# TRANSFORMING THE TRENT VALLEY



# Landscape Partnership

Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) is a partnership of 18 voluntary and statutory organisations and quarry operators who are working together to restore and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley. By working with the communities that live, work and play along the River Trent, we hope to build a sustainable landscape that is enjoyed by all and protected into the future.

Back in 2016 we applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a first stage grant that would enable us to develop a range of engaging projects aimed at reconnecting communities, children and families with the river and its valley.

Work started in spring 2017 and, following 18 months of hard, work we finally submitted a second stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant of £2.7m.

So what have we been up to and what will happen next?

# **Community Engagement**

We have been working with local communities to better understand the landscape and the opportunities and issues that it presents. We have spoken to people from across the area to find out what the river and the valley means to them.

Some individuals agreed to participate in a series of 'conversations', which took place in six locations: Burton-upon Trent, the A38 corridor (Barton and Walton), Alrewas and Kings Bromley, Repton and Willington, Tamworth, and the lower Dove Valley.

These conversations gave communities the opportunity to voice their opinions, input into the process and share their knowledge.



Communities from across the valley coming together to have their say, Burton-upon-Trent, June 2018.

# **Researching the River Valley**

We employed a range of consultants and experts to support the partnership in learning about the landscape. We have audited how accessible the river valley is for walking and cycling, mapped opportunities for wildlife and environmental enhancement, assessed the condition of built heritage, and identified areas of historical interest.

We have also looked at how people use the landscape currently and made projections for how the landscape might look in 25 years.

From this research we have established our vision for the landscape and developed a series of projects that will form the first step in realising this vision.

#### **Our Vision**

Wildlife-rich waterways and wetlands at the heart of a resilient, accessible, beautiful and culturally rich landscape. Creating a brighter future for people, business and wildlife in the Trent Valley.

# **Our Projects**

Connecting Communities through Action

**Community Engagement**: Empowering local communities to make positive change.

**Wildchild**: Encouraging children and families to explore nature through play.

**Big Washlands Watch**: Challenging schools, families and individuals to identify species in our landscape.

**Transforming Lives**: Providing young conservationists with new skills and training.

**Connecting with Nature**: Connecting adults with nature for improved mental wellbeing.

**Tales from the River Bank**: Capturing memories of life in the Trent Valley.



Children learning about nature through fun activities and play, Wolseley Centre.

#### River Valley Connections

**Interpretation programme**: Telling the story of the Trent Valley for all ages and backgrounds.

**Trent Valley Way**: Creating a series of walks and trails along the River Trent.

**Canal Access**: Upgrading the towpath of the Trent and Mersey Canal for multiple users.

**Canoe Discovery**: Creating and promoting a canoe trail along the River Tame.

**Gateway to the Trent Valley**: Building a new off-road cycleway connecting communities across the A38.

**Waymarking of Cycle Routes**: Creating marked cycle routes across Burton-on-Trent.



Families enjoying paddling on the water (British Canoeing).

# Transforming the Landscape

**Living Floodplains**: Improving biodiversity and reconnecting the river with its wetlands.

**Brook Hollows**: Restoring the culturally important lakes at the heart of Rolleston.

Transforming the Trent Valley's Heritage: protecting heritage at risk from cultivation.

**Stop! The Military Heritage of the Trent Valley**: preserving the built heritage of the WWII Stop Line.



The waterfall at Brook Hollows, Rolleston (ESBC).

### **Next Steps**

There is still some way to go before we can start delivering anything on the ground. The timeline below shows when we can expect things to really start happening:

**August 2018**: An application was made to HLF.

**December 2018**: Result of the application is announced

**April 2019**: (if successful) project delivery will begin.

Summer 2019: TTTV Launch Event

If we are successful in securing a grant of £2.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this will unlock further funding enabling us to deliver £4.6m of project work over the next 5 years.



Starting work on the ground (Nick Mott)

# How can you get involved?

There are a number of way in which you can get involved.



River Trent (Aimee L. Booth)

**Spread the word**: tell people about us, look out for future updates and tell people about our mailing list.

**Volunteer your time**: there will be a range of opportunities for you to get involved, from one-off activities, to regular volunteering events. Get in touch to find out more.

**Share your ideas**: We will be supporting communities in developing their great ideas into viable projects. We will also offer practical support through our Community Grants Scheme. Look out for future updates following our launch in April 2019.

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