



Rushcliffe Borough Council & Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Service Level Agreement Report on Activity

January to December 2018

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Service 1: Complete site surveys, draft / update management plans for sites within Rushcliffe and help implement plans

Output: At least 4 sites supported per year (sites to be agreed on an ongoing basis and reviewed annually)

Outcome: Increased biodiversity on sites through adoption of management plans plus increased awareness and knowledge amongst residents and Council staff of how to manage natural green space in Rushcliffe appropriately

Site	Details	Plans for next year
Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds (Radcliffe-on-Trent Conservation Volunteers and Parish Council)	<p>Setting up of Reptile survey and continuation of Amphibian survey (details under training).</p> <p>Put the group in touch with other FOGs for informal training on scything. This was provided by Friends of The Green Line during the summer.</p> <p>NWT /NBG led bat walk in early September.</p> <p>NWT input into plans for interpretation panels, including provision of photos, contribution to text etc.</p>	
Gresham Marsh (Environment Agency and (Rushcliffe Borough Council, potential Friends group)	<p>Over this summer NWT updated the management plan into a format suitable for LNR declaration.</p> <p>During the autumn, a few days of NWT time were spent to oversee contractor work. In October, we supervised meadow mowing/ scrub management and in December we oversaw a pond restoration and creation project on site. Site visits were also required to plan the two volunteer work party sessions held in the autumn (28 October & 11 November).</p>	Continue support in relation to setting up of Friends Group under Service 3.
Greythorne Dyke (RBC Public Open Space Area)	Site visit to and follow up report on public open space land alongside Greythorne Dyke and west of Rushcliffe Arena. Land comprises dyke, ponds, meadows, marshland and scrub.	
Meadow Covert (Rushcliffe Borough Council and Edwalton Primary School)	Arranged and attended a meeting with the new Head, RBC and NWT education and conservation officers on 8 November to discuss future use/ management of the site.	Issue final version of updated management plan and include condition assessment targets. Help the school implement the plan. Encourage school to install nest box camera (possible use of Biodiversity Grant.
Sharphill Wood (Rushcliffe Borough Council)	Attended a meeting with Friends on 29 August to look at progress with implementing management plan and to discuss update of management plan.	Visit planned in early 2019 to advise on new pond creation,

and Friends group)	NWT had a substantial input into the revised management plan (2018-2028), which was issued early in the year.	bat and bird boxes etc.																																								
Sheldon Field	After consultation with the group late last year, NWT issued an updated management plan in early 2018, to cover 2018-2022.	Advisory visit to look at new pond and positioning of bat and bird boxes planned for early 2019.																																								
The Green Line (Rushcliffe Borough Council and Friends group)	<p>NWT led 5 Sunday morning work parties, which were carried out to implement objectives/ prescriptions in the management plan. The details of the work parties are below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 658 1136 934"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Task</th> <th>Volunteer attendees</th> <th>Vol hours</th> <th>Staff hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7 Jan</td> <td>Scrub maintenance</td> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Feb</td> <td>Scrub maintenance</td> <td>5</td> <td>15</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29 Aug</td> <td>Scything</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Oct</td> <td>Scrub maintenance</td> <td>4</td> <td>8.5</td> <td>3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Nov</td> <td>Scrub maintenance</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Dec</td> <td>Scrub maintenance</td> <td>3</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td>25</td> <td>59.5</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A significant amount NWT staff time was required for preparing for the work parties (tool maintenance, pre-works site visits to put up posters etc). This is at least one hour per work party and is included in the totals above.</p> <p>The management plan update has been completed; the next plan will cover the period 2018 - 2022.</p> <p>NWT facilitated FOG negotiations with Rushcliffe/ Streetwise in relation to path edge mowing.</p>	Date	Task	Volunteer attendees	Vol hours	Staff hours	7 Jan	Scrub maintenance	6	14	4	4 Feb	Scrub maintenance	5	15	4	29 Aug	Scything	4	8	3	7 Oct	Scrub maintenance	4	8.5	3.5	4 Nov	Scrub maintenance	2	5	3.5	2 Dec	Scrub maintenance	3	9	4	TOTAL		25	59.5	22	Continue supporting the group by attending committee meetings and leading work parties.
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The Hook (Rushcliffe Borough Council and Friends group)	<p>A substantial amount of SLA time was spent on progressing the 'Wetland Landscapes for All' project late 2017/ early 2018. This has resulted in new wetland features being installed on site, comprising improvements to the ditch and reedbed and a new backwater pond, helping to implement the management plan. Contactors were on site late February/ early March 2018. This partnership project is funded by money secured by NWT with officer time to implement the project being supported by RBC through this SLA.</p> <p>Site visits were carried out to review implementation of management plan and to progress the wetland project.</p> <p>Ongoing advice/ support to the FOG, including attending a committee meeting early in the year to talk about the wetland project.</p>	Continue with the current level of support.																																								

Priority for 2019 Survey and implementation of management plan for Gresham Marsh

Service 2: Land Management Advice

Output: Provide advice to 10+ external (i.e. not NWT or RBC estate) landowners in Rushcliffe in addition to 1. above (this may include private landowners, parish councils, schools etc.)

Outcome: Increased awareness and improved quality of the natural environment in Rushcliffe

The SLA visits are listed below:

Date	Site	Details/ outcome
17 Jan	Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Course	Meeting with the ecology committee who have an interest in surveying and restoring their ponds. Following earlier advice, the group has started to clear scrub from an old pond and this will be restored in winter/ spring 2018/19. Overlaps with Cotgrave Forest and Rushcliffe Pondscales Focal Areas.
18 Apr, 22 Jun and 19 Sep	HMP Whatton	Follow up advisory visits, focusing on ponds and swifts. Through HMP Whatton's wood workshop a number of swift boxes have been built and put up in the grounds. HMP Whatton won the overall National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Wildlife Award (they won their category last year) in 2018 and NWT, who had an into some of the projects, attended the awards ceremony on 19 September.
5 Jun	Car Colson	Visit to landowner who requested advice on maintaining and improving the wildlife value of their pasture and plantations.
9 Jul	Ruddington	Meeting with Rushcliffe NHS to talk about potential work on Gresham Marsh and other reserves. Linking volunteering with health, wellbeing and rehabilitation programs.
18 Jul, 3 Dec	Wilford Hill	Site visit and meeting to take forward ongoing projects for wildlife, including planting, habitat creation and interpretation.
23 Aug	West Bridgford	Visit to give advice on wildlife garden (bird feeders, plants etc).
13 Oct	Screveton	Visit to give advice on wildlife garden (meadows, barn owls, nest boxes etc).
15 Oct	Widmerpool	Visit to woodland owner to provide biodiversity advice. Led to support with submission of Rushcliffe Biodiversity Grant application for hedgerow laying (successful application).
22 Oct	Emmanuel School	Visit to look at and provide management recommendations in relation to wildlife gardens. Potential links with adjacent Gresham Marsh were also discussed during the meeting.

Plans for next year

Cotgrave Forest Focal Area	Further visits to woodland owners/ managers will take place in connection with the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area Project. To follow up on initial contact made with adjacent farmers
Rushcliffe Pondscape Focal Area	Visits to pond owners in the focal area to survey ponds ahead of a possible future pondscape project. Link pond work with BEVS project where possible

Service 3: Support existing Friends Groups and establish new Friends Groups to become active and self-sustaining

Output: Support at least 4 groups per year. (Target groups to be agreed on an ongoing basis and reviewed annually).

*Outcome: More people actively involved in the management of local green space in Rushcliffe
Increased level of skills for residents taking part in formal training and informal site based activities.*

Site name	Details
Bingham Linear Park	Continue to provide occasional support or visits when required. For instance, we provide comments on the management plan update and protected species issues during 2018.
Cotgrave Forest Focal Area Project	We are continuing to encourage recording activities in the area, with woodland owner participation in surveys and events etc. As part of this, a formal butterfly transect was set up last year in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation, which has been repeated this year. As well as NWT public walks on the bridleways, NWT and volunteers lead a walk/ gathering on 23 June with Small Woodland Owners Group, which was attended by several of the Cotgrave woodland owners and other woodland owners in Rushcliffe.
Gotham Nature Reserve	Continue to provide occasional support or visits when required.
Green Line	In addition to leading 6 work parties (details provided under Service 1), we have continued to provide administrative support for Friend's Group committee meetings. Next meeting to take place in late July to discuss grass cutting regime, updated management plan and plan autumn/ winter work parties.
Gresham Marsh	<p>A significant amount of SLA time was spent on initial groundwork in order to set up a new Friends Group to look after this site and to ready it for LNR declaration. Following initial meetings with RBC and the EA, we made contact with a number of individuals and businesses close to the site, to gauge levels of interest.</p> <p>NWT set up a meeting on 6th September to brief interested parties about the plans for the site and to bring together a group of interested people together to potentially form a committee or 'friends group'</p> <p>NWT promoted/ coordinated two 2 volunteer work parties, to carry out some habitat pile creation, raking off arising from the meadow, light scrub and hedgerow management work, litter picks and maintain/ repair the boardwalk. The work parties took place on 28 October and 11 November. A third work party is scheduled to take place in early 2019.</p>
Radcliffe-on-Trent Conservation Volunteers/ Parish Council (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)	Attended an evening meeting on 3 December in relation to reporting on conservation activities during the past year.

Sharphill Wood	Continue to provide occasional advice and support to the friends group, as required. In addition, NWT supported their 10 year anniversary celebrations by doing a talk / attendance at the event on 12 May.
The Hook	Continue to provide occasional advice and support to the friends group, as required.

Service 4: Deliver education days linking Rushcliffe schools to Rushcliffe sites

Output: Work with 6+ schools to provide at least 10+ activity sessions spread across all schools. (Target schools to be agreed on an ongoing basis and reviewed annually).

Outcome: More young people able to appreciate firsthand the wonder of the natural world

Activities in target areas to date:

Radcliffe on Trent:

- **Radcliffe on Trent Infant school**
Ran 3 sessions at Dewberry Hill with Foundation pupils, in May 2017, 75 children in total. Aim to repeat in 2019. Sessions with 3 x Year 1 classes run in school grounds 6th November 2018. Dep Head arranging independent autumn walks to Dewberry Hill for classes this autumn.
- **Radcliffe on Trent Junior school** (no contact 2018)

Lady Bay/The Hook:

- **Lady Bay Primary School:** 2 sessions delivered on The Hook 21 May 2018 x 60 children in total. Pond dipping & minibeast hunt. Supported by Jane Browne from the Friends Group.

Cotgrave:

- **Ash Lea Special School:** the school visited Skylarks reserve regularly in 2017, while in temporary base in West Bridgford (building works taking place at school). The school is now open again, school garden session ran on 2nd October 2018 (restored willow feature, showed teacher how to manage it over the winter).

Keyworth

- **Crossdale Primary:** (no contact 2017/18)
- **Keyworth Primary:** school interested in setting up Forest School sessions, LV met with Deputy Head at school last year. Neil Pinder (S Notts Local Group) had already visited to give some grounds & activity advice. LV led after-school teacher training session 13th September 2017 (attended by 15 staff). LV led an activity for after-school Eco event 15 Feb 2018. Bat evening in school grounds ran on 28 Sept 2018.
- **Keyworth Brownies:** have contacted NWT about an evening session at Bunny Wood, spring 2019. LV liaising with Chris Terrel-Neild (NWT volunteer warden).

Edwalton

- **Edwalton Primary** (also Watch member school): Head teacher retired July 2017, met with new Head (Mr Thomas) on 8th November 2018 – very active school, teachers are using the woods on a regular basis. Date to be arranged for sessions in woodland for 2019, and bat evening.

Bingham

- Made contact with Robert Miles Junior school to offer grounds advice / session with Eco teams / school councils. Ran teacher training twilight session 2017 (bat eve cancelled due to bad

weather). Session offered autumn 2018, but Head Teacher asked to wait until 2019. After-school Eco club isn't running this autumn/winter.

- 2016: link made with **Toothill Secondary**: they chose NWT as their charity for 2016 and raised funds. Met the ambassadors and supported a visit to Skylarks Nature Reserve. Explore poss link with Bingham Linear Park – need to follow up.

Other links:

- **Flintham Primary**: (Wildlife Watch member school). LV delivered an assembly in 2017 and promoted our Farndon Watch Group to pupils. Bat evening in school grounds arranged for 11th Sept 2018 (attended by 30 pupils, parents and staff).
- **Radcliffe on Trent**: keen to help with school sessions at Dewberry Hill in 2019.
- **Bingham Linear Park**: bat evening ran on 2nd October 2018 for local Cub pack.
- **Emmanuel Secondary School, Wilford**: potential for session in school grounds and on Gresham Marsh for 2019 (links with BD)

2018 Summary

Area	School	Delivery 2018	Activity	No of children	Comments
Radcliffe	RonT Infants school	1 day (+ prep)	3 x sessions in school grounds 6/11/18. Year 1 pupils	84	Date for sessions at Dewberry Hill tba /summer 2019
Lady Bay	Lady Bay Primary	1 day (+ prep)	2 x sessions at The Hook 21/05/18	60	
Cotgrave	Ash Lea School	0.5 day + prep	School garden sessions 02/10/18	12	Arrange another 0.5 day in garden
Keyworth	Keyworth Primary	0.5 (eve) + 0.5 (eve) + prep	Eco event Feb 2018. Bat evening in school & grounds 28/09/18	30	Bird session arranged for 2019.
Edwalton	Edwalton Primary	2 hours/meeting	No sessions 2018, met with new Head 08/11/18		Sessions in woodland tba for 2019, plus bat evening.
Bingham	Robert Miles Junior		No school session 2018. Ran bat evening with local cub group 02/10/18	30 cubs	Session tba with Robert Miles Junior 2019.

Service 5: Increase participation in nature conservation activities in the borough through events and activities

Output:

a. Organise and / or participate in 7 public events (including Lark in the Park, Rush for Health, Volunteers Conference).

b. Provide a news story / item for public promotion monthly to Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Outcome: More people aware of the importance of the natural environment, participating in nature conservation activities in the borough and leading more active lifestyles

ITEM a:

NWT organised and participated in a number of events, including walks and reserve open days during the reporting period. The South Notts Local Group ran a busy program of Rushcliffe-based walks and talks throughout the period and represented the Trust at a number of public events in the borough. These are as follows:

Date	Event	Attendees (where recorded)
Apr18	Bunny Wood Open Day	80
Apr-18	Local Group AGM + Keep It Wild	18
May-18	Wilwell walk	11
May-18	Green Line Walk	8
May-18	Ruddington Spring Fayre	
Jun-18	Two Meadows Walk – Keyworth	9
Jun-18	Grizzled Skipper Walk Bingham	6
Jun-18	Wilwell walk for Ruddington gardeners	26
Jun-18	Wilwell Open Day	39
Jun-18	East Bridgford Show	
Jul-18	Dewberry Hill	15
Jul-18	Butterflies, Damselflies & Dragonflies at Wilford Claypits	
Jul-18	Cotgrave Forest	
Jul-18	Big Butterfly Count Bunny Wood	16
Jul-18	Gotham Circular Walk	
Jul-18	Butterflies, Damselflies & Dragonflies at Wilford Claypits	
Jul-18	Cotgrave Forest	
Jul-18	Big Butterfly Count Bunny Wood	16
Jul-18	Ruddington Summer Fayre	7
Jul-18	2x U3A walks at Wilwell	8 + 11
Aug-18	Skylarks Festival	
Aug-18	Gotham Circular Wildlife Walk	7
Aug-18	Moth Trapping at Wilwell	7
Aug-18	Bird Ringing Demo led by South Notts Ringing Group	Postponed due to bad weather (rescheduled for 2019)
Aug-18	Lark in the Park	
Oct-18	SNLG talks programme	20
Nov-18	SNLG talks programme	47
Dec-18	SNLG talks programme	26

The SLA facilitated the trust to run the following additional events/ activities:

Date	Event	Attendees (where
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		recorded)
13 Feb	Wildlife talk Rushcliffe Probus club	25
6 Sep	Bat walk at Lily Ponds led by BD and LV	15
22 Sep	Rushcliffe Volunteer Forum	30
27 Nov	Wildlife talk Edwalton probus club	25

Plans for 2019

NWT to continue with South Notts program of walks, talks and reserve open days and local group will attend several summer festivals with their nature table

NWT Skylarks 'woodland festival' in August (essentially the reserve open day, formerly called 'Skylarks Festival')

NWT to commit to other ad hoc talks/ activities

NWT to organise volunteer Forum for Autumn 2019. Theme to cover biodiversity gain/ Environment Act and possibly based at Upper Saxondale, including a site visit to USRA land.

ITEM b:

The South Notts Local Group website is regularly updated with news and events. The NWT website and members monthly newsletter has featured Rushcliffe specific news. Increasingly, short news items are featuring in social media with links being made between Rushcliffe Borough Council, RNCSIG and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust social media accounts.

NWT media contacts is Erin McDaid, contactable via 0115 958 8242 or email communications@nottswt.co.uk.

Service 6: Provision of training

Output: At least 3 training events delivered by NWT staff and / or external trainers per year (1 group development, 2 technical/ practical skills)

Outcome: Increased knowledge of the natural environment. Improved skills for local residents. Improved sustainability of 'Friends of Groups'

Date	Event	Lead	Attendees
5 Apr	Met volunteer to set up reptile monitoring on Dewberry Hill	NWT	1
21 Mar	Amphibian survey session at Lily Ponds with Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers	NWT	5
7 Jun	Wildlife Ponds and amphibians Training HMP Whatton	NWT	20
23 Jun	SWOG local area meeting at Cotgrave Forest	NWT	25
7 Sep	Met Warden/ FOG to set up reptile survey at Rushcliffe CP		1

Ideas for next year

- **Pond management** Although this course was run in summer 2017 by Skylarks Project Team it was not advertised to wider friends groups. But a pond creation and management course might be popular, perhaps ran in-house by NWT or by external trainer e.g. Debbie Alston.
- **Scything** Some groups have shown interest e.g. recent contact made by Radcliffe. Some groups are now actively scything e.g. The Green Line, Skylarks and Sharphill Wood. NWT has been

encouraging groups to provide each other with informal training (e.g. Skylarks/ Radcliffe on Trent) but a formal session/ refresher training could be welcomed by many groups.

- **Tree id (in leaf).** This was requested by Friends of The Hook and could be tied in with the Rushcliffe Tree Warden's scheme and Tree Council
- Set up **reptile monitoring** at Wilwell Farm Cutting and Wilford Claypits. Target species grass snake
- **FOG sustainability/ recruitment**, which could be led by NWT, Rushcliffe CVS and RCAN etc. Suggest an initial meeting with NWT, Rushcliffe CVS etc.
- **Butterfly identification / survey training**, which could be delivered jointly with Butterfly Conservation and NWT and aimed at Friends Groups, to increase monitoring on LNRs and Blue Butterfly Site. Invite Cotgrave Woodland owners to attend. This could be scheduled for Summer 2019
- **Emergency First aid** Many groups due a refresher training in 2019
- **Bryophyte identification** Difficult but important and often over looked group. Progress session with county recorder

Additional NWT Activity

The aim of this section is to capture work not precisely fitting service descriptions above but still contributing to them and/ or the wider service in Schedule A (for NWT to 'protect and enhance the biodiversity resources of Rushcliffe in line with the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy').

Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group

The Group (based at Rushcliffe Country Park) is led by a volunteer team. Continues to be well attended in 2018. The group won the UK Watch Group of the Year Award for 2017, and has been nominated (by the Friends Group) for a Rushcliffe Award in 2018.

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

- NWT attended / supported RNCSIG meetings.
- NWT attended Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (RNCSIG Sub Group) meetings, helping take forward grassland and woodland projects in the Cotgrave area.
- NWT hosted a meeting of RNCSIG sub group commenting on the local plan and contributed to the group's response.

Blue Butterfly Project

- Maintaining the inventory of NWT's grassland project (Blue Butterfly Scheme) sites. There are currently 13 sites in Rushcliffe and three churchyards (total =16). We are currently trying to develop funding, to reinvigorate the scheme.

NWT Nature Reserves

- Work has continued on Skylarks, Wilwell Farm Cutting, Wilford Claypits and Bunny Wood nature reserves. Work party statistics for Wilford Claypit and Bunny Wood (total hours on volunteers task are 192 and 348 hours.

Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme BEVS

- We continued delivery of a Badger edge vaccination scheme (BEVS) in the Rushcliffe Borough, to help to protect local livestock farmers. Under the second phase of the project (BEVS2) badgers will be vaccinated for another 4-years. NWT has been vaccinating badgers in an area of almost fifty square Kilometers on the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire border between Tithby and Long Clawson – one of the most important areas for dairy farming in the county. Villages included within the vaccination program include Cropwell Bishop, Owthorpe, Kinoulton, Hickling Pastures, Upper Broughton and Nether Broughton.
- Vaccinating badgers is intended to help create a buffer zone of bovine TB free badger populations to prevent the spread of TB from areas of high occurrence (e.g. parts of Leicestershire) to those areas with fewer outbreaks to the north and east. Badger vaccination forms part of the government's comprehensive strategy to make England bovine TB free.
- Over 80 badgers were vaccinated during 2018.

Planning advice

- Between January and June Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust submitted 3 responses, out of a total of 23 consultations overall. Unfortunately, NWT is unable to offer the same level of advice in relation to development control as it has in the past due to resource constraints. We issued a letter on 21 June 2016 to all Nottinghamshire 'Heads of Planning Policy' and 'Heads of Development Management' explaining our current situation and to offer to work with them constructively on finding an agreeable way forward.
- We provided comments on the Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies and 2 Neighborhood Plans (Gotham and Upper Broughton) during the reporting period.
- We provide advice to Nottinghamshire County Council on 'county matters' affecting the district, including a response on the minerals local plan in relation to the proposed allocation at Barton-in-Fabis.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
May 2019