

## **RED RIVER LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

### **Quarter 4 Report January to end March 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 January to end of March 2025 Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) and the Friends of Red River have carried out 4 conservation tasks/events etc. The details of these are shown below. These have been very well attended with 13 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 Friday 3 January 2025 with 5 volunteers and Marion. Following various storms several branches had cracked and were left dangling. These were cut off and carefully stacked into habitat piles. In addition, a bag of litter was picked.



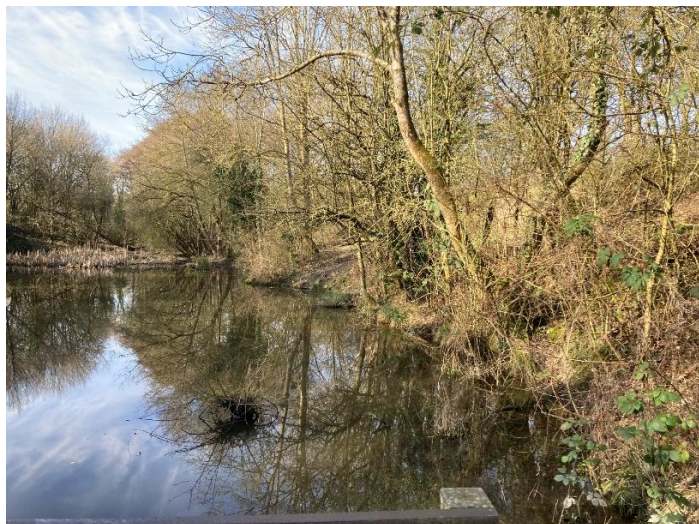
A task day was held on Saturday 11 January 2025 a frosty sunny morning. A great turnout of 10 volunteers with Marion. A willow tree had fallen over part of the middle meadow. This was chopped up and made into habitat piles. Some of the trees had their lower branches cut back to raise the crown of the trees (Oaks and

Cherry) to allow easier meadow mowing later in the year. Several low branches across the path were cut back. All very satisfying work which the volunteers enjoy.



A task day was held on Saturday 8 February 2025 with Marion and 5 volunteers. We started to cut back the hedge at the far end of the site. All cuttings were stacked up into habitat piles. Two small willows were pollarded too. A bag of litter was also picked off the site. A great morning's work but more hedge to do.





(View from pond platform 8.2.25– Red River Local Nature Reserve.)

The Friends of Red River task day was on Saturday 8 March 2025 which was a glorious sunny day. 10 volunteers with Marion carried out work including completing cutting back the hedges, clearing vegetation around the memorial rowans in the middle of the site and cutting back fallen willow in the wet marsh area. Litter was also picked. Wildlife was recorded during the session – see later in the report.





## Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their Committee Meeting on Tuesday 11 March 2025 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

<b>Summary Statistics - Quarter 4</b>	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and events	13
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	4
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. 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:-

On 3 and 11 January during tasks at Red River we noted several birds – see table below. We were pleased to see Fieldfare and Great Spotted Woodpecker. We also saw fungi species see photographs below. The

first we are not sure what the bracket fungi is, but the red one is called Scarlet Elf Cup and particularly likes damp woodlands. A Grey Squirrel was noted.

Two fungi taken on 3.1.25



Wildlife recording was carried out on Thursday 27 February 2025 which was a sunny morning. The volunteers did well to get Skylark, Treecreeper and Coal Tit – 18 birds in all – see table below. The site is looking good with lots of flowering plants including snowdrops and daffodils. Grey Squirrel was recorded.

Wildlife recording was carried out on 8 March 2025 during action day on a glorious sunny spring morning. We were lucky to hear Chiffchaff – they have only just returned from North Africa – although a few do not bother to migrate all that distance. We saw/heard 24 bird species great to see and hear Song Thrush and Tree Creeper. Lovely flowers snowdrops, daffodils, crocus, lesser celandine

At the far end of the site near the top Jubilee meadow we were lucky to get Brimstone Butterfly and Bumblebees taking advantage of this sheltered sunny spot. Also Grey Squirrel.

Birds - The bird species seen or heard during quarter 4 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 4 = 28.

<b>Bird Species 2025 at Red River LNR</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
Bullfinch			
Chaffinch		Y	Y
Goldfinch	Y	Y	Y
Greenfinch			Y
Buzzard			Y
Sparrow Hawk			Y
Kestrel			
Dunnock	Y	Y	
Robin	Y	Y	Y
Wren	Y	Y	Y
Grey Wagtail			
Pied Wagtail			
Great Tit	Y	Y	Y
Blue Tit	Y	Y	Y
Coal Tit		Y	Y
Long Tailed Tit	Y	Y	Y
Mallard	Y	Y	Y
Moorhen		Y	Y
Pheasant			
Chiffchaff			Y
Blackcap			
Willow Warbler			
Crow		Y	Y

Magpie	Y	Y	Y
Jackdaw			Y
Jay			
Starling			
House Sparrow			
Nuthatch			
Goldcrest		Y	Y
Lesser B. B. Gull			
B. H. Gull			Y
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y
Stock Dove			Y
Feral Pigeon			
Collared Dove			
G. S. Woodpecker	Y		
Green Woodpecker			
Mistle Thrush			
Song Thrush			Y
Blackbird	Y	Y	Y
Swallow			
Swift			
Field Fare	Y		
Redwing			
Tree Creeper		Y	Y
Skylark		Y	
Raven			
Rook			
Lapwing			
Tawny Owl			
Herring Gull			
Heron			
Siskin			
Ring Necked Parakeet			
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Quarterly Total 28</b>			