

Where are SINCs?

If you want to find out if you have a SINC on your land, or to see where the nearest one is to you, you can view a county-wide map of all SINCs by logging onto:

<http://www.nomadplus.org.uk/maps.asp> and selecting 'online maps' and then clicking on the 'environmental' box. Alternatively, you can contact the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre at the address below;

NBGR, Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, NG8 2AE

Tel: 0115 915 3909

Email: nbgrc@ncmg.org.uk

Web: <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/sitemap/services/environment/nbgrc.htm>

In Nottinghamshire, important geological and geomorphological sites are also assessed and protected through the SINC system, and nationally, their importance is recognised in PPS9. Information on geological sites can also be obtained from the NBGR.



SINC management advice

The following organisations can provide advice on the protection and management of SINCs:

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust:

The Old Ragged School, Brook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EA.

Tel: 0115 958 8242

Email: info@nottswt.co.uk

web: <http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/nottinghamshire/>

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group:

Nottinghamshire FWAG, Brackenhurst College, Southwell NG25 0QF

Tel: 01636 816 808

Email: nottingham@fwag.org.uk

web: http://www.fwag.org.uk/contact_fav267.htm

Sherwood Forest Trust:

1-3 Diamond Avenue, Kirby-in-Ashfield NG17 7GN

Tel: 01623 758 231

Email: sherwoodtrust.en@nottscc.gov.uk

web: <http://www.sherwoodforest.org.uk/>

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Eakring Meadow; Common Darter; Common Lizard (Scott Tilley); Sand Martins (John Smith)



Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Nottinghamshire



What are SINCs?



Helping to protect wildlife and its habitats



What are SINC's?

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) are places that are of at least county-level importance for the wildlife they hold. Nottinghamshire's SINC's are home to many rare and scarce species, and some are the last fragments of habitats that were once widespread and typical of the Nottinghamshire landscape. Collectively, they form an essential network of corridors and 'stepping stones', allowing the migration and dispersal of species. The survival of these sites is vital to safeguard our wildlife from the pressures of development, agricultural change and climate change.

Sites of importance for wildlife have been identified and protected across the county since 1991 as a result of hard work by many partners, including the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England (formerly English Nature). Similar designations are used throughout the UK, although the exact name varies between counties – recently, the term 'Local Wildlife Site' was introduced in national guidance (Defra 2006 - Local Sites: Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management) to cover all such designations.



How SINC's are selected

A group of local experts (including individual naturalists and representatives from a range of organisations) with a detailed knowledge of the flora and fauna of Nottinghamshire, called the SINC Panel, researches and produces criteria and thresholds for designating SINC's. Once criteria have been agreed and adopted, the NBGRC then applies them to sites, designating new SINC's where the relevant thresholds are reached.

There are currently just over 1300 SINC's in Nottinghamshire, covering around 7% of the county. Most are notified for their botanical importance, but new sites are now being selected because of their importance for a range of zoological groups, including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.



Helping to protect wildlife and its habitats



Planning and land management

Site boundaries and the reasons for site designations are provided to local authorities so that these important wildlife sites can be taken into account in the planning system, as required by national planning policy (Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, in which they are referred to as 'local sites').

Farmers and land managers also have a very important role to play in conserving these sites. Most SINC's are in private ownership and their long-term survival depends upon the interest and goodwill of their managers and owners. Most of our valuable grassland and heathland habitats have developed through decades, or even centuries, of traditional land management, but many are now threatened by more intensive farming practices, changes in the agricultural economy, or simply through neglect.

If you are a farmer, the presence of a SINC on your land (or rather, the habitat type it represents) may help you to gain points under the Entry Level Scheme of Environmental Stewardship; for example species-rich permanent grassland can be entered for the EK3 and EK4 options. Similarly, the presence of a SINC may be taken into account when applications for Higher Level Schemes are assessed. Larger woodland SINC's are eligible for management under the England Woodland Grant Scheme. Advice on managing your SINC's and eligibility for Environmental Stewardship Schemes can be obtained from a number of organisations (see contacts below).

