



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

## **The Nature of Rushcliffe 2023**

**Annual Report – published 2024**

### **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/accessibilepoliciesandotherdocuments/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](http://www.facebook.com/RNCSIG)

## 2.0 Chairman's Statement

Not a year for major initiatives, but still quite a lot going on.

The Steering Group continues to meet approx every eight weeks and currently 17 people representing a range of local nature conservation activities sit on the steering group. The range of interests include various Friends Groups/Reserves/Wildlife Groups, local ecologists, RBC Councillors + Notts Wildlife Trust and Notts Biodiversity Action Group with support from the RBC Senior Ecology & Sustainability Officer. The Meeting Notes are widely circulated round all the local wildlife groups. and that list is also used to circulate news and opportunities.

The management of wildlife sites like Grantham Canal (at Lady Bay), Keyworth Meadow, Lily Ponds/Dewberry Hill, Gresham Marsh, Sharphill Wood and Gotham Woods have all been on the agenda for various reasons over the year -generally relating to issues of ongoing management. But we have also had several new locations of interest come up notably East Midlands Parkway, Mere Meadow at Bradmore and a site in Tollerton. The last two interestingly involve private land owners looking at how they may make some of their land more wildlife friendly. In addition a farmer at East Bridgford has planted up a 6 hectare woodland copse, which will eventually become a useful neighbour for the Springdale Wood established some 20 odd years ago. It is also possible that a large section of Gotham Woods will be taken on by a Community Company set up by Gotham for that purpose, however that is still not a done deal.

Local projects include an initiative by individuals at East Bridgford to establish a native tree nursery to help provide local provenance trees, this includes Black Poplars. This feeds into a county wide project to improve the numbers of Black Poplars found across the county, of which Rushcliffe is a relative "hotspot". The Grizzled Skipper Project and the Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project both continue to deliver action on the ground in their respective areas both in and around Rushcliffe.

Rushcliffe Borough Council continue to fund wildlife related activities. At the core of that is the role of Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer, who has now been reinforced by a part time Ecology & Biodiversity Asst with a particular eye on ensuring Rushcliffe`s natural environment gets maximum benefit from Biodiversity Net Gain. RBC fund the Biodiversity Grant (to provide small funding amounts to local wildlife initiatives), ten days of Green Mower to help manage areas of grassland, the Community Tree Scheme (to provide trees for local residents and parish councils) and the Annual Nature Conservation Forum and funding the Service Level Agreement that enables NWT Conservation Officer to spend more time in the Borough. In addition the council have pulled all their

tree/hedgerow policies together into an RBC Tree Strategy Framework.

Under the banner of “No Mow May” we have seen people reduce the amount of grass cutting. RBC continues a policy of no mow areas (spring & summer) on various pieces of land it owns at a similar level as the previous year – principally locations in West Bridgford and some villages. Hopefully parish councils will do likewise. Notts County Council continue to manage rural road verges with a reasonably wildlife friendly regime of mowing. Although it is worth noting that the mowing regime on the trunk roads (A453/A46/A52) is carried out by Highways England according to their own (complicated) regime, but that does seem to leave significant areas unshorn for extended periods.

The year has also seen Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust put time and resources into promoting the Wilder Nottinghamshire initiative intended to help create and support wildlife local community groups across the county. In Rushcliffe this is over and above work on local NWT nature reserves and by the Southern Conservation Officer in Rushcliffe.

Network Rail are creating a Biodiversity Action Plan along their trackbeds looking at neighbouring wildlife habitats in a 2 kilometre corridor through which the track runs. Curiously, besides the two main lines running through Rushcliffe, this also seems to include the ownership of the Great Central railway track and the old line running to Cotgrave Country Park, but not the Melton test track. Their objective is to identify sites within these areas that might benefit from compensatory habitat management if Network Rail have to do habitat damaging track work.

Except for additional solar farms (Rushcliffe seems to becoming a “hot spot” for these), all of which include plans for species rich grassland around the cells, there have been no major planning applications this year. However currently agreed building continues apace – notably the mega Clifton development is finally underway, but at a number of other locations around the area as well. Future development will come under the Net Biodiversity Gain funding scheme and this will allow money to be put into wildlife habitat schemes. As yet only the Radcliffe on Soar power station site redevelopment is affected.

Although Ash Die Back is now widespread in Rushcliffe we have not seen (fingers crossed) any of the wholesale die back of trees seen in some areas. Whether this is just luck, timing or some difference with the trees we don't know. In reality all we can hope is that it doesn't escalate. However where there are significant problems the recommended policy is to cut down infected trees that are a real threat to roads and public rights of way etc, but if possible to leave quieter areas. It is also being advocated that replanting takes the opportunity to introduce a more diverse range of native trees back into

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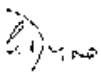
woodland, both as a way of limiting the risk of other diseases becoming a problem, but also because our ash dominated woods are in part an artefact of human woodland management in the past.

The Nottinghamshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (NARG) have helped set up successful "Toad patrols" in other parts of the county to help breeding toads to cross certain roads during their migration to breeding ponds. There are no such patrols in Rushcliffe and NARG looking to see if re there are any hot spots in the Borough were this would be helpful.

South Notts Local Group (Notts Wildlife Trust) have again run a series of online Wildlife Talks over the winter and have created a programme of Wildlife Walks for the spring and summer, along with a Facebook page promoting anything to do with wildlife and nature conservation in Rushcliffe.

Creating a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is now a legal requirement for all counties in order to help end the decline in wildlife and if possible increase numbers. Notts County Council are the designated authority for this area and now have an officer in place. Working with a range of organisations and partners they are to agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in the locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities using available local information and data. Notts is better placed than many areas as it has the Notts Biological Records Centre and the county wide Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping system. However the process is only just starting.

Gordon Dyne Chair - RNCSIG






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 August 2024, there are forty-two sites managed predominantly as nature reserves, thirty-seven of these sites have current management plans (88%).

#### 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 2023 to December 2023, the estimated number of hours of voluntary nature conservation work carried out in Rushcliffe was 13,520; down from 14835.5 hours in 2022.

#### 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 2023

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



NWT are no longer able to deliver this service.

#### 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 2023 was 172 boxes. The three-year average numbers of chicks ringed, decreased from 77 chicks in 2020 to 60 chicks in 2023. 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).



Twelve sites (that we are aware of) held public events during 2023 or 27%.

**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 2024, there are 219 sites designated as LWS, this is an overall decrease of 3 site from March 2023. The area of Local Wildlife Sites is 1928ha, up from 1908ha (NBGRC), an increase of 10ha.

**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 2023 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 2023/24:

Wetland improvement works at Greythorne Dyke Open Space and Gresham Sports Field were completed; a further 9600m of the Grantham Canal also received reed removal work; RBC Summer Pollinator Scheme (no mow) managed 32 sites, covering 3.1ha (in addition to existing meadow / grassland sites); Tree Planting was carried out at Sharphill Wood, Gamston, Radcliffe on Trent, Colston Bassett, Whatton, Newton and East Leake (71 trees), through the community tree scheme. Additionally, 1056 trees were provided through the public free tree schemes and 1019 planted by Rushcliffe Borough Council. Hedgerow cutting at Bingham Linear Park, to open up the wildflower grasslands was funded through the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support Grant (2000m)

**Cumulative Total (since Jan 2021) - Wildlife Grassland: 3.2ha; Woodland: 0.9 ha; Wetland: 3.12ha; Ponds: 0.00ha, Hedgerow: 2000m, No. trees planted (outside woodlands): 7451.**

**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 March 2024, 5.9% 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 2023/24 ten grants were approved totalling £3123, this amounted to 62% of the available funding for this year. These were not all claimed during the year.

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**Appendix B Nature Reserves**

For the purposes of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, nature reserves are described as sites with a reasonable wildlife value that are managed with nature conservation as a major priority and generally with some degree of public access.

Reserves support Obj 2, Obj 4 and Obj 5 of the Strategies Aims & Objectives

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	Bingham - Cogley Lane	Bingham Town Council / Crown Estate	4.9		Grass	In Preparation	?
3	Bingham - Warners Paddock	Bingham Town Council / Crown Estate	1.8		Grass	?	?
4	Bridgford Street Wildflower Meadow, East Bridgford	Southwell Diocese / East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Grass	Yes (2020)	Yes
5	Bridgford Street Copse, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group)	0.5		Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
6	Bunny Old Wood	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	16	LWS	Wood	Yes (2019)	Yes
7	Collington Common, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4		Grass	Yes (ongoing)	Yes
8	Costock Pond	Costock Parish Council	0.8		Pond Grass	Yes (2017)	Yes
9	Cotgrave Country Park	Nottinghamshire County Council (Friends Group)	60	LWS	Grass Pond Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2004?)	Yes
10	Dewberry Hill, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Nottinghamshire County Council (Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council / (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group))	8.6	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes (2024)	Yes
11	Gotham Railway Path	Gotham Parish Council	0.9		Wood Grass	?	Yes
12	Gotham Sandbanks Nature Reserve	British Gypsum (Gotham Nature Reserve Trust)	1.05	SSSI, LWS	Grass, Wood	Yes	Yes
13	Grantham Canal	Canal & River Trust	25	SSSI/ LWS	Pond Marsh Reedbed	Yes	Yes
14	Green Line, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1.4	LWS	Grass Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
15	Gresham Marsh, West Bridgford	Environment Agency	8.8	LWS	Grass Marsh Reedbed	Yes (2018)	Yes
16	Greythorne Dyke Open Space, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2.67		Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	Yes (2020)	Yes
17	Holme Pierrepont	Nottinghamshire County Council (Holme	109	(part	Grass	?	Yes

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	Country Park	Pierrepoint Leisure Trust /Serco)		LWS)	Wood Pond		
18	Keyworth Burial Ground	Keyworth PC	1.05		Grass	Yes	Yes
19	Keyworth Meadows	Keyworth PC (Friends Group)	1.25	LWS, LNR	Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
20	Langar Community Wood	Naturescape	4.7		Wood	Yes	Yes
21	Langar Village Pond	Langar Parish Council	0.02		Pond	?	Yes
22	Lily Ponds, Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council (Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group)	4.7	Part LWS	Grass Pond	Yes (2024)	Yes
23	Meadow Covert Wood, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council	2	LNR	Wood	Yes (2016)	No
24	Meadow Park, East Leake	Rushcliffe Borough Council (ELPC / Friends Group)	18		Grass Stream	Yes (2017)	Yes
25	Orston Millennium Green	Orston PC	1		Grass Pond	Yes	Yes
26	Orston Plaster Pits	Girl Guides	4.72	SSSI	Pond Grass Woodland	Yes	Guides
27	Queens Wood	Whatton in the Vale PC	0.3		Woodland	Yes (2019)	Yes
28	Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council	85	LWS, LNR	Grass Wood Lake Pond Reedbed	Yes (2020)	Yes
29	Sharphill Wood, Edwalton	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group).	9.6	LWS, LNR	Wood	Yes (2018)	Yes
30	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	National Playing Field Association (Sheldon Field Management Committee)	10.4		Grass	Yes (2018)	Yes
31	Silverdale	Rushcliffe Borough Council	3.72		Grass Trees	Yes (2020)	Yes
32	Skylarks, Holme Pierrepoint	Notts Wildlife Trust	47	LWS	Grass Lake Wood Reedbed	Yes (2016)	Yes
33	Springdale Wood, East Bridgford	East Bridgford Parish Council (Friends Group)	1.4		Wood	Yes (2021)	Yes
34	Stone Pit Wood, Gotham	Rushcliffe Scout District	3.1	LWS	Wood Grass	Yes	Scouts
35	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	19		Wood	Yes	Yes
36	Sutton Bonnington Diamond Wood	Nottingham University / Woodland Trust	10		Wood	Yes	Yes
37	Sutton Bonnington Spinney and Meadow	Sutton Bonnington Parish Council	2.5	LNR	Grass Wood	Yes (2020)	Yes
38	The Hook, Lady Bay	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Friends Group)	15	LNR	Grass Stream	Yes (2020)	Yes
39	Upper Saxondale	Upper Saxondale Parish Council	3.2		Grass	Yes	Yes



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	Community Nature Reserve				Wood		
40	Wilford Claypits, West Bridgford	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	4.3	SSSI/LWS	Pond Marsh Grass Wood Reedbed	Yes (2013)	Yes
41	Willoughby Wood, Willoughby on the Wolds	Woodland Trust	2.5		Wood	Yes	Yes
42	Wilwell Farm Cutting, Ruddington	Rushcliffe Borough Council (Notts Wildlife Trust)	7.5	SSSI, LNR	Grass Marsh Wood Reedbed	Yes (2013)	Yes
<b>Total Area in hectares</b>			<b>517.28</b>				

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

Habitats (significant areas)	Grass - grassland habitat (including species rich)	Wood - woodland (including scrub)
	Pond, Lake, Stream, River, Reedbed and Marsh as described	

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

Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

Site		Estimated Voluntary Work (man hours)
Bingham Linear Park		71
Bridgford Park / Bridge Park	Assumed	0
Bridgford St. Meadow, EB	Assumed	0
Bunny Wood		35
Collington Common		0
Costock Pond	Assumed	0
Cotgrave Country Park	Assumed	470
Gotham Nature Reserve	Assumed	70
Grantham Canal (inc. partners)	Assumed	4888
Green Line – West Bridgford		81
Gresham Marsh		79
Grizzled Skipper Project (NBAG)		435
Himalayan Balsam Project (NBAG)		0
Holme Pierrepont Country Park	Assumed	0
Keyworth Meadow & Burial Ground	Assumed	0
Langar Village Pond	Assumed	0
Meadow Covert	Assumed	0
Meadow Park - East Leake		795
Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)		452
Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project		180
Rushcliffe Country Park		2816
Saxondale Nature Reserve	Assumed	350
Sharphill Wood		539
Sheldon Field	Assumed	350
Skylarks		1232
Springdale Wood		114
Stonepit Plantation	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Diamond Wood	Assumed	0
Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse	Assumed	0
The Hook		314
Wilford Clay Pit		107
Willoughby Wood	Assumed	0
Wilwell Cutting		142

**Total Hours: 13,520**

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

£252,688.80

- 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:

<b>Red</b>	Unfavourable condition and declining
<b>Pink</b>	Unfavourable condition with no change
<b>Yellow</b>	Unfavourable condition but recovering
<b>Green</b>	Favourable condition

SSSI name	Main habitat	Unit area (ha)	Assessment at Mar 2010	Assessment at Mar 2017	Assessment at Mar 2020	Assessment at Mar 2024
Barnstone Railway Cutting	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.52	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 06)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 12)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 17)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 17)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	7.41	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 08)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 15)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 15)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 15)
Gotham Hill Pasture	Calcareous grassland - lowland	1.06	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 08)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 15)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 15)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 22)
Kinouulton Marsh and Canal	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.73	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 09)
Kinouulton Marsh and Canal	Standing open water and canals	0.99	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 09)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	9.42	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 09)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)
Normanton Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	6.92	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 05)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 14)
Orston Plaster Pits	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.11	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 08)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 10)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 10)	<b>Unfavourable no change</b> (last assessed 22)
Orston Plaster Pits	Calcareous grassland - lowland	3.54	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 07)	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 07)	<b>Favourable</b> (last assessed 07)	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b> (last assessed 22)
Orston	Broadleaved, mixed	0.51	<b>Favourable</b>			

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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)
<b>No of units in favourable condition</b>			6 out of 19	2 out of 17	2 out of 17	1 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)	Breeding totals (no. of young birds ringed)	3 year running average of young
2000	38	4	
2001	62	8	
2002	88	16	9
2003	101	35	20
2004	112	25	25
2005	120	58	39
2010	165	51	63
2015	160	47	82
2016	180	106	112
2017	178	102	85
2018	180	82	97
2019	180	126	103
2020	?	11	73
2021	172	94	77
2022	Not available		
2023	200	76	60

Figures provided by Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project, a project of Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers that aims to conserve and increase the population of barn owls in Rushcliffe and surrounding areas (see [www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk](http://www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk)).

**Appendix F Access to Nature**Parishes / 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

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Accessible Natural Green Space</b>
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 all

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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**





<b>Actions</b>		
	<b>During 2021:</b>	
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. As part of the BOM work, some ride management work was undertaken; managed by RNCSIG partners	
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. The Grantham Canal received reed removal work on 9600m.	
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 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. The LNRS is being developed by Nottinghamshire County Council and is expected to be published in 2025	
2a. Seek to ensure that all nature reserves have a current Management Plans	A Management plans for Edwalton Golf course has been produced.	
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 2023, totalling a value of £1,493.16. 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. A remote mowing machine was provided to eleven nature conservation sites across the borough over 10 days.	
2c. Encouraging local community involvement in the management of nature reserves	Eighteen events were held by NWT across the borough, at ten sites. Five activity sessions were run with three schools / youth organisations, engaging with 150+ children	
3a. Promoting the sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	No action taken during 2023.	
3b. Develop sympathetic farming management practices and agri-environment schemes	Advice was delivered to 10 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 10 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	No action taken during 2023	








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maintain and create habitats alongside our transport corridors		
3f. Protect enhance and expand appropriate tree and woodland cover and access	2075 trees and shrubs were planted, and 1056 trees were supplied to the public in 2023/24	
3g. Support projects that benefit our freshwater environment	Wetland improvements to 0.12ha at Greythorne Dyke Open Space and 0.12ha at Gresham Sports Arena swale were carried out. The Grantham Canal received reed removal work on 9600m.	
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 2023, 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, eighteen events were held by NWT across the borough, at ten sites. Five activity sessions were run with three schools / youth organisations, engaging with 150 children. Groups and local issues are promoted via the Facebook page and other media outlets. One small mammal trapping and identification training session was held at Gresham Marsh in September 2023. A Green Flag for Sharphill Wood was applied for and awarded (in addition to ongoing Green Flags for Rushcliffe Country Park.	
5b. Extending wildlife education opportunities	Five activity sessions were run with three schools / youth organisations, engaging with 150+ 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.	
5c. Promoting contacts amongst groups and organisations	The partnership operates Facebook and Twitter feeds, sharing feeds from local groups and organisations. Partner organisations also provide social media and news feeds.	
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 2023.	
6b. Ensuring new BGI benefits people and wildlife and meets NE and WT guidelines	No specific action taken during 2023	
6c. Use Hedgerow Regulations and TPOs to help protect important features	16 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were made in 2023. Currently there are 251 TPOs (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, therefore more than 251 trees are covered by TPOs). This has decreased from 261 in 2015. 4 hedgerow removal notices were received by RBC in 2023, all were allowed to go ahead	
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	No specific action taken during 2023	

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making		
6f. Promoting the use of native local provenance planting	No specific action taken during 2023.	
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	This report is for 2023 activities	
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

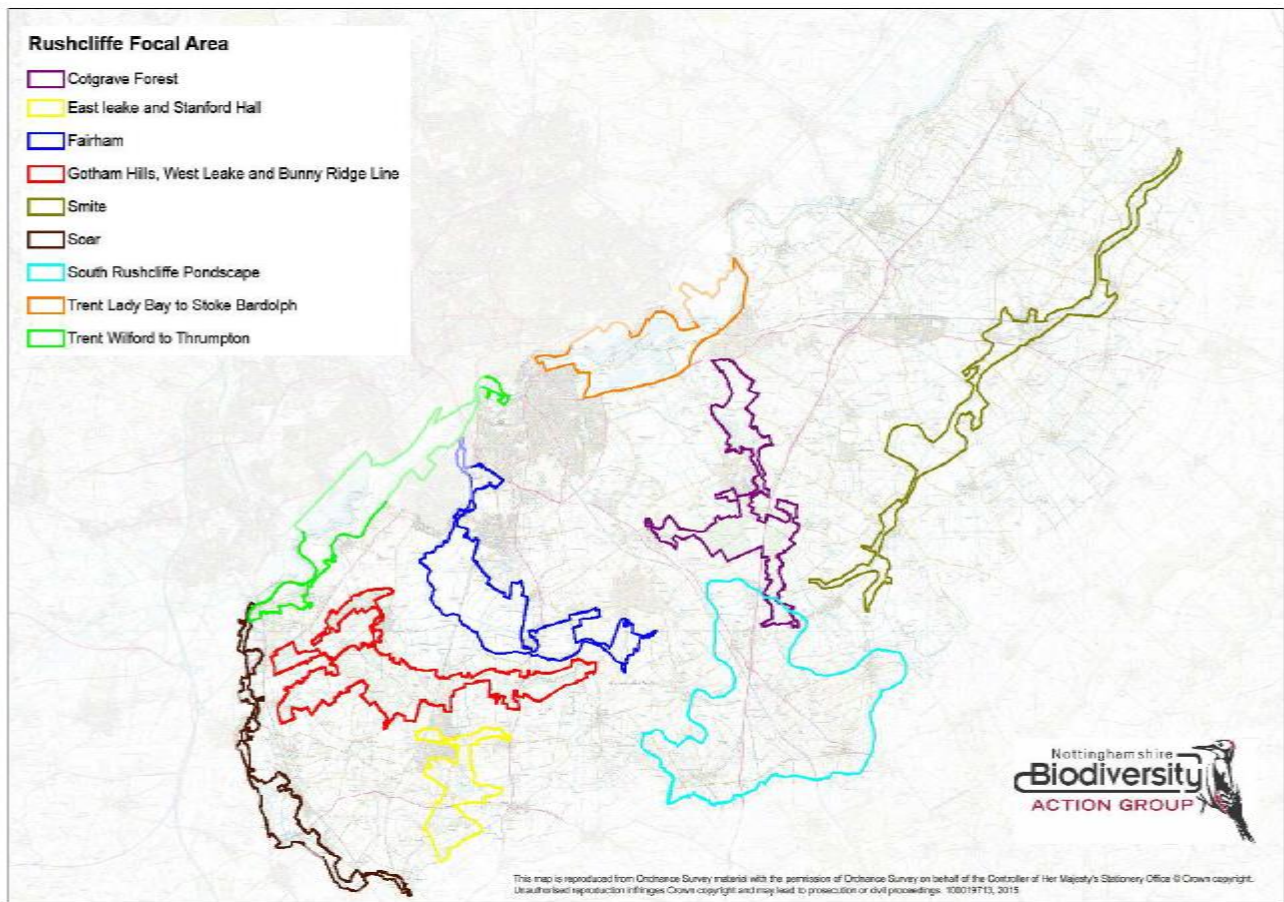


**Appendix H Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project**

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

[www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/natureconservation](https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/natureconservation)

[www.nottsbag.org.uk](https://www.nottsbag.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/SouthNottsWildlifeGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthNottsWildlifeGroup)

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