

Summary

This was a special work party convened to transport more wood chip from the pile at the southern end to a location near the north end, with the aid of a 4-wheel drive buggy and driver kindly loaned by Rushcliffe Country Park. Unfortunately, because of rain the previous evening, the buggy was unable to negotiate the slippery surface on the path up to the south-eastern entrance and had to return to base. Therefore, with the few tools we had available, we improvised and carried out several tasks, although a few of the volunteers preferred to leave early in the circumstances.

Using wheel barrows, we spread wood chip on a 17m stretch of the western path (not far from the wood chip pile) and on a 32m uphill stretch of the eastern path. We also inspected all public paths for debris from yesterday's severe gales and removed several branches and small trees. A small amount of coppicing and sycamore removal was carried out on the south-eastern site, and the unofficial path from the wood chip pile to the eastern path was once again blocked off.

One of the notices we had posted asking for comments on our proposed blocking of unofficial entrances was found ripped off!

An interesting observation was an apparent hibernaculum for about 50+ ladybirds between the gate post and gate at the south-eastern entrance. The perspex sign that was installed a couple of years ago prevents the gate closing right up against the post, leaving a few millimetres gap for the ladybirds. Hopefully the gate will not need to be opened again this winter and they won't be disturbed further. My Blackberry produced only poor photos, but a couple are attached – perhaps Simon has a better one. It looks like there could be quite a variety of species present. Can anyone help to identify some?