



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 4 of the year 2024/2025. The focus of the activities ranged from coppicing to finishing hagrids steps alongside other maintenance duties.

Outputs

During Q4 2025, a variety of maintenance and conservation tasks were completed to enhance site biodiversity, accessibility and aesthetics. Work was started to establish a traditional rotational coppice on the site. This should increase ground flora over time by creating different levels of shade throughout the woodland. Due to the nature of a rotational coppice, these different levels of shade will eventually be available at any given time, allowing multiple niches to be available at any given time. The coppice is being compartmentalized by 'hurdles' or woven deadhedges. These are very aesthetically pleasing and have already garnered compliments. The re-stoning of Hagrids steps was completed with the stone remaining after some was stolen during the winter. This allows for people to walk the steps with greater ease and accessibility due to the more even surface.

Tasks completed

09/01/2025

Task: Cancelled due to poor weather

Description: NA

16/01/2025

Task: Hazel Coppicing

Description: We started coppicing Hazel by Hagrid's Steps. The Hazel stakes and lengths were used to create two woven hazel fences which were infilled with bramble cuttings. These will be added to over the years as the bramble rots down. The volunteers have grown to refer to it as the hurdle due to its resemblance to a horse hurdle. Over the coming winters more of these will be created as we expand the Coppice and create 'compartments' as defined by the hurdles. This will allow us to eventually have a traditional rotational Coppice on site.

23/01/2025

Task: Cancelled due to poor weather

Description: NA

30/01/2025

Task: Continued Hazel Coppicing

Description: Continued effort coppicing, creating the hurdle and compartmentalizing the Coppice.

06/02/2025

Task: Continued Hazel Coppicing

Description: Continued effort coppicing, creating the hurdle and compartmentalizing the Coppice.

13/02/2025

Task: Continued Hazel Coppicing

Description: Continued effort coppicing, creating the hurdle and compartmentalizing the Coppice.

20/02/2025

Task: Bramble Weeding

Description: Weeding of brambles around the coppice and filling in the hurdle with any cuttings. Hazel was also layered to try and propagate it. This is a process of bending over younger stems, scraping off some bark to expose the Cambrian layer and pinning that scraped section to the ground. This will induce the growth of roots. Once established it can be separated from the original tree and moved or kept where it is. This will help with the expansion of the coppice while saving money and teaching the volunteers new skills and techniques. Weeding also took place at the bee border by the pond.

"The work you do is really appreciated, its nice to see people looking after the place" woman who walked by.

27/02/2025

Task: Continued effort weeding brambles at the coppice. This will help enable wildflowers such as primroses and bluebells to thrive over time.

Description: Digging up, pulling and raking off of brambles in the coppice. Cuttings were placed in the hurdle. This will help enable wildflowers such as primroses and bluebells to thrive over time.

06/03/2025

Task: Cancelled due to staff sickness.

Description: NA

13/03/2025

Task: Transplanting of trees

Description: Trees were transplanted across the site including self-sets in the meadows to lengthen and double up the hedgerow that was planted last winter.

20/03/2025

Task: Re-stoning hagrids steps

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

Woman on neighboring property said that we do 'fine work'.

20/03/2025

Task: Cancelled due to staff annual leave

Description: NA

Quarter 4 (January to March) Statistics	
A. Total no. of volunteers	5
B. Total no. hours worked by volunteers	70
C. Total no. of weeks worked during quarter 1	9
D. National minimum wage	£11.44
E. Total Volunteer value B x D	£800.80
F. Total number of GGN staff members involved	2

Photo Highlights





Hazel Coppice – Compartmentalizing and coppicing



Tree Transplanting

Notable Species Highlights

- 6 Bullfinches
- 4 Goldcrests
- Chiffchaffs
- Buzzard
- Sparrowhawk
- Orange Tip
- Brimstone
- Small White
- Peacock
- Comma
- Small Tortoiseshell
- Primrose
- Cuckoo Flower
- Cowslip
- Yellow Rattle seedlings
- Snakehead Fritillary Shoots