS7.02 Review the Nature Conservation Strategy		

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

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

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