



The Biodiversity Services SLA Between RBC and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)

Janice Bradley
Head of Conservation
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



Rushcliffe BC Service Level Agreement

- RBC and NWT have had formal SLA since at least 2008 (but we worked closely with RBC before this date for many years)
- The SLA allows dedicated NWT Officer time to engage communities with their local greenspaces and deliver practical activity on the ground for wildlife
- Outputs:
 - Increased public understanding of the natural environment (adults and children)
 - Increased public participation in conservation activities
 - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity on land owned by RBC, NWT, Parish Councils, community groups and farmers.



Protecting wildlife for the future

Rushcliffe BC Service Level Agreement



We deliver this by:

- **Working across NWT teams**
(Conservation Team led, with input from our Education and Reserves Teams)
- **The close relationship between RBC, NWT's South Notts Local Group and RNCSIG which is very helpful in working constructively , reaching out widely in the Borough and increasing our effectiveness.**
- **During recent years there has also been a very beneficial cross-over with the HLF-funded Skylarks Project , which has brought significant investment into the wildlife-rich greenspace of the Borough.**



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Targets



- Service 1: Complete site surveys, draft/ update management plans for sites within Rushcliffe and help implement plans
Support at least 4 sites
- Service 2: Provide Land Management Advice **At least 10 visits**
- Service 3: Support existing Friends Groups and establish new Friends Groups to become active and self-sustaining **Support 4 groups**
- Service 4: Deliver education days linking Rushcliffe Schools to Rushcliffe sites **At least 10 activities with 6 schools**
- Service 5: Increase participation in nature conservation activities in the borough through events and activities **At least 7 events**
- Service 6: Provide training **At least 3 training events**



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Sites

- F o Sharphill Wood
- F o The Hook
- F o Green Line
- F o Meadow Park
- F o Bingham Linear Park
- F o Gotham Nature Reserve
- F o Springdale Wood, East Bridgford
- East Bridgford Wildlife and Biodiversity Group
- Orston Millenium Trust
- Radcliffe on Trent Conservation Group
- Keyworth Nature Reserve
- Sutton Bonington Meadow and Copse
- Upper Saxondale Community Nature Reserve
- Notts Wildlife Trust Reserve groups (at Wilwell Cutting, Wilford Claypits, Skylarks, Bunny Wood)



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Sites



NEXT SUNDAY
friends of the green line



Can You Help?
Conservation Work Party
Sunday 5th November

Fancy a morning out in the fresh air with a bit of healthy exercise thrown in for free?

Come and join the Friends of the Green Line for some practical conservation work. We will be using loppers and scythes to clear scrub and tall vegetation, helping wildflowers to flourish.

NEXT SUNDAY Meet on the line **NEXT SUNDAY**
by Devonshire Road Bridge

We plan to work from 10am to 1pm
(or however long you can spare!)

Everyone is welcome, just make sure you wear suitable outdoor clothing and a pair of sturdy shoes or boots. If you'd like more information, visit our website below or give us a call.

www.greenlineconservation.com
Phone: Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust 0115 958 8242

Find us on Facebook

- Gresham Marsh (in development)
- Meadow Covert (aim to restart a group)
- FO Rushcliffe Country Park
- There are also many other sites where advice has been provided as a one-off ,or support is needed only every few year for particularly activities or a management plan review.



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Sites



- ❖ It is important to support Groups through attending some of their meetings, this is divided between RBC and NWT. It is intended that all groups receive a visit from an officer at least once per year e.g. for AGMs and, where possible, a volunteer work party.
- ❖ Development of constitutions and site management plans
- ❖ Specific advice as required
- ❖ Training provided for all groups e.g. first aid, risk assessment, fund raising, species identification, habitat management etc.
- ❖ Groups have access to the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Grant , for which they also receive advice and support to help them apply successfully



In 2017/18 we supported
6 work parties at the
Green Line



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Outputs (Service 1: site surveys, management plans)

2017 focussed on:

- Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds (advice)
- The Green Line – (implementation of management plan, i.e. work parties)
- The Hook (advice, Wetland Landscapes for All Project)
- Advice/ management plan updates:
 - Sharphill Wood
 - Meadow Covert
 - Sharphill Wood
 - Sheldon Field

❖ *Exceeded target to support at least 4 groups*



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



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



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

Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Outputs (Service 2: land management advice)

- Target of 10+ external (not NWT or RBC estate) site visits
- **Target exceeded (12 visits in 2017)**
- Often reactive
- Common themes are pony paddocks, meadow and pond creation
- 2017 included establishing links with Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Course and HMP Whatton, the latter has now had 3 visits.
- Cross over with other projects (e.g. Wilford Hill Cemetery, work funded by the City Council) and corporate work with St Gobain (Artex, Silver Seal mine in Bunny and East Leake)



Pond in need of restoration at Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Course, Autumn 2017



Progress to date (January 2018)



SLA Outputs (Service 3: support FoGs, establish new FoGs, Encourage the Groups to become self-sustaining)

- SLA requires support of 4 groups
- 2017 worked with
 - FO Cotgrave CP (education)
 - Green Line (admin support, committee meetings)
 - FO The Hook (education and delivery of habitat projects)
 - Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers (Amphibian survey, education)
- 2018 will have a focus on Gresham Marsh (pictured) - new group, work towards LNR designation



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Outputs (Service 4: deliver education days, linking Rushcliffe schools to Rushcliffe sites)



***Target – work with 6+ schools and provide at least 10 activity sessions
2017: 9 schools and 16 sessions***

- Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant School (Dewberry Hill)
- Cotgrave Candleby Lane School (Cotgrave CP)
- Lady Bay Primary School (The Hook)
- Rushcliffe Secondary School, West Bridgford (Skylarks)



Rushcliffe Watch
Group, Bug Hotel,
April 2017



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Outputs (Service 5: participation in nature conservation activities)

- **Target: Organise or participate in at least 7 public events**
- **Including SNLG programme, 35 public events in 2017**



- **Walks**
- **Reserve Open Days**
- **Moth trapping**
- **Summer Fetes**



NWT support at 'Lark in the Park'

- **Supported Rushcliffe Borough Council events included 'Lark in Park' and Sunday Funday**
- **Publicity – Cotgrave Forest Projects, Rushcliffe Swift Project, Promotion of RBC's new tree planting scheme, which will open in 2018**



Protecting wildlife for the future

SLA Outputs (Service 6 Provision of training)

- **Target – 3 training sessions delivered by NWT staff and/ or external trainers (1 group development and 2 technical/ professional skills)**
- ***9 delivered in 2017* (the additional ones were funded through the Skylarks HLF Project)**
- **2017 topics included willow harvesting, woodland management, riparian mammals, bees and hoverflies, aquatic macrophytes, pond dipping & pond management**



Botanical survey training
Skylarks



Protecting wildlife for the future

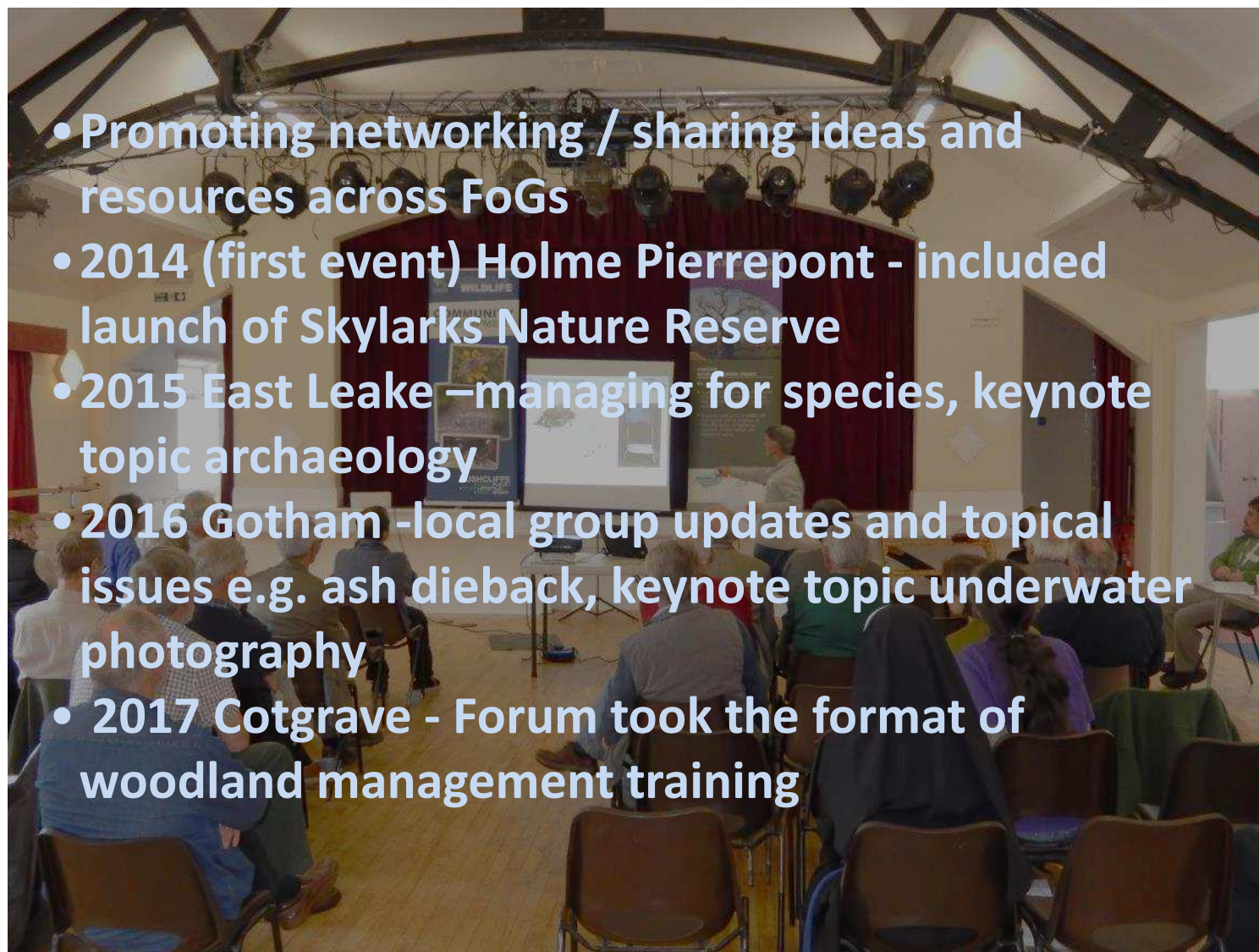
Provision of training -Annual volunteer forum event



Nottinghamshire



Rushcliffe
Borough Council



- Promoting networking / sharing ideas and resources across FoGs
- 2014 (first event) Holme Pierrepont - included launch of Skylarks Nature Reserve
- 2015 East Leake –managing for species, keynote topic archaeology
- 2016 Gotham -local group updates and topical issues e.g. ash dieback, keynote topic underwater photography
- 2017 Cotgrave - Forum took the format of woodland management training



Protecting wildlife for the future

Projects that deliver multiple outputs e.g. Cotgrave Forest

- Cotgrave Forest Focal Area – an important area of the Borough highlighted in the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Opportunity Map (BOM)
- Project delivered in a partnership between RBC, RNCSIG, Butterfly Conservation, Notts Biodiversity Action Group and NTU
- NWT organised the initial meeting between woodland owners /led a woodland management training session and moth trapping event for woodland owners
- 2018 focus for working with surrounding landowners to secure woodland / hedgerow planting and wildlife surveys



Nottinghamshire



Rushcliffe
Borough Council



Cotgrave Forest

OS OpenData: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2016



Purple Emperor



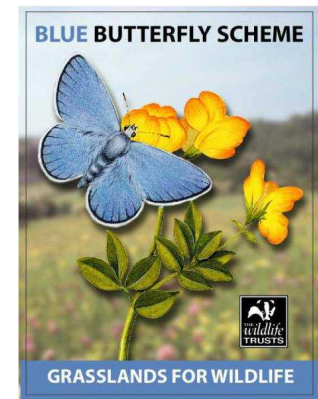
Woodland owner Derek Maynard (left) and Mike Hill (right)

Protecting wildlife for the future

Wider benefit to Rushcliffe of our partnership working (additional activity which supplements the SLA)



- Education –very successful Rushcliffe Watch Group based at Rushcliffe Country Park (won the 2017 UK Watch Group of the Year)
- Support of RNCSIG
- Blue Butterfly Project – at least 13 sites in Rushcliffe
- NWT Nature Reserves (171 volunteer hours at Wilwell Farm Cutting NR in 2017, 221 at Wilford Claypits NR)
- Planning advice
 - 25 responses to applications
 - Local Plan responses
 - Input into 2 neighbourhood plans
 - County Matters – minerals and waste, helping to protect the existing wildlife of the Borough such as the Barton Quarry application , restoration of East Leake Quarry etc.



Wider benefit to Rushcliffe of our partnership working (additional activity which supplements the SLA)



External Grant funding brought into Rushcliffe through partnership with NWT:

- “Skylarks Not a Blot on the Landscape “- Over £1m of external investment (2014-2018) into the habitats and informal recreational resource of the Borough – exceeded HLF’s targets for habitat creation, engagement, volunteering , education, involved local groups such as Scope, Chelsea Homes, Dementia Groups and Ashlea School.
- BEVS – Badger Vaccination against bTB - £118k from Defra over 4 years to work with farmers to protect cattle, badgers and the pastoral landscape in the south of the Borough from the impacts of bTB.



Protecting wildlife for the future

Wider benefit to Rushcliffe of our partnership working (additional activity which supplements the SLA)



External Grant funding brought into Rushcliffe through partnership with NWT:

Wetland Landscapes for All - £48k in 2017/2018 from the Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership for habitat creation and improved access to nature at the Hook LNR (new pond, cleared and re-shaped channel to improve water quality and habitats for water voles) and Skylarks (composting toilet, otter holt and early-mediaeval education structure).



Protecting wildlife for the future

Rushcliffe SLA

Thank you for listening, any questions?

Janice Bradley - jbradley@nottswt.co.uk

Ben Driver - bdriver@nottswt.co.uk



Key influences

- Weather conditions
- Adult energy sources
- Larval foodplants

No two species of butterfly have precisely the same habitat requirements. Numbers of each species vary year by year from the influence of a number of factors. Such variations are to be expected and are of no great concern. However, climate change in the long term or changes in habitat in the short term can result in either a more extreme increase or decrease in numbers, or even the total loss of an individual species.

Important habitats

To maintain the diversity of species and conserve or enhance overall numbers requires appropriate and sympathetic management of a mosaic of habitats which is where landowners and managers can help.

Working together

Conservation measures are likely to be effective if adopted by a woodland owner on an individual basis. Even better would be the joint cooperation between two, or among three or even four owners of adjacent parcels of woodland at their point of intersection.

Butterfly Conservation in Cotgrave Wood

Purple Emperor

This rare butterfly can usually be seen each year during mid-summer flying around the tops of oak trees and taking nectars from suitable sources along the public rides. Larval food plants are goat willow or sallow which can mainly be found in the southern half of the wood. Maintaining and encouraging sallow would benefit this species as well as softening woodland edges.

Silver-washed Fritillary and Dark-green Fritillary

Seen in mid-summer but often flying low and taking nectar from flowers, particularly bramble flowers along the edges of the bridleways. The larval food plant for both species is Dog Violet or Horn Violet which thrive where trees have been cleared. Breeding habitat for the two large Fritillaries relies on some open ground, kept permanently bare or allowing violets to be accessible to the butterflies.

White-letter Hairstreak

The adult sometimes feeds on composite (dandelion and daisy-like) flowers but spends most of its time flying or crawling around the higher branches where it may take honey-dew. The larval food-plant here is Wych Elm which was devastated by Dutch elm disease during the 1970s. Elm now occurs in several places adjacent to public bridleways and these examples appear to be free from the disease, possibly protected by their relative isolation. Retention and management of Wych Elm would help this species.



Protecting wildlife for the future