

**NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2021-25**  
**(DRAFT)**

**STRATEGIC AIM:**

To protect and enhance nature conservation in Rushcliffe, help mitigate the effects of climate change on wildlife and provide ready access to wildlife rich green spaces. There will be a particular emphasis on species-rich grassland, wetland and woodland habitats, and species characteristic of the Borough such as grizzled skipper, great crested newts and brown hare. This will be achieved through forming effective partnerships, brought together through the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG).

**OBJECTIVES:**

**1) Promote Landscape Scale Conservation to create a more resilient natural environment, by:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue using the Focal Areas identified in the Biodiversity Opportunity Matching Mapping exercise to target action for landscape scale nature conservation projects (Partners: RNCSIG, NWT, RBC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking opportunities for delivery of aspirational large-scale projects, with particular emphasis on improving connectivity across the landscape or catchments (Partners: RNCSIG, NWT, RBC, PCs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide advice and support to organisations whose land holdings or interests have a significant role in nature conservation in Rushcliffe. These might be private landowners, businesses, parish councils, friends groups and other organisations etc (Partners: NWT, RNCSIG, RBC, NCC, , CRT, NBAG, TVIDB)

**2) Promote the maintenance and enhancement of nature reserves, by:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking to ensure that all nature reserves have a current Management Plan (Partners: NWT, RBC, PCs, Friends Groups)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeking to ensure that all nature reserves have sufficient resources available to deliver the management plan and assist with provision of resources wherever possible. (Partners: NWT, RBC, PCs, Friends Groups)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encouraging local community involvement in the management of nature reserves (Partners: NWT, RBC, Friends Groups, PCs, TCV, SNG)
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**3) Promote sympathetic land management for wildlife in rural and urban areas, by:**

a.	The sympathetic protection and management of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) through provision of advice and/or signposting to useful resources. (Partners: NWT, NFaW, NFU, DEFRA, NBW, CLA, NE)
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b.	Encouraging farmers to develop sympathetic management practices and increase the take up of agri-environment schemes through provision of advice or signposting to useful resources. (Partners: NFaW, NWT, NFU, RuBOP, CLA, NE)
c.	Encouraging wildlife friendly management of buildings, corporate landscaping, public open space, school grounds and private gardens by provision of advice or signposting. Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, CRT, EA)
d.	Supporting programmes to benefit national priority species and habitats and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species and habitats (especially neutral and calcareous grasslands, native woodlands and wetlands) as appropriate (Partners: NWT, NBW, RBC, EA, NBAG, TVIDB)
e.	Promoting the management of the existing Notified Road Verges and work with partners to maintain existing habitat and create additional habitats alongside our transport corridors. (Partners: NCC, Via East Mids, Highways England, Network Rail, RBC, NWT, CRT)
f.	Trees and Woodland (to be developed)
g.	Water – Rivers and Canals (to be developed)

#### **4) Support monitoring of Rushcliffe's biodiversity, by:**

a.	Liaising with and working in closer partnership with NBGRC in relation to species monitoring and the Local Wildlife Site network (Partners: NWT, RBC, NCC, NBGRC, Friends)
b.	Promoting participation in species survey programmes, as well as encouraging local initiatives to record wildlife. (Partners: NBGRC, NWT, RBC, specialist wildlife groups), ensuring that records are submitted to the relevant recorders or groups
c.	Supporting the work of the Notts Biodiversity Action Group by promoting BAG activities and reporting against LBAP targets. (Partners: NWT, RBC, SNG, NCC, NBAG)

#### **5) Raise awareness of nature conservation issues by:**

a.	Publicising the work of partners and local nature conservation groups, as well as wildlife related issues through news releases and social media posts. (Partners: NWT, RBC, RCC, NBW, NCC, TCV, Friends Groups)
b.	Extending wildlife education opportunities by supporting youth wildlife groups and enhancing wildlife education programmes in schools, colleges and Adult Education. (Partners: NWT, RBC, NCC, educational providers, uniformed groups)
c.	Promoting contacts, exchange of knowledge and resource sharing amongst groups and organisations associated with nature conservation locally by running events such as the Conservation Volunteer's Forum. (Partners: RBC, NWT, SNG, NBAG, Friends Groups)
d.	Promoting access to wildlife and countryside, specifically promoting disabled access where appropriate by circulating promotional materials and maintaining relevant websites. (Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, SNG)

#### **6) Seek to influence the impact of development on wildlife, by:**

a.	Ensuring that local planning policies relating to biodiversity and environmental issues are based on the principles set out in the National Policy Planning Framework and national
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	best practice both in terms of protection and mitigation. (Partners: RBC, NWT, CPRE, NCC, NBAG, EA)
b.	Ensuring that opportunities are taken to benefit people and wildlife through the design of buildings and green infra-structure and seek to implement Natural England's ANGSt standards and national best practice. (Partners: RBC, NCC, CPRE, CLA, NFU, NE)
c.	Using Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders to help protect important features. (Partners: RBC, NCC, NWT, CPRE)
d.	Implementing policies to reduce levels of environmental pollution; seek to achieve good ecological status for rivers; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change. (Partners: RBC, Catchment partners, NCC, EA, CPRE, NWT, TVIDB)
e.	Seeking to influence Regional, National and European decision making to promote wildlife friendly policies by commenting on relevant consultations. (Partners: NCC, RBC, NE, NWT, CPRE, EA, NDLNP, TRT)
f.	Promoting the use of native local provenance planting by signposting to current best practice guidelines (Partners : RBC, NCC, NWT)

**7) Supporting the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, by:**

a.	Continued support for the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG) in helping deliver the strategy's objectives. (Partners: RBC, NWT, NBAG, Friends Groups)
b.	Producing an annual report on what has been achieved to progress nature conservation in Rushcliffe and the deficiencies that need to be addressed. (Partners: RNCSIG)
c.	Reviewing the strategy during 2025, or sooner if appropriate. (Partners: RNCSIG)