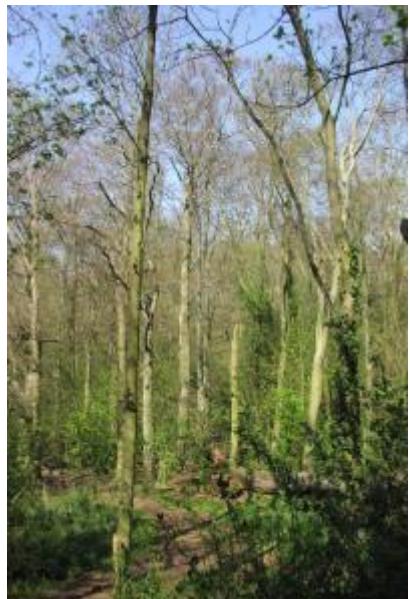


Trees in Rushcliffe

Rushcliffe has seven ancient woodlands that have existed since at least 1600 AD but woodland covers only 5.75sq km (1.04%) of Rushcliffe, so all the trees we have are important.



The reason for the low woodland cover in Rushcliffe, is partly due to its fertile soils and its high value for agriculture, having often been cleared 1000's of years ago. The historic land use has led to the development of important ecological resources being more concentrated on wetland, grassland, hedgerow and agricultural habitats, these resources can be valuable in their own right and it would be inappropriate to replace them with woodland. Rushcliffe is typically regarded as a 'green' borough, but this is largely due to habitats other than woodland.

Within Rushcliffe woodland and trees are more common within the Nottinghamshire Wolds area, on ridge lines e.g. between Kingston on Soar, Gotham and Bunny and East Bridgford to Flintham, and the area between Radcliffe on Trent to Cotgrave Forest.

In other areas of the borough, large scale tree planting could be detrimental to local landscape character and due to the lower density of existing woodland provide lower ecological gain.

Outside of these areas, tree planting would be best limited to trees within hedgerows, field corners, along riparian and highway corridors and around the periphery of settlements, if important ecological habitats do not already exist.

Trees benefit both people and the environment – they provide homes for wildlife, help to absorb pollution and reduce breathing-related health problems and produce fuel and wood products. Trees also play an important role in counteracting climate change by providing a barrier to strong winds, helping to reduce flooding and preventing soil erosion.

Sources of Funding

If you are looking to carry out tree management or planting, you may find these sources of funding of help.

The Woodland Trust provides free tree packs for community groups and schools. They also operate MOREwoods, a UK-wide scheme which provides financial and practical woodland creation support. Please see the [Woodland Trust website](#) for more details.

The Forestry Commission operate the woodland elements of the Countryside Stewardship grant scheme for larger farm based woodlands. Please see the [Forestry Commission Countryside Stewardship webpage](#) for more details.

The Tree Council also provides grants and advice, see their [webpages](#) for details.

The [Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grant](#) may also be able to help, small schemes that benefit wildlife and are not eligible for other support. Our [Nature funding handout 2015](#) may also be of help

What Rushcliffe is doing

Rushcliffe Borough Council has agreed to a package of measures to prioritise tree planting and protection.

The council is establishing a free tree scheme for 2018, applications for residents of Rushcliffe to apply for up to 2 free trees will be accepted via our Surveymonkey form from June 2018. The trees will be issued from stalls around the borough in November. Please apply at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DHFQSLK>

We are also supplying (and if required) planting up to 10 trees on land with owner permission identified by Parish Councils in the Autumn / Winter 2018/19. Parish Council's have been notified of this.

A Tree Warden scheme will also be established (see <https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Tree-Wardens>). Wardens will be nominated by Parish Councils and the Local Area Forums. Further information will be forthcoming as the schemes are developed.

What you can do

You can help promote and protect trees in your community

You can plant a tree on your own land (see Sources of Funding section above and our [Landscaping and tree planting](#) pages for help)

You can apply for up to two free trees to plant in Rushcliffe online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DHFQSLK>

You can become a Tree Warden - talk to your parish council or local area forum

You can talk to your County or Borough Councillor about where trees should be planted or to report trees at risk (see [Your representatives](#))

You can join a group that helps protect trees (see [Community involvement](#))

You can see where the oldest and most important trees are found and record any missing at <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>