

AREA 8 COMMITTEE - 13th February 2013

Title of paper:	“Connecting Wild Clifton” – Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	John Kelly, Corporate Director, Communities	Wards affected: Wollaton West
Report author(s) and contact details:	Eddie Curry, Head of Parks & Open Spaces 015 876 4982 James Dymond, Parks Development Manager 0115 876 4983 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust 0115 958 842	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
The report summarises Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust’s (NWT) proposals for management of the nature reserves at Clifton Woods.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That the Committee supports the proposals.	

1. BACKGROUND

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has secured an initial conditional offer of almost £50,000 of funding towards a £70,000 project to improve the biodiversity (wildlife habitat) of 6 nature reserves across the Clifton area, aiming to improve the wildlife of Clifton as a whole.

The total funding for this work, which is subject to final confirmation, will be a mixture from Biffa Award, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and support from the Wildlife in the City Lottery funding.

The 6 nature reserves form a network from the east of Clifton village to the west of Clifton Estate, and include a substantial amount of woodland, as well as wetland habitat (notably Holme Pit and Fairham Brook).

This biodiversity improvement project will run alongside the Wildlife in the City project, which has been active on many of these sites since 2010 – meaning that each site will receive the habitat improvements from the Biffa Award funding, as well as additional improvements from the Wildlife in the City Lottery funding. Although Wildlife in the City’s

current funding ends in September 2013, Connecting Wildlife Clifton will be ongoing until summer 2014.

Appendix A is a map of the sites included.

The Project

“Connecting Wild Clifton” has 2 biodiversity targets:

- **To maintain and improve Clifton’s deciduous woodland.**
- **To enhance the condition of Holme Pit SSSI including its reedbed and fen habitats.**

This will be achieved by:

- Thinning woodland areas (felling a variety of trees). The gaps created by felling individual or small groups of trees encourages new trees to grow, thus starting a new cycle, promoting a healthy woodland with a greater mix of ages and woodland structure. This makes for a healthier woodland that can be home to a greater diversity of wildlife. Approximately £17,000 of the total project costs are allocated for woodland thinning work.
- Removing ‘invasive’ tree species – such as sycamore. These can dominate a woodland, reducing its value for wildlife making it more difficult for other species to grow and be healthy. Sycamore can also make woodland less attractive for visitors as it creates a lot of shade and provides less interest than a mixture of trees would do.
- Both the above actions will increase light onto the woodland floor – encouraging woodland wildflowers.
- We will plant a range of native tree species in Breck’s and Glapton. These will be in line with suitability of the sites – we will include trees that introduce more colour and berries at Breck’s, and plant trees to support the regeneration of the mixed oak woodland at Glapton. Over £3,000 of the total project cost is allocated for tree planting.
- Planting wildflower seeds and plugs, bring in colour and interest and a valuable source of nectar for butterflies and insects.
- Creating log piles, ‘Dead’ hedges and features across Clifton Wood and Clifton Grove. Deadwood is an important woodland wildlife habitat and this can be maximised by being left in this manner.
- A boundary hedge at Breck’s Plantation will be laid in the traditional method, prolonging the life of the hedge.
- A secure access track will be carefully created to allow forestry vehicle access into woodland sites near Clifton Hall – allowing future management tasks of the wood to take place.
- Fish refuges will be installed at Holme Pit to improve fish habitat and improve water quality.
- Reeds will be cut, as per ideal best practice reedbed management – promoting a cycle of growth.
- Trees taking over the wetland habitats (where wetland habitat is prioritised) will be removed.

In addition, Wildlife in the City will improve other features on the sites:

- Fencing will be installed, and a new hedge planted alongside on the east boundary of Glapton (Whitegate) Wood.
- Wood carvings of a nature theme in some of the more mature trees that have needed to be felled.
- Nest boxes will be made and installed on Breck’s Plantation and Glapton (Whitegate) Wood.

- Continue working on the 'wildfruit allotment' at The Glade adjoining Breck's Plantation.
- Footpath surfaces will be improved at Glapton (Whitegate) Wood and Breck's Plantation.

The project will start work on all sites, but there will be a focus on Glapton (Whitegate Wood) and Breck's Plantation initially.

All woodland work will take place in the autumn and winter months (late September to early March) to avoid disturbing breeding birds, so you may see some of activity during February 2013!

How You Can Get Involved

- Volunteer!
- Get your school/group involved – plant some trees, plants, or make nest boxes
- Come to training sessions!
- Make recommendations on future planting

We are keen to hear thoughts and ideas from the local community on all aspects of this work. We are particularly keen for the local community to help us decide where paths can be improved, what the wood carvings should be, where particular features are known on each site and more.

Contacts:

Wildlife in the City Project Officer, Lucy Kennedy
lkennedy@nottswt.co.uk 0115 958 8242

Southern Reserves Officer (covering all Clifton sites), Chris Kennedy
ckennedy@nottswt.co.uk 0115 958 8242

Development Officer, Leon Hayward
lhayward@nottswt.co.uk 0115 958 8242

Development Assistant, Suzie Rees
srees@nottswt.co.uk 0115 958 8242

Notes

Biffa Award is a multi-million pound fund which awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. The fund's money comes from landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services.

Wildlife in the City is a 3 year partnership initiative between Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Nottingham City Council. The project is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

To improve the biodiversity of the sites in line with the Council's "Ambitious for Wildlife" biodiversity statement.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

NWT has secured an initial conditional offer of almost £50,000 of funding towards the £70,000 project.

The total funding for this work, which is subject to final confirmation, will be a mixture from Biffa Award, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and support from the Wildlife in the City Lottery funding.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

None.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

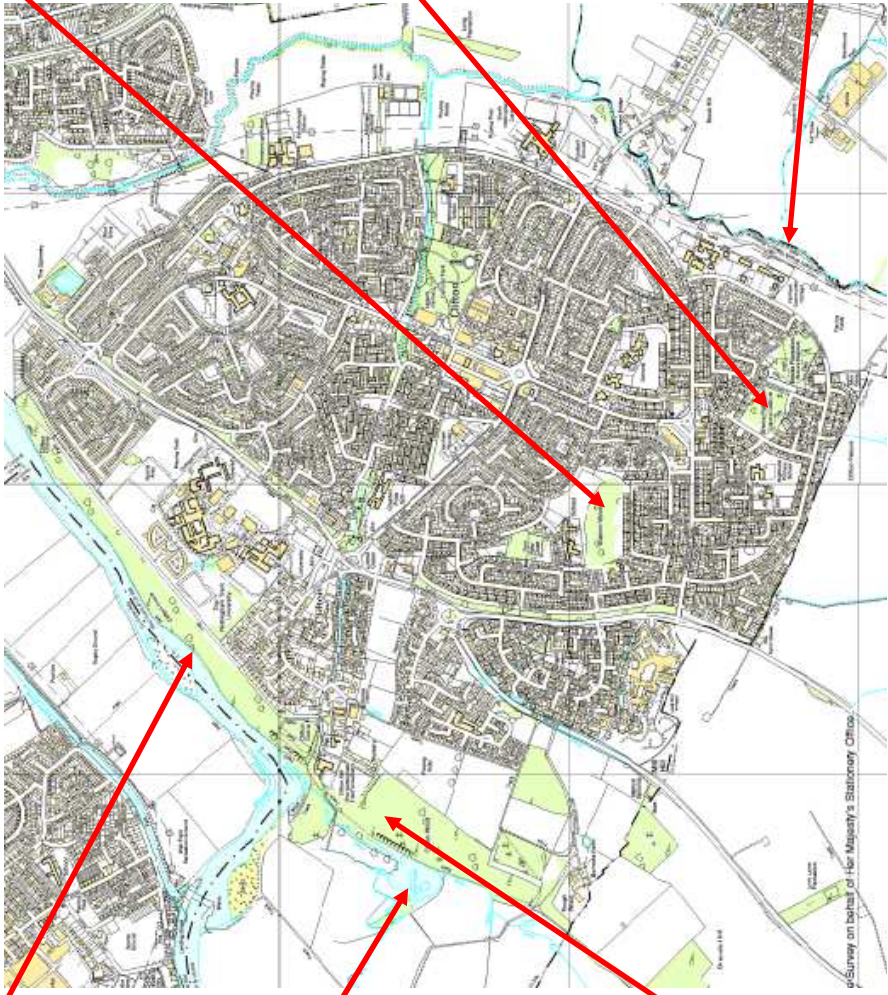
None.

Appendix A: Site Locations

Clifton Grove
 Clifton Grove is a linear site which runs parallel to the River Trent for just over a mile. The site comprises of a semi ancient wooded escarpment, plantations, a small seasonally wet area and a narrow strip of un-diverse grassland.

Holme Pit SSSI
 (Site of Special Scientific Interest)
 This pond, reedbed and associated wet woodlands sits in the Trent Valley at the base of the Clifton Wood escarpment. The site boasts some of the best marsh, reed swamp and reedbed in the county, and excellent invertebrate communities

Clifton Woods
 Clifton Woods includes a variety of features: a wooded escarpment and dry pond at the southern end, ornamental and veteran trees near Clifton Hall, a larch plantation, and an area dominated by ash, beech and hornbeam to the east and south of the escarpment.



Glapton Woods
 Glapton (Whitegate) Wood is a mixed urban woodland, dominated by oak standards with an understory of predominantly elder and hawthorn. Situated on the southern edge of the site is an interesting area of grassland, which supports a number of herbs and grasses including false oat grass, Yorkshire fog grass, agrimony, and black knapweed and ox-eye daisy.

Breck's Plantation
 The plantation is mostly enclosed by a loose hawthorn and elder hedge, although one section is largely composed of hazel. Within the wood there is a mixture of oak, ash, sycamore, larch, Norway spruce, silver birch, blackthorn, elder and a few other species. The woodland is a valuable area for the range of common plants and animals and is popular with local residents.

Fairham Brook
 The nature reserve includes the left bank of the northward-flowing Fairham Brook and is relict lowland fen bog. The site is made up of grassland and scrub.