

A Forgotten Landscape

Restoring the Heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels



-  Motorway
-  A road
-  Minor road
-  Railway
-  Urban area
-  Project area
-  Unitary boundary



Partners

South Gloucestershire Council,
Bristol City Council, RSPB, Natural
England, FWAG, BRERC, UWE, Avon
Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency
and a community representative



A Forgotten Landscape is a **Landscape Partnership Scheme** that seeks to **engage local communities** to restore, conserve and explore the **cultural and natural heritage** of the **Lower Severn Vale Levels**.



The projects

60 projects grouped into four categories

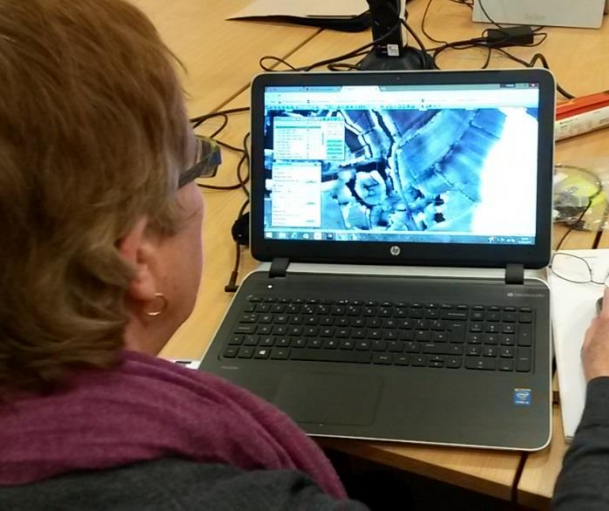
- Conserving and Restoring
- Increasing community participation
- Access and Learning
- Training and Skills













Tales of the Vale

Stories from A Forgotten Landscape

The Vale is a scene of light and vast open space with two colossal bridges spanning the extraordinary River Severn. A Forgotten Landscape, this immense floodplain has been transformed millennia, first by the Severn's extraordinary tides and then by human activity. Rich in its geology and rich natural resources, generations have lived their lives in this ever-changing landscape. Their stories, from the Iron Age to the Nuclear Age, have been explored, collected and brought together by the Tales of the Vale volunteers.

Introducing the landscape

Our landscape

The Vale is a scene of light and vast open space with two colossal bridges spanning the extraordinary River Severn. A Forgotten Landscape, this immense floodplain has been transformed millennia, first by the Severn's extraordinary tides and then by human activity. Rich in its geology and rich natural resources, generations have lived their lives in this ever-changing landscape. Their stories, from the Iron Age to the Nuclear Age, have been explored, collected and brought together by the Tales of the Vale volunteers.



Tales of the Vale

A Forgotten Landscape offers you a unique insight into the history of the Vale. It is a story of the land and the people who have lived and worked there. The Vale is a scene of light and vast open space with two colossal bridges spanning the extraordinary River Severn. A Forgotten Landscape, this immense floodplain has been transformed millennia, first by the Severn's extraordinary tides and then by human activity. Rich in its geology and rich natural resources, generations have lived their lives in this ever-changing landscape. Their stories, from the Iron Age to the Nuclear Age, have been explored, collected and brought together by the Tales of the Vale volunteers.



Tales of the Vale:
Stories from A Forgotten Landscape

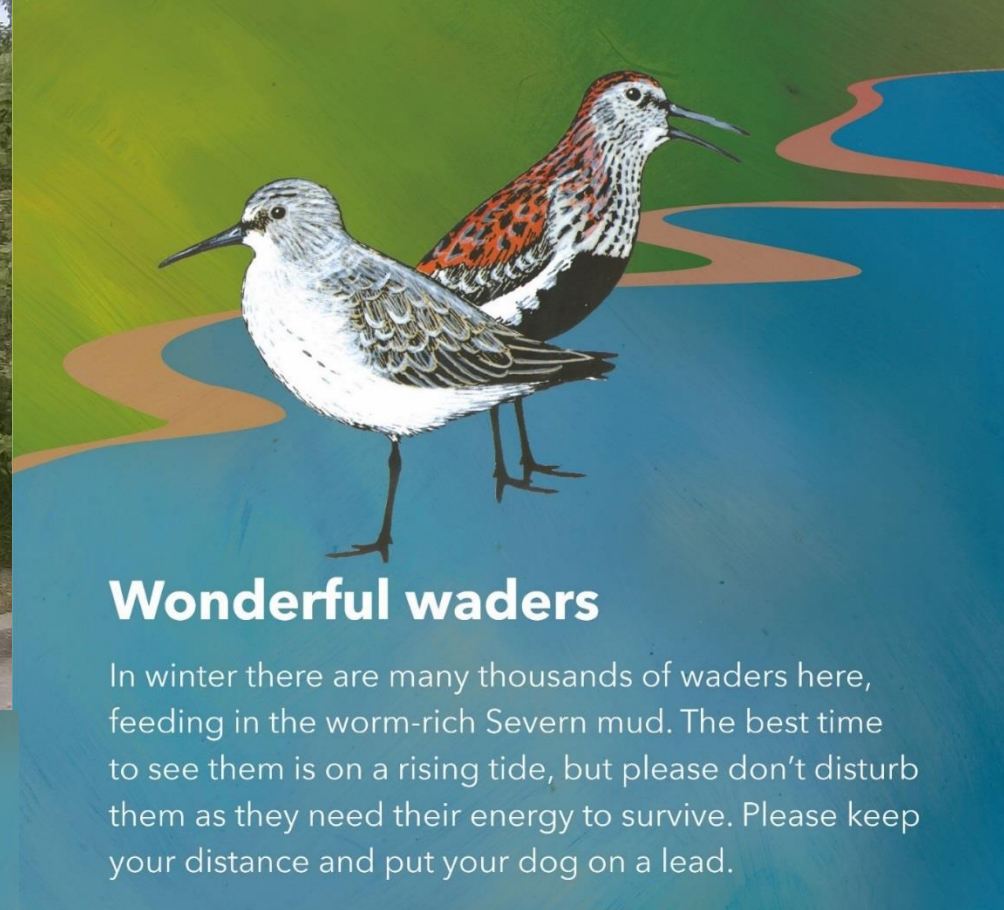


Tales of the Vale:
Stories from A Forgotten Landscape



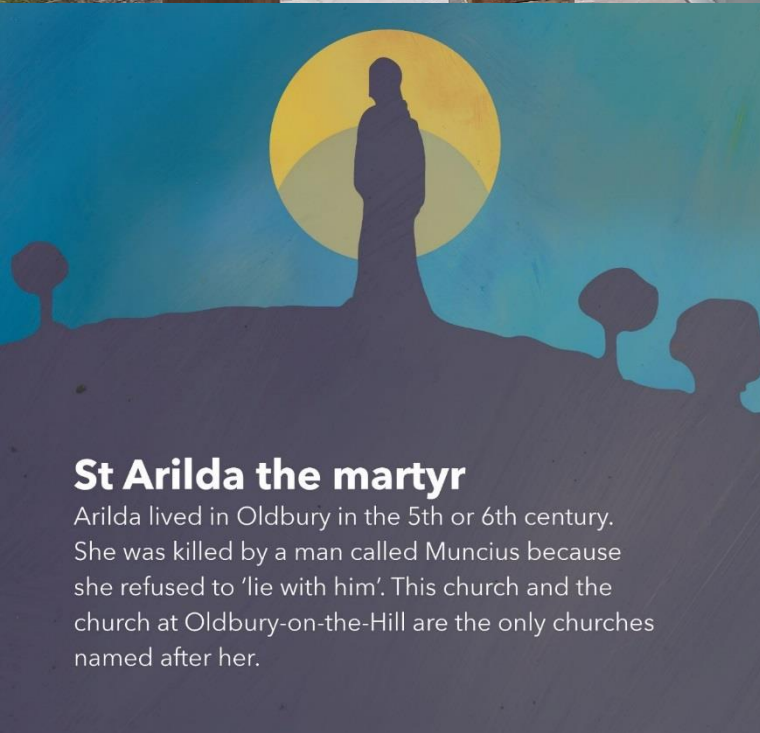




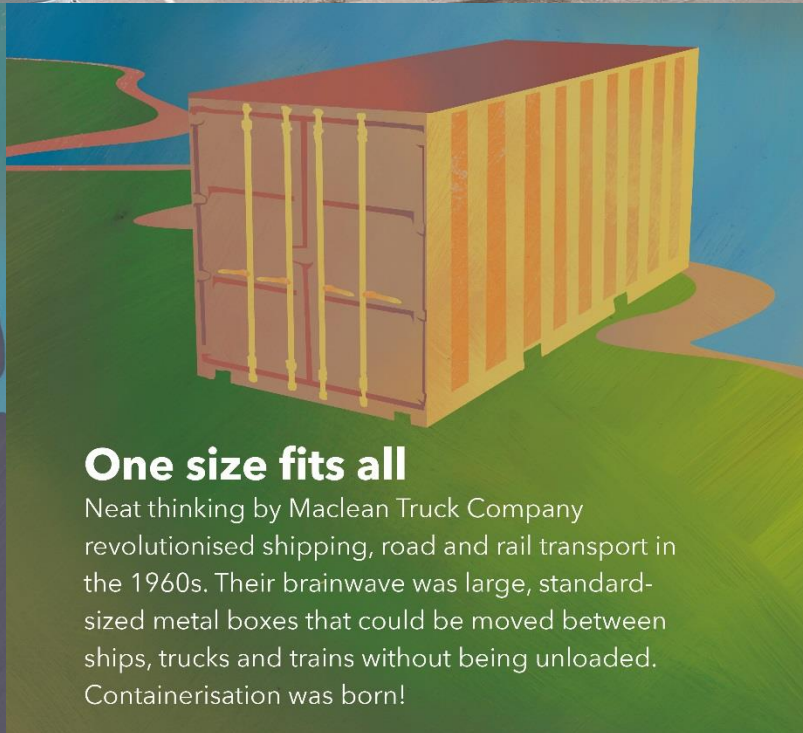
Wonderful waders

In winter there are many thousands of waders here, feeding in the worm-rich Severn mud. The best time to see them is on a rising tide, but please don't disturb them as they need their energy to survive. Please keep your distance and put your dog on a lead.



St Arilda the martyr

Arilda lived in Oldbury in the 5th or 6th century. She was killed by a man called Muncius because she refused to 'lie with him'. This church and the church at Oldbury-on-the-Hill are the only churches named after her.



One size fits all

Neat thinking by Maclean Truck Company revolutionised shipping, road and rail transport in the 1960s. Their brainwave was large, standard-sized metal boxes that could be moved between ships, trucks and trains without being unloaded. Containerisation was born!







Windbound Wander

Start: At the site of the old Windbound Pub, Shepperdine Road, Shepperdine, BS35 1RP.

The description assumes you are going clockwise around the route, but it is signposted in both directions.

The walk starts at the site of the old Windbound Pub **A**, once a fine riverside hostelry. There's some information about the history of this point on the river by the parking. Walk up onto the flood defences - pause to take the view **B** - and then turn north along the Severn. Looking inland, notice the distinctive corrugated appearance of the fields **C**; this means they were last ploughed prior to modern methods. This ridge and furrow ploughing method was common from the middle ages onwards.

Just beyond Chapel House you'll see the modern navigation beacon **D**; if you look behind you and across the River, on clear days you'll see its partner. Ships travelling up and down the river visually align these beacons to know they are in the right part of the river channel to avoid sand banks. Just north of the beacon the brightly painted White House used to serve the same purpose!

Just past White House, go through the kissing gate and turn right (inland), following the way markers, going shortly right again. As you near the house, you'll see the route going off left

over a ditch. Walk through the fields, bearing right at the gap in the hedges, until you eventually come out to Nupdown Lane.

Go straight down Nupdown Lane; a beautiful orchard **E** on your right shows off its blossom in spring and rosy apples in autumn. Look out for a waymarked gate on your right after about half a kilometre; pass through the gate and back onto the public footpath which runs diagonally across the first field.

The route will take you through several fields and down the drive of The Laurels (Nupdown Equestrian). At the bottom of the drive, turn left into Nupdown Lane, and follow the lane past more orchards left and right. Where the lane turns sharply left, take a moment to visit the 'Tin Tabernacle' **F**. This tin church of St Mary the Virgin is still in use! Enjoy its peace and sense of timelessness.

After visiting the church, continue down Nupdown Lane until you get to a T-junction. Turn right here to return to the start of the walk.



View from the shore looking at the River Severn



Man, Lieutenant of the Windbound Inn



Church of St Mary the Virgin

What next?

- Short continuation of HLF project to use underspend
- 1 year legacy project currently being developed – key projects likely to include the High Tide Roosts and restoration work at Aust Ferry
- Volunteers are continuing to volunteer
- Many of the projects are still ongoing taken forward either by landowners or project partners

www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk

