



Denefields Volunteer Rangers **Quarter 3 24/25 SLA Report** **October - September**



The Denefields Volunteer Rangers meet every Thursday 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 3 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 Q3 2024, a variety of maintenance and conservation tasks were completed to enhance site accessibility, control invasive species, and support biodiversity. Ongoing efforts to remove Japanese Honeysuckle regrowth aimed to reduce its spread and mitigate its impact on native vegetation. Maintenance of the Hagrid Steps included topping up with additional stone for improved stability and accessibility. Hedge cutting was carried out to improve path accessibility and light, while willow cutting and weaving around the pond and near the bee border helped promote healthy growth, improve aesthetics, and support pollinators. Finally, comprehensive pathway clearing was completed to remove litter, debris, and fallen trees, ensuring safe and accessible routes for visitors. These activities reflect the continued commitment to preserving and enhancing green spaces, as seen throughout Q3.

Tasks completed

10/10/2024

Task: Clearing of Japanese Honeysuckle summer regrowth. This will be a continued effort until the plant subsides

Description:

The task involved the removal of summer regrowth of Japanese Honeysuckle to control its spread and mitigate its impact on native vegetation. This invasive species has been systematically cut back, with all regrowth carefully removed from site to prevent further establishment.

17/10/2024

Task: Ongoing removal of Japanese Honeysuckle to control its spread and support the restoration of native vegetation.

Description:

The task involved the removal of summer regrowth of Japanese Honeysuckle to control its spread and mitigate its impact on native vegetation. All regrowth carefully removed from site to prevent further establishment.

24/10/2024

Task: Maintenance of Hagrid Steps, including topping up with additional stone for stability and improved accessibility.

Description: Performed maintenance on Hagrid Steps by adding stone to improve stability, durability, and accessibility.

31/10/2024

Task: Continued with maintenance of Hagrid Steps, including topping up with additional stone for stability and improved accessibility.

Description: Performed maintenance on Hagrid Steps by adding stone to improve stability, durability, and accessibility.

07/11/2024

Task: Hedge Cutting & Path Maintenance

Description: Trimmed back the central and bottom hedges to improve accessibility and light along the central path. The bottom hedge, which had grown significantly since its last cut, was reduced by approximately one-third in height and width where necessary to maintain a manageable size and promote healthy regrowth.

14/11/2024

Task: Hedge Cutting

Description: Continued with the cutting of the hedge at the bottom of Denefields near Matlock Town Football Club.

21/11/2024 – Cancelled due to snow

28/11/2024

Task: Willow Cutting and Weaving Around Pond

Description: Pruned and shaped willow around the pond, utilising the cut material to weave natural structures. This activity enhances the pond's aesthetic appeal while promoting habitat creation and supporting healthy willow growth.

05/12/2024

Task: Willow Cutting and Weaving with Bee Border Maintenance

Description: Pruned and wove willow near the bee border to create natural structures, while tidying and weeding the bee border to improve its appearance and support pollinator friendly plants.

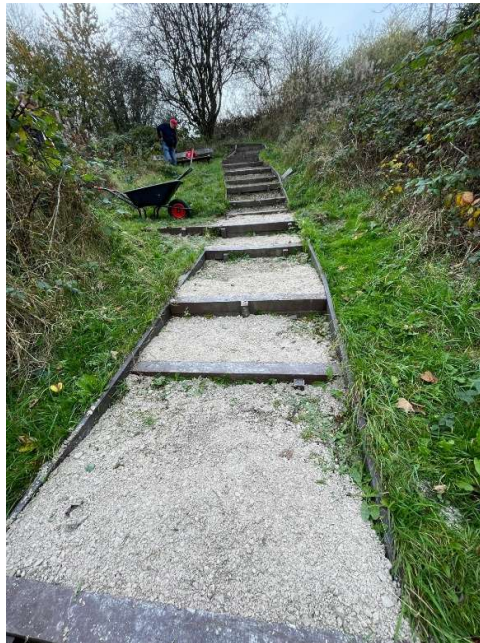
12/12/2024

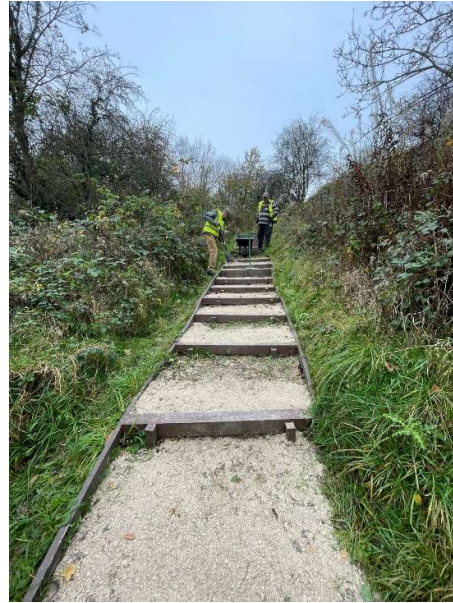
Task: Pathway Clearing and Maintenance

Description: Completed final clearing of pathways by removing litter, debris, and fallen trees to ensure safe and accessible routes for visitors.

Quarter 3 (October – December 2024) Statistics	
A. Total no. of volunteers	7
B. Average hours per week per volunteer	4
C. Total no. of weeks worked during quarter 1	9
D. Total Volunteer hours $A \times B \times C =$	252
E. National minimum wage	£11.44
F. Total Volunteer value $D \times E$	£2,882
Total number of GGN staff members involved	2

Photo Highlights





Hagrid steps – Maintenance



Hedge cutting