

Action for Biodiversity

Nottinghamshire's Biodiversity Action Plan contains a number of actions that apply across all habitats and species. An important area of work for partners is education and increasing public awareness.

- English Nature's Wildspace! grant has enabled the employment of Community Liaison Officers in parts of the county who work to set up voluntary groups, involving local people in both the development and management of new Local Nature Reserves as well as running events and creating interpretative material for the sites.
- Greenwood Community Forest runs a programme of events and environmental activities for schools and communities.
- Nottinghamshire County Council's 'Living for Tomorrow' magazine, produced by the Sustainability Team has featured a number of articles on Biodiversity.
- Nottinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes plays an important role in raising awareness of biodiversity.



BAG species surveys

Annual species surveys engage the public in recording biological data. The 2003 primrose and cowslip survey was a great success, resulting in over 400 records. Thanks to NBGRC at Wollaton Hall for managing the data and to all those who returned survey cards.

Action for Wildlife grant scheme

Administered by BAG and funded primarily by English Nature, the scheme has assisted a number of community and school wildlife projects that benefit LBAP listed species and habitats. Recipients of funds totalling almost £18,500 include Groundwork Ashfield and Mansfield for environmental outreach work, Newstead Abbey for creation of a Field Study Area, and South Nottinghamshire Bat Group for the South Notts Waterways Bat Box Scheme.

The Future

There are still numerous barriers preventing delivery of action. Securing funding for LBAP co-ordination remains a recurring problem, as does the general tracking of progress due to both the lack of baseline habitat and species information and the limited submission of target updates from active partners. We hope that the introduction of the Biodiversity Action Reporting Systems (BARS) will make this task substantially easier for all involved.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) work has also progressed towards agreeing criteria on locally designated sites for birds and amphibians. There are also a number of exciting large-scale projects underway that will deliver real improvements towards habitat targets in the years to come, eg RSPB's Langford Lowfields and Beckingham Marshes projects.

Nottinghamshire biodiversity action plan

Together for wildlife



Report for 2001-2004

BAG partners

Ashfield District Council	National Farmers' Union
Bassetlaw District Council	National Trust
Bestwood Country Park	Naturescape
Birklands Ringing Group	Newark & Sherwood DC
British Waterways (East Mids)	North Notts Ringing Group
Broxtowe Borough Council	Nottingham City Council
BTCV	Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers
Butterfly Conservation	Nottingham Trent University
Center Parcs	Nottinghamshire Bat Groups
Country Landowners Association	Nottinghamshire County Council
Countryside Agency	Notts Fed. of Women's Institutes
English Nature	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency	OnTrent
Forest Enterprise	RSPB
DEFRA	Rufford Country Park
Friends of Moor Pond Wood	Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project
FWAG	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council	Rushcliffe Country Park
Greenwood Community Forest	Severn Trent Water
Groundwork Ashfield and Mansfield	Sherwood Forest Trust
Groundwork Creswell	Sherwood Forest Community Rangers
Groundwork Greater Nottingham	Sherwood Forest Country Park
Groundwork Newark and Sherwood	South Notts Ringing Group
Mansfield District Council	Sustainable Agronomy
NBGRC	Sustrans
National Biodiversity Network	Trent Rivers Trust

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all those individuals and organisations who have aided the implementation of the Nottinghamshire BAP since its launch in 1998. Particular thanks are due to those partners who have reported on their actions each year, without whom, this report would not have been possible.

Contact

For more information on Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group Partnership, visit the website at: www.nottsbag.org.uk

Or contact

Lianne Evans, Biodiversity Officer, c/o Conservation
Notts County Council, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 6BJ

Tel: **0115 9774213**
Email: Biodiversity@nottscc.gov.uk

"Biodiversity - the great variety of life on earth - is recognised by the UK Government as one of the key indicators of quality of life and sustainable development. A healthy environment, rich in wildlife, is essential to supporting and enriching human life."



Introduction from the Steering Group

Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) has grown substantially from the eight founding partners in 1998 to over 50 today, making it one of the largest and most active Biodiversity Partnerships in England. It aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the county.

The local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) process, an offshoot of the national Plan covering rare and threatened habitats and species was launched in 1997 followed by 'Action for Wildlife in Nottinghamshire: Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire', published in 1998.

Regional, county and local development plans now include policies that safeguard our natural environment. The new planning document, Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands, contains habitat maintenance and creation targets that, for the first time, bear statutory weight in the planning system.

Substantial progress has already been made. However, whilst habitat creation projects cover thousands of hectares across the county, a recent survey has highlighted continuing loss and degradation of high-quality habitat, particularly grassland.

The partnership continues to be a successful forum for the exchange of information, development of new Habitat and Species Action Plans, and as a focus for nature conservation efforts. This document highlights some of the many successes of the BAG over the past three years, demonstrating the great potential of partnership and cooperation. We hope it inspires you to get involved.

Nick Tribe - On behalf of the NBAG Steering Group

Action For Wildlife

Species

Atlantic salmon

- Trent Rivers Trust salmon restocking programme (funded by Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency and private donations) releases salmon parr annually into the River Dove. Signs indicate re-colonisation where water quality is good enough and in November 2003, salmon were confirmed for the first time in the River Idle.

Barn owl

- BAG Partners have erected hundreds of nesting boxes across the county to encourage breeding, including over 100 which are monitored by Barn Owl Projects in Rushcliffe and Broxtowe.
- 2003-2004: Birklands Ringing Group provided advice and support to enable landowners to create areas of rough grassland in field margins to encourage small mammals - a vital source of food for barn owls.

Bats

- English Nature's Volunteer Bat Warden Scheme provides advice to owners of roost sites, landowners and businesses.
- The Nottinghamshire Bat Groups are consistently engaged in education activity for all ages.

Grizzled skipper and dingy skipper

- 2003-2004: Butterfly Conservation volunteers carried out a countywide survey. There are now less than 10 sites for each species in the county and much of the remaining habitat is vulnerable to development and scrub encroachment.
- Rushcliffe Borough Council declared Bingham Linear Park, a site that supports grizzled skippers, as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in September 2004. The site was opened by prof. David Bellamy.

Native crayfish

- 2002: International Crayfish Conference in Nottingham published and distributed its Proceedings. Thereafter, the Environment Agency's Midlands Region produced the leaflet "The Crayfish Code - Protecting Native Crayfish in the Midlands."

Nightjar

- The Sherwood Area is of international importance for this European Protected Species. Birklands Ringing Group and Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers took part in the 2004 national survey. County results show increases in Nightjar breeding success.

Otter and water vole

- 2003-2004: Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's riparian mammal survey suggests water voles have declined in range whilst otters increased, as have mink, which are exacerbating the decline in water voles caused by habitat destruction and poor management.
- 2000-2002: the National Otter Survey, funded by the Environment Agency, revealed a large increase in sites on the Trent showing signs of otters, representing probably the greatest success story for otters in Britain in recent years.

Habitats

Woodlands

Mixed ash-dominated woodland

- Mansfield District Council, British Waterways and the Forestry Commission have supported several projects in the county towards enhancing this important habitat.

Oak birch-woodland

- 2002: Sherwood Forest Country Park received National Nature Reserve status reflecting the international importance of the site.

Lowland wood pasture and parkland

- Forest Enterprise's Birklands Oakwood Project has involved the felling of plantation pines, planting of native oaks, and a survey of ancient trees.
- 2002-2003: English Nature produced an inventory of wood pasture and parkland sites in the East Midlands.

Wet woodland

- English Nature notified Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [316 ha] as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), safeguarding large areas of wet woodland that are found on the site.

Grassland

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with the county's Local Authorities has developed the Blue Butterfly Scheme, which aims to encourage management of grassland to benefit wildlife and people.

Lowland calcareous grassland

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust introduced grazing of their 'flying flock' of Hebridean sheep at many grassland sites in the county.
- Nottingham City Council designated Bulwell Hall Meadows as a LNR and established a number of demonstration sites to show good grassland management.



Lowland dry acid grassland

- Nottingham City Council designated Sunrise Hill as a LNR.
- English Nature notified Besthorpe Warren as a SSSI.

Farmland

- 2002: DEFRA reported that 4273 meters of hedgerow were brought into environmental stewardship, of which 880m was for restoration work and 3393m for enhancement.

Waterways and wetlands

Rivers and streams

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Mansfield District Council have worked together to declare four sites along the Rivers Maun and Meden as LNRs.
- 2002: OnTrent carried out the OnTrent baseline survey, funded by DEFRA.

Canals

- BTCV, funded by Broxtowe Borough Council, carried out management work on Nottingham Canal LNR.

Fens, swamps and marshes

- Sherwood Forest Community Rangers have carried out wetland enhancement projects at various sites, involving local schools.
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust made progress with efforts to re-create fen habitat at Misson Carr SSSI.

Eutrophic and mesotrophic standing waters

- 2002: Environment Agency, Nottingham City Council and BTCV joined together to restore the upper lake at Bulwell Hall Park, which had suffered a one metre thick build up of silt.
- 2004: Environment Agency and British Waterways recreated Redbridge pond.

Reedbeds

- 10 ha reedbed creation project at Attenborough Nature Reserve began in 2000 with funding from the Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and CEMEX, formerly RMC.

Lowland heathland

Great progress continues towards meeting LBAP targets for one of the most threatened habitats in the county.

- Over 30 individual projects now form part of the Sherwood Initiative Area Partnership Scheme, starting June 2002, to restore and recreate Sherwood Habitats including heathland. Heathland restoration and creation work is ongoing at over 20 sites.
- The Sherwood Forest Trust's Sustainable Landscape Project Officer, supported by Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund, provides advice and training to landowners on habitat management, restoration and re-creation.
- BTCV regularly work on a number of heathland sites for creating heather scrapes, scrub removal and heather sowing.

