

[Volunteer Wildlife Recorder]

7 January 2022

About Transforming the Trent Valley

The Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) landscape partnership is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project, with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust as the lead partner, and 18 other partner organisations working together to create “wildlife-rich waterways and wetlands at the heart of a resilient, accessible, beautiful and culturally rich landscape. Creating a brighter future for people, business and wildlife in the Trent Valley.”

The TTTV landscape Partnership will run from 2019-2023.

Role Description

You will be part of a survey and recording team responsible for increasing the number and quality of our biological records within the TTTV scheme area. You will be trained in different survey techniques, and how to use different platforms to record biological records (eg i-record app, database for Staffordshire Ecological Records or Derbyshire Biological Records Centre). The role will be varied, one week you might spend a dedicated day supporting a wildflower survey, the next you might join a Wildchild or Connecting with Nature session to record the species found during their activities. This is an unpaid, voluntary position.

Tasks and Activities to be undertaken

Examples of tasks:

Completing flora and fauna surveys across different sites in the TTTV area.

Joining a volunteer/family play/bushcraft session to be the dedicated wildlife recorder for the day, ensuring that you make a record of any species found during the activity.

Training in basic survey techniques and ways to submit biological records will be provided, but a general knowledge of British wildlife and biodiversity will be helpful. There will be further opportunities to join species ID courses throughout the TTTV scheme.

A driving license or ability to use public transport will be required to travel to different sites across the TTTV landscape.

Computer literacy (emails/online meetings) and/or knowledge of smartphone apps will be necessary in this role.

Location and volunteering hours

This role will mainly be based out on site in the TTTV landscape, with some time spent volunteering at home (ie online training).

The time commitment is flexible depending on your availability and the schedule of sessions being delivered by TTTV. As a guide we ask for a minimum of one session or survey per month. There will likely be opportunity for regular weekly sessions in the future.

Objectives

The Wildlife Recorder team will help us with our target of recording 10,000 biological records during the TTTV scheme. A lot of wildlife is seen during our practical conservation sessions and family activities, but the sightings are rarely formally recorded. You will help us to change this, by joining in different activities and having the responsibility of noting the different species seen and found during activities in the Trent Valley. These records will be shared with Derbyshire Biological Records Centre and Staffordshire Ecological Records to be added to the regional databases and will help towards future management plans/responses to planning applications etc.

This role will be part of the Big Washlands Watch project.

Reporting to

Nicola Lynes (Community Engagement Officer, Support Staffordshire)

How the role fits in with the work of the organisation

This project is led by Support Staffordshire as part of Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. As such, volunteers will be covered by Support Staffordshire's insurance and policies.

Expectations of behaviour and dress

Volunteers are expected to act as ambassadors for the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership. 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 outdoors and the weather forecast should be taken into account when choosing clothing for the day.

If supporting on a Wildchild session, you may be required to undertake further safeguarding training.

Skills and qualifications

A basic knowledge of British flora and fauna ID will be a benefit, plus a willingness to learn ID and survey skills. Training in recording and submitting of biological records will be provided. You will have the opportunity to attend extra wildlife ID training courses through TTTV.

A driving license, or ability to travel within the landscape to key sites will be required.

By volunteering with TTTV you will get an insight into how a large partnership project works, and you will have the chance to work with different partners such as Staffordshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts, Support Staffordshire, Canal and Rivers Trust and many more.

Required person specifications

Attention to detail will be required to make accurate records. Willingness to work outside in all weathers and meet new people will be an advantage!

For further details about this volunteer role, please contact;

Nicola Lynes (Community Engagement Officer)

t: 07837127165

e: Nicola.lynes@supportstaffordshire.org.uk