



Friends of Ripley Greenway are committed to working with organisations, local councils and residents to maintain and improve Ripley Greenway

RIPLLEY GREENWAY

Bottle Brook and The Bear

Ripley Greenway is approximately 2 miles long. Margins along the sides of the path are not mown to make them hospitable for wildlife and allow many different natural plants to thrive. This is important as insects are vital for the pollination of plants and to provide food for birds. Many species are in decline, the Greenway supports a wide variety of Birds and other species including Butterflies, Moths and Bees.



Cow parsley



The Holly Blue butterfly needs holly, ivy and clover



Jay



White Clawed Crayfish: This rare and endangered species has been seen in this brook. It is sensitive to pollution. By improving the habitat and providing refuges in the brook we can support their survival.



The Bear as it was when originally constructed

The remains of a brick sculpture, 'The Bear', built in 2000, can be seen here above the brook. The ideas of local school children were inscribed on some of the bricks.

The materials used in the construction of The Bear were supplied by Waingroves Brickworks, which opened in 1914 and was a significant employer of local people. The Butterley Company originally started making bricks in the area in the 1870's. The Hanson Trust eventually took over the site at Waingroves which is now owned by Forterra who reintroduced the Butterley brand name for their heritage bricks in 2016.



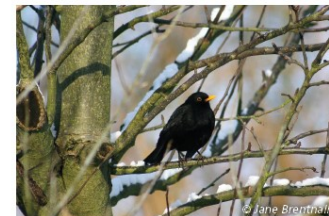
The grass on this area is left long to enable a wide variety of wild flowers and grasses to grow. This provides food plants and cover for many insects, birds and small mammals such as the rabbit and red fox.



Himalayan Balsam is growing in abundance along the banks of Bottle Brook and surrounding areas. FoRG Volunteers work to control its spread as it smothers many other native plants.



Water Voles inhabit the banks along the Bottle Brook. Their numbers have reduced considerably. We can support them by carefully managing the banks of the brook, monitoring water quality and improving their habitat.



Blackbird

GREENWAY CODE

- Please be considerate to other Greenway users
- Do not drop litter, please use the bins provided
- Please admire the flowers and do not pick them
- Cyclists, please keep your speed down and give way to other users
- Horse riders, please keep to a walking pace
- Dog walkers, please keep your dog under control, clean up after your dog and use the bins provided