



Rushcliffe Borough Council & Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Service Level Agreement Report on Activity

January to December 2017

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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

Dewberry Hill, Cliff top walk and Lily Ponds (Radcliffe-on-Trent Conservation Volunteers and Parish Council)

Update

- Provided advice on putting together a possible funding bid for a package of works at Lily Ponds, including pollarding over mature willow trees along the river bank, interpretation etc.
- Amphibian survey (details under training) of Lily Ponds.
- Kept in touch in relation to contractor management works on Dewberry Hill, which has included mowing parts of the meadow to encourage floral diversity, and winter scrub work.
- Liaised closely about planting of Dewberries on Dewberry Hill.
- Met Parish Council representative on 7 December to provide management advice on managing cliff top habitats alongside the walk/ path.

Plans for 2018

- NWT to keep in contact with the conservation group and parish council.
- NWT to run amphibian survey and possible bat walk at the Lilly Ponds, in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Bat Group.
- NWT to help with setting up reptile survey at Dewberry Hill in spring 2018.

The Green Line

Update

- NWT led 7 Sunday morning work parties and 1 weekday session, which were carried out to implement objectives/ prescriptions in the management plan. The details of the work parties are below:

Date	Task	Volunteer attendees	Vol hours	NWT staff	Staff hours
8 Jan	Scrub clearance	7	16.5	CS	3
12 Feb	Scrub clearance	3	6	CS	3
12 Mar	Installation of bench	4	12	CS	3
22 and 24 Sep	Mowing	5	15	CS	6
8 Oct	Scrub clearance	3	9	CS	3
5 Nov	Scrub clearance	3	6	CS	2
3 Dec	Scrub clearance	8	15	CS	3
TOTAL		33	79.5		23

- £200 of funding was secured for the Friends of Green Line from Musters Road Open Gardens towards the two new wooden benches, which were installed during the March work party.
- Additional NWT staff time was required for preparing for the work parties (tool maintenance, pre-works site visits to put up posters etc).

- Initial work has started on updating the management plan, which will cover the period 2018 - 2022.



New bench (March 2017)



Installation of the new bench at The Green Line (12 March 2017)

Plans for 2018

- Continue supporting the group by attending committee meetings and promoting three further winter work parties (January, February and March), leading two of these.
- Circulate updated management plan for comment to the Friends Group and RBC and issue final version.

The Hook

Update

- NWT provided advice to Friends of The Hook (FrOTH) on management issues, including management of silt trap, balsam, orchard, tree and shrub planting, grassland (wild flower meadow) management and education pond.
- Some SLA time was spent on progressing the 'Wetland Landscapes for All' project, which will result in some new wetland features being installed on site, such as improvements to the ditch, new scrapes and ponds. This partnership project is funded by moneys secured by NWT but officer time is being required to implement the project and this is being supported by RBC. Design plans have been drawn up and relevant permissions have been secured from the Environment Agency. At the time of writing a contractor has been identified and will be instructed to commence in early 2018.
- Site visits were carried out to review implementation of management plan and to progress the wetland project.

- The pond liner was replaced by a contractor in December 2016, under supervision of NWT and FrOTH. The pond was re-profiled in order to provide a larger catchment area and the fenced enclosure extended. NWT and FrOTH has continued to monitor the pond throughout 2017 and it has colonised well.



Re-profiled education pond at The Hook (9 December 2016)



The pond has naturally re-vegetated (1 August 2017)

Plans for 2018

- Organise/ oversee contractor works in relation to the 'Wetland Landscapes for All' project, liaising with RBC and FoG.
- Continue with the current level of support.

Meadow Covert

Update

- Made contact with Barrett/ David Wilson Home in relation to drainage issue and adjacent ditch and reedbed off Belfry Way.

Plans 2018

- Arrange a meeting with the new Head and NWT education and conservation Teams and RBC 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.

Sharphill Wood

Update

- NWT has provided ongoing advice and support to the group.
- On-going issues including surfacing of footpaths, forest school use of the site, interpretation panels, protection of badgers, understory and ground layer planting, mapping of management compartments and planning issues in relation to the adjacent urban extension.
- Provided advice on interpretation, especially content of interpretation panels, which the group has approached the developers about, with a view to them sponsoring them.
- Attended a meeting with Friends and RBC in August to look at progress with implementing management plan and to discuss update of management plan for 2018-2022.
- NWT has drafted the management plan for 2018-22, with input from the Friends.

Plans for 2018

- Finish the management plan update.
- Support the Friends at their 10-year anniversary event in the spring/ early summer.

Sheldon Field

Update

- Site meeting in December 2017.
- Drafted an update of management plan, which will cover the period 2018 – 2022.

Plans for 2018

- Issue final version of management plan in early 2018.
- Carry out updated botanical survey in May/ June, in order to inform future management.

Other sites –plans for July to December 2017

- Keep in touch with other groups and provide support as/ when required e.g. Gotham Nature Reserve, Bingham Linear Park, Meadow Park East Leake, Springdale Wood, East Bridgford etc.

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

Advice was delivered to 12 external landowners during this reporting period

The SLA visits are listed below:

Date	Site	Details/ outcome
25 Jan and 2 Nov	Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Course	Following up initial contact made by the ecology group. Following provision of technical advice, scrub has been cleared around one pond and it is envisaged it will be de-vegetated and re-profiled in early 2018. There are options for work on another large pond and for tree planting, all of which will link to the Cotgrave Forest Project.

21 Feb , 8 May and 16 Nov	HMP Whatton	Initial introductory visit in February to look at wildlife enhancements within the grounds. The work is very extensive and impressive. NWT provided a letter of support for them in relation to their entry into the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Wildlife Award, which they won. A second advisory visit was carried out with Carol Collins, in relation to them providing nesting opportunities for swifts and making links with the wider Rushcliffe Swift Project. This has resulted in offenders making boxes, which have been put up in the grounds. Further boxes have been made for use elsewhere in Rushcliffe.
21 Mar	Landowner, Langar	Visit to a horse paddock newly acquired by landowners. Provided advice in relation to enhancing grassland, scrub/ tree management, ponds and ragwort control.
27 Apr	Homeowner, Orston	Visit to house in Orston, where neighbors reporting seeing adder in the gardens. As this is a species which is currently considered extinct in Notts this is of particular interest. It is however thought most likely to be a grass snake.
31 May	Normanton-on-Soar	Visit with church warden and local residents with a view to developing a grassland /meadow project, focusing on a number of sites in the parish (road verge, churchyard, river bank and incorporating any other suitable land). Ongoing support included provision of information and leaflets for the church exhibition.
27 Jun	Meditation retreat, Hickling Pastures	Advisory visit in relation to planting native hedge, trees and creation of a wildflower meadow.
21 Aug	Gresham Marsh	Visit with EA to look at habitat management works required, which might possibly be funded through EA. Follow up written advice provided.
2 Sep	Cotgrave Forest	Meet with private woodland owner, who is supporting the training day
13 Oct	Millennium Green, Orston	Meeting with committee member regarding management of the green. Also in contact about riparian mammal and reptile monitoring.
24 Oct	Field east of East Leake	Meeting with Cllr Hetherington regarding East Leake Parish Council land purchase and provided advice on management of the land for nature conservation.
7 Dec	Clifftop walk, Radcliffe on Trent	Met with parish council about clearing sight lines from benches and provided advice on replanting with lower growing shrubs (also reported on under Service 1).
8 Dec	Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler	Met with management committee regarding update of management plan (also reported on under Service 1).

Additional visits were carried out to the following sites:

- Wilford Hill Cemetery (26 Jan, 6 Apr and 2 Nov) to provide further land management advice, including tree and shrub planting, installation of planters, bat boxes and swift box installation in the chapel tower, which is being funded through a donation from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's Metals Recycling fund.
- St Gobain Ruddington site (15 Mar) in relation to ecological survey/ mitigation
- St Gobain British Gypsum site (31 Mar, 24 May and 28 Sept) in relation to woodland management and Schedule 1 birds at East Leak and grassland/ scrub management at Silver Seal Site in Bunny (with RNCSIG).

Plans for 2018

- It is envisaged that additional visits to woodland owners/ managers will take place in connection with the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area Project. Follow up on initial contact made with two adjacent farmers and one of the woodland owners and nearby golf courses.
- Attend any other advisory visits, as opportunities arise.

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.*

Friends of Cotgrave Country Park

Our education team continues to carry out visits with Cotgrave Candleby School and the Friends of Cotgrave Country Park (further details are provided under Service 4, below). The Skylarks Team has established good working links with the group.

Friends of The Green Line

In addition to leading 7 work parties (details under Service 1), we have continued to provide administrative support for the committee meetings which occurred on 14 June (this included the AGM) and 16 August, to arrange winter work programme. We also attended a meeting on 1 Nov, with the FoG, RBC and Streetwise, to talk about management.

Friends of The Hook

Our education officer delivered 2 sessions with classes from Lady Bay Primary school at The Hook on 27 June, supported by members of the Friends Group (see Service 4).

Radcliffe-on-Trent Conservation Volunteers/ Parish Council (Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill)

Following on from last year's initial survey, we carried out an amphibian survey at Lily Ponds with a few members of the Parish Council / Conservation Group on 15 March (details under Service 6). Good numbers of amphibians were seen again, down slightly on last year. The education officer led school activities on Dewberry Hill this spring with the Infant school (details under Service 4).

Friends of Bingham Linear Park, Gotham Nature Reserve, Sharpill Wood and The Hook,

In relation to the above groups, all of which are self-sustaining, we continue to provide occasional support or visits when required and receive regular correspondence from groups (minutes of meetings etc).

Skylarks HLF Project Outreach

Further links between the Friends Groups and Skylarks Project have been forged through events, activities and training. The HLF project funding largely finished in September 2017 but the project has a lasting legacy, including formation of a new friends group to look after the site.

Cotgrave Forest Woodland Owners Network

After the owners meeting last year the group is continuing to meet on their own accord, which is a positive outcome. We are continuing to encourage woodland owners to work collectively, using the focal area project as a draw. We have been updating owners on recording activities in the area, encouraging owner participation in surveys and events etc. As part of this, a formal butterfly transect was set up in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation and a moth trapping event was carried out in early August, with the woodland training event on 30 September.

Gresham Marsh

NWT met with the EA in the summer and provided management recommendations for this site, which has been largely unmanaged for several years and is declining in ecological value. A further meeting with the EA, RBC is planned for early 2018, to discuss future management. Safeguarding of this important wetland Local Wildlife Site, located next to Emmanuel School, off Wilford Lane, is the main aim.

Plans for 2018

It is envisaged that work under this service will concentrate on setting up a community group to look after Gresham Marsh and possibly aim towards it's designation as a Local Nature Reserve.

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

We have engaged with the following 9 schools in target areas:

Radcliffe on Trent

- Visited the Deputy Head of Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant school in February 2017, to advise on school grounds improvements and to discuss possible trips to Dewberry Hill
- Ran 3 sessions at Dewberry Hill with Foundation pupils, on 10th & 11th May. A total of 75 children participated and the event had a Minibeast theme.

Lady Bay/The Hook

- 2 sessions run on The Hook 27th June 2017, with 2 foundation classes from Lady Bay Primary School; 60 children attended in total. Activities included Pond dipping and minibeast hunting. The event was supported by Jane Browne from the Friends Group.

Cotgrave

- Ash Lea Special School now visits Skylarks reserve regularly. We led a visit to Skylarks Reserve in June last year by younger group of Ash Lea pupils. The teacher is very keen to do more (especially Forest School).
- We continue to support the Candleby Primary visits to Cotgrave Country Park. Although not an SLA target, this activity supports the Candleby Life programme and the Friends Group. In 2017 we supported 5 sessions between January and March with total of 65 pupils participating.

- We delivered a hugely popular bat walk at Cotgrave Country Park on 1 Sept, which was attended by 70+ members of public and volunteers from FoCCP.

Keyworth

- We provided a grounds advice visit and led grounds day in 2015 at Crossdale Primary, where we renovated the willow structures near the wildlife area. We are due to follow this up.
- Keyworth Primary School is interested in setting up Forest School sessions and we met with the school in July 2017 to provide advice on setting up education activities in the grounds. We provided a teaching training session at the school in September.

Edwalton

- Our education officer attends Eco Hub meetings when possible; this is a useful networking opportunity with Edwalton Primary and other schools
- Consider offer of training especially for NQTs
- Head teacher retiring July 2017 and we are due to arrange meeting with the new Head in 2018.

Bingham

- We have made contact with the infant & junior schools to offer grounds advice / session with Eco teams / school councils
- On 7 March we met with the Head at Robert Miles Junior School and held a teacher inset session with 9 adults on 8 May
- Last year we made links with Toothill Secondary: they chose NWT as their charity for 2016 and raised funds. We met the ambassadors and supported a visit to Skylarks Nature Reserve. We are keen to explore possible future links with Bingham Linear Park.

Other links

- Rushcliffe Secondary School, Boundary Rd: a group of 12x Year 7s visited Skylarks reserve to find out about habitats, the work of NWT and potential careers. Potential for outreach/link up to The Green Line

Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group

The Group (based at Rushcliffe Country Park) is led by a volunteer team. It continues to be well attended.

Summary of activity sessions

A total of **16 activity sessions** were run, engaging with **147 children**.

Date	School	Details	No of children
Jan–Mar and Oct–Nov	Candleby Primary, Cotgrave	Visits to Cotgarve Country Park (10 sessions)	65
10 & 11 May	Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant School	3 sessions on Dewberry Hill with foundation pupils. Mini-beast theme. Volunteer Group/ Parish Council invited to help but no one available on the day.	75
27 Jun	Lady Bay Primary	2 habitat sessions with	60

	School	foundation pupils. Pond dipping and mini-beast. Support from FrOTH	
19 Jun	Rushcliffe Secondary, West Bridgford	1 session -Y7 visit to Skylarks	12
			Total = 212

Plans for 2018

Continue to focus on the following target areas:

- Radcliffe on Trent
- Cotgrave
- Keyworth
- Bingham West
- Edwalton (to meet new Head in 2018)
- Lady Bay.

We have now finished supporting Candleby school sessions but aim to deliver a bat walk and family activity day at Cotgrave Country Park in the summer holidays.

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

Output:

- Organise and / or participate in 7 public events (including Lark in the Park, Rush for Health, Volunteers Conference).*
- 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 program of Rushcliffe-based walks and talks throughout the period and represented the Trust at a number of public events in the borough.

The majority of the events listed below were advertised to the wider public.

During January to July 2017 we have organised and/ or supported **35** events and activities, which is well in excess of our target output of 7.

Date	Event	Lead	Attendees (where recorded)
15 Feb	Walk – wildfowl and birds at Skylarks Nature Reserve	Skylarks Team	
26 Mar	Walk –early spring at Wilwell Cutting	South Notts Local Group, SNLG	
4 Apr	SNLG AGM and Nottinghamshire bats talk	SNLG	20
19 Apr	Walk -Wilwell Farm Cutting spring wildflowers	SNLG	6

30 Apr	Walk - Dawn chorus at Sharphill Wood	Friends of Sharphill Wood	12
30 Apr	Bunny Wood Nature Reserve Open Day	Bunny Wood Reserve Vols	100
11 May	Walk - Stonepit Wood spring flowers	SNLG	7
17 May	Walk - Collington Common	SNLG	2
20 May	Ruddington Spring Fair	SNLG	
21 May	Walk -Cotgrave Forest butterflies	SNLG and Butterfly Conservation	18
21 May	Walk –birds at Skylarks Nature Reserve	Skylarks Team	
28 May	Walks – two at Keyworth burial ground and Keyworth Meadow Keyworth Meadow walk	SNLG	4
3 June	Wilwell Farm Cutting Reserve Open Day	SNLG	89
10 Jun	Walk - Cotgrave Country Park	SNLG	6
19 Jun	Bingham Town Fair	SNLG	
17 Jun	Walk - Flora & Butterflies of Gotham Hills	SNLG	14
17 Jun	Moth Trapping at The Hook	Skylarks Team	18
25 Jun	Walk - East Bridgford Wildlife, including Springdale Wood	SNLG	6
8 Jul	Walk -Flora for improvers at Wilford Claypits	SNLG and Dave Wood, BSBI	5
8 Jul	Walk - Butterflies and Wildflowers at Meadow Park East Leake	Friends of Meadow Park	19
8 Jul	Radcliffe on Trent Carnival	SNLG	
15 Jul	Walk - Bunny Wood Invertebrates	Bunny Wood Reserve Vols	5
23 Jul	Walk -Cotgrave Forest in High Summer	SNLG	3
27 Jul	Family Nature Day at Skylarks Nature Reserve	Skylarks Team	6
2 Aug	Support Rushcliffe’s Lark in the Park event	SNLG	16
4 Aug	Cotgrave Forest moth trapping evening organised by NWT and supported by SNLG	NWT	4
16 Aug	Fairham Brook and Bunny Moors circular walk	SNLG	6
23 Aug	A stroll round Radcliffe on Trent Lily Ponds	SNLG	16
24 Aug	Open Day at the Skylarks Nature Reserve	Skylarks Team	
1 Sept	Moth trapping at The Hook	Skylarks Team	
10 Sept	Support Sunday Funday at Rushcliffe Country Park	SNLG	
Oct - Dec	SNLG talks programme: Plant galls Wildflowers and waterways Fungi Foray Giants of the redwood talks	SNLG	2 22 31 21

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, events and the NWT website has a specific ‘wildlife on your doorstep’ section for Rushcliffe. For instance, articles on activities at Cotgrave Forest have been published.

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.

Although news stories are regularly written, we still need to develop an improved mechanism to ensure they are submitted to Rushcliffe on a monthly basis, as per item b of Service 5. NWT media contacts are Erin McDaid and Rachel Rutherford, 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'

Brief details of 9 training events are listed below. As with the activities and events, some of those listed were delivered through HLF funding but were advertised to residents in Rushcliffe so are included below.

Date	Event	Lead	Attendees
4 Feb	Willow Harvesting and Basket making (Ray Lister)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	10
15 Mar	Amphibian survey session at Lily Ponds with Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Ben Driver)	NWT	5
6 May	Woodland Management Course Part 2 (Debbie Alston)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	17
21 Apr	Riparian Mammals (Debbie Alston)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	15
17 Jun	Bees and hoverflies (David Goddard)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	15
3 Jul	Pond dipping and identification for adults (in-house)	Skylaks Team	8
15 Aug	Aquatic Macrophytes (Debbie Alston)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	6
16 Aug	Pond management (Debbie Alston)	Skylarks Team (HLF Funded)	7
30 Sep	Volunteer Forum, which took the form of woodland management training session for Cotgrave Woodland owners and friends groups	NWT	13 (including 6 woodland owners, Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group and Springdale Wood representatives)

Ideas for 2018

- **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.
- **Tree diseases** Very topical and might prove popular with Woodland managers/ Cotgrave Forest owners group. Forestry Commission could be approached to lead this.

- **Tree identification (in leaf)**, a request made by Friends of The Hook
- **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.
- **Reptile / amphibian surveys**, led by NWT Perhaps invite other FOGs to attend sessions with Radcliffe-on-Trent Conservation Volunteers at Dewberry Hill and Lilly Ponds?
- **Volunteer Forum** – theme / date tbc

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').

Education

- NWT provides on-going support to the Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch Group, which still meets monthly and is going strong. The Group continues to be well attended.

Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

- NWT attended RNCSIG meetings on 17 January, 23 March and 9 May, 5 Sep and 11 Nov.
- NWT attended RNCSIG biodiversity opportunity mapping Cotgrave Forest sub-group meeting on 19 January, 30 March and 11 May, 3 Aug and 26 Oct, helping to take forward the project
- NWT commented on The Nature of Rushcliffe 2016 and RNCSIG Action Plan.

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 attended a national Magnificent Meadows Conference on 8 March and worked with Buglife to deliver a local pollinator workshop on 25 July, linked to the National Pollinator Strategy and supported by Defra and Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LNP. Whilst this took place in neighboring Broxtowe it was well attended by Rushcliffe groups. This may lead to project development, particularly in relation to taking forward the B-Lines concept in Nottinghamshire. Two pollinator corridors have been identified in Rushcliffe. One of these run down from the city through Gotham, Between East and West Leake and towards Stanford on Soar and the other follows the Trent. It is envisaged that linking to this UK-wide initiative may help develop further projects that will help wild flower, meadow and invertebrate conservation. Further development of the concept and possible projects will be worked up.

NWT Nature Reserves

- During 2017 we have continued to implement a busy program of community engagement. This has included running several training courses, walks, talks and schools engagement.
- Work has continued on Wilwell Farm Cutting, Wilford Claypits and Bunny Wood nature reserves. Volunteer work party statistics are below:

Wilwell Farm Cutting

Date	Activity	Vol hours
Apr	Scrub control	17
Jun	Open Day	32
Jun	Survey	14
Jul	Grass maintenance	7
Jul	Grass maintenance	19
Jul	Grass maintenance and ragwort control	10
Aug	Grass maintenance	5
Sep	Coppicing	12
Sep	Grass maintenance	3
Nov	Coppicing willow regrowth in marsh area.	10
Nov	Bonfire	7
Nov	Brushcutting	5
Dec	Burn arisings	12
	Total	171

Wilford Claypits

Date	Activity	Vol hours
Mar17	Brushcutting	14
Mar17	Scrub work	8
Mar17	Path work	24
Apr17	Ladder board	24
Apr17	Path work	24
May17	Path work	32
May17	Scrub work	8
May17	Path work	24
Jun17	Damaged trees	32
Jun17	Brushcutting	12
Jul17	Ladder board	7
Jul17	Scrub work	12
	Total	221

Bunny Wood – currently awaiting statistics

- NWT has successfully raised funds through the co-op Local Community Fund for improvements at Skylarks and currently raising funds through this scheme for the *Pondemonium! Wilford's Wetland Wonders* project, to build a new pond and dipping platform at the Wilford Claypits Nature Reserve.
- The Wetland Landscapes for all project is funding a composting toilet and new education outbuilding/ open barn at Skylarks Nature Reserve

Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme BEVS

- We commenced delivery of a Badger edge vaccination scheme (BEVS) in the Rushcliffe Borough, to help to protect local livestock farmers. Under this 4-year program, 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 in 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.
- We have now engaged with a total of 45 landowners and know of over 50 setts within the scheme boundary.
- Throughout 2017, we continued to engage with landowners. We have overcome problems with sourcing the vaccine (which was unavailable due to global shortages) and have recommenced vaccination. During 2017, 20 setts were vaccinated. From these setts, a total of 27 badgers were vaccinated. These setts included those started in 2015, plus two new setts which are a subsidiary to a main sett started in 2015.
- DEFRA has confirmed the launch of "BEVS 2" which is due to commence in April 2018. If NWT's application to the fund is successful, a new project officer will be appointed to take forward the project in 2018.

Planning advice

- Between January and December Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust submitted 25 responses to 21 individual planning applications, out of a total of 38 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 (two Issues and Options consultations in relation to 'additional sites') and Neighborhood Plans (Keyworth and Radcliffe-on-Trent) during the reporting period.
- We provide advice to Nottinghamshire County Council on 'county matters' affecting the district, including a response on the Rempstone Well site.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust January 2018