

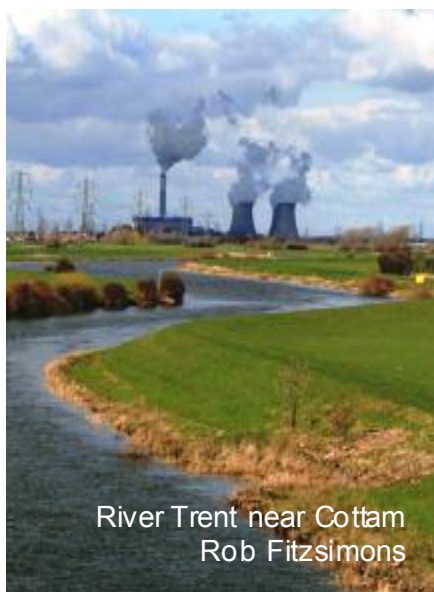
Trent's 'Lost Vale' finds itself with a £1.7million Lottery boost

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced in October an earmarked award of £1.76million, through its rural regeneration and landscape conservation scheme, for the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership Scheme. This area, nicknamed the 'Lost Vale' and defined by its historic connection to the River Trent, is the first of its kind in the East Midlands to be awarded funding under HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme, and is a major flagship scheme for the OnTrent project.

HLF's vital support will help with the transformation of Trent Vale, an area of land which stretches along the River Trent on the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire boundaries between Newark and East and West Stockwith. This unique landscape is home to hawthorn hedgerows, ancient field patterns, traditional red pantiled roofs and narrow, winding country lanes. The meandering river Trent has shaped the local area providing a major highway from Roman times up until last century and it is rich in archaeological and historical features such as old ferry crossings, towpath bridges and distinctive 'clapper gates.'

The Trent Vale scheme will bring together local communities and villages which traditionally were connected to the water. The focus of daily life used to be the river and surrounding land with ferry being the main method of transport and work provided by industries that grew up along this major highway. This link has gradually been lost.

One of the aims of the scheme is to put the river back at the heart of Trent Vale, through innovative community work as well as sustainable conservation, such as the refurbishment of the former Victorian Willow Works for use as a heritage centre and a base for training in the art of willow weaving which was a major cottage industry in the area.



River Trent near Cottam
Rob Fitzsimons

Sustainable land management to benefit a range of wildlife will also be encouraged through the provision of advice and training, for example, through courses in the traditional technique of hedgelaying which will be run in conjunction with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and the enhancement of disused gravel extraction sites.

Well done to Rob Fitzsimons & the Trent Vale team in pulling together the successful bid.

OnTrent Project!

OnTrent is a partnership aiming to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment of the Trent Valley. The project involves a range of organisations who co-ordinate their work, share ideas and information, influence policy and deliver practical projects in the Trent Valley. The long-term vision is to create: *'A Trent landscape, rich in wildlife habitats and historic features for the benefit of all, both now and in the future.'*

This newsletter has been designed as a resource for landowners, communities and organisations involved in the OnTrent Project. It is sent to all the organisations and people who have an interest in the Trent Valley. Please let us know anyone who you think would like to be added to the mailing list.

Please send in any news items about any projects or issues happening along the Trent no matter how small! The deadline for the next issue is 3rd March. Thank you.

In this issue....

- New Trent wetland Page 2
- Flooding research project Page 2
- Water management on the Humber. Page 3
- Regional habitat creation strategy. Page 3
- River News..... Page 4
- RSBP Langford Lowlands..... Page 4
- Water-meadows of Staffordshire Page 4



New wetland on the Trent

A former wetland has been reinstated on farmland near to Kneeton on the Trent in Nottinghamshire. The former wetland area had silted up over years with no open water left. The project involved digging out the silt to create a meandering wetland linked to the river with shallows at the upstream end. The wetland is shaped to provide a variety of habitats as well as provide important nursery areas for fish. The area has been fenced off to protect it from grazing animals.

OnTrent and the EA fisheries team work with farmers along the Trent to link former wetlands back to the river, to provide valuable areas for fish and invertebrates. This project was supported by the SPARC project and the Environment Agency. For more information please contact Keith Easton, Environment Agency on 08708 506506.



New wetland at Kneeton
Tim Pickering

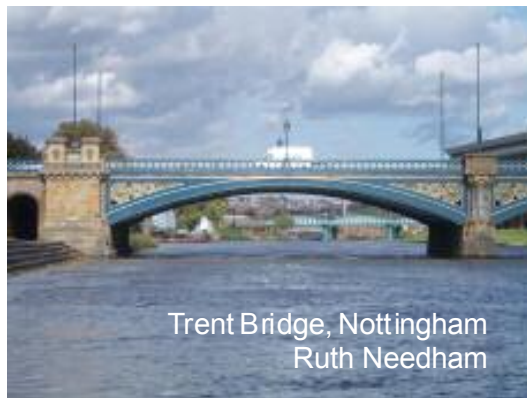
New research on flooding in the River Trent corridor!

The University of Manchester is conducting research into the role and effectiveness of local planning practice in managing flood risk. The project will examine the involvement of the local community and other stakeholders in establishing appropriate planning policy mechanisms for sustainable flood risk management, without compromising local land use and development needs.

Local planning plays an important role in managing or preventing flood risk to people and property. The Local Development Framework, prepared by the planning authority, provides the policies to guide planning officers in deciding whether or not a planning application should be permitted.

It is impossible to say that we just shouldn't build in areas at risk of flooding. Sometimes, neighbourhoods in flood risk areas, even whole towns, need regeneration: new development, new services, new infrastructure, to provide for the people living and working there.

In such areas, we believe we should be enabling development where it is needed using a sensible, practical policy framework that is focused on preventing any further increase in flood risk whilst allowing development to proceed in a sustainable way.



Trent Bridge, Nottingham
Ruth Needham

As part of our research, we are conducting a form of 'consultation' – we would appreciate the input from as many people as possible who have an interest in the River Trent. Our questionnaire can be found by following the link on our website www.manchester.ac.uk/cure/research/wetlands/

Your completed questionnaire can be emailed to flooding.consultation@manchester.ac.uk or printed and returned by post to: *Dr Iain White, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 0161 275 6895. Deadline is 31st December 2007.*

We will also be conducting a street survey, to find out how much knowledge of flood risk issues is out there, amongst the general public! This will adopt a slightly different, easy-to-follow form of questioning, so feel free to respond to this survey as well, particularly if you live or work in an area at risk of flooding. Look out for our representatives in the streets of Netherfield, West Bridgford and central Nottingham over the coming months!

The deadline is 31st December

Significant Water Management Issues in the Humber River Basin.

The Humber River Basin liaison panel, which is made up of the Environment Agency and key organisations, has issued a consultation on the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI's) that face the Humber River Basin District.

The panel has identified these issues as falling within the following categories:

- **alien species**
- **pollution from rural areas**
- **pollution from urban areas & transport**
- **flow problems**
- **minewaters**
- **physical modification**

The Environment Agency would like you to have your say about these issues, and how they may be tackled through a range of different measures.

The deadline for responses is 24 January. The consultation document will soon be available at; <http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/site/questions.asp?CID=26>

Once the SWMI's have been agreed and the consultation period has ended the Draft River Basin Management Plan will be issued in 2008.



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

Regional Habitat Creation Strategy

The Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management activities have the potential to impact on biodiversity but also to create new wetlands for multiple benefits (for flood storage, water quality improvements as well as wildlife) which can help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

The Midlands Region of the EA is putting together a Regional Habitat Creation Strategy to better plan the creation of new Biodiversity Action Plan habitats (such as reedbeds, grazing marsh and wet woodland) to meet the Agency's obligations to DEFRA, of which there are three main strands:

- **compensatory habitat for any habitat lost at Natura 2000 sites**
- **"no net loss" of BAP habitat due to FRM activities**
- **an annual habitat creation target**

The first phase of the Strategy looked at the scale of the issue, through a review of relevant plans and strategies. Fortunately, as would be hoped, it seems that current FRM works in the Region are currently having limited impact on the environment, with only minor habitat losses identified. Even coastal squeeze in the inner Humber and Severn estuaries is not seen to be an issue, with predictions of gains of intertidal habitat in the medium term.

The main driver for developing a Habitat Creation Strategy is the annual target for new habitat creation set by DEFRA. As Phase 2 of the project, we are currently talking to partners to identify opportunities where we can collaborate, to produce new wetland habitat that brings varied benefits, for biodiversity and flood defence.

Andrew Heaton, Environment Agency



RSPB Langford Lowfields.

There is an increased RSPB presence in Nottinghamshire. Thanks to £40,600 from Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, RSPB Langford Lowfields has its first warden.

Gordon Day took up his post at the beginning of July at Tarmac's Langford quarry, Collingham, near Newark-on-Trent. The project, a partnership between Tarmac and the RSPB, to create a 178ha wetland reserve in this sand and gravel quarry, has taken a major step forward.

With the phase one reedbed almost completed and plans for subsequent phases at an advanced stage the grant has enabled the further development of habitat infrastructure, provision of a site vehicle, the establishment of an RSPB office and increased community involvement.



RSPB Langford Lowlands
Gordon Day

Sand and gravel restoration – opportunities for the Trent floodplain

OnTrent organised a seminar for mineral operators and planners in September. Over 50 people from across the industry who work on the sites on the Trent attended a day long event held at the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas in Staffordshire. For more details please go to www.ontrent.org.uk

Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan – hot off the press

The Environment Agency has recently issued the draft of its long awaited Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). They are investigating ways of managing long term flood risk from the Trent and its tributaries in an environmentally sustainable way.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/midlands

The Water-Meadows of Staffordshire

Water-meadows, a traditional farming technique for improving grass yields, in which Staffordshire once excelled, could hold the key to adapting to climate change flooding in the future.

Staffordshire County Council's archaeological team is about to embark upon an exciting project mapping out how previous generations directed floodwaters to generate a network of lush water-meadows to feed their beasts, and provide fodder during the winter months. This could help map out future plans for controlling floods in the 21st century.

Papers going back to the 16th century show that Staffordshire was among the most advanced in the field of water meadow management. But as the agricultural "revolution" gathered pace in the 19th century the ancient water-meadow earthworks disappeared, leaving virtually no trace.

The County team are now working with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to map Staffordshire's water meadows, providing data from the past to help manage the future. Funding comes from Natural England's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change champion Councillor Terry Dix said, "the project provides exciting opportunities to learn from the past".

Organisations on the OnTrent Steering Group.

- British Waterways
- Country Land & Business Association
- Derbyshire County Council
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Groundwork
- Hanson Aggregates
- Leicestershire County Council
- Lafarge Aggregates
- Lincolnshire County Council
- National Farmers' Union
- Natural England
- North Lincolnshire Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Severn Trent Water
- Staffordshire County Council
- Tarmac
- The Wildlife Trusts



Please contact:

OnTrent, The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0WT.

Tel 01889 880110. Email ontrent@staffs-wildlife.org.uk

Website www.ontrent.org.uk