



Denefields Volunteer Rangers
Quarter 1 24/25 SLA Report
April - June



The Denefields Volunteer Rangers meet every Thursday morning to help in the management of the four following sites: Denefields Reserve, Bailey's Tump, the Wild Thyme Garden, Megdale Orchard and the nature area at Wellfield Allotments. The sessions are facilitated by three project offices from Groundwork – Charles Nembhard, Rish Mills & Thomas Hollier

The report provides a detailed summary of the volunteer sessions conducted for conservation efforts during Quarter 1 of the year 2024/2025. The focus of the activities ranged from pond and bee border work to hedge cutting, tree planting, vegetation trimming, and hedge maintenance in various locations within Denefields.

Outputs

During quarter 1 24/25, significant progress was made in managing invasive Japanese Honeysuckle, with multiple sessions dedicated to its removal through efficient raking, pulling, and digging. Volunteers also focused on clearing and maintaining paths, tidying the butterfly border, and supporting the Wild Thyme Garden. Community engagement was highlighted by the planting of oak trees with local residents. Overall, the quarter saw a combined effort in site maintenance, conservation preservation, and community involvement, resulting in a cleaner, healthier Denefield and enhanced local biodiversity.

Tasks

Date: 04/04/2024

Task: No volunteers due to rain; the mound where we were supposed to work was very slippery.

Description: Inclement weather prevented volunteer participation. Despite this, preparatory work continued by clearing Japanese Honeysuckle, and additional support was provided for tree processing in a nearby orchard.

Date: 11/04/2024

Task: Removal of Japanese Honeysuckle cuttings from previous work parties.

Description: Volunteers focused on removing previous cuttings of Japanese Honeysuckle and cleaning up the area with a litter pick. A total of 7 builders' bags were filled and ready to be taken away. A litter pick was also done. A local resident asked if two oak trees he and his granddaughter had grown from acorns could be planted on the site. After agreeing on where to plant them, I fetched the spade, and the resident brought the trees along with his wife and granddaughter. She helped me plant the trees, and the whole family thoroughly enjoyed it.

Date: 18/04/2024

Task: Japanese Honeysuckle Removal – rake, pull, dig repeat. Also, a litter pick.

Description: -

Description: Continued efforts to manage Japanese Honeysuckle through manual removal methods. Volunteers also conducted a litter pick to keep the site clean and maintain a welcoming environment.

Date: 25/04/2024

Task: Activity at the Orchard

Description: Volunteers engaged in activities at the orchard under the guidance of Charles, focusing on maintaining and improving the orchard area.

Date: 02/05/2024

Task: Japanese Honeysuckle Removal.

Description: Volunteers dedicated their time to managing Japanese Honeysuckle using a variety of manual removal techniques, along with performing a litter pick to ensure the site's cleanliness.

Date: 09/05/2024

Task: Japanese Honeysuckle Removal

Description: Consistent efforts were made to control the Japanese Honeysuckle population. Volunteers also contributed to the site's upkeep with a litter pick.

Date: 16/05/2024

Task: Japanese Honeysuckle Removal – rake, pull, dig repeat.

Description: Continued removal of invasive Japanese Honeysuckle using manual techniques, supplemented by a thorough litter pick to keep the area clean and inviting.

Date: 23/05/2024

Task: Clearing of paths in the woodland area.

Description: Volunteers focused on maintaining clear and accessible paths in the woodland area, complemented by a litter pick to enhance the site's overall cleanliness and safety.

Date: 30/05/2024

Task: Weeding of paths and solidifying of paths in Wild Tyme Garden.

Description: Efforts were concentrated on weeding and reinforcing paths in the Wild Tyme Garden, ensuring they remain navigable and well-maintained.

Date: 06/06/2024

Task: Japanese Honeysuckle Removal.

Description: Continued targeted removal of Japanese Honeysuckle to control its spread and maintain the ecological balance of the area.

Date: 13/06/2024 Cancelled due to staff annual leave.

Date: 20/06/2024

Task: Weeding and clearing paths around the butterfly border.

Description: Volunteers weeded and cleared paths around the butterfly border, ensuring the area remained accessible and visually appealing. A litter pick was also conducted.

Date: 27/06/2024

Task: Weeding and tidying of the butterfly border and pond.

Description: Marion led the weeding and tidying efforts around the butterfly border and pond, focusing on maintaining the area's aesthetic and ecological health.

Quarter 1 (April – June 2024) Statistics	
A. Total no. of volunteers	7
B. Average hours per week per volunteer	3
C. Total no. of weeks worked during quarter 1	12
D. Total Volunteer hours A x B x C =	1252
E. National minimum wage	£11.44
F. Total Volunteer value D x E	£2882
Total number of GGN staff members involved	3

Photo Highlights

Pathway Maintenance





Butterfly Garden



Hagrid Steps

