



Rushcliffe  
Borough Council



Rushcliffe Borough Council

# Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy

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**RUSHCLIFFE - GREAT PLACE • GREAT LIFESTYLE • GREAT SPORT**



# Pledge for Nature

- On 28 September, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the UK, signed the Leaders Pledge for Nature, at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity along with 64 other countries, seeking to reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030.
- The pledge states: “We are in a state of planetary emergency: the interdependent crises of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and climate change”





# Rushcliffe Today

- Rushcliffe has a wealth of nature conservation sites
- 8 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - 226 Local Wildlife Sites (1,889 hectares)
  - 6 Local Nature Reserves
  - 39 sites managed as nature reserves (453 hectares)
  - 7 Ancient Woodlands



# Achievements of 2015-20 Strategy

- **Active management commenced at Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds in Ratcliffe on Trent**
- **Grassland sites scrub control provided by remote mower hire**
- **Establishment of Tree Wardens in Rushcliffe and supply of 5329 free trees to the public and 363 trees to parishes and communities by 2019, further trees to be provided in 2020**
- **Increase in nature conservation volunteering to 12,591 hours in 2018 (8,378 hours in 2014 up from 3,138 hours in 2004)**
- **23 projects supported with RBC grants between 2015 and 2020**
- **Barn Owl (an indicator of a healthy environment) population growth – 126 chicks ringed in 2019 (4 in 2000 and 47 in 2015)**



# Proposed Strategic Aim 2021-2025

*“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)”*





# Proposed Objectives 2021-2025

- 1. Promote Landscape Scale Conservation to create a more resilient natural environment**
- 2. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of nature reserves**
- 3. Promote sympathetic land management for wildlife in rural and urban areas**
- 4. Support monitoring of Rushcliffe's biodiversity**
- 5. Raise awareness of nature conservation issues**
- 6. Seek to influence the impact of development on wildlife**



# Woodland & Trees

- Promote appropriate new woodland planting and or/ regeneration (particularly linked to existing woods)
- Develop tree-planting schemes, carbon offset schemes & Community Orchards
- Promote sympathetic woodland management
- Use tree preservation orders for threatened valuable trees
- Enable tree wardens to protect and enhance tree cover
- Target of 20 hectares of new woodland (30,000 trees)
- Encourage use of locally sourced native trees



# Species-rich grassland on roadsides

- Rushcliffe Borough Council resolved to ask Scrutiny to review the feasibility of sowing native wild flower seeds along the grassed areas that it manages and put forwards recommendations to the Cabinet.”







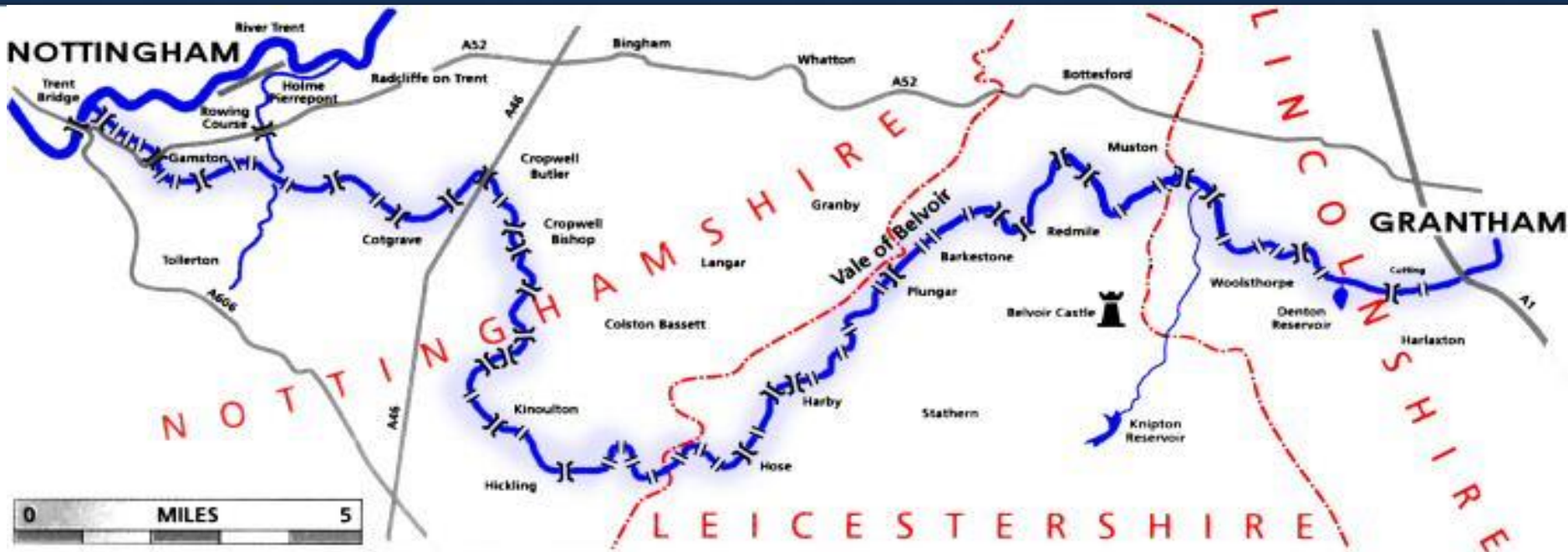
# Species-rich grassland on roadsides

- The strategy group (RNCSIG) supports enhanced management and extension of Notified Road Verges
- The group has concerns about the risk of introducing non local species / sub species seed, especially in rural areas and on sensitive wildlife sites
- The group is in dialogue with Highways England and Nottinghamshire Highways to manage important verges appropriately





# Grantham Canal





# Grantham Canal

- Water supply issues have led to sections becoming dry and regular wildlife health concerns
- The Canal and River trust state: “Unfortunately there are no quick wins, no alternative supplies of water that can be easily tapped into, ... a solution may be some years away”
- The strategy 2016 -20 states “we will: Liaise over the future redevelopment of the Grantham Canal and its surroundings” and “We will seek to: Protect and enhance the Grantham Canal”



# Biodiversity Net Gain

## BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW





# Biodiversity Net Gain

- Biodiversity Net Gain is a development process, that is implemented and monitored through the local planning process
- It requires development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before...where developers work with local governments and stakeholders to support their priorities for nature conservation
- It sets measurable target for development projects where impacts on biodiversity are avoided and then minimised through restoration and / or compensation
- It requires management in the long term (25+ years)



# Next Stages

- Discussion, questions and comments from Communities Scrutiny Group
- Wider partner and public consultation
- Final draft of strategy produced by end of 2020
- Report back to council in early 2021 for adoption by the council
- Implementation through RNCSIG partners