

A brief introduction

The Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership (TVWLP) Scheme is a partnership of local authorities, wildlife charities, governmental organisations and local interest groups.

The scheme covers a 95km² area of the Tame Valley between Birmingham and Tamworth, in North Warwickshire and south-east Staffordshire (see map overleaf), with the vision of creating and restoring a wetland landscape rich in natural and built heritage, whilst improving access and providing training and volunteering opportunities, as well as events and activities, for local people.

The TVWLP Scheme has received a 'first round pass' from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The scheme is now in development with £86,500 of funding from HLF and £20,500 from organisations in the Partnership. This will help the TVWLP progress the second round application process, and if successful, the scheme will then receive £1.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme has 4 principal aims:

1. Conserve, enhance and restore **built and natural heritage features** within the landscape. Working with a range of partners and landowners, emphasis will be given to wetland habitats, improving the landscape by linking natural features and restoring important built heritage features. The Tame Valley, with its extensive chain of wetlands, is a regionally important area for birds. It also supports a number of protected species such as otter, barn owl, bittern, snipe and bats.
2. Increase **community participation** by providing opportunities for people to get involved at different levels with emphasis on youth engagement, setting up 'Friends of' groups, supporting community-led initiatives, and delivering events and activities for local people.
3. Improve existing **access routes** along the valley through developing the 'Tame Way' - a long distance footpath - and creating a series of linked trails encompassing a range of sites of local natural and built heritage. The scheme will also provide a range of information and interactive **learning** resources for local people to use to find out more about their local area.
4. Increase the **skills** level within the local population by providing a wide range of **training opportunities** - from traditional heritage skills such as hedge-laying and restoring historic buildings, to transferable skills such as team building, leadership and communication.

The next steps...

The scheme is currently in its development phase, where we are carrying out studies and consultation in order to inform the second round application, which will be ready for submission by December 2013. HLF will then assess the submission and the scheme should hopefully receive the go-ahead to start the four year delivery phase in mid-2014.

Get involved!

We would be very interested to hear from you if you live or work in the Tame Valley area. As we are still developing the scheme, there is a great opportunity for involvement at this early stage. This is a scheme for the local community, and as such, local people, interest groups and landowners will be central in both its development and delivery...please let us know what you think!

For further information on the scheme and how you can get involved, please contact:

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www.discovertamevalley.com



Warwickshire

**Tame Valley Wetlands
Landscape Partnership**



Scheme Area

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