



# RED RIVER LNR

## Quarter 4 Report January to end March 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 January to the end of March 2024 we have carried out 4 conservation tasks, The details of these are shown below. These have been very well attended with 13 individuals taking part and 16 volunteer days carried out. Additional visits to site have been made by Groundwork staff to check safety of trees after the various storms, also to liaise with tree surgeons to check quote recommendations. Further site visits were made to check the blocked culvert and on 22 March 2024 to take advice regarding possible desilting of part of the wetland. Wildlife records have been collected whilst on site and on separate occasions. Groundwork staff have started to prepare 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) has provided guidance and support for the volunteer on all task days and events:-

January 2024

A site visit took place on 9 January with a volunteer to check the storm damage on the site and to plan the work required on the task day.

The Friends of Red River task day was on Saturday 13 January 2024. This was very well attended by 11 volunteers and Marion on a sunny but cool day. Due to the recent storms several trees and branches have fallen. Two willows at the far end of the site. Also limbs have fallen from a very mature ash tree in the middle of the site. This had fallen across a hawthorn. All was this was cut up to make habitat piles. 2 bags of litter picked were also collected from across the site.



A further hung up large limb from the horse chestnut was noted near to the entrance and main path. This was too big a task for the volunteers and Marion reported this to Heanor & Loscoe Town Council. On their request Marion helped contacting a local tree surgeon to provide a quote. The contractors dealt with the branch quickly. See below photograph on left branch hung up and below right branch has been removed.



Further concern regarding the health of several trees has resulted in another quote being requested for works to the trees along the public footpath.

A Friends of Red River task morning was held on Wednesday 31 January 2024 (lovely sunny weather) 3 volunteers plus Marion and Thomas (a new member of staff at Groundwork). This was again to try and process many limbs that had fallen out of trees in the storms. We cut the branches up into approx. 2 metre sections and made habitat piles which will provide shelter for wildlife. Great work was achieved and much enthusiasm.





### February 2024

A Friends of Red River task day was held on Saturday 10 February. It was a cloudy but mild day. Further processing of the large ash branches was required. A bag of litter was also collected. Some wildlife was noted see later in the report. Great work again with 7 volunteers attending with Marion and Thomas from Groundwork.



On 16 February Marion and a volunteer checked the location of the trees quoted by the tree surgeons needing work. All of these were either too big or too high up for the volunteers to tackle.

### March 2024

On Saturday 9 March 2024 seven volunteers with Marion set to work on clearing the “river” of branches near the screen. This was specially requested by the Town Council . We pruned tree branches along the path particularly at the far end of the site including hawthorn and willow. A bag of litter picked, and we got a chair out of the river!



Above left before picture – above right picture after clearance work by volunteers.

## Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their Committee Meetings with Marion included as usual on Tuesdays 9 January and 5 March 2024 at 7pm at The Gate Inn. One of the items on the agenda was to continue to investigate what is practical to do to ensure that at least a part of the pond remains in water when we have hot summers. There is a concern that if there are too many occasions when the pond dries out completely in the summer this will have a negative effect on the Great Crested Newt. Marion and the Friends of Red River are taking advice from Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group. Some of the committee and Marion met with Chris Monk from Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group on Friday 22 March 2024 to further discuss practicalities and cost of the proposed desilting work. Please see photographs below that show the general area of the wetland taken in January and March 2024.





## Publicity

Publicity posters have now been updated will are 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. 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, committee meetings contributed by adult volunteers (87hrs divide by 6hrs) = 14.5 days	14.5 days
No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (9 hours divide by 6 hours) =1.5	1.5 days
No of activities/practical days delivered by Groundwork Staff	4 Action days
No of wildlife recording visits delivered by Groundwork Staff	3

## 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:-

A site visit on 9 January by Marion with a volunteer to check after storms and to record wildlife. There were a lot of tree branches blown down – there is evidence of Ash die back. Several leaning trees, and some trees fallen over. Bird records were noted. 16 species including a pair of Bullfinch in beautiful breeding plumage already.

During the task day on 10 February some wildlife was noted. There were 11 species of birds including the illusive Tree Creeper. The snowdrops were in flower and several Fungi species were spotted including Jelly Ear and King Alfred's Cakes. A Grey Squirrel was also recorded.

On 16 February - Further wildlife was recorded. 6 more species of bird were recorded including Buzzard, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Coal Tit, Bullfinch and Blackbird. More flowers were out including Crocus, Primrose, Dog's Mercury and Hazel catkins. More fungi included Witches Butter, Turkey Tail and Scarlet Elf Cup – see photograph below.



During the task day on the 9 March, 10 species of bird were recorded. It was good to get Greenfinch which we have not had for a few months. Snowdrops, Daffodils, Blackthorn, Primula and Lesser Celandine were all flowering. When we met with Chris Monk from Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group on Friday 22 March we added Chiffchaff and Robin making 12 birds and also dog violet.

### Birds

The bird species seen or heard during quarter 4 (January to end of March 2024) 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 4 = 24.

<b>Bird Species 2024 at Red River LNR</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>March</b>
Bullfinch	Y	Y	Y
Chaffinch		Y	Y
Goldfinch	Y	Y	
Greenfinch			Y
Buzzard	Y	Y	
Sparrow Hawk			
Kestrel			
Dunnock		Y	
Robin	Y	Y	Y
Wren		Y	Y
Grey Wagtail			
Pied Wagtail			
Great Tit	Y	Y	Y
Blue Tit	Y	Y	Y
Coal Tit		Y	
Long Tailed Tit	Y	Y	
Mallard	Y	Y	Y
Moorhen			
Pheasant			
Chiffchaff			Y
Blackcap			
Willow Warbler			
Crow	Y		Y
Magpie	Y		
Jackdaw	Y		
Jay	Y		
Starling	Y		
House Sparrow			
Nuthatch			
Goldcrest		Y	
Lesser B. B. Gull			
B. H. Gull	Y	Y	
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y
Stock Dove			
Feral Pigeon			
Collared Dove			
G. S. Woodpecker			
Green Woodpecker			
Mistle Thrush			
Song Thrush			
Blackbird	Y	Y	Y
Swallow			
Swift			
Field Fare			
Redwing			
Tree Creeper		Y	
Skylark			
Raven			
Rook			
Lapwing			
Tawny Owl			
Herring Gull			
Heron			
Siskin			
Ring Necked Parakeet			
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Quarterly Total</b>	<b>24</b>		