

## RED RIVER LNR

### Quarter 4 SLA Report for January - end March 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 and Wildlife Recording Visits

This year continues to be much better than last year regarding Covid-19 and conservation tasks are going well. However Covid-19 has stopped us organising community conservation talks and events. We have carried out 7 days of conservation tasks this quarter. The details of these tasks are shown below. These have been very well attended with 11 individuals taking part and 17 volunteer days carried out. Three wildlife recording visits were made to ensure each month was covered during quarter three.

## Conservation Task Day Details

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

On Friday 21 January which was a lovely sunny though cool day we continued with the hedgelaying. 4 volunteers took part. 1 bag of litter picked. Casual wildlife records were also noted.

On Saturday 29 January we held a Friends of Red River conservation task (had been postponed from Sat 8 January due to back weather) Luckily it was dry with some sunshine to start with though by the end of the task it had turned to drizzle and become windy. The tasks focussed on hedgelaying and making habitat piles out of the brash. A short section of hedge was planted up with small hawthorns and holly which were invading the meadow. A thorough litterpick was carried out and dumped traffic cone and rubber mat were removed off site. This conservation task was well attended by 8 volunteers.

## FEBRUARY

On Friday 4 February's conservation task there was an attendance of 2 volunteers and Marion. However good progress with hedgelaying and 4 metres achieved.

On Saturday 12 February we held a Friends of Red River conservation task. This conservation task was well attended by 6 Red River volunteers. We continued with the hedgelaying but there is still plenty more to do. A good time of the year to see litter and pick it up – a bag again

Friday 25 February further task in very mild and sunny weather. 5 volunteers took part in the hedgelaying and litterpicking which included removing orange plastic barrier.

## MARCH

On Friday 25 March a very warm day -19 degrees centigrade and sunny with 3 volunteers taking part. The following day Saturday 26 March was again very warm and sunny. 7 volunteers took part. Hedgelaying continued plus cutting back of willow at the top end of the site to keep the stream clear. There is approximately 12 m of hedgelaying to do next winter season to complete the hedge by the meadow. It is looking very good but now season for hedgelaying is closed as birds need to be able to nest without disturbance. Brambles were cut back around the memorial rowans and the vegetation over hanging the paths was cut back. With the splendid weather (butterflies on the wing) and lots achieved, the group really enjoyed the mix of tasks – a real feeling that Spring had arrived.











## Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their meeting on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 7pm at The Gate Inn (No meeting was held in January due to concerns about Covid). The meeting 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, though being mindful of social distancing.

## Funding

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

## Statistics

<b>Summary Statistics - Quarter 4</b>	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks	11
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording	3
No. of Practical volunteer days contributed by adult volunteers (90hrs divide by 6hrs) = 15	15
No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (12 hours divide by 6 hours) =2	2
No of activities/practical days delivered by Groundwork Staff	7
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 which include Gary Wain, Chris Wain and Ben Wain who help with this. Recording visits took place on 21 and 29 January, 25 February and 25 and 26 March 2022. 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.

## Birds

The bird species seen or heard during quarter 4, (January to the end of March 2022) are shown in the table below. The table shows a list of all the species seen in the previous 18 months. Those in bold at the bottom of the table are new for this period. Surprisingly Grey Heron was not on the list and so must be elusive usually – but not a new species for the site. However, we think that both Siskin and Ring Necked Parakeet are new species for the Red River. Siskin is a native finch that feeds on seeds particularly conifers, alder and birch. They do breed across Britain, more often in Wales and Scotland, but it is quite likely that this was a winter migrant enjoying our warm winter. The Ring Necked Parakeet is originally from the tropics and was a popular pet with the Victorians. They escaped and surprisingly are able to cope with our cold winters. They are now naturalised and happily breed in almost every county in England. They have recently become more obvious at Wollaton Park and Elvaston Castle County Park. The number of bird species recorded in quarter 4 was 33.

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

### January 2022

A generally a mild January. A few records of birds were noted at action day on 21 January including Grey Wagtail and Green woodpecker which were not seen or heard when Gary/Ben/Chris did their wildlife survey on 29 January. However all the other bird records come from that date and very pleased with Siskin and Ring Necked Parakeet. Unsurprisingly there were no butterflies or mammals recorded or plants in flower. There were a few leaves of both daffodil and snowdrop just coming through.

**February 2022** - This month continued with the mild weather. Wildlife records were noted during task days, though only birds, no other records. However, it was pleasing to see the Snowdrops out towards the end of the month.



**March 2022** - Spring seems to be getting earlier every year with a lovely end to the month. Wildlife records were noted on 26 and 27 March and we were very pleased to see our first butterflies of the year; 3 Brimstones, 2 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Comma. Plants in flower included Lesser Celandine, Primrose, Crocus, Snowdrop, Germander Speedwell, Daffodils, Dandelion and Snake's Head Fritillary. The Blackthorn trees were also in flower with beautiful white blossom. It was wonderful to note 26 species of birds and this included our first summer migrant the Chiff Chaff. Please see bird records in table below.

<b>Bird Species 2022</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bullfinch	Y		Y	(2 together in January)
Chaffinch	Y		Y	
Goldfinch	Y	Y	Y	Often seen in small groups of 6 or 7
Greenfinch		Y	Y	
Buzzard	Y		Y	
Sparrow Hawk	Y		Y	
Kestrel				
Dunnock	Y		Y	
Robin	Y	Y	Y	

Wren	Y	Y	Y	
Grey Wagtail	Y	Y	Y	2 seen together in March
Pied Wagtail				
Great Tit	Y	Y	Y	
Blue Tit	Y	Y	Y	
Coal Tit				
Long Tailed Tit	Y	Y	Y	Flocks of 10 in January
Mallard	Y		Y	13 seen in Jan. By March only a male and female seen.
Moorhen	Y		Y	
Pheasant			Y	
Chiff Chaff			Y	Summer migrant – heard in March
Blackcap				Summer migrant
Willow Warbler				Summer migrant
Crow	Y	Y	Y	
Magpie	Y	Y	Y	
Jackdaw				
Jay				
Starling				
House Sparrow				
Nuthatch				
Goldcrest	Y		Y	Heard more often than seen.
Lesser B. B. Gull	Y			
B. H. Gull	Y			4 in January on pond
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y	
Stock Dove			Y	
Feral Pigeon				
Collared Dove				
G. S. Woodpecker				
Green Woodpecker	Y		Y	
Mistle Thrush	Y	Y		Pair seen at church end
Song Thrush				
Blackbird	Y	Y	Y	
Swallow				Summer migrant
Swift				Summer migrant
Field Fare				
Redwing	Y			Winter migrant – 2 in January
Tree Creeper	Y			
Skylark				
Raven			Y	Heard and see flying over.
Rook				
Lapwing				
Tawny Owl				
Herring Gull				
<b>Heron</b>	Y			Not been recorded for a while
<b>Siskin</b>	Y			New Species for Red River seen and heard. 1
<b>Ring Necked Parakeet</b>	Y		Y	New species for Red River heard and flew over 1
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	28	13	26	
<b>Quarterly Total</b>	33			