

RED RIVER SLNR

Quarter 1 Report April – end June 2022

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

We have carried out 4 conservation tasks, 1 event (Platinum Jubilee) and 1 newt and bat survey this quarter. The details of these are shown below. These have been very well attended with 14 individuals taking part and 13.5 volunteer days carried out. Three wildlife recording visits were made to ensure each month was covered during quarter one.

Conservation Task Day Details and Events

Marion Farrell (Groundwork) has provided guidance and support for the volunteer on all task days
APRIL 2022

On Saturday 9 April 6 volunteers helped to cut back bramble at the far end of the site opposite the Jubilee meadow. This was to clear around the trees including the one planted by the Women's Institute in the past. All cuttings were added to habitat piles. We also cleared all along edge of the main path taking back vegetation about a metre back on either side. Approximately half of bag of litter was also collected. It was sunny and butterflies and bees were flying about. A very pleasant morning.

Friday 29 April continued to clear back bramble and blackthorn back from path near to entrance to reserve. Litter was pulled out of the pond with use of rope and skills of Alan. 3 volunteers took part. In the afternoon Marion and Gary carried out wildlife surveying.

MAY 2022

On Friday 27 May in preparation for Queen's Platinum Jubilee event all the paths and steps were cleared of vegetation. A litterpick was carried out (1 bag). Equipment checked ready for the event and all loaded into the van. 6 volunteers.

Saturday 28 May – Event linking with Charles Hill and Amber Valley CVS. Really good teamwork with 9 volunteers helping to put up gazebo, tables, chairs, displays and put signage out. Wordsearch and scavenger hunts as well as information about Red River Local Nature Reserve were made available to participants. This was set up by yellow winding wheel to catch public walking between Charles Hill and Church. The event had not been well advertised by Amber Valley CVS and was a little disappointing in terms of numbers of people coming past.



JUNE 2022

Saturday 11 June was cancelled due to it clashing with a large football tournament (90 teams) which in previous years has made parking and working on the site difficult.

Friday 24 June 4 volunteers helped to remove graffiti off various signs. The bridge at the rear of the site was painted to cover the graffiti.

Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their AGM followed by Committee Meeting on Wednesday 11 May 2022, at 7pm at The Gate Inn. All posts remain the same. The meetings went well and many details were discussed.

Publicity

Following the Committee Meeting publicity posters have now been updated with Marion's details and will be put up in local notice boards. Websites have also been updated.

Dates of our published task programme are now on various websites and volunteers are now being actively engaged in conservation tasks, and wildlife recording.

Funding

The committee members and Groundwork staff continue to seek out funding opportunities to support our work on the reserve.

Statistics

Summary Statistics - Quarter 1	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and event	14
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording and specialist survey	7
No. of Practical volunteer days and event contributed by adult volunteers (54 hrs 90hrs divide by 6hrs) = 9	9
No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (27 hours divide by 6 hours) =4.5	4.5
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 which include Gary, Ben and Claire who help with this. In addition, 4 different volunteers were involved in the evening Newt and Bat surveying. Recording visits took place on 29 April, 16 May, 24 May and 24 June 2022. A detailed wildflower survey was made to all three meadows. These monthly 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.

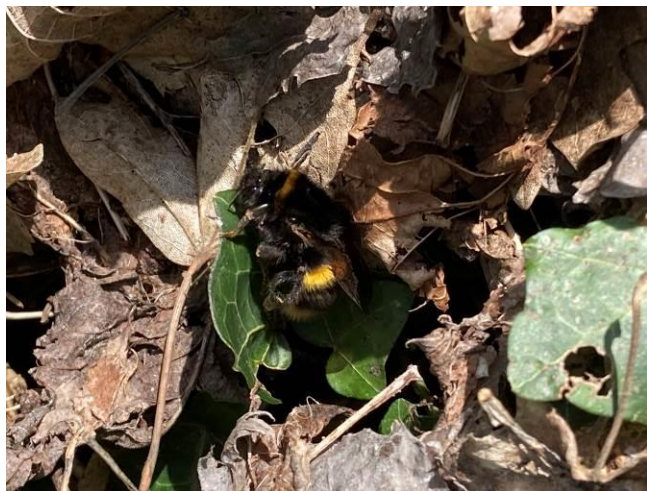
Monthly Records - The month by month summary is shown below:-

April 2022

Wildlife recorded on 9 April during action day. It was a sunny day and as it got warmer butterflies one of each Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell were seen. Bumble bees were on the wing, see photograph. 10 birds including Green Woodpecker heard "yaffling".

29 April Marion and Gary recorded wildlife on reserve – it was wonderful sunny weather. 20 species of bird recorded of which 12 had not been recorded on 9th – so 22 species for the month. Plus 5 species of butterflies not seen earlier in the month:- Green veined white, Orange Tip, Specked Wood Holly Blue and Comma.

Plants in flower included Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemone, Cowslip, Primrose, Wild Garlic, Dog's Mercury, Blackthorn and Snakes Head Fritillary.



May 2022

Wildlife was recorded on 16 May 2022 by 2 volunteers. It was a bit of a dull day so unfortunately no butterflies. However plants flowering included:-

Yellow Archangel, Ramsons, Wood Avens, Forget Me Not, Dandelion, Yellow Flag Iris, Germander Speedwell, Bluebell and Whitebell, Tufted Vetch, Lesser Stitchwort, Buttercup, White Dead Nettle, Red Campion, Cow Parsley and Hawthorn Blossom. 23 birds were recorded see table.

Additional bird species noted on 27 May 2022, Sparrowhawk, Magpie, Great Spotted Woodpecker bringing the total to 26 species plus Tawny Owl heard on 24th May = 27.

Tuesday 24 May Newt & Bat Survey carried out in the evening -4 volunteers with Marion. Good to record 14 Common Newt (both male and female) and 3 female Great Crested Newts. 3 Common Pipistrelle Bats and a Tawny Owl hooted.

June 2022

Friday 24 June - In the afternoon detailed wildflower surveys were made of the various meadow areas – Diamond Jubilee Meadow, Middle Meadow and Sloping Meadow in order to inform future management and addition of wildflowers to these areas. . Other wildlife was also recorded by Marion and two volunteers including 22 species of birds. Butterflies :- 4 Meadow Brown, 4 Ringlet and male Emperor dragonfly. Grey squirrel was also noted.

No newt survey was carried on 28 June out due to very low levels of water on site such that we could not get to water's edge safely to carry out a survey.



Birds

The bird species seen or heard during quarter 1, (April to the end of June 2022) are shown in the table below. The table shows a list of all the species seen in the previous 24 months. The number of bird species recorded in quarter 1 was 36.

Bird Species 2022	April	May	June	Comments
Bullfinch	Y	Y	Y	
Chaffinch	Y	Y	Y	
Goldfinch	Y	Y	Y	
Greenfinch	Y	Y		
Buzzard			Y	
Sparrow Hawk		Y		
Kestrel				
Dunnock	Y			
Robin	Y	Y	Y	
Wren	Y	Y	Y	
Grey Wagtail			Y	
Pied Wagtail				
Great Tit		Y	Y	
Blue Tit	Y	Y	Y	
Coal Tit				
Long Tailed Tit				
Mallard	Y	Y	Y	3 in April. In June male and female making nest.
Moorhen	Y	Y	Y	3 adults and 4 chicks in June
Pheasant		Y	Y	Heard more often than seen
Chiff Chaff	Y	Y	Y	Summer migrant
Blackcap	Y	Y	Y	Summer migrant
Willow Warbler				Summer migrant
Crow		Y		
Magpie		Y	Y	
Jackdaw	Y	Y		
Jay		Y	Y	
Starling		Y		
House Sparrow				
Nuthatch	Y			
Goldcrest	Y			
Lesser B. B. Gull				
B. H. Gull				
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y	
Stock Dove	Y		Y	
Feral Pigeon				
Collared Dove	Y	Y		
G. S. Woodpecker		Y	Y	
Green Woodpecker	Y			
Mistle Thrush	Y			
Song Thrush	Y	Y	Y	
Blackbird	Y	Y	Y	
Swallow			Y	Summer migrant
Swift		Y		Summer migrant
Field Fare				
Redwing				
Tree Creeper				
Skylark				
Raven				
Rook				
Lapwing				
Tawny Owl		Y		Heard during newt survey 24.5.22
Herring Gull				
Heron				
Siskin				
Ring Necked Parakeet		Y		
Monthly Totals	22	27	22	
Quarterly Total	36			