

# Big Washlands Watch

## SURVEY BOOKLET



# Introduction

Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (TTV) is an exciting project which focusses on the Rivers Trent, Dove and Tame in East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire.



[www.thetrentvalley.org.uk](http://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk)

The scheme aims to increase the biodiversity of the river floodplains, improve access to and understanding of the area, and connect people to their local natural environment.

The Trent Valley has a long and interesting history, shaped by the river and altered by human activity on the landscape. From the Vikings, to the Romans through to World War Two pillboxes, wildlife has learnt to live next to humans and adapt to the changes we make. We want to find out exactly how our changes are impacting wildlife by finding out the numbers and spread of different species across the scheme area.

We want to encourage local people to get involved in the project, and one way in which you can do this is to help us find out exactly what lives in the scheme area by using this booklet!

# Big Washlands Watch

**We have chosen 32 target species of animals and plants that we want to know more about in the Trent Valley.**

Use the Identification Guide to help spot these birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and wild flowers. Some are very common, while others are more of a challenge to find.

You don't have to travel great distances to spot nature – you can use this booklet in your local park!

The maps on pages 3-10 show where each of the 32 target species has been recorded in the past. Some of these species have not been recorded in particular 1 km squares in the Trent Valley for over 10 years. Does this mean that they are no longer present? Or is it just that no-one has looked?



## What is biological recording?

**If you spot any of the 32 target species, you can report what you have seen by making a biological record.**

This is a lot easier than it sounds! All you have to do is take a photo and upload it to the iRecord website. You will also be asked to provide some basic information about the sighting: **what** you saw, **where** you saw it, **what** the date was, and **who** you are. You could even install the iRecord app on your smartphone, which will do a lot of the work for you, and let you submit records in the field.



Spotted something interesting?  
Report your observations  
at the iRecord website  
[www.brc.ac.uk/irecord](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord)

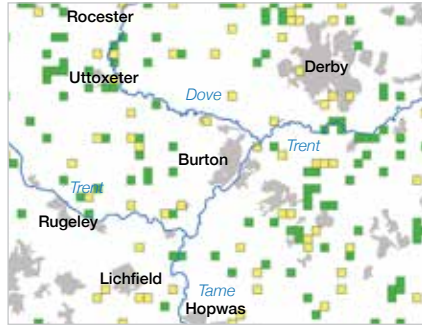


Biological records made in this area are managed by Derbyshire Biological Records Centre and Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER).

Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010



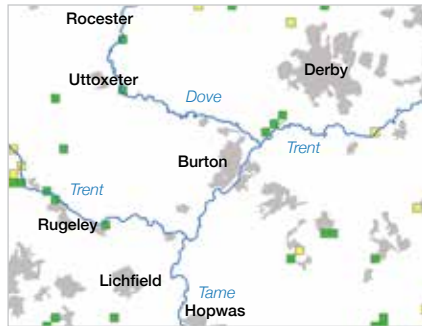
## 1. Brown Hare

*Lepus europaeus*

**Your photos should show:**

Black ear tips

**Target areas:** Trent Valley between Rugeley, Burton and Derby; Lichfield area



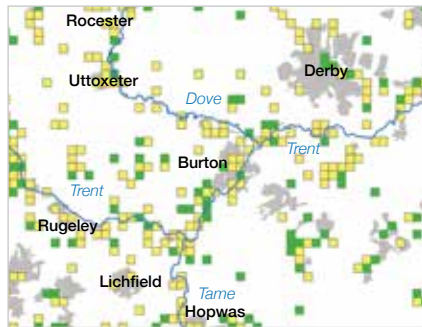
## 2. Otter

*Lutra lutra*

**Your photos should show:**

Black nose (Mink have a pink nose)

**Target areas:** All areas



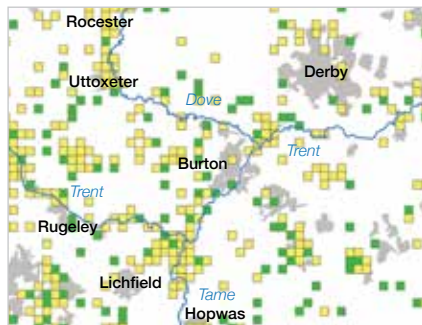
## 3. Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

**Your photos should show:**

Bright blue and orange. Wait for it to perch on a branch if you can

**Target areas:** All areas, seems less common than in the past



## 4. Lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

**Your photos should show:**

Long crest on head

**Target areas:** All areas, seems less common than in the past

Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010

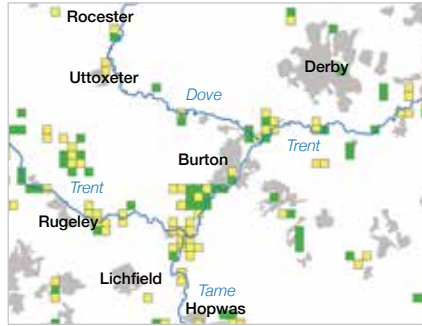
## 5. Shelduck

*Tadorna tadorna*

**Your photos should show:**

Head with beak

**Target areas:** Trent between Rugeley and Alrewas; Dove below Uttoxeter



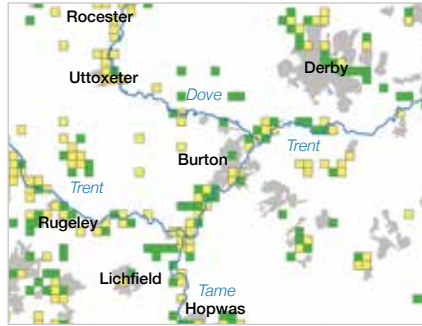
## 6. Goosander

*Mergus merganser*

**Your photos should show:**

Head with long pointed beak

**Target areas:** All areas



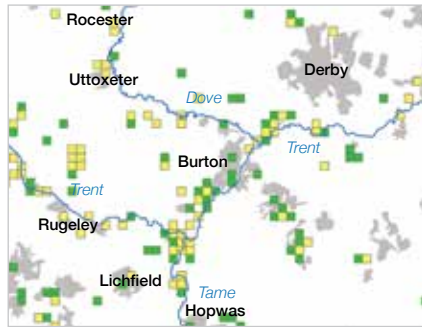
## 7. Oystercatcher

*Haematopus ostralegus*

**Your photos should show:**

White mark on head and red beak

**Target areas:** All areas



## 8. Little Ringed Plover

*Charadrius dubius*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole bird, especially yellow eye ring

**Target areas:** All areas (N.B. Map shows 10 km squares only)

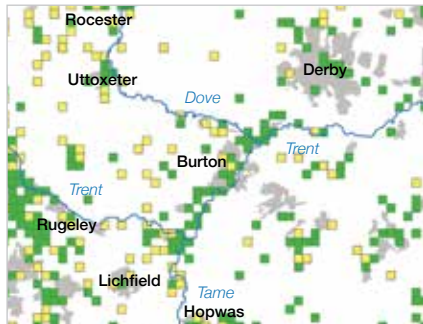
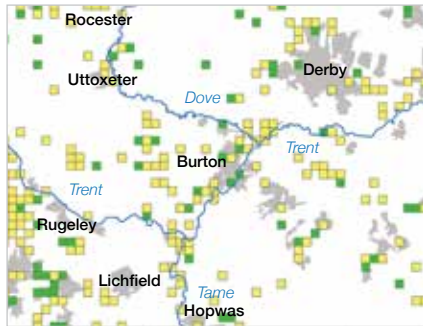
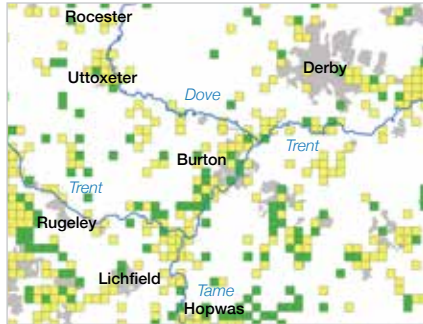
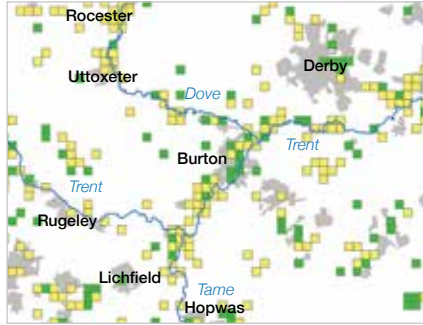


Target species

Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010



## 9. Sand Martin

*Riparia riparia*

### Your photos should show:

View from underneath, showing brown bar across breast

**Target areas:** All areas, seems less common than in the past

## 10. Reed Bunting

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

### Your photos should show:

Whole bird, especially white moustache on the male

**Target areas:** All areas, seems less common than in the past

## 11. Willow Tit

*Poecile montanus*

### Your photos should show:

Whole bird with pale panel on wings

**Target areas:** lower Tame valley; Trent between Alrewas and Repton; Uttoxeter area

## 12. Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

### Your photos should show:

Whole bird, long tail with yellow patch

**Target areas:** Trent between Rugeley and Alrewas; Dove above Uttoxeter

Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010

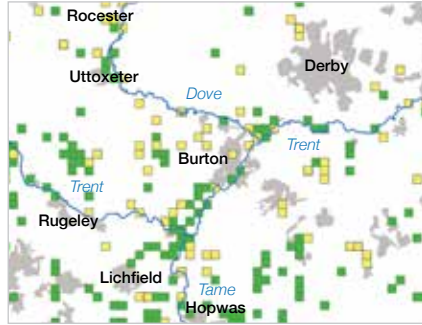
### 13. Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole bird, especially yellow underparts

**Target areas:** Trent between Rugeley and Alrewas; Dove below Uttoxeter



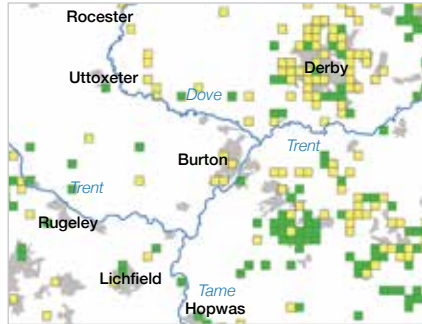
### 14. Common Toad

*Bufo bufo*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole toad with warty dry skin

**Target areas:** All areas, especially from the countryside and outside the larger towns



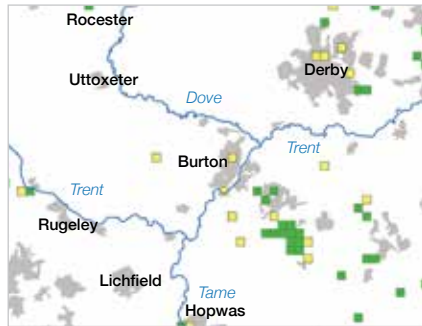
### 15. Grass Snake

*Natrix helvetica*

**Your photos should show:**

Upper surface of the snake, especially yellow collar just behind the head

**Target areas:** All areas



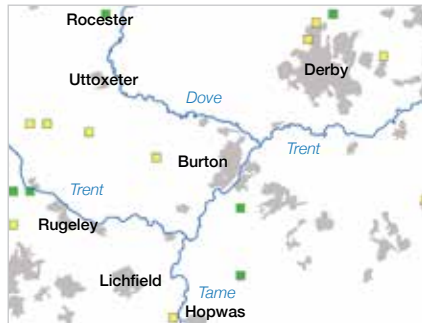
### 16. Slow-worm

*Anguis fragilis*

**Your photos should show:**

Upper surface including the head

**Target areas:** All areas



Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010

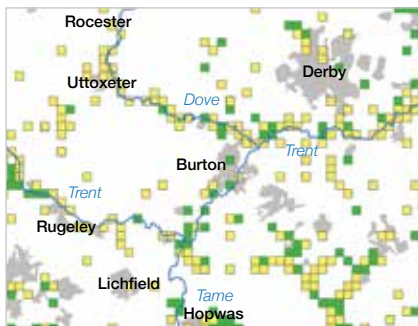
## 17. Banded Demoiselle

*Calopteryx splendens*

**Your photos should show:**

Dark band on wings (wait for the insect to perch)

**Target areas:** All areas, seems less common than in the past



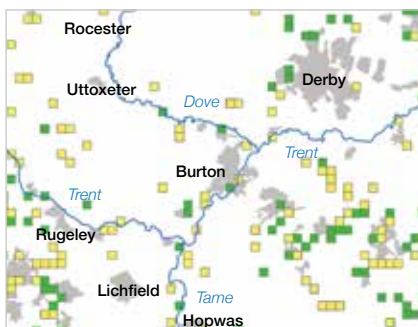
## 18. Large Red Damselfly

*Pyrrosoma nymphula*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body, especially the bands on the abdomen (wait for the insect to perch)

**Target areas:** All areas



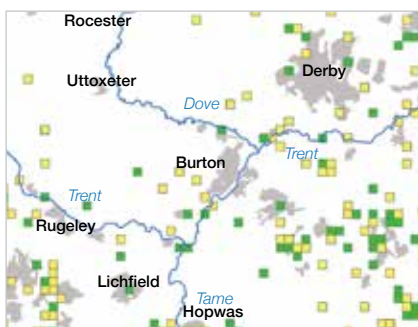
## 19. Broad-bodied Chaser

*Libellula depressa*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body upperside (wait for the insect to perch)

**Target areas:** All areas



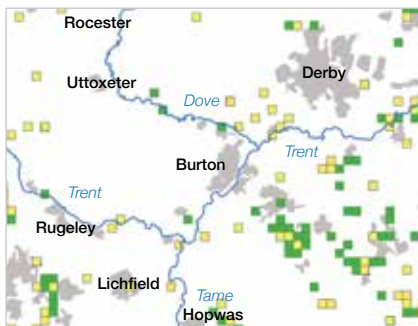
## 20. Emperor Dragonfly

*Anax imperator*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body upperside (wait for the insect to perch)

**Target areas:** All areas





Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010

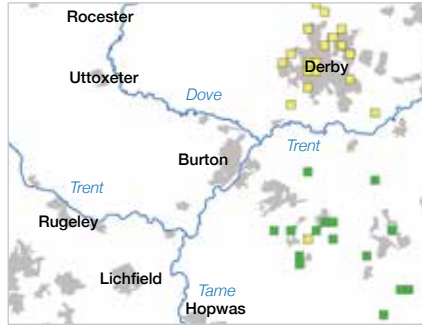
## 21. Elephant Hawkmoth

*Deilephila elpenor*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body upperside

**Target areas:** All areas; is it truly absent or it is just that no-one has looked for it?



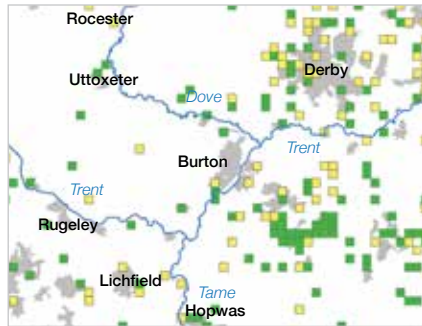
## 22. Comma

*Polytonia c-album*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body with ragged wings

**Target areas:** All areas, especially Trent between Rugeley and Castle Donington; Dove below Uttoxeter



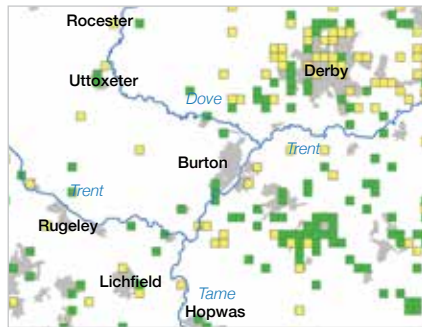
## 23. Orange-tip

*Anthocharis cardamines*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body showing orange tips

**Target areas:** All areas, especially Dove below Uttoxeter; lower Tame



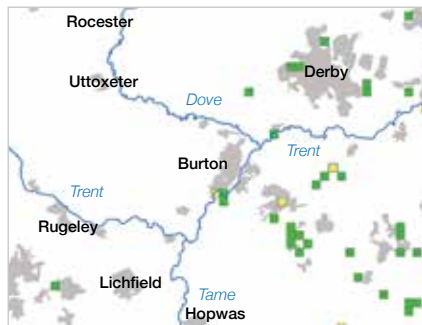
## 24. Roesel's Bush-cricket

*Metriopectera roeselii*

**Your photos should show:**

Curved creamy edge to side of thorax

**Target areas:** All areas, this species is spreading north especially along river valleys



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Since 2010

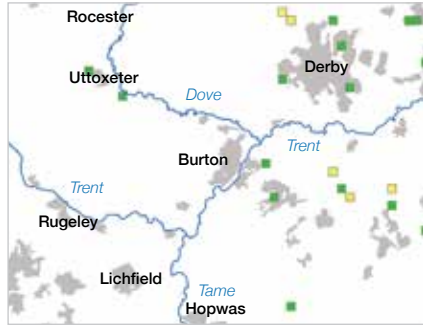
## 25. Lesser Stag-beetle

*Dorcus parallelipipedus*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole body including head

**Target areas:** All areas; is it truly absent or it is just that no-one has looked for it?



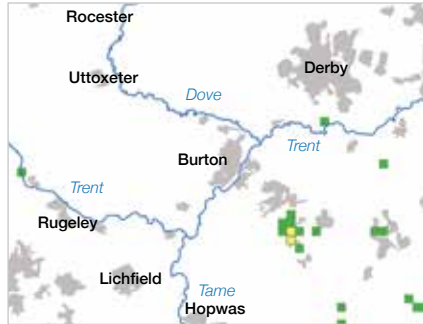
## 26. Purple Loosestrife

*Lythrum salicaria*

**Your photos should show:**

The whole plant in flower

**Target areas:** All areas; is it truly absent or it is just that no-one has looked for it?



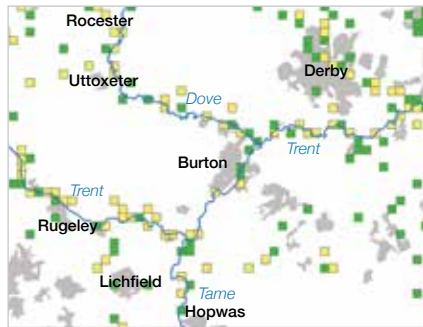
## 27. Himalayan Balsam

*Impatiens glandulifera*

**Your photos should show:**

Flowers or winter dead stems

**Target areas:** All areas, especially Dove below Rocester, and Trent between Rugeley and Burton



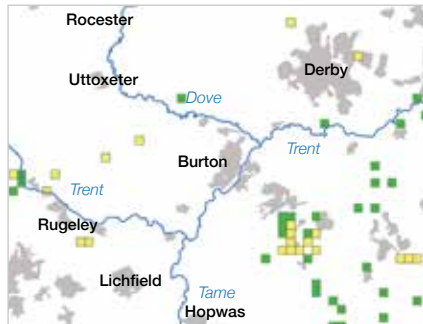
## 28. Meadowsweet

*Filipendula ulmaria*

**Your photos should show:**

Whole plant in flower

**Target areas:** All areas, probably under-recorded and much more common than is shown on the map



Date of last record

Before 2010

Since 2010

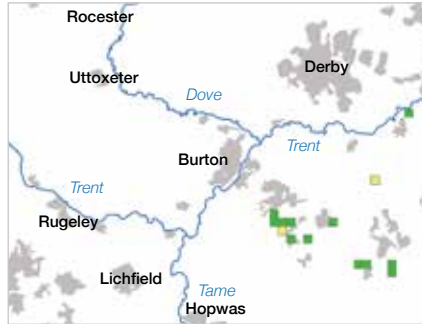
## 29. Bee Orchid

*Ophrys apifera*

### Your photos should show:

Whole plant in flower

**Target areas:** Bare ground in old sand and gravel pits and old quarries



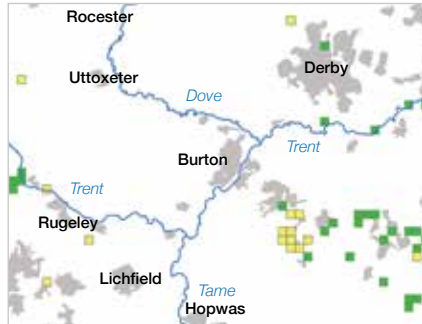
## 30. Cuckooflower

*Cardamine pratensis*

### Your photos should show:

Whole plant in flower

**Target areas:** Damp grassland throughout; probably much more common than is shown on the map



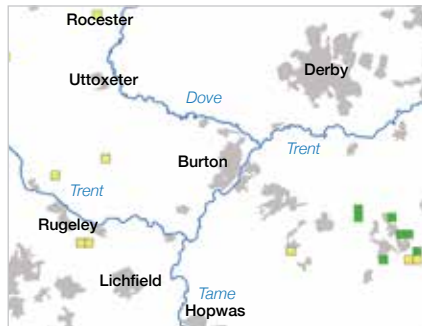
## 31. Devil's-bit Scabious

*Succisa pratensis*

### Your photos should show:

Whole plant in flower, including untoothed lower leaves

**Target areas:** Damp grassland throughout; probably under-recorded



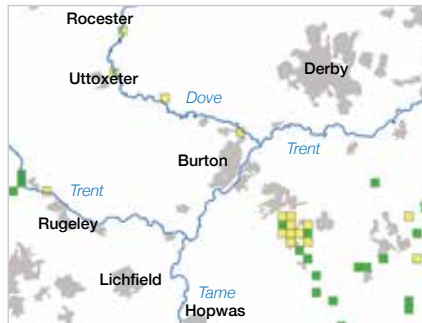
## 32. Water Mint

*Mentha aquatica*

### Your photos should show:

Whole plant in flower, including large pink flower heads

**Target areas:** Riversides and gravel islands throughout; probably under-recorded



# Leaf shapes

Time to go outside! Can you find all 6 of these leaves?



# Tree spotting

Match the photographs with the correct names of 6 common trees.

Oak

Horse chestnut

Ash

Beech

Hawthorn

Sycamore



Name of tree:



Name of tree:



Name of tree:



Name of tree:



Name of tree:



Name of tree:

## Playing fields and grassy places

Tick each thing when you find it. How fast can you find all 9?



Daisy



Buttercup



Clover



Dandelion clock



Grass flowers



Feathers



Something colourful



Something round



Something tiny

# In the woods

Tick each thing when you find it. How fast can you find all 9?



A leaf



Moss



A seed



A tall tree



Holly



Fungi



Squirrel drey



Animal footprint



Signs of feeding



Need some help to identify a plant or animal you've found? Try uploading a photo to the iSpot website

[www.ispotnature.org](http://www.ispotnature.org)



Want to share wildlife sightings with the wider community?

Report your observations at the iRecord website

[www.brc.ac.uk/irecord](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord)



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**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**

**Staffordshire Ecological Record**



**SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE**



**HERITAGE FUND**

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