

AINA CASE STUDY

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Trent Vale Landscape Partnership



Celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the River Trent

In 2010 a number of organisations received a £1.6million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership. This three year project, which ran until the end of 2012, helped to enhance and celebrate the unique landscape of the River Trent and its floodplain between Newark and West Stockwith, just north of Gainsborough. The area covered encompassed 55 parishes with a combined population of 68,000 and the scheme conserved heritage and habitats, provided educational opportunities, improved access and celebrated the special identity of the Trent Vale.

Key partners included the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trusts, Groundwork, Natural England, the Environment Agency, RSPB, British Waterways and the county, district and parish councils. Four work programmes underpinned the project: Habitats and Heritage; A Landscape for Learning and Art; Living, Working and Relaxing in Trent Vale; and The Lost Vale. Budgets, outcomes, monitoring, branding and communications were managed by a project team and the overall project was managed through a Board, a Management Group and Sub-groups with representatives from the partners.

Projects included community archaeology work, volunteering and training in conservation management, the promotion of traditional farming methods, community art schemes, local heritage work and the development of a series of trails with visitor interpretation. A small grants scheme was arranged for landowners and community groups who wished to carry out related work and in total the Landscape Partnership delivered an investment of around £2.5million across the Trent Vale area.

Access to the river was an important component too, with riverside improvements, new and enhanced moorings, better signage and new guides for boaters. Anglers benefited from improved access and new fishing pegs, including training pegs for young or new anglers along the River Devon in Newark and the Trent at Dunham.

The Partnership raised the profile of the Trent and helped create a strong local identity. A Sustainability Forum was developed to establish a strategy for the continued sustainable development of the area. This included plans for continued conservation work and also provided a focus for the development of sustainable tourism and related generation of income into the local area. A Community Heritage Network was also established and a 'Future of Trent Vale Forum' was used to gather the views and gain the longer term support of the public.