

# Groundwork Greater Nottingham Amber Valley Annual Report For Groundwork Activity

April 2019 to March 2020



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GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM  
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## Amber Valley Local Nature Reserves - Formerly Community Wild Spaces

### Project Description:

The Project involves the development, management and maintenance of existing and potential Local Nature Reserves and other sites of nature conservation interest. This includes nature conservation and biodiversity, community involvement, informal education, interpretation, events and activities and environmental education.

### Project Partners:

- ✔ Natural England
- ✔ Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- ✔ Friends of Pennytown Ponds
- ✔ Palmer-Morewood Fishing Club
- ✔ Friends of Carr Wood and Hammersmith Meadows
- ✔ Friends of Ripley Greenway
- ✔ Environment Agency
- ✔ Trent Rivers Trust
- ✔ Futures Homescape
- ✔ Derbyshire County Council
- ✔ Cemex
- ✔ Ripley Town Council
- ✔ Somercotes Parish Council
- ✔ Waterside Care (Keep Britain Tidy)
- ✔ Derby College
- ✔ Butterfly Conservation Group
- ✔ Belper Parks Volunteers
- ✔ The Croft Centre, Ripley
- ✔ Red River Friends Group
- ✔ Groundwork Conservation Volunteers.

### Funding:

SLA hours 400 for the year – AVBC, equivalent to £16,000.

In kind time from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derby College, Cemex, Butterfly Conservation Group, Friends of Group members and Conservation Volunteers.

The quarterly volunteer time from Friends of Group members and Conservation Volunteers is shown below and uses the following formula to calculate equivalent monetary contribution:

6 hours equates to 1 person day, 1 person day equates to £50 contribution.

Quarter 1: 366 hours, 61 person days, £3,050 of in kind contribution

Quarter 2: 454 hours, 76 person days, £3,800 of in kind contribution

Quarter 3: 619 hours, 103 person days, £5,150 of in kind contribution

Quarter 4: 430 hours, 72 person days, £3,600 of in kind contribution

**Total for 2019/2020: 1869 hours, 312 person days, £15,600 of in kind contribution**

## Carr Wood

Groundwork have been managing the project to improve, maintain and develop the nature reserve. Over the past 12 months there have been 21 task days carried out.

### Task Day Activities:

- ✔ Wildflower coir mats installed
- ✔ 4 bird boxes installed
- ✔ Woodland crown raising in the woodland next to the boardwalk and the small copse next to Butterfly Corner
- ✔ Bramble and scrub clearance in woodland alongside boardwalk including removal of small ash saplings
- ✔ Removal of vandalised fence posts
- ✔ Two fallen trees cut up and brashed
- ✔ Vegetation along main paths cut back and litter removed (2 times)
- ✔ Vegetation cleared along Butterfly Transect route (2 times)
- ✔ Deaf blackthorn thicket cut back
- ✔ Vegetation alongside smaller paths cut back (2 times)
- ✔ General litter picks
- ✔ Broken fence removed
- ✔ Hedgerows trimmed in meadow and along boardwalk
- ✔ Hogweed removed from glade meadow
- ✔ Timber cleared from pond
- ✔ Mowing and strimming all three meadows and woodland ride
- ✔ Grass clearance from all three meadows
- ✔ Vegetation clearance on the new path alongside the pond and creation of two viewing points (3 times, the second jointly with Trent Rivers Trust, Ripley Greenway Group and The Croft Centre, Ripley)
- ✔ Clearing overhanging and encroaching vegetation around the wildflower glade to allow more light to the grassland.
- ✔ Crown raising, hazel coppicing and dead hedging
- ✔ Re-staining the benches
- ✔ Preparation for Christmas event including collection of holly, moss and willow for wreaths, preparation of 100+ willow rings for the event
- ✔ Clearance of bramble and sapling re-growth on Butterfly Corner (5 times)
- ✔ Thinning out overhanging trees around the pond (3 times)
- ✔ Clearing overhanging branches from around the pond and removing some of the trees close to the water edge.
- ✔ Removing the willows in the centre of the pond.
- ✔ Constructing and staking habitat piles and dead hedges.
- ✔ Digging out some temporary earth steps to link the pond path to the main surfaced path.
- ✔ Taking down, cutting up and removing old barbed wire fencing from around the pond. (with Friends of Ripley Greenway)
- ✔ Clearing brambles and raspberry canes from the bluebell glade, just over the bridge. (with Friends of Ripley Greenway)
- ✔ Clearing dead tree stumps from the lower meadow. (with Friends of Ripley Greenway)
- ✔ Cutting back and reducing the height of the hedgerow between the two wildflower meadows. (with the Croft Centre members)
- ✔ Started thinning out the encroaching trees in the Orchid meadow(2 times with the Croft Centre members and Friends of Ripley Greenway)



- ✔ Clearing vegetation from the bank in the meadow with the benches (with the Croft Centre members)
- ✔ Clearing the bank below the pond viewing screen of ash saplings and bramble. (with Friends of Ripley Greenway and the Croft members)
- ✔ Felled a few spindly larger ash trees
- ✔ Extended the viewing screen and constructed a natural handrail alongside the steps. (with Friends of Ripley Greenway and the Croft members)
- ✔ Measured up the two planned flights of steps to identify the materials needed for the tasks.



Finishing touches to handrail



Hedge Trimming, Meadow hedge



Mown grass clearance



Mown grass clearance



The mower at work





The steps and designer handrail



The complete screen



View over pond from the screen



Our wonderful volunteers enjoying a well-deserved lunch break. Member of several volunteer groups working together on this day: Friends of Carr Wood and Hammersmith Meadows, Groundwork Conservation Volunteers, Friends of Ripley Greenway, Matlock Denefields Rangers, Friends of Red River, and Belper Parks volunteers.



## Events:

### April

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)
- ✔ Easter Egg Hunt. Attended by 45 Adults and 85 Children. Very successful, with many new people to the woodland.

### May

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk. (Derbyshire Recorder)
- ✔ Bird Spotting Walk. 5 people attended. 33 species seen or heard.

### June

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)
- ✔ Wildflower Recording and Identification guided walk. Attended by 9 people.

### July

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)

### August

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)
- ✔ Bat spotting and identification walk. 4 people attended. 4 species seen or heard.

### September

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)

### December

- ✔ Christmas Wreaths. Activities included the Christmas wreath making, plant a seed to grow a tree activity and make your own Christmas Card. Entertainment included seasonal music and a display by the Ripley Morris Men. Attended by 108 adults and 86 children. Sixteen volunteers helped including members from the Carr Wood Friends of Group and the Ripley Greenway Group.



Christmas Event







Christmas Event

## Friends of Group Meetings

Meetings attended and actions discussed:

- ✔ **June** - 7 members attended. Tasks and events sorted for next 3 months. Reports from officers. Discussion regards fund raising and future events, joint tasks with Greenway group and member recruitment.
- ✔ **September** - 9 members attended. Tasks and events sorted for next 3 months. Reports from officers. Discussion re Steps project; first phase now complete, second phase to be tackled by the group. Other discussions included fund raising, successful past events and future events, particularly the Christmas event for which an action plan was produced. The river starts here project was discussed, Paul is attending training and the water monitoring has begun. First joint task in October. The planned Ripley Library display for December was also discussed and a small planning team set up.
- ✔ **December** - 6 members attended. Reports from officers received, including tasks completed, funding and publicity. The main topic was final plans for the Christmas event on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. The river starts here project was discussed, and the next stage of the pond clearance work planned. The display is now up in Ripley Library for the month of December and will be added too after the Christmas event. The tasks and events were sorted for next 3 months.
- ✔ The meeting planned for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March was cancelled due to coronavirus. Members were in touch by email and telephone to continue to move the planned projects along.



## Hammersmith Meadows

Groundwork have been managing the project to improve, maintain and develop the nature reserve. Over the past 12 months there have been 8 task days carried out.

### Task Day Activities:

- ✔ Clearing Ash saplings
- ✔ Thinning out the woodland, crown raising and clearing bramble roots
- ✔ Building rustic path edging
- ✔ Tidying up Butterley Hill entrance
- ✔ Constructing habitat piles (2 times)
- ✔ Litter pick
- ✔ Vegetation trim along all paths (2 times)
- ✔ Comprehensive clearance on transect route (2 times)
- ✔ Clearance of Ragwort plants
- ✔ Collection of Yellow Rattle seed
- ✔ Hedge-laying and dead hedging (3 times)
- ✔ Hazel coppicing



Removing blackthorn.

Sharpening stakes to support woodland path edge.

Removing tree roots from the woodland path.

Coppicing in action.





View of woodland path with laid hedgerow



Volunteers busy in woodland



Woodland tasks

## Events

### April

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)

### May

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)

### June

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)
- ✔ Wildlife recording and Identification guided walk

### July

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)



- ✔ Hedgehog Event – Attended by 50 adults and 60 children. 17 volunteers helped with craft activities, marshalling and the woodland trail in the “Enchanted Forest”.

**August**

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)

**September**

- ✔ Butterfly Transect Recording guided walk (Derbyshire Recorder)



Meet the hedgehogs



Hedgehog Event



## Belper Parks

Groundwork have been managing the project to improve, maintain and develop the nature reserve. Over the past 12 months there have been 13 task days.

### Task Day Activities:

- ✔ Clearing vegetation from path alongside Coppice Brook
- ✔ Clearing bracken on wildflower meadow
- ✔ Cutting up and clearing brash from large fallen tree
- ✔ Digging out and removing bramble roots
- ✔ Himalayan Balsam and nettle removal alongside Coppice Brook (2 times)
- ✔ Litter pick (2 times)
- ✔ Cutting back vegetation along the young hedgerow around Coppice field
- ✔ Cutting and clearing the grass on the bank on The Fleet recreation ground
- ✔ Ragwort pulling in Coppice Meadow and Belper Parks
- ✔ Strimming and seeding planting areas
- ✔ Strimming, seeding and digging for Cornfield annuals
- ✔ Crown raising 2 Oaks
- ✔ Removing three Cherry trees
- ✔ Cutting and clearing encroaching and overhanging vegetation alongside the Fleet Recreation Ground
- ✔ Cutting back Holly along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way
- ✔ Clearing vegetation along the woodland ride from the Derwent Valley Heritage Way to the Fleet Recreation Ground
- ✔ Clearing the Blackthorn thicket (3 times)
- ✔ Digging out the roots of both blackthorn and bramble.
- ✔ Constructing dead hedge
- ✔ Stacking brash and burning (3 times)
- ✔ Crown raising of the nearby Oak trees
- ✔ Cutting up and clearing a large fallen tree close to Whitemoor Recreation Ground
- ✔ Constructed log piles and brash habitat piles
- ✔ Clearing fallen branches and timber from coppice brook, close to bridge to allow water to flow and reduce the flooding
- ✔ Clearing back bramble to create scallops along the edge of the grassland



Clearing lost woodland path



Cutting back encroaching tree line and bramble clearance

Coppicing

## Pennytown Ponds

Groundwork have been managing the project to improve, maintain and develop the nature reserve. Over the past 12 months there have been 13 task days.

### Task Day Activities:

- ✔ Trimmed vegetation around all benches, bins and signs (2 times)
- ✔ Clearing Bramble from alongside the main path close to lower pond
- ✔ Litter pick (8 times)
- ✔ Continued with clearing bramble and regenerating saplings on the bank above bottom pond
- ✔ Comprehensive clearance of encroaching vegetation and digging out the plant roots around the main entrance gate (2 times)
- ✔ Clearing vegetation and stacking old timber and brash into a neat habitat pile at the edge of the glade close to disabled persons fishing peg
- ✔ Cut up large fallen tree blocking the bridleway and stacking timber into neat piles
- ✔ Trimming vegetation to maintain the viewing points
- ✔ Clearing the vegetation, mainly bramble to the left of the main path through the main entrance (2 times)
- ✔ Crown raised the trees alongside the path and constructed habitat piles with the brash





Break time after clearing banks to create grassland for butterflies, including increasing spread of Birdsfoot Trefoil to encourage Common Blue and Dingy Skipper, with Butterfly Conservation Group.



Clearing vegetation around main entrance gate



Digging out bramble roots



The meadow in summer



## Sandbed Lane

Groundwork have been managing the project to improve, maintain and develop the nature reserve. Over the past 12 months there have been 3 task days.

### Task Day Activities

- ✔ Digging out Oak tree saplings (3 times)
- ✔ Crown raising in woodland (2 times)
- ✔ Habitat pile construction



Woodland ride

Creating habitat pile

## Charles Hill Playing Fields

One activity has been carried out at this site.

### Task Day Activities

- ✔ Tree planting at edge of field close to the Multi-User Games Area. Planted 380 whips and 40 pot grown trees in a previously prepared area on the edge of the existing woodland. Task arranged with Chris Beale. Assisted by 18 volunteers from the Friends of Red River group on one of their Saturday task days.



Tree Planting



## Outcomes for LNR's

The Local Nature Reserve's (LNR) in Amber Valley continue to be well managed, with the opportunity for public involvement. After analysing the outcomes of work completed at the LNR there have been many positive outcomes. There has been improved and safer access to LNR's. There has also been an increased and better awareness and understanding of the value of LNR's, a greater knowledge of natural history of the sites and of local heritage of the sites.

The team have also helped to increase pride and respect for sites and developed a variety of opportunities for volunteering in local environment. Thus, increasing opportunity for informal recreation and education and raising the profile of Amber Valley as a pro-active place for nature conservation.

Over the last 12 months there have been opportunities for networking and making contact between groups and individuals, increasing awareness of flora & fauna to be found on the reserves in Amber Valley, improved environments for people & wildlife and quantifying of management outputs for Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

## Additional Outputs

Groundwork has kept in contact with Cemex to secure gift in kind help with future activities at Pennytown Ponds.

Contact has been maintained with the Butterfly Conservation Group to discuss future Birds Foot Trefoil planting at Pennytown Ponds, the maintenance of Elm trees and the involvement of Derby college volunteers throughout the winter and for future involvement in autumn and winter 2020.

Contact has been made with Trent Rivers Trust to discuss water quality issues at Pennytown Ponds, Belper Parks and Carr Wood. Wildflower coir mats were provided by them for Carr Wood and Belper Parks.



Hammersmith Meadows (Image courtesy of Friends of Carr Woods)

## Amber Valley Routeways:

### Project Description:

The project entails re walking the routes in the Amber Valley Routeway series of leaflets and rewriting the text, as necessary, to sort out any route issues. Access problems were reported to the DCC footpath officers. Routes were re-waymarked with the numbered discs if any were damaged or missing or for any route changes. In order to ensure routes are accessible, tasks included pruning back any overhanging or encroaching vegetation along the routes. Links have been made with community walking groups and the Ramblers Association, local groups and other volunteers to assist with the project. Photographs along the route have been taken to go on the website. Work has been undertaken with AVBC officers to get the amended routes on to the AVBC website.

Key walks were identified and agreed for this year's focus. Most of these were last checked in 2013. The routes are as follows:

- ✔ No 2 Horsley and Horsley Woodhouse
- ✔ No 9 Kirk Langley
- ✔ No 12 Ambergate (Betty Kenny Walk)
- ✔ No 13 Langley Mill
- ✔ No 19 Whatstandwell and Alderwasley (added following comments from members of the public.)
- ✔ No 11 Belper to Kilburn (added following comments from members of the public)
- ✔ No 22 Lea, Dethick and Holloway. A new route to be identified and added to the routeway series.

### Funding:

50 SLA hours – AVBC, equivalent to £2,000

In kind time from Amber Valley Ramblers and GGN Conservation Volunteers.

The quarterly volunteer time is shown below and uses the following formula to calculate equivalent monetary contribution:

6 hours equates to 1 person day, 1 person day equates to £50 contribution.

Quarter 1: 21 hours, 3.5 person days, £175 of in kind contribution

Quarter 2: 55 hours, 9.2 person days, £460 of in kind contribution

Quarter 3: 18 hours, 3 person days, £150 of in kind contribution

Quarter 4: 40 hours, 6.7 person days, £335 of in kind contribution

These hours do not include the time spent on the project by Amber Valley Ramblers, as this is not known. Best estimate is about 20 hours, 3.4 person days, £170 of in kind contribution

**Total for 2019/2020: 154 hours, 25.7 person days, £1,285 of in kind contribution**



## Task Activities and Actions

### No 2 Horsley and Horsley Woodhouse:

Route walked and checked. Clearance of a lot of vegetation required, particularly around stiles and gates. Numerous replacement way-marker discs were needed, but overall the route was still easily identifiable and obvious on the ground, with no major activities. Photographs taken to replace existing ones. Text updated.

### No 9 Kirk Langley:

Route walked and checked, still fully accessible with only a small amount of pruning and replacement of a few way-markers needed. Check and update text.

### No 12 Ambergate (Betty Kenney Walk):

Route walked and checked with two volunteers. Check and update text.

### No 13 Langley Mill:

Route walked and checked. Needs a major route alteration due to the loss of parking at the start point and building developments totally blocking the route part way around. Check and update text.

### No 19 Whatstandwell and Alderwasley:

Re-visit needed although not originally planned for this year. Walked and checked new section of route. Cut back vegetation and waymark this new concessionary section which had been diverted by the landowner due to safety concerns along the original route. The new route is an improvement on the original, not as steep and with better views over the valley. Check and update text.

### No 11 Belper to Kilburn:

Visit required following feedback from members of public. A thirty metre section of 'head high' Himalayan Balsam was cut back as it had totally blocked the footpath between sections 11 and 12.

### No 22 Lea, Dethick and Holloway:

Two volunteers spent some time researching historical details about the Lea, Dethick and Holloway route. Two volunteers completed the identification of the route, produced the descriptive text, way-marked and finalised the route following feedback from a third volunteer who re-walked the route to check the accuracy of the route descriptive text. The interpretative text was also produced and added to the leaflet. A guided walk along this route featured as part of The Autumn Footprints walking festival and was well received by the six people who walked it.

### No 17 Mackworth, No 8 Ripley and No 15 Idridgehay and Turnditch:

Dick Hall from Amber Valley Ramblers looked at these routes, replacing way marker discs where needed and reporting any problems.

## All Things Local magazine

Continued the existing partnership with All Things Local magazine (contact: Helen Young). A total of 19 of the existing 21 routes will have then been featured in the magazine, since the first one in October/November 2016.

The walks featured this year include;

- ✔ Route 10 Duffield in the April/May edition.
- ✔ Route 4 Codnor/Ironville in the June/July edition.
- ✔ Route 17 Mackworth/Meynell Langley in the August/September edition.
- ✔ Route 2 Horsley and Horsley Woodhouse in the October/November edition.
- ✔ Route 15 Idridgehay and Turnditch in the December/January edition.
- ✔ The revised Route 13 Langley Mill in the February/March edition.
- ✔ The new No 22 Dethick/Lea/Holloway route, will be featured in the April/May 2020 edition.

The magazine is also helping to publicise a guided walk planned for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to promote the full series of the walking leaflets. **This walk is likely to be postponed due to the Coronavirus lockdown.**

## Outcomes:

- ✔ Increase in number of available routes for leisure walking.
- ✔ Improved and safer access to walking routes.
- ✔ Better awareness and understanding of the local countryside and potential walks.
- ✔ Greater knowledge of natural history along the routes
- ✔ Greater knowledge of local heritage along the routes.
- ✔ Increased pride and respect for the local area.
- ✔ Opportunities for volunteering in local environment.
- ✔ Increased opportunity for informal recreation.



## Community Clean Ups

### Project Description:

Arrange regular volunteer litter picking sessions at the seven main urban centres within Amber Valley:

- ✓ Ripley
- ✓ Belper
- ✓ Heanor
- ✓ Codnor
- ✓ Alfreton
- ✓ Langley Mill
- ✓ Somercotes

### Funding:

450 SLA hours – AVBC, equivalent to £18,000. Budget for materials £4,000.

In kind time from Friends Group Volunteers and other members of public.

## Task Activities

### General

- ✓ Calendar of litter pick sessions set up
- ✓ Fliers produced to promote the activity in each area and invite volunteers to join the sessions.
- ✓ Local Town and Parish Councils contacted to inform them of the activities and ascertain any known litter and debris hotspots.
- ✓ Arranged collection points for bags of litter with AVBC.
- ✓ Local groups contacted to increase community involvement.
- ✓ The following organisations have taken part in the litter pick activities:
  - Friends of Carr Wood and Hammersmith Meadows
  - Groundwork Conservation Volunteers
  - Ripley Greenway Group
  - Friends of Red River
  - Belper Parks Volunteers
  - Heanor and Loscoe Town Council
  - Ripley Town Council
  - Belper Town Council
  - Somercotes Parish Council
  - Aldercarr Parish Council
  - Codnor Parish Council
  - Alfreton Town Council
  - McDonalds staff at Somercotes
  - ASDA Langley Mill

### Ripley

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	5	2	Local volunteers	Market Place, through Crossley Park and down streets to the Sir Barnes Wallis pub, back ast Ripley Hospital and the Croft to the Market Place.
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	4	2	Carr Wood FoG members	Bridle Lane
27 <sup>th</sup> January	12	6	CarrWood FoG, Ripley Greenway Group, Town Councillor	Market Place to Pit Top, Mill Hill School and Peasehill Road.

### Belper

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
17 <sup>th</sup> December	4	3	Local volunteers	Coppice car park. Followed route of Derwent Valley Heritage Way in the town.
27 <sup>th</sup> January	11	6	Belper Parks Volunteers, Town Councillors	Coppice car park to De Bradelei Mill, The Fleet, main shopping streets and Station car park.
16 <sup>th</sup> March	4	2	Belper Parks Voluteers	Along Coppice Brook through the town.

### Heanor

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	16	7	Local volunteers	Main road between St Lawrence Church and Fletcher Street. The alleyway by Florence Shipley home, the large car park behind the Market Place shops, the Whysall Street car park and car park behind Job Centre and adjoining streets.
25 <sup>th</sup> January	29	15	Red River FoG members, Town Councillors,	Mundy Street, Ray Street, Derby Road, Thorpes Road, Broadway and all nearby streets.



			local volunteers	
8 <sup>th</sup> February	6	3	Red River FoG	Charles Hill Playing Fields.
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	25	9	Town Councillors, Red River FoG, local volunteers.	Around Market Place, nearby streets and car parks and Kingsway area.

### Codnor

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
June	4	5	Local volunteers, Parish Councillor	Codnor Recreation Ground and surrounding streets.
July	4	5	Local volunteers, Parish Councillor	Codnor Recreation Ground and surrounding streets.
1 <sup>st</sup> February	25	12	Parish Councillors, local volunteers, Local Scouts with Leaders.	Market Place car park, Mill Lane car park and recreation ground, Codnor Recreation Ground, High Street.
7 <sup>th</sup> March	20	14	Parish Councillors, local volunteers, Local Scouts with Leaders.	Market Place car park, Codnor Recreation ground, High Street, jitty by Bella Dona, Alfreton Road.

### Alfreton

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
July	5	3	Local volunteers, Alfreton Councillors.	Play Park Rogers Lane, around allotments area, footpath to Beech Avenue Play Area, Alma Watchorn Park, Centenary Green, Cemetery on Rogers Lane, behind High Street shops from Limes Avenue to Rogers Lane.
13 <sup>th</sup> November		10	DCC Students	Various locations

### Langley Mill

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
June	2	0		Streets and areas around shops
July	2	0		Streets and areas around shops and car parks
26 <sup>th</sup> January	12	8	Local volunteers, Town Councillor	Station Road, Cromford Road, Queen Street (plus Rec) North Street, Shop car parks

### Somercotes

Date	Bags of litter collected	Number of Volunteers	Details of Volunteers	Locations Visited
July	7	3	Local volunteers, Parish Councillor	Various locations in centre.
11 <sup>th</sup> January	0	0		Cancelled due to weather
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	16	30	Staff from Somercotes McDonalds, local volunteers, Parish Councillors	Area of open space behind Pennytown Court (rear of winding Wheel).



## Autumn Footprints

### Project Description:

Autumn Footprints Walking Festival takes place in September each year. This event has developed each year and in 2019, 41 walks took place over the two-week period. A review of each year has taken place, which shows the numbers of organisations and individuals involved with the development of the project and those taking part in the programme. Over the years there has been significant publicity gained.

In 2019 the event ran on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The event is co-ordinated by Groundwork in conjunction with Amber Valley and Erewash Borough Council and the Countryside Section of Derbyshire County Council (ShIPLEY Country Park). In addition, more than twenty other organisations are involved with approximately 50 volunteers involved. All walks are led by knowledgeable walk leaders taking walks along the canals, rivers and through the countryside.

### Funding:

- ✔ AVBC/Groundwork service level agreement 70 hours £2800, plus limited officer time and £300 covering postage.
- ✔ EBC/Groundwork 50 hours £2000, EBC £1200 printing leaflet/poster and badges.
- ✔ Volunteer leaders time gift in kind £5000  
EBC Officer time and distribution of leaflets £300  
Derbyshire County Council staff time and providing risk assessment training if required £1200 + £600 taking bookings
- ✔ Derbyshire Rural Transport project £250

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

- ✔ Production of Autumn Footprints leaflet and posters in July 2019
- ✔ Number of leaflets distributed by end July: 5,000
- ✔ Number of walks 41 (one was cancelled due to lack of bookings)
- ✔ Number of walkers taking part in festival: 902. (Average of 22 people per walk)
- ✔ Record number of people attending each walk.
- ✔ Feedback from public on walks attended
- ✔ Number of volunteers involved: over 50 volunteers
- ✔ 4 press releases were created and sent to media contacts. An interview on BBC Radio Derby took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. A feature was also added in the Caravanning Blog page.
- ✔ Website [www.autumnfootprints.co.uk](http://www.autumnfootprints.co.uk) , Twitter and Facebook used for promotion.

The festival was launched on 14 September 2019 by both Mayors of Amber Valley & Erewash at ShIPLEY Country Park to an audience of walk leaders (approximately 50 people present). Short speeches were given by both Mayors and the walk leaders were presented with badge as a token of thanks.

This was an excellent opportunity for members of the steering group to personally meet and thank the walk leaders for their commitment and enthusiasm to this project. It was also a useful for the walk leaders to be able to network.

Afterwards many of the walk leaders and members of the public took part in the launch walk, no. 54, with brilliant autumnal sunshine.

The weather over the first week was excellent – it could not have been better. However, the second week was not so good with rain on several days. The rain has affected the numbers attending the second week.

The second pre-booking only walk run by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was cancelled due to lack of bookings – partially thought to be due to the rain – so only 41 walks instead of 42 ran this year. The first session they had run in the late afternoon/early evening had been very successful and they are keen to be involved next year.

### Outcomes:

- ✔ Walking Festival delivered attracting increased number of participants, including residents from within Amber Valley and Erewash and visitors to the area.
- ✔ Improvement to the rights of way network and improved satisfaction of outdoor recreation
- ✔ Longer term strong partnerships developed and delivery partners.
- ✔ Record of contributions to wider health agenda within delivery area by increase in physical activity and improvement to mental well-being.
- ✔ A better understanding of the Countryside Code.
- ✔ More people involved in volunteering and caring for their local area.
- ✔ Greater knowledge of natural history and local heritage of many areas of Amber Valley & Erewash.
- ✔ Increased pride and respect for local area.

