



Staffordshire Green Network

Supporting community climate action

Hosting Student Placements: A Guide for Community Groups

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Summary of student placements with Support Staffordshire since 2021

- 14 student placements, contributing 915 hours (130 days, 4 months)

University	University of Derby University of Staffordshire Keele University University of Gloucestershire
Courses	MSc Creative Writing BA English Language with Creative Writing MSc Conservation Biology BSc Ecology and Environmental Management BSc Music Production and Graphic Design BSc Biomedical Science BSc Geology BSc History BSc Environmental Science BSc English Literature MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology BSc Geography

Summary of student placements with Support Staffordshire since 2021

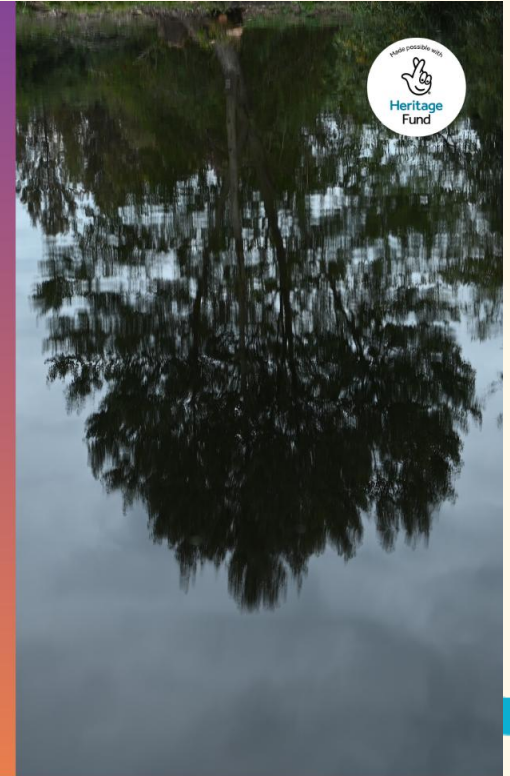
Role	Type of work
Creative Content	Creating and scheduling social media posts Creating online content to promote activities and events Writing blog posts Researching newsletter editor contacts Editing videos for Youtube Creating a bank of project specific content for use on website and social media
Wildlife Recording	Undertaking wildlife surveys as part of a wider group activity (formal and informal) Supporting with public events Uploading wildlife records to iRecord (digitising records) Writing reports
Data Analyst	Analysing wildlife records for trends and patterns, creating reports and posters of findings
Research Assistant	Researching publicly available information (eg services or grant information) and writing reports and presentations on findings



*"I would love to live
by the river. It's
always been my
dream to live by the
like, live by a river.
Um, cuz I love lots
of water sports and I
love being in water. I
don't know. It just, it
makes me feel like
free, like my anxiety
just disappears."*



*"Green, blue, nice
river. Water.
Rippling. Cold.
Trees. Clouds. Dark
sky. Scary.
Reflective. Graceful
birds. Dragon fly."*



Transforming the Trent Valley's Big Washlands Watch - Key Findings

Introduction

The Big Washlands Watch Project is a citizen science programme which encourages families, schools and local communities to engage with Trent Valley's biodiversity. Volunteers are introduced to the iRecord app and field guides are provided by Transforming the Trent Valley, created by the Field Studies Council Publications.



Key Findings

- Records have increased by 372% in the scheme area on iRecord.
- Animalia was consistently the most recorded Kingdom (fig 5).
- Butterfly was consistently the most recorded Insect Group, perhaps due to TTTV's butterfly transects.
- Despite only representing 5% of the recorders on iRecord, TTTV's volunteers have provided 41% of the records in the scheme area from 2019 to 2023 (fig 4).



Fig 1. Scheme area map. Contains OS data © Crown Copyright 2020

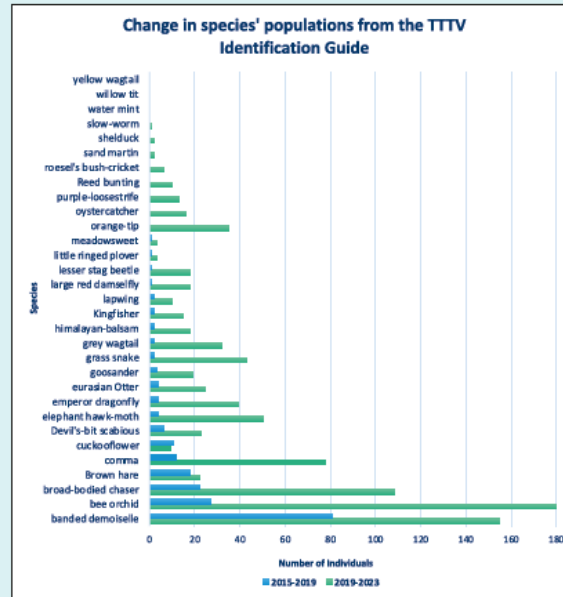


Fig 2. A graph showing the change in population of the species featured on Transforming the Trent Valley's ID Guide.



Fig 3. Survey Booklet © Transforming the Trent Valley

Statistical Parameters

Statistical analysis was mostly undertaken on Microsoft Excel, with ecological data provided by iRecord and Staffordshire Ecological Records. BirdTrack and other similar recording apps were removed, in order to avoid duplicate submissions and qualitative data.

For all statistical analysis, the time periods were defined as: 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2019 - before Big Washlands Watch Project 01/04/2019 - 09/01/2023 - during Big Washlands Watch Project

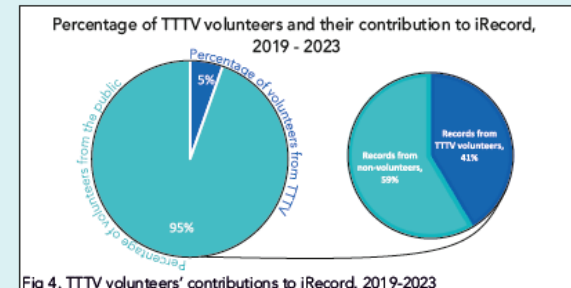


Fig 4. TTTV volunteers' contributions to iRecord, 2019-2023

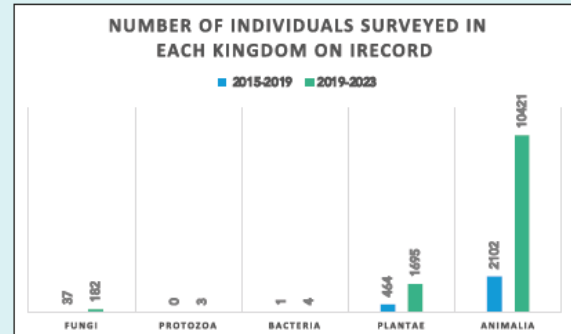


Fig 5. A graph depicting the breakdown of individuals recorded per Kingdom on iRecord, in the TTTV Scheme Area, 2015-2019 and 2019-2023.

More information can be found on the Transforming the Trent Valley website and the 'Transforming the Trent Valley's Big Washlands Watch data analytics, 2019-2023' booklet.



Keeley Beeston

Scan to access the TTTV website

Top Tips

- Manage your expectations
- Be specific – have a dedicated task to complete
- Be flexible – students have other commitments too
- Have a dedicated person to support the student through the placement
- Play to the students' strengths and interests
- Enjoy it!

Upcoming events

- **Friday 14th March, 10am-3pm** – Celebration of the Possible conference, Lichfield Cathedral
[More details](#)
- **Tuesday 18th March, 12-4pm** – Hosting Student Placements Drop-in Session
Keele in Town, Newcastle-under-Lyme
- **Wednesday 19th March, 3.30-5pm** – Schools and Communities: Working Together
Rudyard, Staffordshire Moorlands – [More details](#)
- **Wednesday 26th March, 10am-12.30pm** – Green Conversation: Community Action for Nature
The Wolseley Centre – [Register here](#)
- **Thursday 27th March, 4-5.30pm** – Schools and Communities: Working Together for Sustainability
Croft on the Heath, Uttoxeter – [More details](#)
- **Saturday 5th July, 10am-1pm**, Green Conversation Eco Fair, The Kingswood Trust, South Staffordshire