

### 3.0 Statement of Significance



Architecturally interesting brewery in Burton (*Aimee L. Booth*)

**Ethnosphere (n)**  
the trail of dreams, ideas,  
inspirations and experiences  
brought into being by the  
human imagination



Creating micro-topography along newly re-profiled shorelines (*Nick Mott*)



Washlands Benches (*Aimee L. Booth*)

### 3.1 The value of our landscape

**The Trent Valley in Staffordshire and Derbyshire is a landscape that has been a hive of activity from time immemorial. Many landscapes have had “their time”; when events conspired to create the conditions for a short lived “boom” often followed by a long decline as demands or technology moves on. Ironbridge, the Churnet Valley, the coalfields of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are all local examples. But the Trent Valley is different. This is a landscape that has changed continually and provided what is needed when it is needed without fuss or sudden change. As a result of this evolution the landscape is peppered with a richness of cultural and natural heritage that doesn’t just tell one story, it offers an eclectic and interwoven narrative of a landscape in continual flux.**

The River Trent is central to the story. Early settlers found rich agricultural land, materials for building, clean water and safety from seaborne marauders.

Later on it was the qualities of the water that created a thriving economy based around brewing and the landscape once again was altered to provide the transport links by river and canal.

Today the landscape provides the UK’s building industry with aggregates and raw materials that drive economic growth. In years to come, once these quarries have been worked out and naturalised the landscape will change again, this time providing habitat for wildlife and leisure space for the rapidly growing population.

Some landscapes are archetypal. They are significant because they represent one “type”; better than the rest. The Trent Valley is different; it doesn’t have a single focus. Instead it is a landscape of variety, where chocolate box villages steeped in history and tradition exist within earshot of ultra-modern logistics and quarrying industry. The river is a constant in a landscape that is still changing.



Alrewas Village (Aimee L. Booth)

### 3.1.1 Our Natural Heritage

The Trent Valley contains some excellent natural heritage already, but the real significance on a regional and even international scale is what is planned over the coming years. If we go back a few hundred years, the Trent Valley was very different. The Trent was untamed and allowed to meander across the valley floor. The landscape back then would have been much wetter and wilder and the wildlife would have been very different. Fast forward to more recent times and land drainage and industrialised agriculture led to a situation in the late 20th Century where wildlife had been marginalised and much of the river badly polluted and contained within steep sided channels.

In recent years much of this has changed. The river is much cleaner; upstream, within the city limits of Stoke, trout are now found and surely it will not be long before salmon run once again, but the best is yet to come.

Within the next 20 years there is a real opportunity for the Trent Valley to become an internationally important wetland area. The quarries are key to this. As the sand and gravels are worked out the flat, featureless monoculture fields are being replaced with a diversity of wetland habitats. This is not happening just by chance, it is through a concerted effort between public, private and voluntary sector partners working together with a common aim. The Trent Valley is the trailblazer for this approach at Tucklesholme Quarry.

At Tucklesholme a revolutionary approach was taken whereby the quarry was bought by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust while it was still being actively quarried. This is significant because the traditional method of extraction is to take out as much material as possible

and then undertake the minimal amount of restoration works to comply with planning consent. Instead, the ethos at Tucklesholme has been to extract material in a way that creates the best possible features for wildlife. Instead of a deep hole with a bit of landscaping around the edges we are left with a rich diversity of hydrologically dynamic habitat above and below the water. We are just a few months away from works being completed and already the wildlife is thriving. Within the lifetime of the HLF funded programme this site will have begun to mature and many other sites will be coming on stream throughout the landscape.

This potential is not just restricted to the quarries. In recent years there has been a complete 180-degree turnaround in the way we think about flood management. Again we are poised on the cusp of significant positive change within our landscape. Throughout the 20th Century the conventional approach to flood management was to try to control nature. As a result, our rivers were made into deep straight channels with steep banks that would act as huge drainpipes to quickly move water downstream and out to sea. This was bad for wildlife; imagine being a juvenile fish caught in this torrent. Ultimately, this policy has been proved not to be an effective way of controlling flooding. We have all seen the results of flash floods caused by rapidly rising rivers that are not designed to cope with our weather, which has become even more variable due to climate change.

Within the lifetime of our programme we will see significant changes to flood management within Burton, the largest town in our landscape. This will see stretches of the river being re-naturalised with meanders and channels widened, islands introduced, and steep banks levelled off. The result will be a multiple “win” with improved wildlife habitats, increased flood storage and slower and more controlled flows.

Significant positive changes to the natural heritage will also be happening elsewhere within the landscape too. Although picturesque and natural looking, the River Dove and its tributaries are actually heavily engineered with several weirs along their length. These weirs are a form of flood prevention as they allow flows to be regulated. Unfortunately, they also act as physical barriers for the movement of migratory fish such as salmon. During the lifetime of this programme, plans are in place to create fish passes on these weirs, or remove them altogether, to allow free movement of wildlife.

It is also worth noting that ‘Transforming the Trent Valley’ is not working in isolation. Our landscape connects directly with two other priority landscapes that have been

supported through HLF. To the south our landscape connects directly with the Tame Valley Wetlands. Significant improvements have been made to wildlife habitat by the scheme. Our landscape will directly benefit from this investment as we are immediately downstream. To the north west our landscape connects to the Churnet Valley Landscape. Again, we will benefit directly from this investment as the Churnet is the main tributary of the Dove. Likewise, the Churnet will benefit from our work, especially if we can create a clear passage for migratory fish through the River Dove.

The next 20 years will be a very exciting period for the natural environment of the Trent Valley. The opening paragraph to this section talks about a landscape of continual change and flux. This is exactly what is happening now, but for once we are going to end up with a huge net-gain for wildlife. When future generations write about the history of the Trent Valley they will note how the early 21st Century was a time when the landscape changed significantly and how the wildlife that had been lost since the industrial revolution made a welcome return thanks to the forethought of the people around at that time.



Engineered river channel at Burton Mill (Nick Mott)

### 3.1.2 Our Cultural Heritage

Rivers have always played a significant role in human culture. Since pre-history they have provided water, food, protection and transport and still do today. It is therefore not wholly surprising that within our landscape evidence has been found of human habitation as far back as between 250,000 and 150,000 years. We can only speculate what the earliest residents would have thought about today’s landscape. Conditions then were precarious with sparse vegetation, but it seems there was a healthy population of mammoth, evidence of which has also been found within our landscape. While we are obviously unable to consult with these communities to ask them what was significant in their Trent Valley landscape,

we can pick up clues from what they have left behind. Although the exact details are contentious and vague, there is suggestion of a Mesolithic (10,000 to 4,000 years ago) burial on the banks, or possibly in a structure built over the water, which certainly hints at the cultural significance of the river.

Skip forward to the Neolithic (4,000 BC to 43 AD) and the evidence of the cultural significance of the river becomes stronger. Now we find evidence of enclosures, burials, monuments, and elaborate post settings that suggest the river had ceremonial significance as well as being a major landscape feature. There is even evidence of offerings of bronze weapons and axes being thrown into the river as sacrifices. The fact that many artefacts are associated with raised ground hints at frequent flooding events, so the river would have been central to the lives of these early residents. If we could look out at our landscape as it existed then the view would be very different, but perhaps with some similarities. The river would be largely untamed, with multiple braids, but we would see dwellings and field boundaries, some of which may still exist under the hedgerows of today!

The Roman period (AD 43 to 450) left a very significant legacy in our landscape and some of the features we have now owe their existence to this period, in particular the roads. In many ways the A38 is a more significant feature in today's landscape than the river. This dual carriageway cuts right through the modern landscape following the route of the Roman Rykniel Street, which ran from the West Country to Yorkshire. During the Roman period other roads would have spurred off and been used for carrying goods and moving troops across the countryside. If a Roman time traveller heading for the ford at Alrewas landed in our landscape today perhaps he may be able to get his bearings?

The collapse of the Roman Empire was followed by hundreds of years of upheaval within our landscape. The river

that once gave protection now provided a route way for Viking longships. The "Great Heathen Army of the Vikings" commanded Repton in the North of our landscape and who knows what terror and carnage this brought to the Trent Valley. Records also show that this was a time when the climate deteriorated too so our landscape would have been a difficult and dangerous place to be.

After the Norman Conquest, during the medieval period (1066 to 1485) we get a sense of calmer times. We have evidence of wealth in the valley with the establishment of manor houses, churches and fishponds. Arable farming has become much more prevalent through ridge and furrow field systems which can occasionally be seen in the fields to this day. We also see the river starting to be tamed, with weir pools constructed to power corn mills for making flour and numerous bridges built, some of which are still standing. But this is still an untamed environment with frequent outbreaks of plague. The landscape continues to be changed and adapted by the people who live and work within it and that change continues as we move towards more modern times.

A visitor from the post medieval period (1485 to 1750) would recognise quite a few places within our landscape. Many timber-framed houses and farms that were constructed in this period are still with us. The river at this time continues as a dominant feature, but is becoming tamed by bridges, and farming practices are taking advantage of the river's floodplain through the establishment of water meadows. Industry is still small scale, but quarries are opening up. The river crossing at Burton is now a significant structure and is fiercely fought over by Royalists and Parliamentarians as the town repeatedly passed between sides during the Civil War.

The Industrial Period (1750 to 1900) was a boom time for our landscape. Canals and railways become a major feature and overtake the river as the main route

for transporting goods. Areas that we now think of as rural idylls were hives of industrial activity, particularly cotton mills. Burton, already a centre for brewing for hundreds of years becomes "Beeropolis" the City of Beer and gains international recognition for the quality of its beer, with shipments going around the world including to the Tsars of Russia. Industrialists recognised that that their wealth was associated with the quality and qualities of the water drawn from wells on the Trent's banks and were forward thinking enough to protect the washlands from development. Instead the Washlands became a place for the folk of Burton to enjoy their leisure time, just like today.

In more modern times (1901 – present) our landscape still retains many features from the past, but the last century has left its mark. The Trent Valley has always offered good land for agriculture, but the mechanisation of farming, especially since the war, has seen fields grow larger and an end to traditional subsistence smallholdings. The Trent Valley could have played a significant part in the war, but thankfully the dozens of pill boxes that made up England's "Stop Line", intended to slow down the Nazi invasion never had to be used in anger. These defences were very well made and can still be found silently guarding the valleys canals and rivers.

The latter half of the 20th Century saw a very new and very large feature in our landscape - cooling towers. It seems that these leviathans that feed on the cool waters of the Trent to power our electricity demands may not be around much longer as new technologies take up the strain, but from the 1950s onwards they have dominated the skyline and added their own character and significance to our landscape.

Less imposing from ground level, but just as dramatic, has been the massive

expansion in aggregate extraction. The weathering action of the river over millennia has resulted in deep deposits of sand and gravel very close to the surface of the ground. These beds are found throughout the Trent Valley, but are particularly rich a few miles south of Burton. Viewed from the air our landscape has changed dramatically over the last 30 years and will continue to do so for at least the next 30. To the ill-informed the massive holes scraped into the earth's surface could be viewed as terrible destruction, but the truth is very different. Within a handful of years, nature will have taken over and these lakes, ponds and reed beds will be teeming with wildlife on a scale not seen since the valley's earliest settlers made camp on Trent's bankside.

Modern Burton is a large town with an eclectic mix of architecture from across the ages. The proud brick built grain houses and breweries of the Victorian era stand cheek by jowl with ultra-modern distribution warehouses attracted by Trent Valley's central location and great transport links. The multi-cultural residents of today still have the magnificent washlands on their doorstep, but it has been said more than once that the town stands with its back to the Trent. Outside the main town many of the small villages and settlements have swelled in size through housebuilding, and significantly more houses are planned to meet the demand. This will increase pressure on the landscape, but as we have seen this is simply another chapter in story of our landscape.

What is significant about this landscape? Our landscape tells the story of the River Trent. The Trent has provided the essentials for life, prosperity, terror and stability to the people and wildlife that live here for millennia. Just like the River, our landscape is not static, it has changed and flowed over time and will continue to do so into the future.

### 3.1.3 Our Communities

It is the people and their communities that form the beating heart of this landscape. This is a landscape in which people have always lived, worked and relaxed. Whilst some people can trace their connections back through numerous generations there are many others who are new to the area, or even the country that have been attracted by the jobs and growing economy.

The Trent Valley has changed a great deal over time and there will be significant changes over the coming 20 years. The funding from HLF is coming just at the right time and will enable the partnership to engage and involve communities to make sure the future story of the Trent Valley is one where the river is welcomed back and embraced into the lives of individuals and communities. The projects that HLF will help to fund have been developed with community support and designed to do this.

People want to feel safe in their homes. The threat of flooding in the Trent Valley is a genuine concern. On a national scale, this threat is assessed in terms of its economic impact: insurance pay outs, damage to infrastructure, losses to industry; but our communities view it on a personal level: the emotional distress, the upheaval, the inconvenience. It is clear why many people have turned their backs on the river in recent years.

But with support from HLF and by working in partnership we will start address these issues within our communities. The project will work on a landscape scale with agencies to address flood risk, through engineered solutions, such as the flood defence scheme in Burton, and soft engineering, such as river reprofiling and restoring the natural function of the floodplain. At a community level, we will engage with people and encourage them to learn more about their river and become involved in its management. We'll change opinions so the river becomes a

positive asset that enriches their life in the valley.

People enjoy spending leisure time outdoors. Although accidental, this can lead to a conflict of use that puts significant pressure on our precious natural heritage resources. Areas that benefit wildlife and conservation can suffer detrimental effects from increased visitor numbers, intrusion from dogs, or sporting activities. Other areas may find that different users come into conflict, such as walkers and cyclists, or anglers and canoeists.

This project has already helped us to understand the landscape, identify the areas of greatest sensitivity, and better appreciate the needs of the local communities. Going forward we will be able to work together to address conflicts and strike a balance across the landscape. At a landscape-scale we have identified where our natural, cultural and built assets need to be protected, and at a local-scale we will work with partners to provide the infrastructure and the information required to enable communities to access and enjoy their landscape with minimal impact.

Modern living is a high-pressured, fast-paced existence that can have a significant impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals. It is acknowledged that access to natural spaces can have a positive impact on mental health and opportunities for an active lifestyle can improve physical wellbeing. In our towns and cities, we find that people are becoming less active and this is having a major impact on our overall quality of life.

Through this project we will create opportunities for people to become more active: to be fitter, healthier and happier. We'll do this by making it much easier to access and explore the countryside throughout the valley and by encouraging

people to become more active through walking, cycling and paddling. People with limited mobility or those who traditionally do not visit the countryside will be encouraged to take those first tentative steps into our wild spaces, whilst those with mental health issues will be supported through initiatives that will reconnect them with their environment. Innovative interpretation will capture and enthral new audiences, instilling a sense of pride and ownership over the landscape.

We are the custodians of the landscape for the next generation. By engaging children with nature from an early age we will ensure that the next generation understands, enjoys and looks after the rich natural heritage of the Trent Valley for future generations. We want this responsibility for stewardship to become ingrained as a way of life. By offering training to young adults, we are educating

the next generation of influencers and providing them with the skills and practical experience to make a significant difference in their local communities. Volunteering opportunities will reach a wide audience, allowing people of different ages and backgrounds to have direct involvement in the process of change, giving communities not only a voice, but the power to act out their part in Transforming the Trent Valley.

The Trent Valley is a significant landscape that has been shaped over time by natural forces and human activity. Just like the river that runs through it, it is not a static landscape. Through HLF funding the Transforming the Trent Valley partnership has already begun to learn much more about the significance of the landscape and its rich natural and cultural heritage. With HLF funding the next five years will leave a long lasting legacy for wildlife and future generations.



Children connecting with nature (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)



### 3.2 What is a River Worth?

Natural Capital can be defined as the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. It is from this Natural Capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible. The most obvious ecosystem services include the food we eat, the water we drink and the plant materials we use for fuel, building materials and medicines.

There are also many less visible ecosystem services such as the climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatlands, or the pollination of crops by insects. Even less visible are cultural ecosystem services such as the inspiration we take from wildlife and the natural environment (World Forum on Natural Capital, 2018).

Ecosystem services are typically divided into four broad categories (Ecosystem Services, 2011):

- **Supporting services:** these are the core services upon which other ecosystem services rely, such as soil formation, photosynthesis and biodiversity.
- **Provisioning services:** these are services that provide products that provide material benefit, such as food, wood, fresh water and fuels.
- **Regulating services:** these are services that provide benefits through regulating processes, such as water purification, pest control, and pollution.
- **Cultural services:** these are services that provide non-material benefits through recreation, education, spiritual enrichment and well-being.



Wychnor Meadows floodplain edge (Nick Mott)

### 3.2.1 Ecosystem Services of the Trent Valley

Figure 2. Ecosystem services wheel



Our natural assets such as water, soil, air, biodiversity and geology form the natural capital needed to provide many ecosystem services that we rely on (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, 2018).

The Trent Valley is a landscape offering a wealth of ecosystem services. Those identified as most important in Transforming the Trent Valley are:

#### Photograph Credits

**Clean Water:** Ross Hoddinott/2020VISION, **Fish:** Alexander Mustard/2020VISION, **Wood:** Mark Hamblin/2020VISION, **Pollination:** Ross Hoddinott/2020VISION, **Cool Temperatures:** Chris Maguire, **Control Flooding:** Bruce Shortland, **Purify Water:** Ed Marshall, **Store Carbon:** Katrina Martin/2020VISION, **Clean Air:** Ed Marshall, **Education:** Ross Hoddinott/2020VISION, **Recreation:** Peter Cairns/2020VISION, **Aesthetic:** Guy Edwardes/2020VISION, **Stewardship:** Philip Precey, **Habitat:** Andy Rouse/2020VISION, **Biodiversity:** Amy Lewis, **Photosynthesis:** Katrina Martin/2020VISION, **Soil Formation:** Mark Hamblin/2020VISION, **Food:** Matthew Roberts

#### Supporting services

- Biodiversity
- Habitat
- Floodplain

#### Provisioning services

- Clean water
- Fish
- Genetic diversity

#### Regulating services

- Flooding control
- Pollination
- Regulating water quality

#### Cultural Services

- Education
- Heritage
- Health and wellbeing
- Recreation

Work has been undertaken to determine the value of certain ecosystem services and this information has been extrapolated to determine the natural capital value of priority habitats within the landscape. The work undertaken in the Natural Heritage Audit (2018), using the calculations developed in the Staffordshire Ecosystem Assessment by Hölzinger and Everard (2014) demonstrated a restoration value of £108,690.04 per annum and a creation value of £64,382.25 per annum of six Biodiversity Action Plan habitats that are found within the Trent Valley.

A similar exercise was undertaken in the Economic Assessment of the Trent Valley Way by Clark for Walk Unlimited in 2017. It was found that, by the number of different categories of user, the footpath will generate £208,598 as direct new income, £310,881 as indirect and direct income and will create or safeguard 6 FTE jobs.

The Access and Visitor Audit took a broad-brush look at the Great Britain Day Visitor survey that showed the annual

day-visits in the East Midlands alongside annual spend.

A previous assessment undertaken in 2013 by the Central Rivers Initiative for part of the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape area examined the opportunities to promote economic activity and enhance our greenspaces. The focus was on the economic impact that a coordinated and well thought-out approach could have on the region. There is scope to utilise and expand upon this research.

It is clear that the landscape holds many natural capital assets and provides a number of ecosystem services, however the value of these services are currently, largely, unknown. The biggest gap in our knowledge base is determining the monetary value of the ecosystem services, and how the work undertaken through the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme will contribute economically to the landscape.



Wychnor Meadows (Nick Mott)

### 3.2.2 An Ecosystem Approach

The Landscape Partnership Scheme is being delivered for the benefit of people and nature and therefore can be seen to have adopted an 'ecosystem approach'. The Ecosystem Approach is a concept that integrates the management of land, water and living resources and aims to reach a balance between three objectives: conservation of biodiversity; its sustainable use; and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of natural resources (JNCC, 2014). More simply, it can be seen as:

- **Valuing nature's services** - how people value nature and what monetary and non-monetary value it has;
- **Understanding how nature works** - looking at the system as a whole and the benefits ecosystems provide;
- **Involving people** - putting people at the centre of ecosystem management (Porter *et al.* 2014).

### 3.2.3 Valuing Nature's Services

Some headway has begun on assigning a monetary value to the landscape as demonstrated above. Further work will be undertaken to determine what the current value is of the 13 identified ecosystem services. Once a value has been placed on these services we will be able to monitor and identify the impact of the projects delivered across the landscape.

### 3.2.4 Understanding how nature works

Places are constantly changing as a result of natural and human-made drivers for change. Change occurs regardless of intervention but intervention can guide the direction of change (Porter *et al.*, 2014).

Detailed research has been undertaken through auditing our existing information and datasets to gain an in-depth understanding of the landscape and its processes. The Spatial Strategy (LUC, 2018) has enabled us to determine the principal 'forces for change'. These forces put pressure on ecosystems and



Juxtaposition of man and nature (Nick Mott)

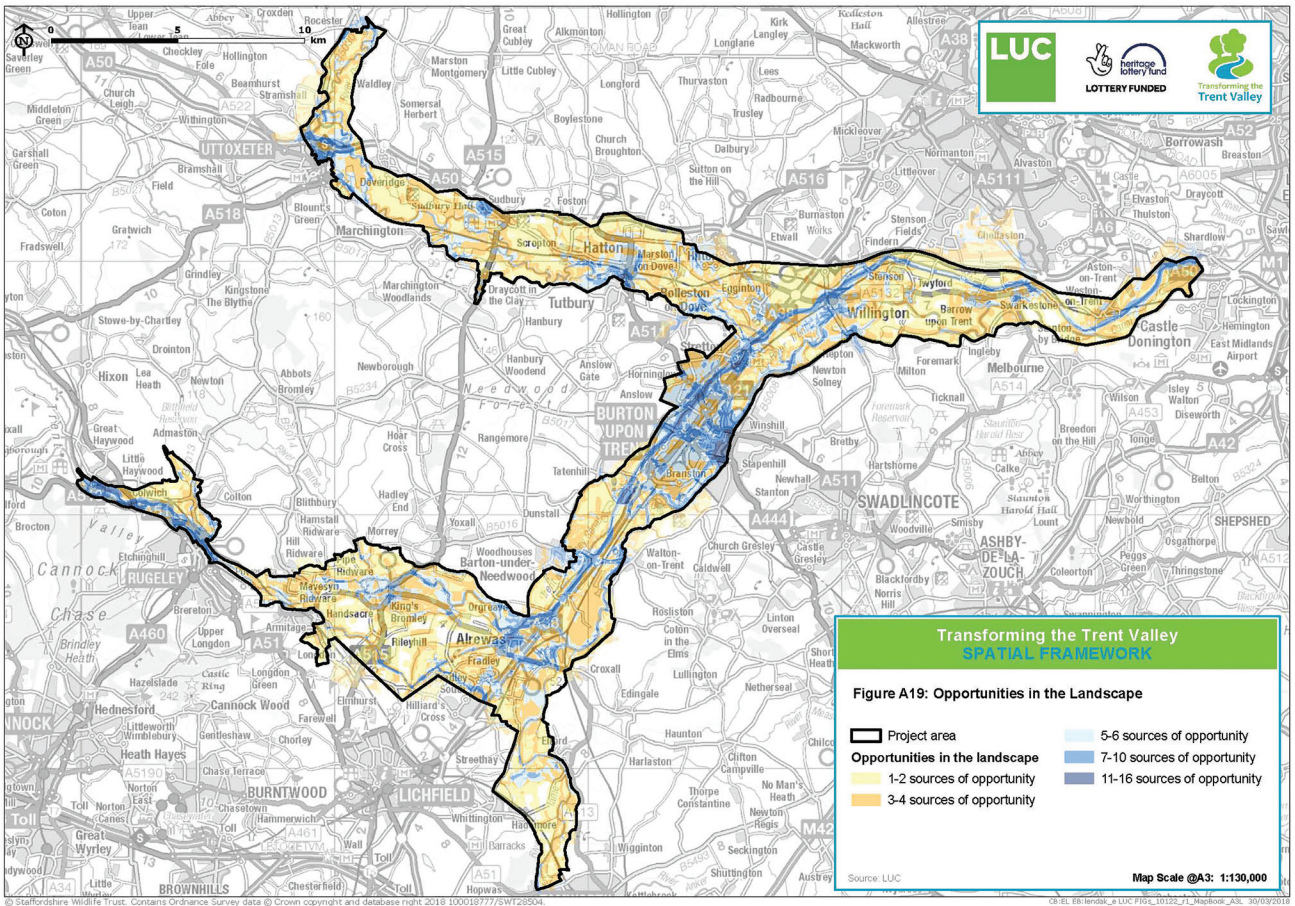
ecosystem services, but also present opportunities and create positive changes (Porter *et al.*, 2014).

The principal forces for change within Transforming the Trent Valley are large-scale infrastructure, specifically road upgrades and HS2; mineral extraction and the changing character of the landscape; hydrology and flood mitigation; recreation and tourism; climate change; and planning, particularly through the Development Plans for new settlements in and around the Trent Valley.

In order to further establish the interaction of different processes within the project area, and establish the extent and distribution of their impact on the landscape, a high level assessment of key opportunities and pressures has been undertaken. These have been mapped to represent spatially where the highest concentrations can be found. Opportunities include waterbodies, transport infrastructure, recreation space and the natural and cultural environment; pressures arise from these opportunities and include flood risk, new infrastructure routes, and settlement expansion (LUC, 2018). Maps 29 and 30 demonstrate the distribution and concentration of these opportunities and pressures across the landscape.

Generally, it can be observed that there is a good spread across the landscape, however, the greatest concentrations are typically found within urban areas (LUC, 2018). Identified within the report were 27 key opportunities and 7 key pressures.

Map 30. Opportunity concentrations in the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape (LUC)



Map 31. Pressure concentrations in the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape (LUC)

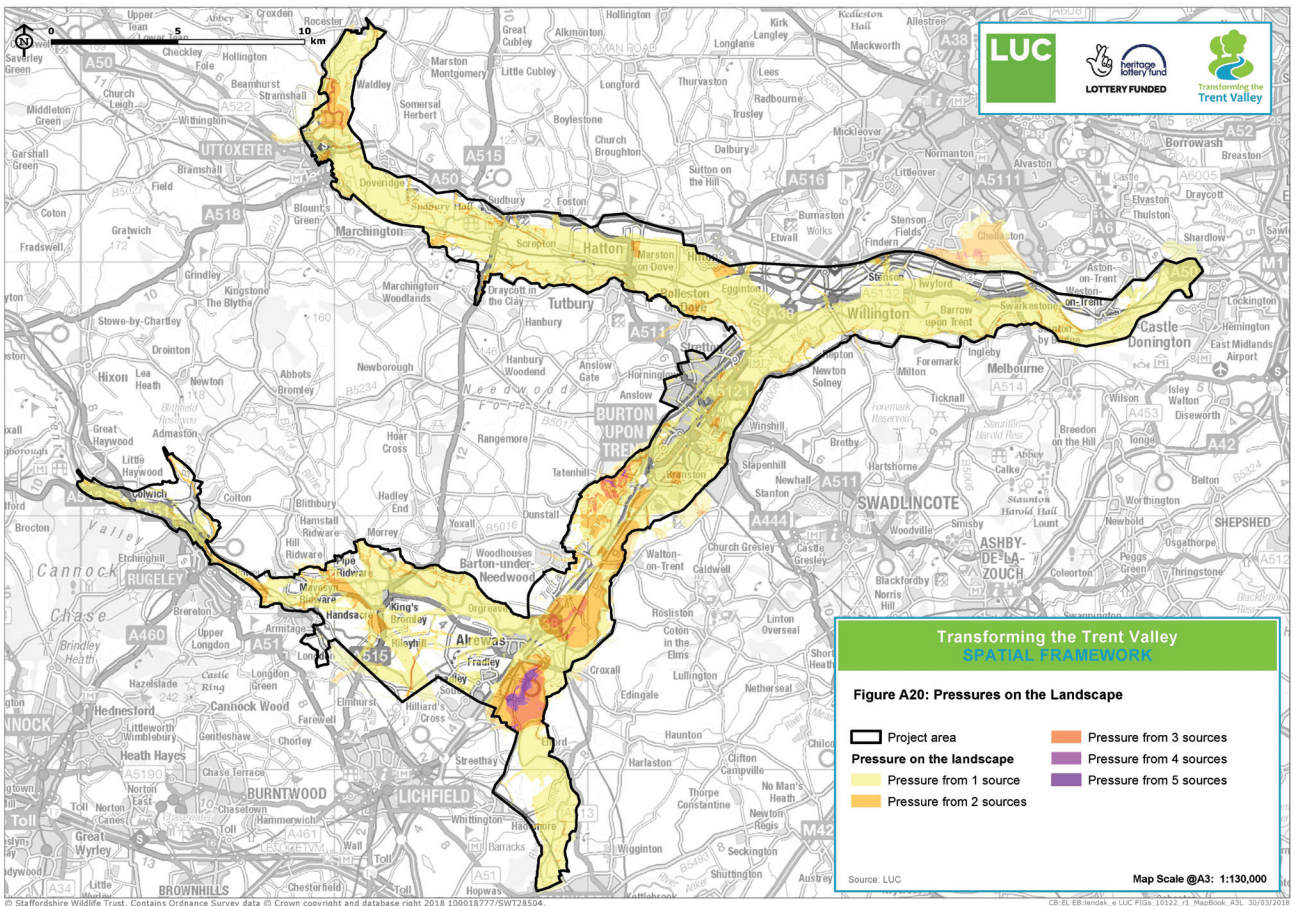




Figure 4. Word cloud summarising the themes for change as perceived by the community



### A Community Vision

Through the process of the Community Conversations, the participants in each location were asked to develop their own vision. A number of common threads are woven through the five statements focussing particularly on creating a space that is for everyone, creating a landscape accessible for all, enabling people to enjoy their outdoor space, preserving history and heritage, and creating a space rich in wildlife.

The following statements were developed which demonstrate the most significant attributes best valued by that community:

#### Burton-upon-Trent

*“In 2035 the Washlands is the heart of Burton, attractive and accessible to all. It allows people to enjoy outdoor space as well as the local history and diverse wildlife of the River Trent, the canal and the valley as a whole, whilst functioning as a flood plain.”*

#### Alrewas and Kings Bromley

*“In 2035 the Alrewas and Kings Bromley area of the Trent Valley is a place where the rural character has been maintained; natural sites, open spaces, heritage features and landscapes are well managed and wildlife rich. Local people and visitors enjoy good access to the countryside, including an A38 pedestrian and cycle crossing point. Community members are actively involved in decision-making to shape change and there are measures in place to maximise the potential opportunities from developments such as HS2, quarrying and house building.”*

#### A38 Corridor (Branston, Barton and Walton)

*“By 2035 this part of the Trent Valley will allow for everyone to enjoy and experience an enhanced landscape that is varied and rich in nature and promotes understanding of local history. It will include good viewpoints, footpaths, rest areas and cycle paths and have great links, giving a range of accessible recreation opportunities. It will have development that is sympathetic to the landscape and environmentally appropriate transport links, including by rail.”*

### **Villages of the Dove Valley**

*"In 2035 our River Dove is a healthier, more accessible and more natural place; rich in wildlife and enjoyed and valued by people."*

### **Repton and Willington**

*"In 2035, this will be a river landscape that is accessible for all, attractive, thriving and connected, which creates a healthy natural environment that communities can enjoy and benefit from and that celebrates its rich history, nature and culture."*

The communities of the Trent Valley have identified a list of projects that they believe are essential to enabling them to reach their vision. From this detailed list emerged a set of top priorities that have been developed and 'owned' by our local communities. These priorities have enabled us to shape and evolve our own ambitions as a partnership to ensure a suite of projects that will address the tangible issues in the landscape.

---

## **Sonnet I. To the River Trent**

*Once more, O Trent! along thy pebbly marge  
A pensive invalid, reduced and pale,  
From the close sick-room newly let at large,  
Wooes to his wan-worn cheek the pleasant gale.  
O! to his ear how musical the tale  
Which fills with joy the throstle's little throat:  
And all the sounds which on the fresh breeze sail,*

*How wildly novel on his senses float!  
It was on this that many a sleepless night,  
As lone, he watch'd the taper's sickly gleam,  
And at his casement heard, with wild affright,  
The owl's dull wing and melancholy scream,  
On this he thought, this, this his sole desire,  
Thus once again to hear the warbling woodland choir.*

### **Henry Kirke White**

(Sonnet 1. Written on recovery from sickness)