



Denefields Volunteer Rangers **Quarter 2 24/25 SLA Report** **July – September**



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 two project offices from Groundwork –Rish Mills & Thomas Hollier

The report provides a detailed summary of the volunteer sessions conducted for conservation efforts during Quarter 2 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

Throughout the summer months of 2024, significant progress was made in the maintenance and improvement of Hagrid's Steps and surrounding areas. Over several workdays, weeding and turf removal were carried out to restore the steps, ensuring safe access. In addition to this, tidying of the bee border and care for planted trees contributed to a well-maintained environment. The meadow was cut and raked into rows, with volunteers safely participating under GWFC staff supervision. A corporate event saw further contributions with the raking of meadow cuttings and the addition of stone to Hagrid's Steps for stability. Path maintenance and trimming of bushes around the pond further enhanced the site's appearance and accessibility. Despite some weather cancellations, the overall outputs have significantly improved the area's usability and environmental quality.

Tasks

Date: 04/07/2024

Task: Clearing along Hagrid's steps alongside weeding and digging of turf that has formed on the steps

Description: Completed the clearing and maintenance of Hagrid's Steps, including thorough weeding along the sides and removal of turf from the steps. The area is now cleared and restored, providing safe and easy access

Date: 11/07/2024

Task: Cancelled due to poor weather

Date: 18/07/2024

Task: Weeding and digging of turf that has formed on Hagrid's steps.

Description: Weeding and digging were carried out to remove turf that had formed on Hagrid's Steps. The steps have been cleared, ensuring safe and unobstructed access

Date: 25/07/2024

Task: Continued effort weeding and digging of turf that has formed on Hagrid's steps.

Description: Weeding and digging were carried out to remove turf that had formed on Hagrid's Steps. The steps have been cleared, ensuring safe and unobstructed access

Date: 01/08/2024

Task: Continued effort weeding and digging of turf that has formed on Hagrid's steps, tidying of the bee border and tending to planted trees

Description: Continued weeding and digging to remove turf from Hagrid's Steps, while also tidying the bee border and tending to the planted trees. These efforts have helped maintain a neat and healthy environment.

Date: 08/08/2024

Task: Continued effort weeding and digging of turf that has formed on Hagrid's steps. Note: Lesser Whitethroat found on site by volunteer two days prior. They do not nest on site and are a summer visitor. This shows that the site is used during passage migration for birds.

Description: Continued weeding and digging to remove turf from Hagrid's Steps

Date: 15/08/2024

Task: Continued effort weeding and digging of turf that has formed on Hagrid's steps.

Description: Weeding and digging were carried out to remove turf that had formed on Hagrid's Steps. The steps have been cleared, ensuring safe and unobstructed access

Date: 22/08/2024

Task: Cancelled due to poor weather

Date: 29/08/2024

Task: Cutting of meadows and raking into windrows

Description: We cut the meadows and raked the cuttings into windrows. Volunteers took turns using the mowing scythe under the close supervision of GWFC staff, ensuring safety throughout the task

Date: 05/09/2024

Task: Corporate event, raking off cuttings from meadow and topping up hagrids steps with stone.

Description: During the corporate event, participants raked off the cuttings from the meadow and topped up Hagrid's Steps with stone brought by GWFC. This helped clear the meadow and improve the stability of the steps.

Date: 12/09/2024

Task: Cancelled due to GWFC staff away day

Date: 19/09/2024

Task: Path Maintenance and trimming of bushes around pond

Description: Path maintenance was completed, and the bushes around the pond were trimmed. This improved the accessibility of the path and enhanced the appearance of the pond area

Quarter 2 (July – September 2024) Statistics	
A. Total no. of volunteers	18
B. Average hours per week per volunteer	4
C. Total no. of weeks worked during quarter 1	9
D. Total Volunteer hours A x B x C =	648
E. National minimum wage	£11.44
F. Total Volunteer value D x E	£7413
Total number of GGN staff members involved	5

Photo Highlights



BEFORE AND AFTER – HAGRID STEPS



BRIAN – VOLUNTEER



PATH MAINTENANCE



RAKING THE MEADOW



STRIMMING AND MOWING