

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer Military Heritage Researcher



Objectives of Role: The Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) landscape partnership is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project.

Along the three rivers in the TTTV area (Trent, Dove and Tame) a network of pillboxes, known as “Stop Line Number 5”, was constructed during the Second World War in response to the threat of invasion.

The role of Volunteer Military Heritage Researchers is , working with the Staffordshire Records office, libraries and other archives, to research records of Stop Line No. 5, it’s construction and design.

Tasks and Activities to be undertaken:

Visit the Staffordshire Records Office, William Salt Library and other locations where relevant records are or may be kept in order to undertake research of records for information about Stop Line Number 5 and other military sites within the TTTV landscape area.

Contact surviving witnesses and interview them about the pillboxes and other Twentieth Century military sites.

Research will aim to answer questions about the Stop Line, including but not limited to:

- How was the location of pillboxes and other fortifications decided?
- Who constructed the pillboxes?
- Who garrisoned the pillboxes?
- What effect has the existence of the pillboxes had on people’s lives, both during and after the Second World War.

To achieve this, you will need to research which record types may have produced relevant results in other research projects.

Training will be provided through partner organisations and by the Cultural Heritage Officer.

N.B. There may be lone working involved at times.

Objectives: Delivery of the TTTV projects, “Transforming the Trent Valley’s Heritage” and “Stop! The military legacy of the Trent Valley.” A summary of the scheme is available at <https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/TTTV>

Reporting to: Senior Cultural Heritage Officer

Location and volunteering hours: The role will be coordinated remotely by the Cultural Heritage Officer and volunteers will need to be able to visit the Staffordshire Records Office and William Salt Library in Stafford, as well as other local archives and libraries where relevant information may be kept.

Hours will be flexible, to be negotiated between the volunteer and the Cultural Heritage Officer.

How the role fits in with the work of the organisation: The TTTV project has a wide remit and involves a number of different partner organisations which at times the Cultural Heritage team will work with and alongside.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is the lead partner in the TTTV project. As such, Volunteer Researchers will be a part of the Wildlife Trust and covered by its insurance and policies.

Expectations of behaviour and dress (if appropriate): Volunteers are expected to act as ambassadors for the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership and for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Friendliness, helpfulness, courtesy and professionalism are our watchwords.

Clothing should be suitable for the task being undertaken, bearing in mind that tasks will normally happen in a library or office setting.

You will be expected to adhere to Government advice and instructions regarding social distancing and PPE wear and the requirements of any premises you visit as part of your role.

Skills and qualifications – essential and desirable: Ability to read and write and do simple sums and calculations. The ability to use computers and mobile phones would be an advantage.

Required person specifications (if appropriate): You should be enthusiastic and interested in history and heritage; adaptable to different circumstances and you should take pride in your work.

For further details, please contact Rod Whiteman, Senior Cultural Heritage Officer, on 07496 271506 or at r.whiteman@staffs-wildlife.org.uk