

8.0 Sustainability And Legacy



Nemophilist (n)
A love for the beauty of forests
and woodland

8.1 Legacy

The Partnership is working towards ensuring a number of legacies from the scheme. The legacies will build on the measures of success in our Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Central to the success of the Partnership and the Scheme will be building better

relationships. Only if we can improve relationships between recreationists and conservationists, between residents and visitors and between landscape users and landscape managers can we deliver successful projects and achieve a lasting legacy.

Table 19. Legacy of the scheme by project

Legacy of Transforming the Trent Valley

TTTV1 - Transforming the Trent Valley

The Partnership intends to exist beyond the life of the HLF grant. Having existed as the Central Rivers Initiative (CRI) since the late 1990s as a subscription based partnership with common interest in the Trent Valley, the ethos has survived expansion and contraction as political and financial constraints see partners join and resign. The funding has enabled the partnership to expand the original CRI boundary to include more of the Trent Valley and as such has been able to welcome new partners. Many of these partners have expressed interest in joining CRI and, through welcoming a new Chairman, we are in a position to examine the future of CRI, the new boundary, and the governance of the partnership.

TTTV2 - Interpretation Programme

The display materials will be made available to local museums beyond the end of the project. It is our intention that the display materials will be used by partners beyond the end of the project.

The newly-formed volunteer groups will continue to meet and care for the area beyond the end of this project. The host organisations will continue running some of the volunteer groups and other groups will be self-sustaining. This will also be a legacy of the community engagement and volunteer training as individuals will have a sense of ownership and empowerment.

The Augmented Reality deliverable will be maintained as part of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's 25-year vision for the TTTV wetlands area. This will be maintained through web-based technology.

Physical infrastructure will be maintained by the landowners into the future.

CCA01 - Community Engagement

The aim of the community engagement project is to involve people from all communities living in the Trent Valley so that they have gained a better understanding of the cultural and natural heritage by the end of the programme that they can carry into the future. Those who volunteer for projects during the programme may well continue to make a difference, either by continuing to volunteer for one of the partner organisations, or for a local community group, or by continuing on an individual basis e.g. as a citizen scientist. Community groups which receive a TTTVLP community grant will continue to develop activities and projects that further the aims of the TTTVLP beyond the life of the programme. The TTTVLP can be seen as a starting point for lifelong appreciation of and involvement in the cultural and natural heritage of the Trent Valley.

CCA02 Wildchild

Families engaged will have a greater knowledge of accessible sites and strategies for engaging with nature. They will have learned about appropriate use of wildlife and heritage sites and their use will continue past the life of this funded project.

Some elements of this project will be able to continue past its initial funded term, Wildlings, Wildfamilies and Nature Tots all run in other parts of the county on a charged-for sustainable basis. Often we find that when something has been offered for free for many years, introducing a charge is almost a death blow. This project will be offering greatly subsidised fees for sessions, with attendees clear that they are being subsidised via HLF support.

The school engagement will also be able to continue on a paid for basis, as we do elsewhere in the county.

The level of delivery will no doubt reduce as the need to cover staff time may divert the focus away from this area, unless we find a new source of funding to continue subsidising the role.

CCA03 Big Washlands Watch

Families engaged will have a greater knowledge of habitats and ecology. They will have learnt about species present in the landscape, how to identify them, record them and provide data to both biological recording centres to assist with mapping and planning requests in future. Understanding how different species fit together in a complex ecosystem will make sure that they know how disruptive man's influence can be – e.g. pollution incidents and how it can have far reaching effects on a healthy ecosystem.

Leave behind a network of experienced recorders with wide knowledge of sites and species of the valley area.

CCA04 Transforming Lives

Local young adults will have become engaged with the local natural heritage of the Trent Valley corridor and have the desire, knowledge and skills to protect and conserve it into the future.

An Alumni of people who have had nature conservation embedded in their thinking and their actions. These individuals will take this learning through with them into future careers wherever they end up. They will be connected to key organisations which are responsible for nature conservation.

The knowledge and experience of working with these groups through the partner organisations will help shape the Trent Valley in the future making sure it is relevant to a wider audience. This information can be maintained electronically on organisation websites.

CCA05 - Connecting with Nature

A key legacy for this project will be to link participating groups with partnership organisations who have historically not engaged with hard to reach groups.

By evidencing the link between mental wellbeing and connecting to nature, other organisations, such as NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, may be inspired to prescribe nature based activities for adults.

It will support partner organisations in making a step change in their key audiences, improving diversity and breadth of the communities we all work within. It will provide a robust intervention model for working with adult 'hard to reach' groups which other organisations can build upon / recycle within their own contexts.

CCA06 - Tales from the Riverbank

There will be a lasting legacy through the collection of memories which will be shared on the internet through partners' websites, YouTube etc.

The use of the information through various forms of interpretation within the project area will also ensure that the memories are used in other media.

RVC01 - Trent Valley Way

The TVW follows Rights of Way. The long term maintenance will be the responsibility of the landowner under the guidance of the Rights of Way departments at Staffordshire and Derbyshire County Councils.

Trent Rivers Trust remains committed to promoting the entire Trent Valley Way including the area within the TTTV LPS area and upstream and downstream of it. Funding will be sought to continue to look for opportunities to further develop and promote it.

As part of the delivery stage there is the potential to bring forward the improvement of the path separate to the HLF funding. For example, one site that has been identified through the volunteer surveys is 'Anchor Church', a heritage site by the Trent in Derbyshire that is in need of some investment. It is beyond the scope of this project to include it at the moment, but is a definitive possibility that funding and capacity to enhance it could be secured as a long term output from the TTTV activity.

One final potential piece of legacy from this project will be to provide a safe pedestrian access across the A38 at Alrewas. This has been a long term objective of TRT to achieve, but has unfortunately been out of the budget of this project. An A38 crossing was also mentioned in the 'Community Conversations' report from Alrewas and Kings Bromley. It is hoped that by raising the profile of the TVW, and by communities and organisations working together throughout the TTTV, that funding can be secured for this major piece of investment that would provide a significant improvement to the route in this area in the long term.

RVC02 - Canal Access

The Trent and Mersey Canal is over 250 years old and is an important part of the heritage of the Trent Valley. The towpath improvements will be maintained in the future by CRT and will be enjoyed by a large and diverse range of canal users including walkers, cyclists, canoeists and boaters. The improvements ensure that the length of the canal in the landscape remains safe, open and accessible into the future and provides an excellent access route to other parts of the Trent Valley.

The key legacy is the improvement to 5km of towpath in the Trent valley and improved access points for visitors and canoeists. The new sections will fall under the maintenance regime of the Canal and River Trust.

There will be publicity and literature produced by our partners at TRT and BC over the improved access on the Trent and Mersey Canal and in the Trent Valley. The Trust and its partners will update these publications on their respective websites.

RVC03 - Canoe Discovery

The legacy will be a canoe trail that can be used and promoted for many years, with minimal maintenance and upkeep costs being primarily managed by volunteers. The legacy will be more people accessing the Trent Valley waterways for recreation health and wellbeing, whilst linking rural communities together.

Both trails will form the basis from which future trails can be extended along the waterways within not only the project area, but neighbouring counties too. The success of the project will showcase how canoe trails inspire more people to get active and engage in their environment, to enable future funding to be secured to extend along the River Trent.

The new trails will be available online.

RVC04 - National Memorial Arboretum Cycleway

When the route has been completed the highway based element will be maintained by SCC whilst the element within Tarmac's land will be maintained by Tarmac. The highway based route will be included in SCC's routine inspection programme and maintained as necessary from SCC's maintenance budget. Tarmac will routinely inspect the section within their land and undertake reparation works as necessary.

The project will provide a designated sustainable connection between the National Cycle Network, Alrewas Village, the National Memorial Arboretum and the wider Trent Valley. This connection will be maintained by SCC and partners Tarmac. As part of the route runs across land owned by Tarmac they have demonstrated their intention to maintain a route to the NMA when the site is fully reinstated after extraction works in the area have been completed over the next 10 years.

Adult and child cycle training and led rides will continue beyond the physical delivery of this project.

RVC05 - Waymarking Cycle Routes

East Staffordshire Borough Council will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of waymarking posts, including repair and replacement costs.

The off road areas where posts are to be installed are managed by East Staffordshire Borough Council. Areas on road are managed by Staffordshire County Council, and a conversation about the installation and future management will happen during the project phase.

The Borough Council also has responsibility of managing the grass verges at the roadside. We will develop a system to ensure any ongoing maintenance is reported by the council's contractor.

The cycle routes are available in digital format on the Council website and will be maintained for future use.

TL01 - Living Floodplains

The project will aim to leave a legacy of sustainable funding to continue the work started with the LPS via quarry restoration, agri-environment schemes and biodiversity offsetting. Biodiversity offsetting has the potential to fund 10 – 25-year management programmes depending on the conditions of the development. This will support landowners in the long-term management of created projects.

The Catchment Partnerships that covers this area will support ongoing work on river restoration through the River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans.

TL02 - Brook Hollows Restoration

ESBC will be the responsible authority for maintaining the site through a regular inspection regime and an ongoing maintenance schedule. It is intended that local groups and partners will continue to contribute to the activities and maintenance of the site.

The history and what can be found on the site will be maintained electronically on village website.



Kayak near the River Trent (Aimee L. Booth)

TL03 - Transforming the Trent Valley's Heritage

The aim of the project is to empower local communities and landowners to take responsibility for their heritage. Through training it will provide them with the skills to understand, record, monitor, manage and maintain heritage assets within the landscape partnership scheme area.

It will provide a framework to facilitate the longer-term curation of the historic environment, including the establishment of ongoing monitoring regimes and access to training materials to give landowners and local communities the confidence to be involved in the management and improvement of their local historic environment.

The condition of heritage assets and their principal threats and vulnerabilities will also be better understood, enabling strategies for longer-term designation and management to be developed.

Training materials for survey, monitoring and conservation managed and maintained electronically on Staffordshire County Council's website.

Up to date information on heritage asset condition generated through an ongoing survey and monitoring regime. Information, as generated, will be incorporated into the HER and disseminated via direct data supply and more widely via the Heritage Gateway.

Heritage assets will be in better condition; ongoing monitoring regime(s) will be established and run by local communities and volunteers. Securing longer term management of heritage assets will be achieved through, for example, 5 or 10-year countryside stewardship schemes or management agreements.

TL04 - Stop! The Military Legacy of the Trent Valley

The Stop! Project will ensure that the military heritage assets, and in particular the pillboxes of the Stop Line, in the TTTV area are better understood, better managed, better monitored, and better used for a variety of complementary purposes.

The Stop! project will have shown that, when done sensitively and when properly considered, military heritage assets such as pillboxes can be provided with a new purpose such as bat roosts, bird hides etc. which can ensure their longevity and upkeep.

The Stopline will be better known and interpreted through the interpretive outputs of the project.

Local communities, local groups and landowners will have taken responsibility for and engaged with their heritage. Through training the project will provide them with the skills to understand, record, monitor, manage and maintain heritage assets within the landscape partnership scheme area.

The project will provide a framework to facilitate the longer-term curation of the historic environment (in this case the military heritage assets of the area), including the establishment of ongoing monitoring regimes and access to training materials to give landowners and local communities the confidence to be involved in the management and improvement of their local historic environment. The condition of heritage assets and their principal threats and vulnerabilities will also be better understood, enabling strategies for longer-term designation and management to be developed.

Much needed amenities such as bird hides, geocache locations, and walkers' refuges will be provided for both locals and visitors alike will be created as part of the project, and as such new audiences will be engaging with the military heritage of the area in new and diverse ways.

8.2 Summary of the report

8.2.1 Lead Author, Contributors and Consultees

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is the lead partner for the landscape partnership and has taken on the role of lead author for this report.

Contributors to this report include:

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Consultees engaged in the development of this report include:

Staffordshire County Council
Derbyshire County Council
Communities of the Trent Valley
The Transforming the Trent Valley
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8.2.2 Status of the report and duration of delivery

This document provides an overview of the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape and incorporates a summary of the research and auditing that has taken place during an 18-month development period. This document will accompany the final application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in August 2018 in the expectation of securing a delivery grant for 5 years. We anticipate the scheme lasting this duration due to the size and complexity of the area, the variety of projects which we will deliver, and the recognised challenges in improving physical and intellectual access for diverse communities across a fragmented landscape.

This is a three-part document that sets out:

Part one: Background to the scheme

Part two: Project plan summaries

Part three: Full project plans

This report is accompanied by a number of appendices. These appendices include final copies of the reports, audits and strategies that were undertaken in the development stage and other supporting documents.



The Burton Washlands (Aimee L. Booth)

Gaps in the plan

As discussed in the chapters below, there are gaps in our knowledge for the following reasons:

- Modification of the landscape boundary during the later stages of development have meant that some areas newly included in the landscape are omitted from the audits. This information, where required at a later stage will be retrofitted to the reports. This has not limited our development of the scheme as our evidence base is taken from a wider locality as we have acknowledged that communities residing close to the Trent Valley landscape are a significant audience.
- Due to differences data collection, collation, and priority between the authorities in each part of our landscape, this has highlighted inconsistencies in the available datasets. This has, on occasion, given a fragmented picture of the current situation. These gaps have been identified and an on-going process will be to fill the gaps in data and knowledge. This will be partly an outcome of this scheme and partly an obligation of authorities and partners working in the landscape.
- We are aware that the partnership is biased towards Staffordshire-based organisations, although we are supported by a number of organisations located within and representing Derbyshire, and we will continue to work with Derbyshire-based organisations to ensure we embody a fair representation across our landscape.
- Working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can add value to our scheme, create an inclusive environment, strengthen positive relationships with the local community, bring new perspectives and encourage people from different backgrounds to engage with your scheme. However, this is a long process, especially if we want the engagement to be meaningful and sustainable.

It is important to find out the various demographics within our community, understand their needs and consult with community leaders. We have undertaken a large amount of research but acknowledge more needs to be done. Furthermore, our partnership is under represented by these groups, which is a balance we need to address. Doing proper research means you can give the community what they actually need.

- Our scheme reflects the need to work closely with landowners and land managers and acknowledges that agriculture is a dominant land use across our landscape. Whilst organisations within our partnership have long experience of working with members of the farming community, we do not currently have members from this community represented in our partnership. This is a gap we intend to rectify through setting up working groups that engage supporting partners with our scheme.
- There is a gap in our understanding of the economic benefits of ecosystem services and natural capital. It is clear that a landscape-specific approach is required to further our understanding of the ecosystem services that can be provided using existing examples and case studies to guide the process.

We have identified a need to undertake an Ecosystem Services assessment, with a focus on the economic benefit, for the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape. This should be undertaken as a scheme-wide approach due to its broad reach across multiple projects. This will help to quantify the benefits of the project which will be demonstrable to a wide range of audiences.