



RED RIVER LOCAL NATURE RESERVE Quarter 3 Report October to end December 2024

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 October to end of December 2024 Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) and the Friends of Red River have carried out 5 conservation tasks/events etc The details of these are shown below. These have been very well attended with 16 individuals taking part and 17 volunteer days carried out. Wildlife records have also been collected (1 volunteer day). Groundwork staff have continued work on an updated Management Plan for the site. This has included collating as many wildlife records as possible from previous years.

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 Saturday 12 October 2024 was due for our annual help with St Luke's church garden. However, with heavy rain on the morning we were unable to safely do the task. The rain eased slightly and as a new volunteer had turned up, we gave him a guided tour of Red River. 6 volunteers and Marion explained the work regularly done on site. Great to have a new volunteer.



A task day was held on Monday 21 October 2024 with Marion and 6 volunteers. Following on from our September task the Memorial bench paint work was touched up to be ready for Remembrance Sunday. We also, litter picked, sowed yellow rattle and cut up chopped tree branches to make habitat piles.



November 2024

The Friends of Red River task day was on Saturday 9 November 2024. 5 volunteers with Marion carried out work including clearing out fallen branches in the stream close to the road. Plus cutting up fallen branches, due to the storms and making those into habitat piles.



We had planned an extra session on Saturday 23 November – but due to poor weather we postponed it to Monday 25 November 2024. This extra session was to collect the natural vegetation of the Christmas Wreath making event. We cut back the willow in the church grounds and made 60 wreath centres. A lovely session with 8 volunteers taking part in the sunshine.



December 2024

Due to the kind help of St Luke’s Church last year, the Friends of Red River and Marion, decided that a dry, warm option was a good idea for the Christmas Wreath Making this year on Saturday 7 December 2024. This linked with the church having stalls and providing refreshments. It turned out to be a very good plan as the weather was terrible on the day with Storm Darragh. Despite this there was good attendance with 47 people making wreaths. The Mayor and Mayoress of Heanor & Loscoe Town Council attended the event. We had lots of great comments from those that took part.

“We really enjoy coming every year. Thank you.”

“Thank you for all your help making the wreath – I’ve never done it before.”

This year a new banner was designed and funded by the Friends of group. This was put up 3 weeks before the event. Other local publicity included by posters and via facebook etc. There was much preparation before the event collecting greenery (holly, ivy, moss etc) and buying ribbons, florist wire, wire cutters etc. 12 volunteers helped with preparation and on the day of the event – great teamwork.



Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their Committee Meeting on Tuesday 12 November at 7pm at The Gate Inn with Marion attending.

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

The committee members and Groundwork staff continue to seek out funding opportunities to support our work on the reserve. We are looking into funding for a potential partial desilting of the pond.

Statistics

Summary Statistics - Quarter 3	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and events	16
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording	3
No. of Practical volunteer days, events committee meeting contributed by adult volunteers (102hrs divide by 6hrs) = 17 days	17 days

No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (6 hours divide by 6 hours) = 1 day	1 day
No of activities/practical days delivered by Groundwork Staff	5
No of wildlife recording visits delivered by Groundwork Staff	2

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. 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 have started 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:-

On 12 October 2024 during a rather damp walk around Red River we noted several birds – see table below. We were pleased to see 3 males and 3 female Mallard and to see and hear Bullfinch. We also saw different fungi species but struggled to identify them. A bank vole and grey squirrel was noted.



More birds were noted on 21 October 2024 including Long Tailed tit, Magpie, Buzzard, Goldfinch, Mallard, Moorhen, Sparrowhawk, Grey Wagtail, Blackbird, Woodpigeon. We were delighted to see a juvenile **Great Crested Newt** in the long grass on the sloping meadow on when we were sowing yellow rattle seed. We also saw a Migrant Hawker Dragonfly.

In November we saw more fungi including Candle snuff and Beefsteak. Birds were noted Great Tit, Magpie, Mallard (2 pairs) Robin, Woodpigeon, Dunnock and Blue Tit. Plus Grey Squirrel

Unfortunately, due to bad weather and ill health no wildlife recording was carried out in December.

Birds - The bird species seen or heard during quarter 3 are shown in the table on next page. The table shows a list of all the species seen in the previous 3 years. The number of bird species recorded in quarter 3 = 15. Due to bad weather and ill health less bird recording has been carried out through this quarter which does not really reflect the true value of this site for bird life.

Bird Species 2024 at Red River LNR	October	November
Bullfinch	Y	
Chaffinch		
Goldfinch	Y	
Greenfinch		
Buzzard	Y	
Sparrow Hawk	Y	
Kestrel		
Dunnock		Y
Robin	Y	Y
Wren		
Grey Wagtail	Y	
Pied Wagtail		
Great Tit	Y	Y
Blue Tit		Y
Coal Tit		
Long Tailed Tit	Y	
Mallard	Y	Y
Moorhen	Y	
Pheasant		
Chiffchaff		
Blackcap		
Willow Warbler		
Crow		
Magpie	Y	Y
Jackdaw		
Jay		
Starling		
House Sparrow		
Nuthatch		
Goldcrest		
Lesser B. B. Gull		
B. H. Gull		
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y
Stock Dove		
Feral Pigeon		
Collared Dove		
G. S. Woodpecker		
Green Woodpecker		
Mistle Thrush		
Song Thrush		
Blackbird	Y	Y
Swallow		
Swift		
Field Fare		
Redwing		
Tree Creeper		
Skylark		
Raven		
Rook		
Lapwing		
Tawny Owl		
Herring Gull		
Heron		
Siskin		
Ring Necked Parakeet		
Monthly Totals	13	8
Quarterly Total 15		