

## Working in partnership

A wildlife-rich Trent Valley depends on everyone working in partnership. Landowners, quarry companies, mineral planners, local authorities, the Environment Agency and East Midlands Airport all have a role to play.

We will also be seeking to work with neighbouring counties and strategic bodies to link into other schemes and projects beyond the county boundaries, building on the good examples of partnership working that already exist in the area. These include the On Trent project which covers the whole catchment from its source to the sea, the Staffordshire Washlands project on our doorstep and our own Water for Wildlife Project in the Dove catchment.



Azure Damsselfly, Philip Precey



Avocet, Damian Waters, drumimages.co.uk



Marsh harrier, Damian Waters, drumimages.co.uk

# Transforming the Trent Valley



Derbyshire



## Your next step

**You can become involved in this exciting project and help safeguard the valley's wildlife for the future.**

### Become a partner

If you are a landowner, you could consider registering your land as a Transforming the Trent Valley Site and pledge to develop and protect your land in perpetuity for wildlife.

If your organisation doesn't have any landholdings, you can work with the Trust and other partners to ensure the scheme is a success.

Contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to find out more about registering your land or becoming involved in the scheme.

### Support the Trust

Develop/protect your own wetland habitats and species. Smaller landowners could consider doing a range of smaller actions which could benefit wildlife.

Organisations can also become corporate supporters of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Corporate support is an excellent way of showing your staff, customers, suppliers and the public that you take your corporate and social responsibilities seriously. In addition, companies may be able to offer in-kind support.

Visit [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) or ring **01773 881188** for information and advice.

### Volunteer

We have many opportunities for individuals and businesses to get involved on a practical level by volunteering on our nature reserves. Work parties take place on a regular basis and work days can be arranged.

## The Trent Valley – A Living Landscape

This project is one of more than 100 Living Landscapes schemes, run by the Wildlife Trusts throughout the UK, to address the challenges facing our wildlife and countryside through large-scale action. Living Landscapes aims to create robust, resilient and connected landscapes for the benefit of wildlife, communities and business that depend upon them. The first phase of this project has been supported by the SITA Trust, National Forest, South Derbyshire District Council and the Environment Agency.

### To find out more visit [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the county's leading conservation organisation. A Registered Charity, we manage nature reserves throughout the county, from the High Peak to South Derbyshire. We run a variety of conservation and education projects, working with local authorities, schools and communities throughout Derbyshire. We are one of 47 Trusts in the Wildlife Trusts Partnership.

### Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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This leaflet is supported by



Front cover: Willington Gravel Pits, David Oakes

## Working towards a Living Landscape in Derbyshire's Trent Valley

Protecting **Wildlife** for the future

## Reconnecting wildlife

Transforming the Trent Valley is a Living Landscape project led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Our long-term vision is to create a wildlife corridor along the Derbyshire Trent Valley, linking wetlands and other low-lying habitats and reconnecting the river, floodplain and the wildlife that depends on them.

### Our main objectives are to:

- ▶ Protect and enhance existing wetlands
- ▶ Encourage the creation and restoration of new high quality wetlands along the valley
- ▶ Develop a wildlife corridor along the Trent and its tributary rivers and streams to encourage species to colonise wider areas
- ▶ Involve local communities in taking action through practical conservation work
- ▶ Provide educational and recreational opportunities



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## Threat to wildlife

Over the last hundred years, wetlands and other floodplain habitats have been disappearing as they are drained, developed, agriculturally-improved or simply neglected. The result has been a loss, on a national scale, of some of our most important habitats and the species that depend on them.

In the Trent Valley, reed bed, wet fen and lowland wet grassland have almost vanished from our landscape. As a result, numbers of species such as redshank, lapwing and otter have undergone a decline. In addition, with the threat of global warming, habitats and species are more vulnerable than ever and we need to work together to take action now.

With your help we can create a river valley where otters are abundant, dragonflies and damselflies brighten up summer walks, ponds are teeming with amphibians, bitterns and herons thrive, and marsh harriers breed and hunt.

## Nature reserves

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is committed to the long-term management and expansion of our reserves in the Trent Valley, to create the first stepping stones to allow wildlife to spread out along the valley. Currently, it is these reserves that give long-term protection to the majority of wetland species and provide vital stopovers for migratory species.

We have long-standing nature reserves at Hilton Gravel Pits and Golden Brook Storage Lagoon. Hilton is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), important for the numbers of dragonflies and damselflies that visit, and its mosaic of wetland habitats. Golden Brook is noted for its southern marsh orchids and breeding warblers. More recently the Trust has acquired Willington Gravel Pits, where we are developing new habitats, and land at Drakelow, where we are working with E-on to manage and restore habitats. Both of these reserves have a reputation for attracting wetland birds and offer great



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opportunities to develop new habitats. In addition, we are working with Lafarge at Barrow (Swarkestone Quarry), to create a potential new nature reserve, and in the past have worked closely with Severn Trent Water in the development of their site at Shardlow Quarry (Witches Oak Water). If managed positively in the long term, both sites could become significant new wildlife refuges.

## New opportunities with industry

Our nature reserves are just the beginning. As land owners, businesses along the valley have a vital role to play in protecting land for wildlife. In the aggregate industry, a continuing demand for minerals is creating a number of worked out sites. If restored sympathetically, these could provide a string of wetland habitats along the valley. Where new development seeks to threaten our countryside, there are now more opportunities to make provisions for wildlife by setting aside land and funding long-term management.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has years of experience of managing nature reserves throughout the Derbyshire Trent Valley. Through our site registration scheme you can share the benefit of that experience and make a contribution towards a wildlife-rich future for the Trent Valley. Already, Toyota has signed up and enlisted Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to look at its whole site at Burnaston and register its reed-fringed settling pools.

