

## **RED RIVER LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

### **Quarter 2 July to end September 2025.**

#### **General background aims and objectives.**

The aim is to work in partnership with the Friends of Red River community group to deliver an annual work programme, agreed with Heanor and Loscoe Town Council representatives, on the Red River Local Nature Reserve at Loscoe.

The intention is to improve the site for the benefit of the local community by ensuring public access, and to manage, maintain and develop the site to improve habitats and encourage biodiversity of species. The Local Nature Reserve is home to a variety of both local and visiting wildlife. Regular wildlife recording visits are made to record the changing wildlife throughout the seasons.

Additional funding will be sought to deliver a selection of environmental events, activities, and guided walks to ensure ongoing public interest and involvement.

#### **Summary of Volunteer Practical Tasks, Events and Wildlife Recording Visits**

From July to end of September 2025 Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) and the Friends of Red River have carried out 4 conservation tasks and 2 extra site visits to check levels of water. These have been very well attended with 12 individuals taking part and 17 volunteer days carried out. Wildlife records have also been collected. Groundwork staff have continued work on an updated Management Plan for the site.

We have followed up the application regarding deepening the pond submitted by Friends of Red River on 30 June 2025 to NeighbourGOOD Severn Trent Funding. Liaison regarding licenses, quotes etc and other funding possibilities with the Town Clerk has resulted in funding being secured – see more detail in report.

#### **Conservation Task Day Details and Events**

Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) has provided guidance and support for the volunteer on all task days and events:-

The Friends of Red River task day on was due to take place on Saturday 12 July 2025 but due to heat wave we had to cancel.

A task day was held on Saturday 9 August 2025 a lovely sunny morning but thankfully not too hot. 9 volunteers attended with Marion. We cut back the willow and dug up and pulled reeds from the pond. Approximately clearing an area of 50 square metres. A bag of litter was picked. Wildlife was recorded too. We were filmed by Laura, Groundwork's Publicity manager. Together with other footage from other volunteer groups this helped toward a film to help to recruit volunteers – see link

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1113217371>

Many thanks to Friends of Red River for help with this. A good session with much achieved.

(We had planned to do more reed pulling on Tuesday 12 August but due to heatwave, we had to cancel).





On Tuesday 19 August 2025 all the meadows were cut using Groundwork's reciprocating mower, brush cutters and strimmers. Marion, Charles and Rish (Groundwork), and 4 volunteers carried out this physical work. This late summer hay cut is crucial to ensure the correct management of the meadows. We were lucky to get all this done despite the mower getting a flat tyre. More work with brushcutters was required whilst it was fixed.



We raked up the hay on Saturday 23 August 2025. A great turnout of 9 volunteers made this task possible plus picking up half a bag of litter. Casual observations of wildlife were also made. Raking up of hay off the meadows and putting it into piles is important meadow management. It ensures that the meadows become nutrient poor which this allows more species of wildflowers to thrive, making the meadow more biodiverse.



A task day was held on Saturday 13 September 2025. The pond was still dry and had grown lush vegetation having been free of water for so long. 6 volunteers and Marion got stuck in. We dug up and pulled reeds from the pond, then placing them well above the water line. Approximately clearing and further area of 50 square metres – so this year we have removed 100 square metres of reeds. Plus there was a full bag of litter collected, much of it off the pond bed.

## Meetings

The Friends of Red River held Committee Meetings on Tuesdays 8 July and 9 September 2025 both at 7pm at The Gate Inn. A site meeting was held on Tuesday 22 July to discuss details of the quote provided for the works to deepen the pond – subject to funding – see below.

## Publicity

Publicity posters have been updated and are put up in local notice boards. Websites have been updated. Dates of our published task programme are on various websites and volunteers are being actively engaged in conservation tasks, and wildlife recording. All events have been promoted by Groundwork’s social media and has linked to Heanor & Loscoe Town Council social media.

## Funding

A grant application for deepening the pond was submitted to the NeighbourGOOD Scheme Severn Trent Funding on 30 June 2025 by the Friends of Red River. Thanks to Sharon the Secretary for her hard work. In July we heard we were successful in getting through the first phase. This meant that our project would be put into public vote and the results would not be known until September.

To discuss the project and ensure that we had things in place should the grant be successful Marion and Sharon met with Heanor & Loscoe Town Clerk in July. It was suggested that should the funding not come through from Severn Trent, Heanor & Loscoe Town Council might be able to fund the project.

Much of early September was fevered by the hope of getting the Severn Trent funding and promoting this to all our contacts. But unfortunately, we were unsuccessful. Thankfully the funding was approved by Heanor & Loscoe Town Council. Due to it suddenly raining we have not been able to do the work this September and it has been agreed the funding will be available in the next year.

## Statistics

<b>Summary Statistics - Quarter 1</b>	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and events	12
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording	4
No. of Practical volunteer days, committee meeting, grant application contributed by adult volunteers (78hrs divide by 6hrs) = 13 days	13 days
No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (24 hours divide by 6 hours) = 4 days	4 days
No of activities/practical days delivered by Groundwork Staff	6
No of wildlife recording visits delivered by Groundwork Staff	4

## Wildlife Recording

Groundwork staff look and listen out for wildlife on most of the task days on the reserve, but often we are too involved with supervising the volunteers to systematically record everything seen or heard. We are helped on these recording sessions by our regular volunteers. We are fortunate to have their knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise. These recording visits help to build up a picture of what is likely to be seen during the year giving a good indication of the wildlife to be found on the reserve in the different seasons. These types of records become more valuable over time and help to influence the habitat management on the reserve. We continue to prepare an updated Management Plan for the site. This has involved collating as many wildlife records as possible from previous years and has taken considerable time so far.

Monthly Records - The month by month summary is shown below:-

It continues to be very dry and the pond completely dried out by the end of June and all through July and August but in mid-September it started to rain and the pond has filled.

July

A dry month with many plants in flower -see photos below. Wildlife records taken on 7 July, 22 July and 31 July 2025. 19 species of bird were recorded see bird table below (no water birds at all as no water in pond). Flowering plants included Herb Robert, Common Ragwort, Betony, Common Knapweed, Red Campion, Greater Willow Herb, Water Mint, Bindweed, Purple Loosestrife, Meadow Cranesbill, Angelica, Lord's and Ladies berries.

The hot weather has resulted in earlier than usual fruits and berries forming including Rowan (lots), Blackberries, Raspberries, Sloes, Hawthorn, Elderberry, Pears and Crab Apple.

Butterflies recorded included Comma 2, Red Admiral 2, Meadow Brown 3, Gatekeeper 4, Ringlet 5, Speckled Wood 6, Small White 5 and Holly Blue 1. Other wildlife included Southern Hawker Dragonfly 1 (female), Grey Squirrel 1 and mole hills.



On July 7 2025 pond still dry - photos taken from pond platform.





Below on action day 9.8.25 view from platform Still dry but now lush plants growing.



### August

Wildlife recording during the task of 9<sup>th</sup> August Southern Hawker(1), Migrant Hawker (1) Goldcrest, Nuthatch and Jay. Further wildlife recording was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 11 birds – nice to have Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard (again all recorded below in table). Butterflies seen, Meadow Brown 1, Speckled Wood 1, Small White 1, Large White 3.

September wildlife recording was on 13 September 2025 during the task. It is an excellent year for berries and seeds including acorns, Hawthorn berries, Rowan berries and Guelder rose berries – see photographs below. Relatively few butterflies on the wing included Green-veined White 1 and Speckled Wood 1. The birds are recorded in the table – nice to hear Chiff Chaff before it migrates.



Birds - The bird species seen or heard during quarter 2 are shown in the table below. The table shows a list of all the species seen in the previous 3 years. The number of bird species recorded in quarter 2= 26.

<b>Bird Species 2025 at Red River LNR</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
Bullfinch			
Chaffinch	Y		
Goldfinch		Y	
Greenfinch			
Buzzard	Y	Y	
Sparrow Hawk	Y	Y	
Kestrel	Y	Y	
Dunnock	Y		
Robin	Y	Y	Y
Wren	Y	Y	Y
Grey Wagtail			
Pied Wagtail			
Great Tit	Y		Y
Blue Tit	Y	Y	Y
Coal Tit	Y		
Long Tailed Tit		Y	
Mallard			
Moorhen			
Pheasant		Y	
Chiffchaff			Y
Blackcap			
Willow Warbler			
Crow	Y	Y	
Magpie	Y		Y
Jackdaw		Y	
Jay	Y	Y	
Starling			
House Sparrow			
Nuthatch		Y	
Goldcrest		Y	Y
Lesser B. B. Gull			
B. H. Gull			
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y
Stock Dove			
Feral Pigeon	Y		
Collared Dove			
G. S. Woodpecker			
Green Woodpecker			
Mistle Thrush			
Song Thrush			
Blackbird	Y		Y
Swallow	Y	Y	
Swift	Y		
Field Fare			
Redwing			
Tree Creeper	Y		
Skylark			
Raven			
Rook			
Lapwing			
Tawny Owl			
Herring Gull			
Heron			
Siskin			
Ring Necked Parakeet			
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Quarterly Total = 26</b>			