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TTTV Photography Volunteer

30th October 2020

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 2019-2024.

Role Description

We are looking for skilled photographers with an interest in photographing landscapes and landscape features, but with a desire to try different techniques and to use their images to tell a story.

An important aspect of our scheme is to improve access to the landscape. We are delivering this through a variety of means. We are improving physical access through walking, cycling and paddling, we are providing opportunities to engage with the landscape through educational and participation activities, and we are improving intellectual access to the landscape through the way we interpret the river valley both physically and virtually.

As a photography volunteer, you will be supporting us in enabling people to access the landscape by providing images that illustrate it in different ways. By taking photographs (or capturing video or audio footage) at particular locations, we will be able to link these images and media together using software to create a virtual tour. This tour enables people with limited mobility to discover sites they are otherwise not able to visit.

We also want photographs that tell the story of the landscape. The Trent Valley has a rich natural and cultural heritage which you will help us to capture through varied and interesting images. These will be incorporated into the tours to allow people to access the landscape in new ways. Here, they will see the amazing flora and fauna that call the Trent Valley home, can view stunning scenery and witness the marks left on the landscape by the generations of people who have called the Trent Valley home.

Tasks and Activities to be undertaken

By coordinating with our Virtual Tour Volunteer, you will visit locations across the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape taking images (and/or video and audio) that can be incorporated into the tours.

Initially, we are focussing on creating two discovery tours: the first is at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Tucklesholme Nature Reserve, and the second is around Rocester and walks along the River Dove.

In the first instance, images are required to show a route through the landscape as the basis for the tour (maps of the discovery tour locations will be provided). These photographs are taken by walking an agreed route and taking photographs along the way that show the direction and points of interest. These images must be geolocated so that they can be plotted onto a map. We will provide training on how this is undertaken.

We require additional photographs and other media that can be incorporated into these tours to add further interest. This can include links to other walks within the landscape. Views and features of interest are important, but we are open to exploring different techniques in how these are presented. Returning to the same location during different seasons will show change through time, as would images taken during different weather events (such as the river in flood, or in snow). Different photographic techniques, styles and subjects will also add to the dynamic. Again, it is important that there is a geolocation reference for these images.

In tandem with this project we are researching the landscape including looking for archival images. We hope to be able to show the evolution of the landscape over a long period of time and so anticipate revisiting locations of archived images.

Finally, we want to represent the landscape as a whole and tell the story of its rich natural and cultural heritage. Images from across the whole Transforming the Trent Valley landscape that are geolocated mean that the viewer can move around the landscape to explore further. Photographs of wildlife that you have spotted in the Trent Valley, archaeological features in the topography or historical relics, such as pillboxes, along the rivers and canals will help us to build up an interesting and detailed narrative about why this place is so special.

Although copyright remains with you as the photographer, you must be willing to provide your photographs to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape partnership for use in the virtual tours and other interpretive projects. Images may be used on our website, social media or printed media, with acknowledgement, as part of our interpretation of the landscape and promotion of the scheme.

Location and volunteering hours

You will be provided with an induction (via Zoom) where you will meet some of the TTTV team and learn more about the project and its purpose. You will also meet the Virtual Tour Volunteer, who is assisting in coordinating the project to ensure we obtain the images of the variety and locations that we need.

The role is flexible in regards to the time commitment required. Following your induction, you will agree with the project team the types of images you plan to provide and the locations you will visit. This will help us to support you and mitigate risk. As a lone working volunteer, you will be expected to follow our lone working procedures and understand the risk assessment.

The project team will remain in contact with you to discuss the role and ongoing opportunities.

Objectives

The principal objective of this role is to collate a photographic archive of images that represent the Trent Valley which can be used to interpret the landscape. Our anticipated output is to create one or more virtual tours that enable the visitor to explore the landscape remotely and discover the fabulous natural and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley.

As a volunteer, you will provide good quality and relevant images taken within the Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) landscape that can be freely used for the sole benefit of the scheme to interpret the landscape.

The images will support our interpretation project, but TTTV has a number of interwoven projects that will also be supported. Flora and fauna photographs that are geolocated within the landscape will contribute to our citizen science project and will be added to the Staffordshire Ecological Records (or Derbyshire equivalent as necessary). Photographs of historical features may support our cultural heritage projects and contribute to records added to the Staffordshire or Derbyshire Historic Environment Records database.

Reporting to

Louise Morris (Project Manager) L.morris@staffs-wildlife.org.uk and Steve Cheshire (Senior Interpretation Officer) s.cheshire@staffs-wildlife.org.uk

As a skilled volunteer for this project, you will be required to complete a timesheet for the time you have gifted to our scheme. Our skilled volunteers are valued by our funder, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, at £150 per day. This value is not translated into actual money; it is one way in which we can match the funding provided to us by our funder as it enables us to demonstrate the value of the input our volunteers give to our scheme. Alongside this, we also count the number of volunteers who support us and the number of days donated as outputs of our scheme.

You will be asked to provide contact information when you register as a volunteer, including emergency contacts and participate in a short induction via Zoom. We would like to maintain regular contact with you via email and will send a monthly volunteer newsletter to keep you informed about the scheme and other volunteering.

How the role fits in with the work of the organisation

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is the lead partner in the TTTV project. As such, Volunteers will be a part of the Wildlife Trust and covered by its insurance and policies.

Expectations of behaviour and dress

Volunteers are expected to act as ambassadors for the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership and for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. 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.

Skills and qualifications

We are looking for volunteers who are skilled in photography and photo editing to provide publish ready (print and web) images to be incorporated in this interpretation project. Note that our Virtual Tour Volunteer can assist with some of the advanced or less common techniques (such as creating panoramas).

We are looking for volunteers ready and willing to start immediately and ideally willing to commit time on an adhoc basis over the coming year. You will be familiar with walking in and exploring the countryside, competent at reading maps, and physically fit and able to undertake walks which may include livestock, rough terrain and obstacles such as stiles.

You will be provided with basic training on geolocating your images and undertaking a dynamic risk assessment in the field for your personal safety. You will have the opportunity to discuss the types of images you are able to take and the locations you are prepared to visit.

You will gain experience in taking photographs that tell a story of an area and contributing to a collaborative interpretation project.

Required person specifications

- Enjoy walking and exploring the countryside
- An interest in natural or cultural heritage
- Own camera equipment with image editing computer and software, **for which you are fully liable, including insurance.**
- Mobile phone for geolocating images and for safety during lone working
- Access to a vehicle for travel to and from site with a full UK driving license.
- The role is for adults aged 18+

For further details about this volunteer role, please contact;

Louise Morris, TTTV Project Manager

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