



RED RIVER LNR Quarter 1 Report April to end June 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 April to end of June 2024 Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) and the Friends of Red River have carried out 3 conservation tasks and 3 newt survey events plus more wildlife surveys. The details of these are shown below. These have been very well attended with 14 individuals taking part and 16 volunteer days carried out. Additional visits to site have been made by Groundwork staff to check regarding trees work and boundary of the site. 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 Five Counties) has provided guidance and support for the volunteer on all task days and events:-

April 2024

The Friends of Red River task day was on Saturday 13 April 2024. This was attended by 6 volunteers and Marion. We focussed on recording the wildlife on site – see wildlife section later in report. We also cut back some bramble along the paths and picked a bag of litter.



On 29 April Marion met Tree surgeons on site to check details of tree work to be started that day.

May 2024

On Thursday 9 May Marion met with some of the Friends of Red River to check the site and materials in preparation for Saturday's task day. Wildlife was also noted – see later in the report. During the task day on Saturday 11 May 2024, we started installing the fence. vegetation was cut back along the paths and litterpicked. Great work with 7 volunteers attending with Marion. See photographs below for first stage done.



June task

During the task day on Saturday 14 June 2024, we continued installing the fence and picked litter. – great progress. 6 volunteers took part with Marion. See photographs.



Wednesday 26 June 2024. A site meeting with Marion, volunteers from the Church and staff from Heanor & Loscoe Town Council to discuss the boundary of Red River and the Church.

Meetings

The Friends of Red River held their AGM and Committee Meetings with Marion on Tuesdays 7 May 2024 at 7pm at The Gate Inn. All posts remain the same.

Publicity

Publicity posters have now been updated and are put up in local notice boards. Websites have also 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 1	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and events	14
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording	7
No. of Practical volunteer days, newt events, committee meetings contributed by adult volunteers (84.5hrs divide by 6hrs) = 14.08days	14 days
No. of volunteer days contributed by volunteers on wildlife recording (12 hours divide by 6 hours) = 2 days	2 days
No of activities/practical days delivered by Groundwork Staff	6
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:-

On Friday 12 April 2024 an evening survey primarily for newts. 2 volunteers and Marion on what was a fabulous evening

12.4.2024 Survey - 8.50pm – 9.55pm. Conditions - dry, clear night, no wind. Temp - 14 C

10 Great crested newt (Male 7, Female 2, Juvenile 1)

4 Smooth newt (Male 1, Female 3)

2 Common Pipistrelle Bats

1 Tawny owl calling.

During the usual Friends of Red River meet up Saturday 13 April 202, we focussed on recording wildlife. There were 19 species of birds including good views of Sparrow Hawk and Goldcrest. Lots of plants were recorded in flower including eg Cowslip, Wild Garlic Wood Anemone, Snake's Head Fritillary and Bluebell. Several queen bumble bees were flying including the one on the photograph below. A Grey Squirrel was also noted.



May

On Thursday 9.5.2024 Marion and volunteers recorded 16 birds. It was good to see male and female Mallard with 2 young chicks. We also noted that approximately half the bird boxes recently put in the last 18 months are in use by Blue Tits and Great Tits. It was a warm day and so butterflies were flying these included:-

Speckled Wood (10) Orange-tip (4), Small White (1), Green-veined White (1) and 3 Brimstone (1 male and 2 female)

Also recorded Hornet, 7 spot Lady bird and Common Carder Bumblebee, and Common Carpet Moth

Our newt surveying was amazing on 21 May 2024 – Chris Monk from Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group came too. He has a newt licence and this meant that we were able to handle this newt under his supervision.

Survey 21.5.2024, 9.40pm-10.40pm, Light drizzle, no wind, temp about 12 degrees C

14 Great Crested (9 males, 3 female 1 not determined and a juvenile – see photo) and 12 Smooth Newts (5 male, 4 female. 3 not determined), and a Tawny owl calling too. Good to have Chris' knowledge and expertise. 5 volunteers and Marion took part.



June

Evening surveying on Tuesday 11 June 2024. 9.40pm – 11pm about 11 degrees C. Chris was able to help again and 5 volunteers and Marion took part. Unfortunately, we didn't record any newts at all. Good views of bats – we noted 3 Common Pipistrelle. There were other bats about but they flew by so quickly we couldn't determine what they were! Lots of insect life in the water including water boatmen and water skaters and lots of adult midges biting! It was hard to see through the water as there was quite a film of weed. Chris remarked that when surveying newts in June often there are few or none recorded.

We recorded wildlife during the task day on 15 June 2024 15 birds including Song Thrush and Buzzard. It was good to see that the Mallards have 4 ducklings see table below. Plants flowering included Common Comfrey, White Dead Nettle, Herb Bennet, Hedge Woundwort, Red Campion, Bush Vetch, Bramble, Oxeye Dairy and Fox Glove. Good views of Azure Blue damselflies (8), a Speckled Wood butterfly and a Footballer Hoverfly – see photographs .



See above view from platform looking west on 15.6.2024 - plenty of water still but quite a bit of floating weed.

Further wildlife recording was carried out on 26 June 2024 on what was a hot morning reaching 23 degrees centigrade. 6 more species of birds were recorded including Swallow (3 seen flying over), Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Jackdaw, Dunnock and Tree Creeper. With the warmer weather butterflies were much more active. Lucky to get Speckled wood (4), Red Admiral (1), Meadow Brown (1), Large Skipper (4) and Ringlet (5). Azure Damselflies were mating and laying eggs in the pond approx. 200. Plus Red damselfly (1) and Blue Tailed Damselfly (1). Three Grey Squirrels were noted too.

Birds

The bird species seen or heard during quarter 1 (April to end of June 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 1 = 28.

Bird Species 2024 at Red River LNR	April	May	June
Bullfinch	Y		Y
Chaffinch	Y	Y	Y
Goldfinch		Y	
Greenfinch	Y	Y	
Buzzard			Y
Sparrow Hawk	Y		
Kestrel			
Dunnock			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
Long Tailed Tit			
Mallard	Y	Y	Y
Moorhen	Y	Y	Y
Pheasant	Y	Y	
Chiffchaff	Y	Y	Y
Blackcap		Y	Y
Willow Warbler			
Crow	Y	Y	
Magpie	Y		Y
Jackdaw			Y
Jay	Y		
Starling			
House Sparrow			
Nuthatch			
Goldcrest	Y	Y	Y
Lesser B. B. Gull			
B. H. Gull			
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y	Y
Stock Dove			
Feral Pigeon			
Collared Dove			
G. S. Woodpecker			
Green Woodpecker	Y	Y	
Mistle Thrush			
Song Thrush			Y
Blackbird	Y	Y	Y
Swallow			Y
Swift			
Field Fare			
Redwing			
Tree Creeper			Y
Skylark			
Raven			
Rook			
Lapwing			
Tawny Owl	Y		
Herring Gull			
Heron			
Siskin			
Ring Necked Parakeet			
Monthly Totals	20	17	21
Quarterly Total	28		