

Species of Conservation Concern

When it was first published in 1998, Nottinghamshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), 'Action for Wildlife' contained a list of Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC). At that time, the SoCC list covered not only those species which were already rare, but also commoner species which should be prevented from becoming rarer in the future, and which gave Nottinghamshire its own special character.

Recognising that the original SoCC list was approaching 20 years old, and update of the Nottinghamshire SoCC list was carried out in 2016. This recognised that the conservation status of a number of species had changed, new information about the status of certain species had become available, and that the previous national conservation framework, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, had become obsolete, being replaced by Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, which lists 'species of principal importance for conservation in England' (so-called Section 41 species, or Species of Principal Importance).

In addition, a slightly different approach was taken to the selection of SoCC species, with commoner species generally omitted, recognising that resources for conservation are limited. This does not negate the fact, however, that the status of species needs to be continually monitored, so that action to prevent declines can be taken where necessary. Now, for a species to be included in the Nottinghamshire SoCC list, it needs to meet one of the following criteria:

1. *Be listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) as a 'species of principal importance for conservation in England' (a so-called Section 41 species or Species of Principal Importance)*
2. *Be listed on a national Red List (i.e. meeting one of the IUCN 'Threatened' categories: Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable)*
3. *Be identified as a Nationally Rare or Nationally Scarce species (i.e. not included within the IUCN threat categories and thought to occur in fewer than 100 hectads nationally - formerly termed "Nationally Notable"), or otherwise listed as a species of conservation concern at a national level.*

4. *Be a species of recognised county rarity/scarcity; one that has experienced significant county decline (as established by local data or adjudged by expert opinion); one for which Nottinghamshire holds a significant proportion of the national population; or one that is considered to be otherwise particularly vulnerable.*

In addition, a species should have been recorded since 2000 to qualify for inclusion on the SoCC list, unless a case can be made for using older records.

Having applied these criteria, the following list details those species occurring in Nottinghamshire which are considered to be Species of Conservation Concern. It should be noted that whilst the application of the criteria has been applied as widely as possible, several species groups have been omitted due to an absence of local data and/or local specialist.

Based on these criteria, a total of **1,284** species are currently listed as Species of Conservation Concern in Nottinghamshire.