

## **RED RIVER LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

### **Quarter 3 Report October to end December 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 October to end December 2025 Marion Farrell (Groundwork Five Counties) and the Friends of Red River have carried out 2 conservation tasks and the Christmas Wreath making event. Plus an extra site visit for vegetation and preparation for Christmas Wreath event. These have been very well attended with 13 individuals taking part 18 volunteer days carried out. Wildlife records have also been collected. Groundwork staff have continued work on an updated Management Plan for the site.

#### **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 was scheduled to take place on Saturday 11 October 2025 but due to ill health it was cancelled.

A task day was held on Saturday 8 November 8 volunteers attended with Marion. A large Ash branch had fallen down in previous week which needed processing. We cut it up and made a dead hedge which provides a vital home for many invertebrates. A bag of litter was picked. We also sowed Yellow Rattle seeds on each of the meadows. This plant is parasitic on grasses and so helps wildflowers flourish making the meadow more biodiverse. Wildlife was recorded too. Great team work.





An extra task day was held on Saturday 29 November 2025 with Marion and 6 volunteers. This was primarily to collect greenery and make the centres for Christmas Wreath making event the following week. Plus there was a bag of litter collected.



### Christmas Wreath Making Event

This was held on Saturday 6 December 2025 at St Luke's Church which is next door to Red River Local Nature Reserve. This had worked well last year, and the committee decided that we should continue to stay in the warm and fit with the church times of their Christmas stall. The banner was altered and put up 3 weeks prior to the event. Posters were distributed and to protect the carpet two terram sheets were purchased. Much preparation by the Friends particularly of vegetation and beautiful bows made this a very successful event.

72 wreaths were made. At least 78 adults attended plus 15 children (plus the Friends of Red River).

We had some great comments:-

"I live locally and have always wanted to come and make a wreath but never got the courage up before. I have really enjoyed it. Thank you."

"I come every year with my sisters – it's become our tradition and a lovely way to start Christmas"

"Thank you so much for all your help making the wreath – I have never done it before. It's very satisfying to learn a new skill. "



## Meetings

The Friends of Red River held a Committee Meeting on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7pm at The Gate Inn. Much of the meeting was concentrated on preparations for the Christmas Wreath making event on 6.12.25

## 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. Posters for Christmas Wreath Making were kindly printed by Town Council. These were put up in local shops and at Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre.

## Funding

As previously reported Heanor & Loscoe Town Council have confirmed funding for deepening the pond will be carried over into the next financial year. Friends of Red River has been successful in getting funding from The Woodland Trust for native hedgerow trees. They should be delivered in February.

## Statistics

Summary Statistics - Quarter 3	
No. of individual volunteers on practical tasks and events	12
No. of individual volunteers on wildlife recording	4
No. of Practical volunteer days, committee meeting, grant application contributed by adult volunteers (96hrs divide by 6hrs) = 16 days	16 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	3
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:-

### October

Wildlife records were taken on 26 October 2025 which was cloudy with showers. 12 species of bird were recorded see bird table below. As the pond began to fill it was lovely to see Mallard return. It was good to get Redwing which is a winter visitor from Scandinavia. It has come for our warmer weather and berries. Indeed, this year has the outstanding in the sheer volume of berries/fruits on our trees and shrubs. They are absolutely weighed down. This production of berries/ fruits /seeds is a reaction to the very hot dry summer. Lots of Rowan, Sloes, Blackberries, Hawthorn, Crab Apple and Rose hips. Flowering plants included Hedge Bindweed and Red Campion. 3 Grey Squirrels were seen.

### November

Wildlife recording during the task of Saturday 8 November and during site visit on 13 November 2025. Highlights include 26 Mallards on the pond enjoying the water on 8.11.25 and lovely view of Jay at top of tree with an acorn in its beak. Beautiful fungi see below – the one on the stick is an Oysterling.



The pond began to fill quickly in September and by November it was full. See below taken 13.11.25.



Unfortunately, due to ill health no wildlife recording was carried out during December.

Birds - The bird species seen or heard during quarter 3 are shown in the table on the 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 3 = 20.

<b>Bird Species 2025 at Red River LNR</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
Bullfinch		
Chaffinch		
Goldfinch	Y	Y
Greenfinch		
Buzzard		
Sparrow Hawk	Y	
Kestrel		
Dunnock		
Robin	Y	Y
Wren		Y
Grey Wagtail		
Pied Wagtail		
Great Tit	Y	Y
Blue Tit	Y	Y
Coal Tit		
Long Tailed Tit		Y
Mallard	Y	Y 26
Moorhen		
Pheasant		Y
Chiffchaff		
Blackcap		
Willow Warbler		
Crow	Y	Y
Magpie		Y
Jackdaw		
Jay		Y
Starling		
House Sparrow		
Nuthatch	Y	Y
Goldcrest		Y
Lesser B. B. Gull		Y
B. H. Gull	Y	
Wood Pigeon	Y	Y
Stock Dove		
Feral Pigeon		
Collared Dove		
G. S. Woodpecker		
Green Woodpecker		
Mistle Thrush		
Song Thrush		
Blackbird	Y	Y
Swallow		
Swift		
Field Fare		
Redwing	Y	
Tree Creeper		Y
Skylark		
Raven		
Rook		
Lapwing		
Tawny Owl		
Herring Gull		
Heron		
Siskin		
Ring Necked Parakeet		
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Quarterly Total = 20</b>		