

# TRANSFORMING THE TRENT VALLEY

Landscape Partnership



Transforming the  
Trent Valley

**Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) is a partnership of 20 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.**

We have been working hard over the last few months to develop the series of community, education, conservation, and access projects that make up this scheme.

The partnership will be submitting an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund this summer for a grant of £2.7m so a lot of work has been taking place to help us to better understand the landscape, its heritage and its communities.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of the work we have been doing and some of what we have found out.

## Community Conversations

This is an intensive form of consultation that invites a handful of representatives from each community to come together and discuss the issues that affect their area. Participants are required to attend four workshops where they get to raise concerns, help shape the projects and develop a vision for their community.

Six areas have been selected incorporating a mix of large towns, small villages and rural locations aimed at representing the diverse communities that live across the landscape.

Each area is facing its own complex issues and represents its own set of challenges.

Conversations are now complete, or nearly completed, in Burton-upon-Trent, the Dove Valley, and Alrewas and Kings Bromley. Conversations in Tamworth, the A38 Corridor, and Repton and Willington will be concluded in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part, we have learnt a great amount already.



*Participants in the Burton upon Trent Community Conversation, November 2017.*

## Community consultation

For those who were not able to be part of the Community Conversations (or even who were) but still want to have their say, a community consultation is currently available on the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Facebook page and via Survey Monkey until the end of January 2018.

Please visit

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LMJNJWY>

## Cultural Heritage

We have completed a detailed audit of the historical and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley. Led by Staffordshire County Council and written by ArcHeritage, the audit provides a catalogue of recorded cultural heritage sites in the landscape.

The full report and a short summary report can be found on the [County Council website](#). These help us to better understand the Trent Valley and why it is important to us.

Prehistoric beasts including the woolly rhino and mammoth were known to roam the valley during the Palaeolithic (500,000 to 10,000 BC), recent finds are thanks to mineral workings in the area. A rare Mesolithic (10,000 to 4,000 BC) human burial was discovered in Branston and it is known that man occupied the region since the Stone Age due to the large number of hand tools found across the area.

The early medieval (450 to 1065 AD) was a time of major upheaval and the period is mostly poorly documented. Repton, a village to the north-east of the area, is a significant exception as it was once the royal centre of the Mercian Kingdom. A number of royal burials were recorded in the Saxon crypt of St Wystan's church<sup>(1)</sup> and it is generally agreed that Vikings captured the town around 873AD and overwintered there in a defended settlement. There is evidence of Viking fortifications and pre-Christian burials.



*Trent and Mersey canal near Burton*

More recently, the influence of industrialisation can be found across the landscape from the brewing industry of Burton, the ironworks in Claymills and the cotton mills in Alrewas, through to the network of canals and river navigations that link the region together.

The rich cultural heritage of the Trent Valley is recognised and celebrated by the partnership and it is through understanding the past that we appreciate the present.



*Post-medieval houses at Repton*

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<sup>(1)</sup> ArcHeritage (2017) Transforming the Trent Valley: Cultural Heritage Audit



## Access to the landscape

An Access and Visitor Audit, lead by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and written by The Landscape Partnership Ltd., has assessed how accessible the landscape is, what the potential is for visitors to the area and what facilities are available at key destinations across the landscape. This report gives us valuable insight into the outstanding needs that must be met to ensure that the Trent Valley can be enjoyed by the whole community.



*Walking along the Trent Valley Way*

## Natural Heritage

A detailed audit of the Natural Heritage in the Trent Valley is being led by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and written by Camlad Ecology. Due to be completed early in the New Year, the report will help to inform the partnership where priority wetland management and habitat restoration works should take place.

The research from this audit will also help the partnership to plan projects to benefit the priority species of the landscape: Lapwing, Curlew and Snipe.



*Snakes Head Fritillary, Broadmeadow Local Nature Reserve*

## Next steps

The period for research and consultation will be drawing to a close shortly. It will then be down to the partners to take this wealth of information and utilise our learning to develop detailed and reasoned project plans.

The project plans will include details about the type of work to be carried out and why it is needed. Additional information will show how all the projects work together as part of a larger scheme that will be delivered over the next 5 years. We will also be looking to the future: what is our vision for the valley, how can this be achieved in the short term and what steps can we take to ensure success in the long term?

A submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be made in summer 2018.

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**Funding raised by  
The National Lottery**

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



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