

Connecting Cotgrave Forest

Cotgrave Forest lies to the south of Cotgrave, between the A46 and A606 (Melton Road) in the Nottinghamshire district of Rushcliffe. Much of the forest was planted after the First World War but some of it dates from the mid 1800s. It is best described as a mixed woodland (i.e. supporting both conifer and broadleaved trees).

A number of organisations have come together and would like to work with woodland and other land owners on a project aimed at enhancing the wildlife of Cotgrave Forest and improving connections between the forest and surrounding landscape.

Woodland is a scarce habitat in this part of Nottinghamshire making Cotgrave Forest particularly 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 important as they provide habitat for insects, foraging birds and small mammals.
- The forest is noted for its butterflies, with a number of species scarce to Nottinghamshire being present in the area. These include Purple and White-letter Hairstreak, Dark-green Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor.
- Wild flowers such as Woolly Thistle and Wild Basil provide a nectar source and several species of fern can be found in the shadier areas.
- The woodland is a wintering site for woodcock and scarce species such as Marsh Tit and Crossbill have been sighted.

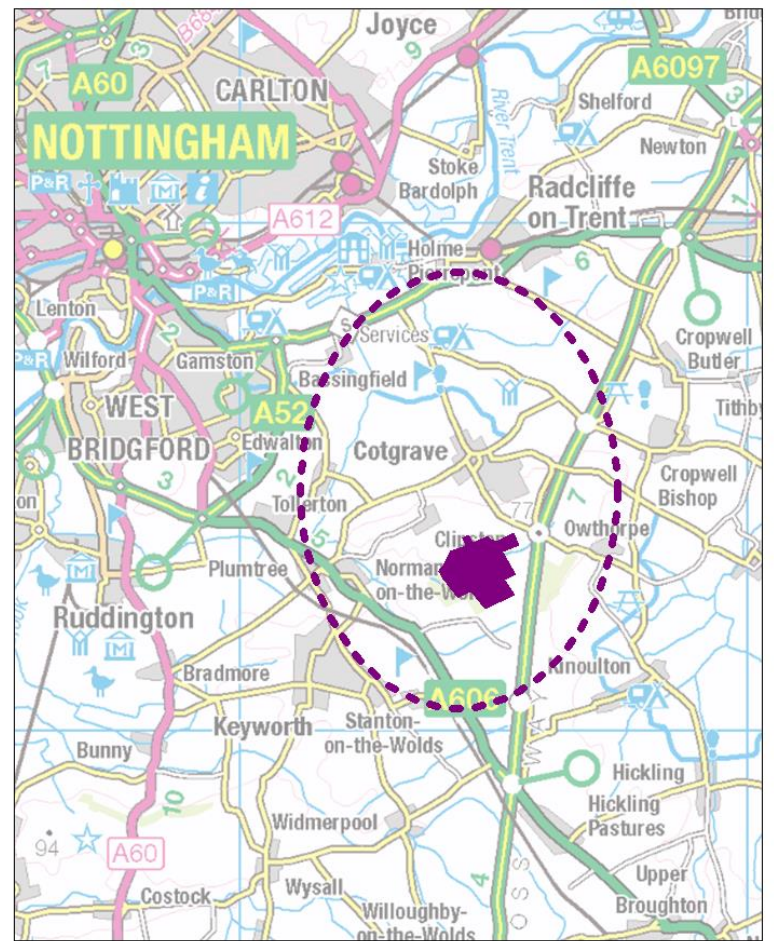


White-letter Hairstreak cpt Michael Walker

A number of new woodlands have been planted on land surrounding the forest; these are proving new and enhanced links for wildlife which will improve as they mature. This project seeks to complement this and look for further opportunities to link the forest with the wider landscape and to existing nature reserves along the Trent corridor, including Skylarks and Holme Pierrepont Country Park.

The project aims to:

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



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*Rushcliffe Nature
Conservation Strategy
Implementation Group*

Other partners
include Butterfly
Conservation and
Nottinghamshire
Biodiversity Action
Group

**If you are interested in being
involved please contact Ben Driver,
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Please respond by 30th September

