

# The Cotgrave Forest Area Project

The Cotgrave Forest (Clipston Wolds) is a triangle of land lying south of Cotgrave between the A46 and A606 (Melton Road) in the Rushcliffe District of Nottinghamshire. At its core is an area of mixed woodland. Two parts of it date from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century but most of the woodland was planted after the First World War and was Forestry Commission owned until the early 1980s.

A number of organisations, including Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, Butterfly Conservation and Rushcliffe Borough Council, have come together with an idea for a project focused on the forest and surrounding land to improve the wildlife value of the forest.

The forest, which is a scarce resource in this part of Nottinghamshire, is valuable both in landscape terms and for its wildlife. Notable grassland areas are present within the forest, along the tracks, rides and rights of way. The grasslands are particularly important as they provide habitat for insects, foraging birds and small mammals.

The forest is particularly important for butterflies, with a number of species scarce to Nottinghamshire being present in the area. These include Purple and White-letter Hairstreak (pictured), Dark-green Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor. Please see separate leaflet on 'The Butterflies of Cotgrave Forest' for more information.

Wild flowers such as Woolly Thistle and Wild Basil occur, along with several species of fern in the shadier area. The woodland is a wintering site for woodcock and scarce species such as Marsh Tit and Crossbill have been occasionally sighted.

## Our project aims to:

- Provide nature conservation advice and support to woodland managers and adjacent land owners
- Support measures that make connections for wildlife across the landscape
- Build upon any work already being carrying out, supporting new and existing projects
- Seek funding and promote any existing grant schemes
- Establish a 'friends group' centred on Cotgrave Forest.



*Rushcliffe Nature  
Conservation Strategy  
Implementation Group*

**If you are interested in being involved please contact Ben Driver, Southern Conservation Officer at Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust  
[bdriver@nottswt.co.uk](mailto:bdriver@nottswt.co.uk)  
0115 958 8242.**

**Please also fill out the questionnaire (insert link)  
Please respond by 31 August 2016**



Nottinghamshire



Rushcliffe  
Borough Council

