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2018 UK River Prize Finalist



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Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership (Warwickshire & Staffordshire)



south east water

Multiple benefit partnership project

The Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership (TVWLP) was formed in 2005 and brings together 23 organisations including local groups, wildlife charities, DEFRA Agencies, Parish, Borough and County Councils. TVWLP developed a four year scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to restore the River Tame and its tributaries in the Tame Valley Wetlands, located between Birmingham and Tamworth and part of the Humber River Basin. All are failing EU Water Framework Directive targets.

Mineral extraction, power generation, pollution and dredging have shaped the river and its landscape since the industrial revolution, with transport links fragmenting the landscape in more recent times. Covering an area of 104km², the scheme is on track to deliver 35 different projects over four main themes:

- A. Restoring the built and natural heritage
- B. Increasing community participation
- C. Improving access and learning
- D. Providing training and skills

Working with multiple partners, landowners, volunteers and the local community, Theme A has focussed on restoring the natural environment along 28km of the River Tame.

Works include restoring functional river processes along 520m of incised channel on the Tame; creating more natural channel profiles by redesigning the inside of a meander bend and reinstating dredged gravels to create riffle and berm features; creating a 140m back channel reinstating an island feature lost in the 50's providing valuable fish refuge; improving natural flow paths; increasing channel capacity and lateral connectivity to floodplain; 35ha of priority wetland habitat mosaic created or restored to improve connectivity of the river corridor and biodiversity value whilst also creating flood storage and cleaning water; footpath creation and visitor interpretation help to tell the story of the heavily modified River Valley and its ongoing recovery. Other work includes working with CABI scientists to introduce a biocontrol to Himalayan balsam at various sites, improving 1.1km of bankside vegetation at sites where water voles were once present, carrying out mink monitoring and restoration of 1.5km of hedgerow.

Lead project partner

- **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**
Supported by 23 partners



Tameside LNR, Tamworth 140m back channel fish refuge

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