



Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

Annual Report – published 2022

1.0 Introduction

The strategy group was set up in 2003 to implement the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and consists of a range of organisations and groups with an interest in Rushcliffe's wildlife.

Member organisations of the implementation group include:

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

And various local wildlife groups, interest groups and parish councils

The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and action plan was reviewed and updated and adopted in 2010, 2015, with the latest 2021-2025 strategy and plan adopted in 2021. The actions are to be carried out by a range of organisations including those on the implementation group. The strategy is published online at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/aboutthecouncil/documentsstrategiesandpolicies/accessiblepoliciesandotherdocuments/rushcliffenatureconservationstrategy/#d.en.57563>

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

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

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

For more details see www.facebook.com/RNCSIG

2.0 **Chairman's Statement**

Looking Nationally

The Government have a stated ambition to create a Nature Recovery Network via county based Nature Recovery Plans to deliver ambitious targets, namely restore 75% of protected sites to favourable condition,

- create or restore at least 500,000 additional hectares of wildlife-rich habitat,
- recover our threatened animal & plant species
- create wildlife corridors to reduce isolation and assist movement
- support the planting of 180,000 hectares of woodland
- deliver carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation
- bring nature much closer to people boosting health and wellbeing.

The Wildlife Trusts have identified that the minimum requirement for a genuine nature recovery means at least 30% of land being "wildlife friendly" by 2030. They also believe that to achieve that sort of recovery will involve at least 30% citizen engagement to lock the government into agreed targets in a realistic way. None of this is rocket science but does require significant buy in from all sectors of society. Nationally Biodiversity Net Gain and changes to farming support appear to provide some real possibility of change.

At a county level, Notts County Council are expected to be mandated to act as a "lead" in developing a county Local Nature Recovery Strategy as part of this national objective. The LNRS process will deliver two main outputs:

- a list of priority opportunities for habitat improvement and restoration in the strategy area, and;
- a local habitat map which contains existing nature sites and habitats, and locations of the priorities for future habitat improvement and restoration.

This will consolidate work done over the years on county Species and Habitat Action Plans, as well as Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. The intention is to consult with councils, NGO`s, key land managers and other groups about priorities. The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy has always supported these sorts of ambitions, the big challenge will be making it a reality, at scale across the borough.

The Rushcliffe nature conservation community already deliver significant levels of activity on the ground. But for the objectives outlined above it will require a whole other level of commitment from a much wider base. To shamelessly plagiarise a

recycling slogan "For our wildlife to recover requires millions of people to engage with the natural world imperfectly, rather than just a few people to do it perfectly".

Action Locally

Community level action has always been at the core of our local nature conservation strategy, even at its inception, the essential idea came up from the grassroots. And although you need the "big fish" participating in order to give the whole thing some weight, a lot of what is going on today is driven by local activism. Indeed, Rushcliffe Borough Council's continued commitment is in part because RNCSIG can demonstrate that there is a genuine desire by local active citizens to take action.

There are 39 sites classed as nature reserves, totalling some 507 hectares. Ownership of reserves varies, but most are in some form of council ownership or with NGO's. For a full list of such sites see Appendix B below.

But there are also notable privately owned areas considered to be wildlife friendly (274 ha's in total). In addition, Planning Gain sites in the pipeline cover some 103 ha's wildlife areas + 106 ha's open space, although this is driven by loss of land to house building.

In addition to the nature reserves and wildlife friendly sites there are a range of projects/activities locally - some run by NGO's, companies LA's, others by committed groups/individuals. broadly summarized as

- Five Area Projects
- Ten Habitat and Species Projects
- Six Species Recording activities
- Three Invasive Species Control
- Seventeen Wildlife Education (incl WATCH, Forest Schools and U3A)

For a breakdown see Appendix 2 of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy

Local initiatives continue to be a key part of nature conservation in Rushcliffe. Reserve work parties and other projects are reviving, although there may be issues of volunteer "drift". But there have also been additional "grass root" initiatives. There are plans to make the Hickling Canal Basin area more wildlife friendly, grass roots pressure to make Wilford Fields (West Bridgford) into a nature reserve and also to secure Flintham Spinney as a local green asset. Wild Things Keyworth are working to make the village more hedgehog friendly and being joined by East Leake. Whilst in Normanton on Soar there is an Environmental Group that may also form part of a wider Soar Valley initiative, and at Gotham Hill Woods the family owners are seeking to manage it in a wildlife friendly way.

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

Rushcliffe continue to fund the Rushcliffe Service Level Agreement, Nature Conservation Grants, Tree Community Scheme and the employment of the All-Terrain Mower across a dozen sites. In addition, RBC have started a No Mow programme on parts of selected sites of their estate and plan to extend it. Notts County Council are reintroducing a wildlife friendly management regime on Notified Road Verges across the whole County.

Rushcliffe is of course beset by a lot of house building, whilst those developments are agreed, the devil can be in the implementation. So planning continues to raise issues, with concerns at Sharphill Wood and Barton Quarry, where there are still ongoing discussions about the detailed measures and mitigations for habitats at risk. RNCSIG also has ongoing concerns about the Rushcliffe Borough Councils about the Planning Enforcement Policy guidelines.

Sadly the NWT Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (BEVS) ran into significant problems in the Cropwell Bishop area with the introduction by DEFRA (who also fund the BEVS scheme!) of culling in an adjacent area. This led to a high drop out by farmers and the project is planning to target the Wysall/Willoughby area from this year instead (again funded largely by DEFRA).

Notts Wildlife Trust recognize that farming represents a major component of any ambition to extend wildlife friendly areas and connectivity and are looking at how to convert their one part time farming advisor for a selected area into four bodies, able to cover the entire county.

The Cotgrave Focal Area Project did largely go into hibernation over the past two years, although RNCSIG are now working to revive it. Water retention on the Grantham Canal has become a major concern, with stretches around Kinoulton in particular drying out. A group has been set up to look at what measures can be taken to mitigate against this. Another example of local action.

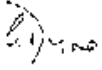
The Trent Gateway is a multi-agency project that is looking to work along the whole of the Trent Valley. In the Nottingham area they envisage that this will include funding for wildlife engagement projects and also a tree planting programme along the edge of the Trent, including our local Black Poplars. Rushcliffe Country Park are planning to run a delayed Bioblitz this year as a repeat of one run around a decade ago.

It is fair to say that there is more going on locally than most people realize. The amount of activity has increased markedly over the last two decades, often due to the drive and enthusiasm of committed individuals and groups, but typically on minimal

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

resources. Perhaps if national rhetoric is translated into real action on the ground, over the next decade more can be achieved.

So fingers crossed.




Gordon Dyne
Chair - Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

Appendix A Indicators of Achievement

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

Key

Improving 

No change / no previous data 


Deteriorating 

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

As of Dec 2021, there are thirty-nine sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty three of these sites have current management plans (85%).

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 2021 to December 2021, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 14835.5 hours. Voluntary work for 2019 was 12,496.5 hours (due to COVID 19, figures were not recorded for 2020).

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

Data not available for 2021 due to COVID 19 restrictions

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

In 2021 a total of 9 activity sessions were run with 7 schools / Youth Organisations, engaging with 375 children.

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 2021 was 172 boxes. The three-year average numbers of chicks ringed, increased from 73 chicks in 2020 to 77 chicks in 2021. This is within normal variation for the species. Further details are shown in appendix E.

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

Six sites (that we are aware of) held public events during 2021 or 15%. This target was heavily impacted by COVID19 restrictions.

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

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

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

As of March 2022, there are 222 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall decrease of 2 site. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 1908ha, up from 1900ha (NBGRC), an increase of 8ha.

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

Data for 2021 not available

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

Work we have financed / carried out during 2021/22:

Tree Planting at Sharphill Wood, The Hook, Whatton and Orston, Wildflower seeds planted at Whatton and Orston. Additionally, 1361 trees were provided through tree schemes and 1000 wildflower seed packets provided to the public.

Cumulative Total (since Jan 2021) - Wildlife Grassland: 0.1ha; Woodland: 0.9 ha; Wetland: 0ha; Ponds: 0m², Hedgerow: 0m, No. trees planted (outside woodlands): 1391.

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

In December 2018, 11.8% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units were in favourable condition. Full results are shown in Appendix D.

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

In 2021 five grants were made totalling £2350, this amounted to 100% of the available funding for this year.

Appendix B Nature Reserves

This is the list of nature reserves in Rushcliffe as at March 2022, which is used for the basis of this report.

Site	Ownership (Management)	Area Ha's	Desig.	Habitats	Mngmt Plan (last update)	Public Access	
1	Bingham Linear Walk	Bingham Town Council (Friends Group)	12	LWS LNR	Grass Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
2	Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Grass	Yes (2020)	Yes
3	Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford	Southwell Diocese of the Cof E (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
4	Bunny Old Wood	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	16	LWS	Wood	Yes (2019)	Yes
5	Collington Common, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4		Grass	Yes (ongoing)	Yes
6	Costock Pond	Costock Parish Council	0.8		Pond Grass	Yes (2017)	Yes
7	Cotgrave Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group)	60	LWS	Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2004?)	Yes
8	Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Nottinghamshire County Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council / (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group))	8.6	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes (2015)	Yes
9	Gotham Railway Path	Gotham Parish Council	0.9		Wood Grass	?	Yes
10	Gotham Sandbanks Nature Reserve	British Gypsum (Gotham Nature Reserve Trust)	1.05	SSSI, LWS	Grass, Wood	Yes	Yes
11	Grantham Canal	Canal & River Trust	25	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Reedbed	Yes	Yes
12	Green Line, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
13	Gresham Marsh, West Bridgford	Environment Agency	8.8	LWS	Grass Marsh Reedbed	Yes (2018)	Yes
14	Greythorne Dyke Open Space, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2.67		Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	In prep.	Yes
15	Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust /Serco)	109	(part LWS)	Grass Wood Pond	?	Yes
16	Keyworth Burial Ground	Keyworth PC	1.05		Grass	Yes	Yes
17	Keyworth Meadows	Keyworth PC (Friends Group)	1.25	LWS, LNR	Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
18	Langar Community	Naturescape	4.7		Wood	Yes	Yes

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

	Wood						
19	Langar Village Pond	Langar Parish Council	0.02		Pond	?	Yes
20	Lily Ponds, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group)	4.7	Part LWS	Grass Pond	Yes (2020)	Yes
21	Meadow Covert Wood, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2	LNR	Wood	Yes (2016)	No
22	Meadow Park, East Leake	Rushcliffe Borough Council (ELPC / Friends Group)	18		Grass Stream	Yes (2017)	Yes
23	Orston Millennium Green	Orston PC	1		Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
24	Orston Plaster Pits	Girl Guides	4.72	SSSI	Pond Grass Woodland	Yes	Guides
25	Queens Wood	Whatton in the Vale PC	0.3		Woodland	Yes (2019)	Yes
26	Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council	85	LWS, LNR	Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	Yes	Yes
27	Sharphill Wood, Edwalton	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group).	9.6	LWS, LNR	Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
28	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee)	10.4		Grass	Yes (2018)	Yes
29	Skylarks, Holme Pierrepont	Notts Wildlife Trust	47	LWS	Grass Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2016)	Yes
30	Springdale Wood, East Bridgford	Woodland Trust (Friends Group)	1.4		Wood	Yes (2021)	Yes
31	Stone Pit Wood, Gotham	Rushcliffe Scout District	3.1	LWS	Wood Grass	Yes	Scouts
32	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	19		Wood	In Prep.	Yes
33	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	10		Wood	In Prep.	Yes
34	Sutton Bonnington Spinney and Meadow	Sutton Bonnington Parish Council	2.5	LNR	Grass Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
35	The Hook, Lady Bay	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	15	LNR	Grass Stream	Yes (2020)	Yes
36	Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve	Upper Saxondale Resident Association	3.2		Grass Wood	Yes	Yes
37	Wilford Claypits, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	4.3	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Grass Wood Reedbed	Yes (2013)	Yes
38	Willoughby Wood, Willoughby on the Wolds	Woodland Trust	2.5		Wood	Yes	Yes
39	Wilwell Farm Cutting, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	7.5	SSSI, LNR	Grass Marsh Wood	Yes (2013)	Yes

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

					Reedbed		
		Total Area in hectares	506.86				

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 2021 – Dec 2021

Site		Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)
Bingham Linear Park		71
Bridgford Park / Bridge Park	Assumed	120
Bridgford St. Meadow, EB	Assumed	0
Bunny Wood		125
Collington Common		0
Costock Pond	Assumed	150
Cotgrave Country Park		470
Gotham Nature Reserve		70
Grantham Canal (inc. partners)		4888
Green Line – West Bridgford		49
Gresham Marsh		4
Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG)		230
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		702
Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)	Assumed	344.5
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project	Assumed	180
Rushcliffe Country Park		4003
Saxondale Nature Reserve	Assumed	350
Sharphill Wood		385
Sheldon Field	Assumed	350
Skylarks		1550
Springdale Wood	Assumed	100
Stonepit Plantation	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse	Assumed	0
The Hook		463
Wilford Clay Pit		94
Willoughby Wood	Assumed	0
Wilwell Cutting		137

Total Hours: 14,835.5

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

£277,275.5

- 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 2017	Assessment at Mar 2020	Assessment at Mar 2022
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 06)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 12)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 17)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 17)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	7.39	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.05	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 15)
Kinoulton Marsh and Canal	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.65	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)	Favourable (last assessed 09)
Kinoulton Marsh and Canal	Standing open water and canals	0.95	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.51	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 09)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	7.04	Unfavourable no change (last assessed 05)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 14)
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.11	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 08)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)	Unfavourable recovering (last assessed 10)
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	3.54	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)	Favourable (last assessed 07)
Orston	Broadleaved, mixed	0.51	Favourable			

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

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

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

Appendix E Barn owl results

Year	No. boxes at start of year (available for breeding)	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
2010	165	29	51	63
2015	160	29	47	82
2016	180	40	106	112
2017	178	50	102	85
2018	180	50	82	97
2019	180	46	126	103
2020	?	?	11	73
2021	172	36	94	77

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

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

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

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

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

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

all West Bridgford wards).













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

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

















Information is partly sourced from

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



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






Actions		
	During 2021:	
1a. Continue using the BOM Focal Areas to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects.	Cotgrave Wood Focal Area has continued to be surveyed.	
1b. Seek opportunities for delivery of aspirational large-scale projects	Skylarks Nature Reserve continues to be developed by NWT. The development of Edwalton Community Park has continued. Planning gain sites at Bingham (Roman Quarter) and Fairham have begun development.	
1c. Provide advice and support to organisations whose land holdings or interests have a significant role in nature conservation in Rushcliffe.	The RNCSIG has continued to be represented on the Grantham Canal Partnership Environmental Sub-group and Notts BAG.	
1d. Support the Nature Recovery Network plans for Rushcliffe and the county	Partners have developed a framework for the development of the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy	
2a. Seek to ensure that all nature reserves have a current Management Plans	Management plans have been updated for Springdale Wood, East Bridgford and Sutton Bonington Spinney and Meadow.	
2b. Seek to ensure that all nature reserves have sufficient resources available to deliver the management plan and assist with provision of resources	Five applications to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant were paid during 2021, totalling a value of £2350. 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. COVID restricted activities that could be carried out	
2c. Encouraging local community involvement in the management of nature reserves	COVID restrictions prevented many activities from going ahead however seven walks events were held by NWT across the borough, at six sites. A talks program continued online, providing seven talks. Nine activity sessions were run (partly online) with seven schools / youth organisations, engaging with 325 children	
3a. Promoting the sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	No action taken during 2021.	
3b. Develop sympathetic farming management practices and agri-environment schemes	Advice was delivered to 13 external landowners / interested bodies	
3c. Encouraging wildlife friendly management of buildings, corporate landscaping, public open space, school grounds and private gardens	Partners continue to work to support community groups working on the Grantham Canal NBAG have continued to work with Great Central Railway through the Grizzled Skipper project. The partnership helped provided a woodland training course at Cotgrave Forest NWT have provided advice too 14 organisations and individuals	
3d. Supporting programs for national priority species and habitats and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species and habitats	Funding has supported LBAP target habitats (see Appendix A)	
3e. Promoting the management of Notified Road Verges and to maintain and create habitats alongside our transport corridors	Discussions have been ongoing with Nottinghamshire County Council / VIA East Midlands Ltd	

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

3f. Protect enhance and expand appropriate tree and woodland cover and access	958 trees and shrubs were planted, and 1200 trees were supplied to the public in 2021/22	
3g. Support projects that benefit our freshwater environment	No progress has been made in 2021	
4a. Work in partnership with the Records Centre and support monitoring of the Local Wildlife Sites network	Partners continue to support this work through membership of the Nottinghamshire Ecological and Geological Data Partnership (NEGDP) and its sub committees.	
4b. Support species survey programmes and local initiatives to record wildlife and submission of records	Survey work was carried out by member groups in 2021, 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, however the 2021 program of activities were limited due to Covid restrictions, but still included 2 talks to community organisations via zoom, 6 online South Notts Group events and 7 walks and talks. Groups and local issues are promoted via the Facebook page and other media outlets. Training was limited to 2 site specific training events	
5b. Extending wildlife education opportunities	Education activity provided by partners has included 5 activity sessions run by NWT, with 4 schools, engaging with 320 children, plus activities run for 55 members of uniformed youth organisation. 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	Partners have commented on planning applications in 2021. Greater Nottingham BGI strategy consultation responded to by partners	
6b. Ensuring new BGI benefits people and wildlife and meets NE and WT guidelines	Greater Nottingham BGI strategy consultation responded to by partners	
6c. Use Hedgerow Regulations and TPOs to help protect important features	17 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were made in 2021. Currently there are 321 TPOs (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, therefore more than 321 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	Partners continue to develop climate change policies and actions. No specific river or pollution actions have been undertaken by partners in the last 12 months.	
6e. Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision making	Responses made by partners to consultations on Biodiversity Net Gain and other appropriate consultations	
6f. Promoting the use of native local provenance planting	No specific action taken during 2021.	
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	

The Nature of Rushcliffe 2021

7b. Produce an annual report	No report was produced for 2020 due to COVID 19 impacting on activity	
7d. Reviewing the strategy during 2025, or sooner	To be reviewed in 2025	

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

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

Appendix H 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)

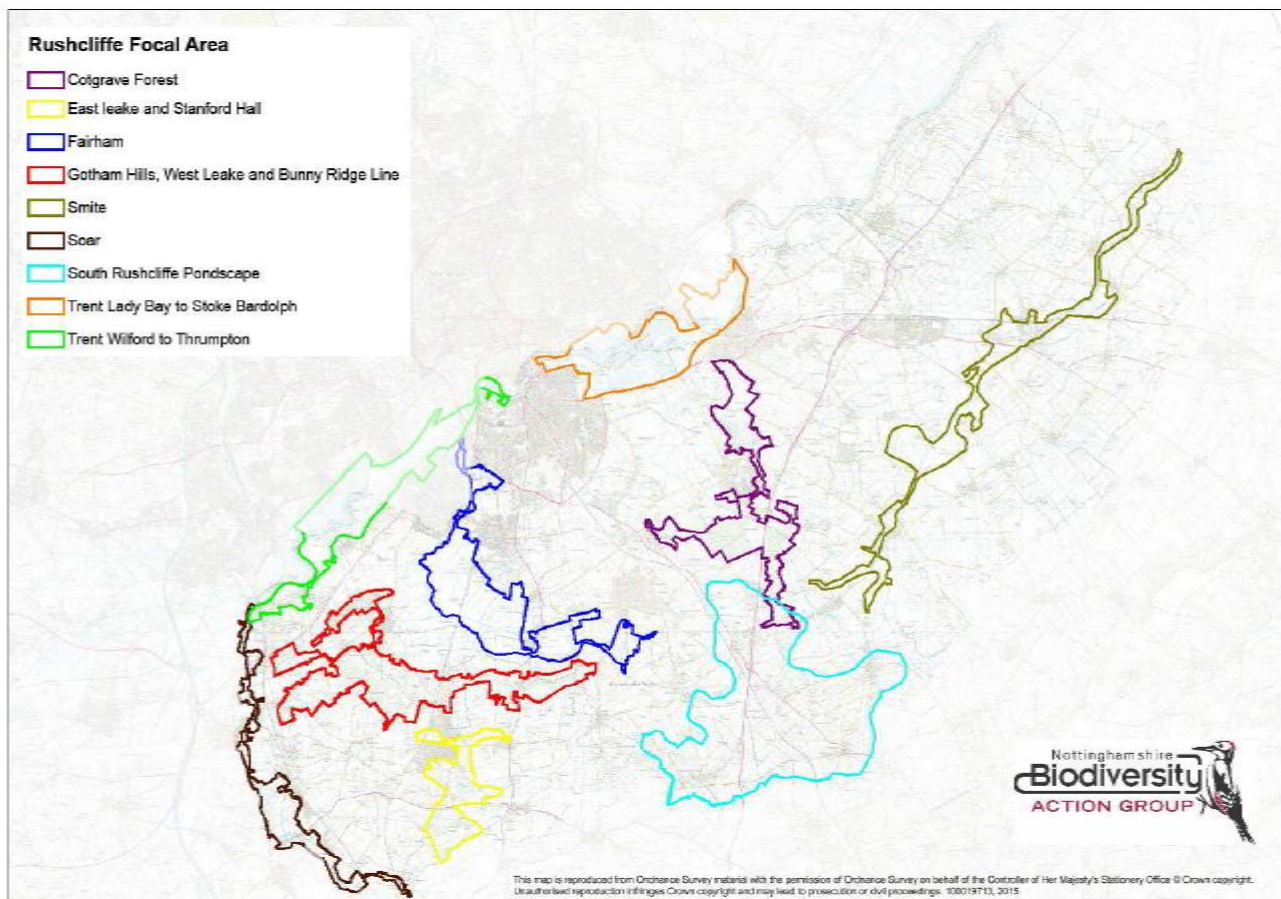
- Cotgrave U3A Birdwatching Group (Vols)
- Forest Schools at Sharpill Wood and Meadow Park, East Leake (Vols / Nurseries / Schools)
- **Grantham Canal Environmental Sub Group (CRT / Grantham Canal Partnership)**
- Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Forum (RNCSIG)
- **Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group (Vols/NWT)**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

www.nottsbag.org.uk

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