

Annual Monitoring Report

April 2005 – March 2006



George Jones leads a heritage walk by the Cromford Canal, one of over 40 free events organised for the Discovery Day in October 2005. The day involved many volunteers from the World Heritage Site.



Introduction

This is the third annual report undertaken for the DVMWHS and covers the period from April 2005 to end of March 2006. It has been prepared in liaison with members of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership (see appendix 1 for members listing). It includes the work undertaken by numerous different individuals, groups and organisations within the Partnership to achieve the strategic aims of the Management Plan. It is intended to:

- Identify the work and achievements for the past year.
- Review the condition and progress of conservation of the site
- Monitor the implementation of the Management Plan Objectives and Actions
- Assess the effectiveness of management of the site and identify any changes required
- Inform partners and the public of progress
- Help prioritise actions for the coming year.

Summary of Major Achievements

The main achievements include:

- The DVMWHS Economic Development Plan study received by the DVMWHS Partnership in December 2005.
- Successful completion of the three-year core funding package from DDEP.
- The first major event promoting the whole World Heritage Site – Discovery Day.
- Agreement on a core funding package to provide a permanent co-ordinator post
- Public Arts Policy for the DVMWHS commissioned.
- Arts projects completed and unveiled.
- Additions to the DVMWHS website.
- Shortlisting of the DVMWHS website for the PopComm Public Sector and Charities Website of the Year.
- An education directory for the WHS.
- Learning resource packs to support the use of the WHS as a teaching resource.
- A learning resource DVD with website support feeding out of the DVMWHS Arts events.
- Guides to the site for children and travel trade.
- Two expanded newsletters about events within the WHS.

- Launch of an e-newsletter for the DVMWHS.
- An updated visitor guide.
- Detailed GIS mapping of the DVMWHS.
- Increased activity for the Townscape Heritage Initiative for Belper and Milford.
- Masterplan commissioned for Belper Market Place.
- Study commissioned on roads within The Clusters, Belper.
- Projects completed within the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme.
- Improvements made to the canal wharf at Cromford.
- Archaeological discoveries at former Milford foundry site.
- Working group created to celebrate centenary of Belper River Gardens.
- Outline scheme for paving restoration for North Street, Cromford.
- Increase in literature on the WHS, including Derwent Valley Line Windowgazer, Discovery Day information and reprint of Ambergate walks leaflet.
- Interpretation boards for Darley Abbey and Derby, with supporting walk leaflets for the Belper and Milford boards.
- Continued advertising with a Central Trains wrap and advertising on Nottingham trams.
- Attendance at the 2006 British Travel Trade Fair.
- Purchase of A Prospect of Derby (c1725) by Derby Museum and Art Gallery.
- Enhanced education resources for individual sites in the WHS.
- Increased service for Transpeak bus service through the WHS.
- Improvements to railways stations on the Derwent Valley Line.
- Rail strategy devised for the Derwent Valley Line.



Nottingham's tram users were encouraged to see and enjoy the Derwent Valley Mills WHS.

The Management Plan

In December 2001, the Derwent Valley from Matlock Bath to Derby was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). World Heritage status confirms the Universal Value of the area as the birthplace of the factory system – where water power was first successfully harnessed for textile production – a milestone in the Industrial Revolution.

The DVMP has delegated responsibility under the terms of an international treaty (the UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972) for the conservation, management, enhancement and interpretation of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The DVMP's responsibilities under the Convention are set out within a management plan.

The Management Plan was adopted for the site in April 2003, following extensive consultation on two consultation drafts. The plan provides a framework for the integrated and proactive management of this cultural landscape, helping to ensure its special qualities are sustained and preserved for future generations. The plan provides a context in which those who live and work occupy or own property, in the site or the adjacent buffer zone can participate in, and contribute to, the conservation of the site.

Its overarching mission is: **to conserve the unique and important cultural landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site; to interpret and promote its assets; and to enhance its character, appearance and economic well-being in a sustainable manner.**

One of the key management responsibilities of a World Heritage Site is monitoring the site to ensure that its Universal Value is maintained. UNESCO's Operational Guidelines (March 1999) requires the submission of periodic reports to assess the state of conservation of the World Heritage Sites as well as focus future activities and funds. In addition paragraph 72 states that 'It is necessary that every year the condition of the property be recorded by the site manager or the agency with management authority'. In order to comply with the guidelines, the production and distribution of an annual monitoring report is identified as an action under objective 25 of the Management Plan.

The Management Plan identifies 6 strategic aims and set out specific objectives and actions to meet these aims. The Aims are:

1. To identify the key issues affecting the vulnerability of the cultural landscape, opportunities for its enhancement and measures to protect the cultural significance of the site.
2. To establish guidelines for the future management of the site, and the buildings and land within it, so that the special character of the cultural landscape is protected and enhanced.
3. To increase public awareness of, and interest in, the site; to realise its full potential as an education and learning resource; and to establish a co-ordinated research framework.
4. To develop an integrated and sustainable approach to meeting the transportation needs of the site.
5. To identify how present and possible future tourism within the site can be developed in an environmentally and economically sustainable way for the benefit of the local economy.
6. To provide a common framework in which owners, occupiers, residents, public and voluntary agencies can pursue individual and partnership action plans; and to establish lasting mechanisms for monitoring, co-ordination and consultation.

The first of these aims is mainly covered by part 1 of the Management Plan and although this is an ongoing process it will only be formally reviewed as part of the periodic review process. The report will be based on each of the remaining aims and identify the works implemented to meet these objectives.

Management Guidelines and Monitoring, Conservation and Maintenance of the Cultural Heritage

Objective 1: Ensure that the statutory Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance provide policies for development that recognises the significance of the site.

One potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site is the impact of new development. As section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act provides that determination under the Planning Acts must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, it is essential that the local plans contain adequate policies to protect the site and its setting.

The majority of the site falls within the area covered by Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan adopted in January 2001 which includes a policy stating that development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the World Heritage Site or its setting.

In addition the World Heritage Site is covered by policies in the Local Plans for the four planning authorities: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council and Derby City Council.

The Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan was adopted on 24 November 2005.

The Amber Valley Borough Local Plan was adopted on 12 April 2006.

The Erewash Local Plan was adopted in July 2005 and is currently subject to a high court challenge, but this challenge does not relate to policies affecting the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone or conservation areas.

The City of Derby Local Plan Review was adopted on 25 January 2006. It includes Policy E29 on the Protection of World Heritage Site and its surroundings. The policy says the following:

Within the area designated as a World Heritage Site, proposals which would have an adverse effect on the special character of the area will not be allowed. Planning permission will only be granted for developments, including changes of use and conversions, which meet the following criteria:

- a. To preserve and enhance the special character of the area;*
- b. To encourage the physical and economic revitalisation of the area; and*
- c. To ensure that new buildings enhance the area in terms of siting and alignment of new buildings, the materials used and the mass, scale and design of buildings.*
- d. To ensure that new development does not harm and where possible conserves and enhances the biodiversity of the area.*

Significant development proposals will require special scrutiny.

Proposals for development outside the World Heritage Site, but within the World Heritage buffer zone will only be approved if they do not have an adverse effect upon the nominated World Heritage Site or its setting, including views into and out of the site.

The reasoned justification highlights the outstanding international importance of the site as a key material consideration to be taken into account in planning decisions. It also refers to the Council's intention to incorporate planning aspects of the Management Plan in future Supplementary Planning Documents.

Objective 2: Ensure that protection within the policy framework, when developed, remains effective in the long-term

The effectiveness of the policies and their implementation can be assessed by monitoring planning decisions within the site and buffer zone. Key indicators for the site were established in 2001, however due to the complexity of the site and the fact these were only quantitative, in practice the information assembled was not informative. The forms for the first round of periodic reporting have now been finalised and these can now be used to develop the key performance indicators. In the meantime this report attempts to monitor and review the major applications on a more qualitative basis.

Key development decisions within the World Heritage Site during 2005/6 included:

- Milford Foundry Site – development has commenced.
- Milford Mill Site – Negotiations are ongoing and the application awaits determination. A sketch scheme was submitted to OPUN, the sub-regional design review panel.
- Green Hall, Green Lane Site, Belper – development has commenced.
- Full Street, Derby – discussions are continuing between the developers and Derby City Council.

Objective 3: Review records of statutory designations for protection

Statutory Designations act as a further method of conserving the special interest and universal value of the site in the form of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. Locally listed buildings, the Sites and Monuments Record, and the Register of Parks and Gardens, although non-statutory, provide further information about aspects of the WHS.

These are kept under continual review as more information comes to light on the significance of individual buildings, areas and archaeology. Changes to the statutory designations for 2005/6 are detailed below.

Listed Buildings

Two K6 Telephone Kiosk's at The Triangle and Broadholme Lane, Belper were listed on 26 October 2005.

Conservation Areas

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site includes the whole or part of thirteen pre-existing Conservation Areas, covering four local authorities. A further two are wholly or partly within the Buffer Zone.

Conservation Area Appraisals have recently been undertaken for Cromford Conservation Area and Castletop, Lea Bridge & High Peak Junction Conservation Area. These will be subject to a six week public consultation in September/October 2006 with adoption, hopefully, by the end of the year. Both appraisals have recommended extensions to the Conservation Areas.

Conservation Area Appraisals are due to take place in the Borough of Erewash during 2006/7.

Sites and Monuments Record

A number of additions and modifications have been made to the non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record, bringing the total of entries wholly or partly within the World Heritage Site to 284.

Objective 4: Establish an accurate picture of the current condition and vulnerability of the cultural heritage

Buildings at Risk

One of the indicators of the condition of the Cultural Heritage is the Buildings at Risk Register. The Management Plan identified a number of Buildings considered to be at risk through neglect, disrepair, abuse or disuse within the site. Appendix 1 gives an updated version of the Buildings at Risk Register.

Some of these buildings are listed at the higher grades I and II* and are key buildings to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site and therefore project sheets were produced in the Management Plan to identify the priority works. Progress is being made on these projects however due to their scale and funding issues the works are yet to be completed. The table below presents a summary of works undertaken in the past year.

BUILDING	PROGRESS TO DATE
7 The Hill and Outbuildings Cromford	<p>Repairs and reinstatement works to the attached former bakehouse behind the butchers shop have been completed at a cost of £34,500 with grant assistance of £23,041. Works to the shell include a new roof structure, clay tile covering, flashings, valley gutters and rain water disposal system. Cracking in stonework was stitched with re-pointing, new window and door frames and a stone cill.</p> <p>Interior fitting-out will form a future phase combined with the alterations to form the upper storey flats.</p> <p>The curtilage buildings' external shell of No 7 the Hill had Listed building consent and planning permission granted in 2003 for conversion and repair works. These were repaired and a scheme for restoration of out buildings proposed, including a former wash house and former stables, used as a slaughter house in association with the butchers' business. Both are redundant and at risk, but form part of the owner's overall plans for repair and conversion. Planning permission has been granted for holiday use, and associated garaging, with grants offered for the eligible works identified.</p>
Cromford Mill, Building No 1	A full business plan is being completed to enable the submission of a joint application with the University Of Derby to provide an ICT based education centre. No further progress towards delivery.
Cromford Mill, Building No 17	<p>Planned location of Cromford Mills' DVMWHS gateway (ground floor) – funding submissions still at an early stage although the proposal has gained substantial endorsement.</p> <p>Potentially Creative Industries Hub initiative to be located on three of the upper floors</p>
Cromford Mill, Building No 18	<p>Building now stabilised and works to the North End to install a steel frame and temporary roof now complete. Archaeology now recorded and Conservation Plan nearing final consultation stage.</p>
Cromford Mill, Aqueduct	Listed Building Application and Planning Application for the re-instatement of the 1821 Cast Iron Aqueduct now submitted, project planning at an advanced stage.

Aqueduct Cottages (Lengthman's Cottage) Lea	Arkwright Society still in negotiation with the current owner.
Lea Bridge Cottages, Lea	In consultation with John Smedley Ltd, the rear roof slope to the cottages has been re-laid with reinforced plastic sheeting. Small trees and shrubs growing adjacent to the cottages have been removed and the buildings made secure.
North Mill, Footbridge and Weirs	Condition studies have been completed. Despite some dialogue with the local planning authority, little progress has been made on the repairs to the urgent works to the North Mill by the current owners. A survey and report on the horseshoe weir has ascertained that its condition is of concern. Whilst there is no imminent risk to its structural integrity, some maintenance /repair work will be needed soon if it is not to become unsound.
Former Congregational Church, Belper	Work towards the conversion to a single dwelling is in progress with generous assistance from the Belper & Milford THI to save a prominent townscape building. Funding has secured repairs to the roof, re-roofing with Welsh slate and repairs to the stained glass windows. Pollarding of the lime trees to the front has opened up views of the front of the church not experienced for many years.
Dalley Farm and Outbuildings, Belper	A meeting has taken place with the owners, who are in the process of appointing a conservation architect to start working up a conversion scheme.
Foreman's Cottage, Darley Abbey Mills	No progress
The Fishing Lodge, Mill Road, Cromford	In 2003 it was considered that the building had deteriorated from its condition (risk grade 4 in 1999), especially the roof and the stonework on the south elevation. Grant aid had been approved under the previous CAP but never taken up. A new builder has been appointed to produce revised costings to support an application under the HERS grant scheme as the grant previously offered has now expired. The roof was not originally included in that offer.
Belper North Mill & Belper East Mill	The owners have said a scheme for the conversion of the Mills is to be submitted shortly, which will include permanent repairs to the North and East Mills.
Cromford Railway Station Buildings	Arkwright Society negotiations with Railtrack Properties now at an advanced stage. Feasibility Study completed and fundraising for the proposed re-use underway.

Condition Surveys

Cromford Mill Conservation Statement

Work on The Cromford Mills Conservation Statement is almost complete. The publication is now at final consultation stage and is expected to be distributed to consultees by the end of September 2006.

Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)

Following inscription, an area based partnership grant scheme for the repair and restoration of historic buildings and enhancement of public spaces within the Site; the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS), was approved by English Heritage, to operate, initially for a three-year

period from April 2001 to March 2004. Despite being limited to the national guidelines for the operation of a HERS, offers of grant assistance in excess of £200,000 have been made to property owners across the World Heritage Site during the first three year period of the HERS scheme.

During the past financial year (2005/06) a total of £128,126 of eligible works, under the HERS scheme, has been undertaken in the Site (£71,441 in Cromford and £56,685 in Belper) in addition to associated non-eligible works undertaken at the owners' expense.

Grant assistance to the value of £71,161 has been offered to properties in the Site (£40,820 in Cromford and £30,341 in Belper) based on the eligible works involved, at the agreed percentage rate for the particular nature of the works or building use.

In Cromford, six projects have been helped with financial assistance and technical advice:

- Within the phased programme of repairs at No 7 The Hill, two curtilage buildings that collectively make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the World Heritage Site, have been offered grant assistance towards repairs in addition to private investments for the conversion and re-use of the buildings to holiday accommodation, as part of the village's economic regeneration; the former stables and the former slaughter-house.
- At Arkwright's church of St Mary, the HERS scheme has again been able to make timely assistance towards repair costs to the chancel parapet gutter, to minimise any further damage to the restored wall-paintings by the eminent artist A O Hemming and restoration of the minimal damage that has occurred.
- Additionally, under the HERS scheme, but using the local authority partner's contributions, three Arkwright workers' houses have received offers towards priority re-roofing work and stonework repair; Nos 25, 58 and 132 The Hill.

In Belper, the thrust of the repairs continues to target the commercial properties of the main through route, the A6; Bridge St and Chapel St, where six projects have also been assisted: -

- Prominent ground floor sash windows flanking the fine portico-ed entrance, together with associated stone repairs, have been grant-aided to the listed, late-C17th George and Dragon public house.
- The former butchers shop, No 130 Bridge St has received significant grant offer towards a comprehensive package of eligible works, totalling almost £100,000, together with privately-funded internal works, in anticipation of new retail uses to the ground and first floor accommodation.
- Additional funding to the restoration of three shop fronts at 99-103 Bridge St have been offered to accommodate modifications to the proposed fascia detail following the discovery of surviving cast iron ventilation grilles. A nearby expanding business is taking the double shop unit.
- A supplementary grant has been provided towards sash window replacement at No 77 Bridge Street, to improve the appearance of this beauty therapy business.
- Urgent structural repairs and re-roofing works to the Belper Cottage Project, associated with the Central Methodist Church, have been undertaken with the benefit of the re-establishment of the gable chimney stacks to their appropriate form and dimensions.
- Exceptionally, additional assistance towards the Strutt-built Unitarian Chapel has been given for the re-laying of the stone entrance path to facilitate public access.

The use of grant monies for historic building repair in Darley Abbey has been delayed pending major research undertaking and the formulation of strategic policies for the re-use of the complex of significant mill buildings. It is anticipated that the demand for grant assistance towards the conservation of the mill buildings will not arise within the life of the present HERS.

Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

The Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Scheme commenced in October 2004 to provide grants for building repairs, reinstatement of architectural detail, bringing vacant floorspace into use and enhancing tourism appeal. The Townscape Heritage Initiative focuses, in particular, on restoring historic shop fronts in and around the Market Place and King Street and continuing the restoration and repair work to the mill workers housing in The Clusters and the Hopping Hill terraces in Milford. The scheme also seeks to secure the repair and re-use of significant buildings which are currently vacant and the implementation of environmental improvement schemes.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has committed up to £1 million to the scheme, as part of its UK-wide Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), which aims to conserve and regenerate historic urban areas. The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership has committed up to £564,000. Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Belper Town Council and owners of properties also contribute to the scheme.

Co-ordinated by Amber Valley Borough Council, the five-year Townscape Heritage Initiative offers between 60-80% grant for costs associated with restoring the traditional appearance of the Strutt estate in Belper & Milford and the Market Town of Belper. THI grants are available to owners of Strutt housing and properties in King Street and the Market Place for

- carrying out repairs
- restoring architectural detail
- bringing vacant floor space into use

The THI is now in its third year and is making significant progress.

Number of projects approved:	46
Total spend + committed spend:	£1,475,971
Funds still to be committed:	£1,133,865

Below are details of some of the projects that the THI has supported:

Mill workers housing, Belper & Milford

The Initiative has grant aided 35 restoration projects on Strutt residential properties in the Clusters, Belper, and Hopping Hill Terraces, Milford. Eligible work includes reroofing in natural slate, reinstatement of cast iron guttering, and reinstatement or repair of traditional joinery.

The Black Swan Pub, Market Place, Belper

The outside walls of this prominent pub have been stripped of paint to restore the original brickwork. The pub has been re-pointed and its original doors and windows have been repaired or reinstated. The old shop facing the main road has been restored, with planning permission granted for a restaurant.

The Congregational Church, Green Lane, Belper

This derelict church is being restored and converted into a family home. The church has had a new roof, and stained glass windows have been commissioned to restore the exterior of this important building.

The Studio, Market Place, Belper

This derelict building has been restored and converted into an office to be used by local architects Bakewell and Partners.

The Ritz Cinema Project, King Street, Belper

This is a project to bring back into use the prominent and distinctive Public Hall building on Belper's commercial King Street, which is an important part of the character and appearance of the conservation area and World Heritage Site.

The project involves the conversion of the upper floors back into use as a cinema. The upper floors of Belper's former Public Hall have been vacant since 1991, when the Ritz Cinema, which originally opened in 1919, closed its doors for the final time.

The Public Hall, King Street, Belper

The Public Hall Restoration Project will include repair, replacement and cleaning of the stone and brickwork. The building will have new cast iron gutters and downpipes, and the blacked out upper windows will be reglazed.

New signs, advertising poster frames and discreet lighting after dark will complete the transformation. The building will again be called the 'Ritz' and the big R-I-T-Z letters will be reinstated in polished stainless steel down the central window panel and back-lit with LEDs.

Other initiatives include studies and improvement schemes to the area, which are funded 100% by the THI:

The Coppice Car Park, Belper

Work carried out at the site included resurfacing, improvements to drainage, lighting, the marking out of car parking bays and the laying of new stone paving setts at the car park entrance.

The Butts Phase II, Belper

This junction is a historic pedestrian link between Belper Market Place and St John's Heritage Centre. It is also a key entrance to the Market Town for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

An enhancement scheme, building on the Market Place improvements, is planned. The scheme will use high quality natural materials, and has been designed to work with the fine listed buildings against which the scheme is being undertaken. The scheme is due for implementation in Summer 2006 and will improve the footpath, railings and steps at the Butts, Belper.

The Belper Market Place Masterplan

The THI has commissioned an architect to produce a detailed physical and economic masterplan for the town's Market Place. The plan will set out how to:

- Improve the offer and architectural quality of the Market Place
- Maximise activity within the Market Place
- Promote the Market Place as a visitor attraction
- Position the Market Place at the heart of economic development policy for the town

The Shop Fronts Project

The Shop Fronts Project aims to improve the physical appearance of King Street, Belper's main commercial street. The aim is to restore original architectural features where possible, or create attractive contemporary designs when it is not possible to trace the architectural history. The project has identified 30 shop fronts that could be altered in order to improve the appearance of the town.

The Clusters and Long Row Survey of the Roads

The THI is facilitating an investigation into the restoration of historic road surfaces at the Cluster and Long Row. Detailed survey work will lead to scheme proposals, designed in consultation with the residents.

The Hopping Hill Terrace Conservation Plan

The aim of this commission is to produce a detailed Conservation Plan for the Terrace that investigates the original internal and external form, the walls and land associated with it.

The Conservation Plan will investigate the significance of the buildings, outlining why the buildings are valuable and to whom. It will also examine how the buildings are being damaged and assess the threat of damage through requirements of owners and the practicalities of living in the Terrace.

Objective 6: Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the Derwent Valley Mills Cultural Landscape

Conservation Area Character Appraisals

A draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal is being prepared for the Belper and Milford Conservation Area.

Conservation Area Character Appraisals have been recently undertaken for Cromford and Castletop, Lea Bridge & High Peak Junction.

An appraisal of Darley Abbey Conservation Area has been carried out but it is awaiting publication pending consideration of complimentary management proposals, to be adopted as a formal Supplementary Planning Document, in the light of the suggested proposals of the DDEP-funded Economic Development Strategy for the Site.

Conservation Area Appraisals are due to take place in the Borough of Erewash during 2006/7.

Environmental Improvements

North Street, Cromford – Historic Paving Restoration Scheme

North Street was the first of Sir Richard Arkwright's mill worker housing in Cromford and was developed in 1776. The street consists of two long gritstone terraces which face each other across a broad street, comprising 27 dwellings in all.

The uniformity of the terraces and the containment they give to North Street provides a distinct character that evokes an understanding and connection to the community aspirations of the pioneer industrialists within the Derwent Valley. It also provides an insight into the lives of regular working families at the start of the industrial revolution.

While restoration work has been undertaken on the Terraces little has been done for the street between them. An outline environmental improvement scheme was produced for North Street as part of a report into the restoration of Cromford's historic paving. The report was completed in August 2004 and paid for by the English Heritage administered Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The outline scheme suggests that limestone pitchings are reinstated in the footways; gritstone kerbs and threshold stones are reinstated where they are missing; and that a suitable surface is applied to the carriageway to evoke the visual qualities of what is thought to have been a self-binding limestone hoggin. Limestone pitchings are irregular angular roughly hand sized lumps of limestone that are tightly packed together in a 'crazed' pattern to form a flat surface. The outline scheme also suggested that a duct should be laid in the carriageway to underground the mains electrical cables that currently run along the frontage of the southern terrace and that street lighting levels are reviewed.

Further funding has now been obtained from the Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme and Opus International Consultants, who are based in Nottingham, have been commissioned to develop the outline design into a fully engineered design, specification and bill of quantities that can be accurately priced and tendered. The commission should be completed by the end of July 2006.

Objective 7: Protect and enhance the character of parks and gardens, particularly those included in the English Heritage Register

Belper River Gardens owners Amber Valley Borough Council are in discussion with Network Rail and Derbyshire County Council in respect of outstanding ownership details and repairs required to the walled areas edging the site. An application will then be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the new Parks for People scheme.

To celebrate the centenary of the River Gardens, a working group was created in January 2006 to organise events during the year. From this group a proposal has been made for an on-going Friends group to be established, which will offer volunteer support to the HLF application.

Objective 8: Protect and enhance areas of landscape character within the site

In May 2006 Amber Valley Borough Council adopted its revised Local Plan which includes a new environment policy (EN7) relating to Landscape Character. With part of the DVMWHS falling within the Borough of Amber Valley this policy will go some way to addressing Objective 8 of the Management Plan, providing a policy context for the protection and enhancement of landscape character within the site.

Objective 9: Conserve and enhance biodiversity within the site

English Nature has assessed the condition of the SSSI's within the WHS:

- Cromford Canal SSSI: The condition of the SSSI remains unchanged from last year: 18% in favourable condition, 35% unfavourable but recovering, 47% unfavourable no change.
- Shining Cliff Woods SSSI: 30.31% in favourable condition, 69.93% unfavourable condition but recovering, and 0.18% in unfavourable condition for which there has been no change – the Forestry Commission have continued to carry out management work to improve the condition of the site.
- Rose End Meadows SSSI: 38.14% is in favourable condition, 6.26% unfavourable but recovering but 37.64% is in unfavourable and declining and 2.44% is part destroyed. All of the area managed by DWT is in a favourable condition.

Two additional Wildlife Sites were designated in the World Heritage Site:

- Leashaw Pastures – a small (2.2 hectares) area of unimproved neutral and acid grassland.
- Crich Chase - an area of 17.7 hectares to extend the existing Wildlife Site containing ancient semi-natural woodland

Work on UK priority habitats

Throughout the year a number of Action Plans were revised and updated. These include Habitat Action Plans for Standing Open Water, Rivers and Streams, Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Swamp, Mires, Fens and Reedbeds, Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient and Species-Rich Hedgerows. Following discussions with LBAP partners, 'background documents' containing information on ecology, local distribution and status were produced for woodlands, grasslands, wetland, farmland habitat and the water vole. The idea being that these documents can be updated when more information becomes available through the BAP process.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust undertook an audit of wetland habitats (reedbeds, swamps and tall herb fen). This helped to inform a critical review of targets and objectives for habitat action plans.

Derby City Council's WildDerby project carried out a survey of all the city's ponds during 2004 and 2005: the survey identified a total of 69 ponds and lakes within the City, a massive decline of 88% since 1890. Three ponds were assessed by the Ponds Conservation Trust as being of 'good ecological quality', all of them located within the Derwent river corridor. One of them contained Hair-like Pondweed, the first county record of this nationally scarce aquatic plant.

Belper Meadows Local Nature Reserve benefited from conservation management work to clear scrub from species-rich grassland, and a number of evening walks and a moth-trapping evening were held there. Discussion also took place concerning restoring and/or creating species rich grassland on the field below the Coppice car park.

In relation to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Reserves, Wyver Lane Pools received most attention, with pest species such as ragwort, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed removed, a tern raft built and floated onto the main pool, and regular breeding bird, wildfowl and wader counts carried out. A hay shelter was built at Gang Mine (Porter Lane, Wirksworth), stock fencing improvements made to Rose End Meadows to enable grazing by sheep and cattle, nest boxes checked, cleaned and repaired at Derwentside, and pied flycatcher young again ringed at Derwentside. The Trust tried unsuccessfully to acquire land next to Rose End Meadows to extend the Reserve, but was out-bid at the auction.

LBAP partners were busy carrying out practical work on woodlands in their management. BTCV and the Derbyshire Conservation Volunteers removed in excess of 1ha of rhododendron and cherry laurel from woodlands at Allestree Park LNR in Derby, with the newly formed Friends of Allestree Park felling sycamore.

The Friends of Allestree Park removed Himalayan Balsam and lake debris to help restore wetland habitats at Allestree Park LNR in Derby.

A veteran tree survey undertaken in Shining Cliff Woods revealed the presence of 139 veteran trees, mainly oaks.

On Cromford Moor Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service worked with school children to clear bracken to help establish heather plants. The Forestry Commission started work on clearing 7ha of plantation at Black Rocks to re-establish heathland.

Work on UK priority species

Species Action Plans have been completed for Oak Polypore and the Water Vole.

- The Derbyshire Mammal Group continued to monitor dormouse that were re-introduced to a site in the Derwent Valley. Nest box checks were carried out in June and September and a total of 6 dormice were found.
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's county-wide otter monitoring scheme includes four monitoring points within the World Heritage Site. Monitoring during 2005/06, together with casual records from members of the public, showed that otters continued to be present along the River Derwent throughout the year.
- The stretch of the Cromford Canal within the World Heritage Site continues to be amongst the most important sites in lowland Derbyshire for water voles. The population here continues to flourish, thanks to sympathetic management of the canal by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derbyshire County Council. Unfortunately, recent surveys have failed to find any evidence of water voles surviving on this section of the River Derwent, where American mink have become well established.

Other activities

In June 2005 the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership announced that they had received funding from the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund for LBAP co-ordination until April 2007. Match funding for the application was provided by a number of partners including Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Erewash Borough Council, Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency. Some additional funding, for co-ordination, was also provided by English Nature.

Over 55 delegates attended the Annual LBAP Forum, held on 10th May 2005 which was very successfully received. The day focussed on the LBAP success between 2001 and 2004 and looked at the challenges that lay ahead.

Following the Annual Forum in May 2005 it was decided to produce a quarterly newsletter. The first was produced in September and contributions from LBAP partners has meant that each issue since was bigger and better! Newsletters were subsequently produced in Dec and April.

The Derbyshire Biodiversity website www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk was launched on 12 August 2005 and received more than 6,200 visits in its first 8 months. The site was regularly updated and the site was visited an average of 33 times a day with most visitors returning at least twice a month.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust organised guided walks at Rose End Meadows (orchid walk) and along the Cromford Canal.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust participated in the Discovery Day weekend, organizing Halloween-themed wildlife activities for children at their visitor centre – the Whistlestop Centre – at Matlock Bath, and bird watching activities at Wyver Lane Pools.

The Duffield Frith Research Group published a book on the historical aspects of parklands and parkland management within the Duffield Frith, a medieval royal hunting forest in the area between Duffield and Wirksworth, which included parts of the World Heritage Site.

Summer 2005 saw the long awaited national publication of Planning Policy Statement 9 “Biodiversity and Geological Conservation”. The document will guide conservation policies at a regional and local level. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust continued to advise planning officers on planning issues relating to Wildlife Sites. Derbyshire Dales District Council produced a Supplementary Planning Document on the “Conversion of Farm Buildings Design Guidance” which included the need to consider provision for bats and birds. Derby City Council produced a draft “Revised Nature Conservation Strategy” which will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the future.

Objective 10: Ensure that effective measures are in place to deal with risks and hazards that may threaten the site

Flood Action Plans

The Environment Agency is undertaking a strategic review of flooding and flood management along the River Derwent from Ladybower Reservoir to Derby. A scoping report has been produced for consultation and English Heritage has made a detailed response. The Partnership has been invited to join a consultative group looking at ways in which flooding risk can be reduced in the Derby area.

This year the key mills did not suffer from the usual flooding problems, in particular Strutt's North Mill, Belper.

Fire Action Plans

Contact has been made with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding risk preparedness, and some progress made in establishing an action plan.

The World Heritage Site is covered by three separate Divisional Offices of the Fire and Rescue Service. The Matlock office covers Cromford, the Ilkeston office covers Belper and Milford and the Derby office at Ascot Drive covers Darley Abbey and the Silk Mill. Plans to deal with fires in buildings identified as significant in the Management Plan are most advanced at Cromford where officers from the Matlock office have contacted owners and managers of all such buildings to offer advice and to gain critical information on each site. This ranges from advice to householders on fire protection to risk assessments and fire-fighting plans and requirements for complex sites. Discussions with officers from the Ilkeston and Derby offices has taken place to seek more pro-active intervention in the Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey sections of the Site. This is a slow process and will take some time for all relevant properties to be dealt with including approaching all individual households as well as the major buildings.

Vehicle Risk

In the light of the substantial destruction of the aqueduct at Cromford by a lorry, the need for protection measures to the grade II* listed road archway and footbridge at Belper Mills has been highlighted. A proposal has been recommended for a warning system to be installed, however approval needs to be obtained for use of land for turning of vehicles, and funding for the warning signs needs to be found.

Public Awareness, Education and Research

Article 27 of the World Heritage Convention states ‘the State Parties to this Convention shall endeavour by all appropriate means and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage.’

The World Heritage Site has an immense educational and cultural value. By allowing people to experience the site through visits, activities, and dissemination of information will enrich their knowledge and understanding of where they live, work and play.

Objective 11: Co-ordinate information from all sources to provide a comprehensive site database

GIS Database

A GIS specialist was retained to review the delineation of the boundaries of the World Heritage Site and the Buffer Zone on relevant GIS based maps used by the planning authorities. The findings of this study have been passed to the planning authorities to allow corrections and fine tuning to be undertaken. Some work was also created on providing GIS information to support visits to the WHS, concerning parking, toilet and eating provision etc.

Website

Additional work to the DVMWHS website is providing a growing database for public use, including images, literature, historic detail, teaching support, how to access and use the site, and other information.

Objective 12: Encourage and promote further research into the historical, archaeological and other values of the site and its constituent elements

Research

Milford Foundry Site

The recent redevelopment of the former Glow-worm Boilers foundry site in Milford attracted a great deal of archaeological interest.

The 4.3 hectare site is located on the east bank of the River Derwent within Milford Conservation Area and the World Heritage site. There is a history of using water power on the site from at least the 15th century when a shared goyt, fed by the Derwent, provided power to a fulling mill and a corn mill on the east and west sides of the goyt. In the early 19th century the Strutts acquired both mills. The fulling mill, now under private gardens, went out of use. The corn mill became the site of Strutt's foundry. In the 1820s Strutt built a gas works immediately to the north of the foundry. The gas was used in Strutt's mills and for lighting in Milford and Belper. The foundry continued to expand, being owned and operated by various iron founders. The 1950s brought major expansion to the foundry which continued in use until its recent closure.

Proposals for redevelopment brought an opportunity to establish if any evidence survived below ground of the Strutt enterprises. A study by Dr Patrick Strange of historic documents and maps was followed by a programme of archaeological investigation funded by the developer and undertaken by a team from the University of Sheffield. Remains of the goyt and gas works were found to survive under the massive concrete floors of the 1950s foundry. The foundations of the corn mill and Strutt's foundry were also uncovered, including evidence for a hearth which had been inserted into an existing stone flagged floor – possible evidence for the conversion of the corn mill to a foundry.

The foundry's wheel-pit was located on the goyt, and three lengths of cast-iron line-shafting were found in their original positions running into the foundry. These line-shafts, thought to date back to the 1820s, would have transmitted the power from the water wheel into the foundry to drive bellows or hoists.

Examples of cast-iron line-shafts are few as they rarely survived beyond the development of steel line-shafting later in the 19th century. Experts regard this as a discovery of national importance. A detailed report on the excavations is being prepared by the Sheffield archaeologists, and a publication of the results will follow.

The Clusters, Belper

Preparatory developmental work towards the essential repair and reinstatement of the network of access and service roads at the heart of the historic Strutt's mill workers housing resulted in a comprehensive topographical survey and an archaeological investigation which set the context for this rare survival of significant historic interest and an integral part of the character of this historic development.

Objective 13: Encourage a cohesive strategy for the presentation and interpretation of the site

Museum Development Plans

Strutt's North Mill, Belper

Strutt's North Mill has been part of a pilot scheme run by EMMILAC (East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council) to tailor what they offer more closely to the needs of local schools.

The scheme, which chose two small museums from each county within the East Midlands has included teacher placements for those at Primary and Secondary level as well as special needs provision.

Lessons learnt from the pilot scheme will inform future work with other small museums in the East Midlands, helping to bring what they have to offer into the schools and encouraging schools to turn out and explore their local heritage.

Interpretation Boards and leaflets

Following the official unveiling of the three Local Heritage Initiative-funded Milford and Belper interpretation boards, walk leaflets were produced to support these boards, using the DVMWHS branding. Further branded boards – three for Darley Abbey and two for Derby – were produced ready for installation, and work begun on providing two leaflets to support these boards.

Public Arts Policy

To ensure a long term commissioning programme of public art throughout the WHS a Public Art Policy was adopted in 2005/6 for new major developments within the WHS and appropriate smaller scale environmental improvements. These can range from private sector residential schemes, to new public sector buildings, and the redevelopment of public open spaces.

A public art policy is normally implemented through the planning process through section 106 agreements negotiated by the relevant planning authority. The DVMWHS is not a statutory consultee on planning applications but significant applications affecting the DVMWHS will be referred to the Partnership and the possible inclusion of public art within a major development discussed with the local planning authority.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership encourages the involvement of artists and the provision of arts and crafts as an integral part of the building projects and environmental improvement schemes, public or private, within the WHS. For the DVMWHS, projects which involve lighting/projections, contemporary interpretation through different media, textiles, performances, art installations and temporary events are particularly appropriate.

Key objectives of the new arts strategy are:

- To develop procedures through which artists, education and cultural providers may work with the WHS Partnership and other officers to create an integrated programme of public art in its widest sense.

- To establish mechanisms by which the DVMWHS Partnership and key stakeholders and agencies may work together to lead, stimulate and support a broad public art programme.
- To make provision for the creative use of existing budgets, and for the attraction of new funds to the DVMWHS Partnership in support of such a public art programme.
- To employ the widest range of educational approaches in order to encourage the greater understanding and enjoyment of the role and value of public art in the WHS.
- To provide a means of support for the management of public art through a DVMWHS Public Art Steering Group.
- To provide an artistic framework for projects within the WHS.

The newly-adopted Arts Strategy is available to download from www.derwentvalleymills.org.

Objective 14: Develop Co-ordinated strategies for site publicity

This objective is related to the development of a marketing strategy for the site which is in turn inextricably linked to developing mechanisms to unlock the educational potential of the site. It is therefore hard to separate this objective from Objectives 15 and 21. The actions sited under this objective in the Management Plan include the production of a newsletter and site wide leaflets.

Newsletter

The fifth and sixth issues of the World Heritage Site Newsletter were produced in September 2005 and March 2006 respectively – and 38,000 copies of each were distributed to households within the site and the surrounding area. An additional 7,000 copies of each newsletter were distributed to the main key sites, local libraries and Council offices. Both newsletters, and previous issues, are available on line to download through the Derwent Valley Mills website.

The fifth and sixth newsletters contained articles on the latest developments within the site, and were the largest editions to date, at 12 pages and 16 pages respectively. This reflected the growing number of activities within the Site. The fifth edition also gave promotional support and details of events for the first Discovery day on October 29 2005. Increased pagination allowed for greater coverage of activities in the individual mill sites, biodiversity issues, and recent conservation and archaeological developments.

Discovery Day

About 1,000 people, primarily from Derbyshire but including visitors from as far as London and Kent, turned out for the DVMWHS's first World Heritage Site Discovery Day on Saturday 29 October 2005. Over 40 events were organised for the day, involving large numbers of volunteers giving their time to help visitors better understand the WHS and see areas rarely seen or interpreted.

Free tours of Cromford Mill and the Silk Mill, the Cromford Canal and the historic industrial communities of Darley Abbey, Belper, Cromford and Milford were at full capacity throughout the day. At Cromford, one of the most popular attractions was a horse-drawn narrow-boat, the first on the canal for many years. Rope making, history tours, artist installations and exhibitions at the Gothic Warehouse ensured large numbers of visitors throughout the day. Leawood Pumphouse was in steam for the final time that year and Willersley Castle hosted a photography exhibition on children's performances in the mills last summer.

At Belper's North Mill visitors tried their hand at a diverse range of craft workshops involving water wheels, wig making and knitting. Johnny White's water wheel sculpture was unveiled and textile artist Tarn Draig's 'human knitting machine' saw visitors joining a knitting circle using their hands to do the work.

At Masson Mills and Derby's Silk Mill steam engines welcomed visitors to their doors for a wide range of activities and entertainments. At Masson there was more working textile machinery on show than ever before. At Derby's Silk Mill the Wonderful Weaving workshops were a big hit with children. The day drew to a close with the final evening of the Matlock Bath illuminations and the firework display.

Attendances on the day exceeded all expectations, encouraged by exceptionally mild weather. Calls were made for a second Discovery Day in 2006, with the only complaints recorded in a questionnaire for visitors being that they were unable to see everything in a single day. It was agreed the 2006 event be spread over two days.

Visitor Guide

The updated World Heritage Site concise visitor guide promotional leaflet has been produced and 100,000 copies will be distributed through the year to Tourist Information Centres nationwide and to tourism attractions, local libraries, council offices and accommodation suppliers in Derbyshire. An electronic version of the guide in pdf form is available to download from the DVMWHS website.

Children's Guide

A children's version of the visitor guide was released in February 2006, pulling together all the activities for younger visitors to the DVMWHS, with supporting quizzes and puzzles. The 50,000 copies were distributed throughout the World Heritage Site, and supplied to all Derbyshire schools so that all primary schoolchildren took home a copy of the guide in the week before Easter 2006.

Group Visit Guide

A guide aimed specifically at group visit organisers was also produced in February 2006, and launched at the British Travel Trade Fair at the NEC, Birmingham in March 2006. This provides coach parking details, as well as suggesting itineraries with a broad mix of activities to suit a wide range of interests during a day or more in the World Heritage Site.

Website development

The Derwent Valley Mills website www.derwentvalleymills.org has continued to develop and now attracts over 90 people a day from over 60 countries across the globe. This is a valuable resource for visitors, residents, walkers, historians, teachers and students. Additions this year include: a virtual tour of the whole site, with downloadable wallpaper; a web version of the educational directory for the site; an extensive educational resource based on the arts projects; additional documents and literature including the new Economic Development Plan and Public Arts Strategy, as well as the updated Ambergate walk leaflet, Children's Guide, Group Visit Guide and 2006 Visitor Guide. A feedback facility has been added, so users can voice their likes and dislikes, and subscribe to the e-newsletter.

The website improvements enabled the website to be shortlisted for the PopComm Public Sector and Charity Website of the Year 2005, with five other sites from across the UK.

E-Newsletter

The e-newsletter enables the Partnership to update the public on DVMWHS projects more frequently than through the annual newsletter. The first edition was distributed electronically in January 2006, and there has been a steady growth in the number of requests from people wishing to join the e-mailing list.

Train Wrap

Continuing to raise the profile of the Derwent Valley Mills and its accessibility by train, some funding was used to extend the time period for the wrap on a Central train in Derwent Valley Mills livery. The train carriages feature a landscape representation of the rolling hills of the Derwent Valley and depict dramatic, graphic illustrations of five of the key mills. Since September 2004 the train has spread the

word about the Derwent Valley Mills to more than forty towns and cities across Central England, the North West and South Wales, including the large cities of Liverpool and Cardiff.

Tram Advertising

In addition to the trains the Partnership has advertised the DVMWHS on trams in Nottingham, encouraging exploration of the World Heritage Site, and encouraging comparison with the busy city centre.

Press Releases

Press releases have continued to be distributed, specifically for the release of the Education Directory, and the completion of the Economic Development Plan study.

Newspaper Column

The employment of Teresa Walter as Communications and Outreach Officer from September 2005 to March 2006 allowed the creation of a monthly column in The Belper News, focusing each month on different aspects of the World Heritage Site and the work within it, with a specific emphasis on Belper itself.

Tour of Britain

The Tour of Britain passed through the site again, and BBC commentators were provided with information on the mill sites which featured in the coverage.

Belper River Gardens Centenary Celebrations

The Acting World Heritage Site Co-ordinator helped to create a working group to organise celebrations for the centenary of Belper River Gardens, and which produced a leaflet on the planned events. Their activities attracted considerable local television, radio and newspaper coverage.

Objective 15: Develop mechanisms to facilitate access to the site and to unlock its full potential as an educational learning resource

The World Heritage Site can provide not only a venue for projects but more importantly it can provide inspiration for creative projects in conjunction with learning more about the site itself. In addition this is also a way of making the site accessible to a wider audience. As a result of liaison between the heritage sites and advisers, and funding from DDEP a number of initiatives were completed.

Arts Projects

The on-going community arts projects are designed to be an innovative means of enabling many people along the Derwent Valley to learn about their heritage, and increase their enjoyment of it. All strands of the project have been highly successful in achieving these aims.

Following the Children of the Mills and the textile and creative writing project – as well as the Arts Council funded Watch This Space event in Strutt's North Mill during 2004/5, two further strands were completed by the Derwent Valley Mills Arts Group in 2005/6, and unveiled at the Discovery Day event in October 2005.

Q Arts and artist Joe Mahony produced a projection-based artwork for exhibition at mills within the WHS. The project focused on bringing the history of the World Heritage Site alive for the people who live in and around the site. This was achieved by a series of linked workshops, delivered by the artist during the lead up to the final exhibition of his work. This projection strand explored themes of science and art, optics and the camera; specifically the camera obscura, the Luna Society, the surrounding

natural setting of the mills and the mill industry itself. Workshops explored these themes through animation and camera obscura activities combining camera optics and storytelling.

Fleet Arts and artist Johnny White's water-powered sculptural automata project focused on the reasons for the mills being built within the Derwent Valley - the power of the River Derwent and its tributaries. Johnny worked with a wide range of communities and age groups to produce moving water-powered sculptures. Made mainly of metal, all the moving parts of the sculptures are powered by water. Other materials such as terracotta ceramics were included. Imaginative clay figures, made by both children and adults, formed over card-board thread cones, made a further link to the textile industry. Fleet Arts as project managers, assisted by a community team from Rolls Royce, supported Johnny in setting up and running around 50 workshops with people aged from 3 to nearly 90. Local groups played a key role in this by putting ideas forward for the final pieces as well as bending the metal and making terracotta creatures for use within the final sculptures.

The work of the Derwent Valley Mills Arts Group provided an opportunity for creating an accessible educational resource. An educational resource DVD, with supporting pages on the Derwent Valley Mills website, built on the arts activities that have taken place. It promotes creative approaches to learning and exploring local history and suggests ways to engage young people and others in the kind of themes, ideas and concepts stimulated by visits to the Derwent Valley Mill sites. The DVD and website act as a practical resource for teachers and children, and was made available to community groups and families. The website material is extensive and as well as providing templates and instructions for all activities, provides links to the National Curriculum.

Local communities have embraced the World Heritage Site as a source of inspiration for community events and activities. A community group in Milford has completed a film about Samuel Slater, which was premiered in January 2006 at Belper.

Publications

The children's version of the visitor guide (See Objective 14) was a significant step in reaching out to the children of Derbyshire and encouraging them to use and enjoy the World Heritage Site.

The train windowgazer was also developed as an educational tool for people using the Derwent Valley Line, and schools will be encouraged to use them when using the train to visit locations within the valley.

Education

Distribution of the Education Directory to all schools in Derbyshire increased understanding of the site and what it can offer to school groups. Sufficient extra copies of the directory were produced, thanks to the financial support of the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, to allow copies to be made available for sale to schools outside the county. Two launch events were held at the Silk Mill, Derby – one for teachers, explaining how the World Heritage Site can be used as a tool to help deliver the National Curriculum, and how the directory can help teachers plan a visit; and one for the press, with the Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council cabinet members for education in attendance.

As part of the Education Directory distribution, every primary-age schoolchild was given a Children's Guide to the DVMWHS. Once distribution had taken place, the directory was made available on the Derwent Valley Mills Website.

Two resource packs for teachers were developed by Jane Featherstone, author of the directory. These provide detailed teacher support for delivering specific areas of the National Curriculum, including suggested lesson plans, worksheets and resources. These will also be made available on the website.

Transportation

Transportation issues play a key role in the long term conservation and management of the site. It is essential to improve the existing system, particularly the integration of different modes of travel as well as encouraging more sustainable forms of transport.

Objectives 16: Identify and review transportation problems and opportunities within the site and on routes giving access to the site

Ambergate Leaflet

This leaflet, first produced in 2004, was created to encourage people to enter the World Heritage Site at Ambergate and walk along the Cromford Canal. Demand for the leaflet has grown, and new editions with updated train and bus timetables continue to be published. By December 2005, five editions had been produced – a total of 48,000 leaflets. Advertising support by service providers on route offsets the printing costs, as part of a long-term objective for sustainably-funded print material.

Train Windowgazer Leaflet

The train windowgazer, designed in March 2006 and launched in July 2006, encourages people to not only use the Derwent Valley Line, but consider travelling along the line as an activity in itself. Funded in partnership with the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership, it lets the traveller know what there is to see along the journey from Derby to Matlock and where to look when gazing out of the train window.

The Derwent Valley Heritage Way

The Derwent Valley Heritage Way, a 55 mile continuous walking route between Ladybower Reservoir in the north to Shardlow in the south and passing through the entire length of the World Heritage Site, is a well marked walking route providing a sustainable mode of accessing the site and is a key part of the developing integrated transport system. Interest in the Derwent Valley Heritage Way continues to grow and leaflets have been reprinted to support this interest.

Objective 17: Investigate the potential for better transport integration within the site and buffer zone

The Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership (DVRTP) continues to work with local authorities, transport operators and other organisations to develop public transport for both residents and visitors in the Derwent Valley. DVRTP has produced an 'Achievements' newsletter to recognise the Partnership's work during the last 3 years. The Transport partnership continues to generate significant local media coverage for public transport services in the Derwent Valley.

New Guide to Days Out by Rail

'Great Days out on the Derwent Valley Line' a new combined train timetable and visitor guide has been produced by DVRTP and Central Trains. These have been distributed widely to local residents and to stations and tourist information centres in the Nottingham, Derby and Birmingham area. The guide includes discount entry vouchers for train passengers to six attractions in the Derwent Valley including Masson and Cromford Mills

Station improvements

Several recent improvements to stations on the Derwent Valley Line have been co-ordinated by the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership following funding from Derbyshire County Council. These include at Matlock Bath station, where the waiting shelter has been refurbished and reopened after many years of closure. The refurbished shelter has benefited from new windows, new lighting and external repairs that now provide passengers with covered waiting facilities. Adjacent to the waiting shelter a new electronic information screen has been installed by Central Trains to provide improved train time information.

Passengers at Duffield and Ambergate have benefited from new information provision following the installation of new information cases for timetable and travel information on the platform at Duffield and on the approach road to Ambergate station. At Matlock additional seating has been provided under the canopy area, while all local stations on the Derwent Valley line have benefited from lighting improvements making all the stations safer to use.

Belper Station Regeneration

Improvements co-ordinated by the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership during the last two years has seen over £200,000 spent on the dramatic improvements to Belper station, including new shelters, CCTV and enhanced customer information.

A successful launch event on 6th October 2005 was attended by over 35 representatives including local dignitaries, funding organisations and rail industry members. At the launch a new sign was unveiled to recognise all organisations involved in the overall transformation of the station and to celebrate the completion of a major re-landscaping project by environmental regeneration charity Groundwork Erewash Valley.

Groundwork Erewash Valley's Intermediate Labour Market trainees worked on the project providing them with training and vital skills needed to find work, as well as the opportunity to help improve their local environment. 58% of leavers of the programme successfully entered into full-time employment.

The landscaping work included 4,226 new plants. The landscaping concept is of inter-weaving blocks of colour evoking the Mill industries of Belper sewn together with the Silkolene thread that represents the River Derwent.

Other recent improvements include the installation of a second waiting shelter to provide extra capacity for passengers on the Derby bound platform. Local residents and rail passengers are also benefiting from improved access to the town centre and station following the resurfacing of the Field Lane footpath link to the station.

Record Crowds on Firework Trains

Record numbers of visitors from Nottingham, Long Eaton, Derby and local communities in the Derwent Valley, used the train to visit the Matlock Bath Illuminations' Firework Night on Saturday 31 October, World Heritage Site Discovery Day.

An extra train was provided by Central Trains and the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership (DVRTP) plus a longer train provided for the last train of the night, to make sure all the additional passengers could get home at the end of the evening. Thousands of visitors used the Derwent Valley Line train service to visit Matlock Bath during the Illuminations season including over 1800 visitors on the three firework nights.

On each occasion a parade of illuminated boats, family entertainment, funfair, food and craft stalls took place in Derwent Gardens at 7pm, followed by the dramatic clifftop firework display at 21:00. A special leaflet was produced by DVRTP detailing all train services between Nottingham, Derby and Matlock Bath during the Illuminations season.

Friends of the Derwent Valley Line (FDVL)

- Hosted a summit at which a wide range of stakeholders came together to build on the success of the publication last year of the Derwent Valley Rail Users Strategy which outlined the FDVL's vision for the future of our railway
- Worked with Network Rail to bring forward the clearance of lineside vegetation and the trackside rubbish disfiguring our line.
- Publication of two news letters
- Generated significant media coverage of our efforts both in our local press and at a national level (including coverage by Sky TV and a mention on the front page of the Independent on Sunday)

Bus Services

'Days Out from Derby' by public transport guide was produced by Peak Connections. The guide funded by Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership details places to visit by bus and train in the Derwent Valley and Peak District. The guide also includes discount vouchers to attractions for visitors arriving by public transport.

'Six' Boosts for Derwent Valley Bus Services

The introduction of 'the sixes', follows a major investment by trentbarton to the Derwent Valley bus network with

- Brand new low floor buses
- Modern new look for 'the sixes' with new numbers - 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.X
- Improved Sunday service to Duffield and Belper
- Enhanced evening service to Duffield and Belper
- New quicker route out of Derby
- New night buses until 3am on Friday and Saturday nights from Derby to Duffield and Belper

A brand new fleet of buses in a caramel livery were introduced on 23rd October 2005 to operate the former R61/2/3/4 and XR6 routes. These improvements follow trentbarton carrying out customer research and consultation with passengers. From Belper buses 6.1/6.2/6.3/6.4 will continue to serve Derby every 15 minutes, plus 71 and 6.X also operate from other parts of Belper into Derby.

New Hourly TransPeak 'the really scenic route'

A new hourly TransPeak timetable between Nottingham (Broadmarsh), Derby, Belper, Matlock, Bakewell and Buxton going through to Manchester every two hours started on 23rd October 2005.

The new improved TransPeak service provides great opportunities 7 days a week for shopping and leisure activities in Nottingham, Derby and Manchester, plus providing access to great walking country and the many visitor attractions in the Derwent Valley and Peak District.

The new TransPeak service also features new low floor easy access buses on alternate journeys. TransPeak is a limited stop express service between Nottingham and Manchester. The new service is operated by trentbarton in partnership with Derbyshire County Council following a successful bus challenge bid by Derbyshire County Council.

Objective 18: Ensure that Local Transport Plans and the proposals of other transport providers take into account the conservation needs of the whole site, including bio-diversity issues

In March 2006, both Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council published their second LTP's which jointly cover the World Heritage Site. These are focused on the four shared priorities of

Accessibility, Air Quality, Congestion, and Road Safety. As programmes emerge during the lifetime of the LTP, both the City and County Councils will seek to develop transportation strategies to:-

- Improve the alternatives available to people without a car,
- Encourage less environmentally damaging modes of transport,
- Encourage motorists to switch to other forms of transport where possible,
- Introduce safety measures on our roads and enhancing safety education.

The essence of the programme however, is that the construction of new road capacity is a last resort. Demand management and making best use of existing infrastructure will be the earlier ports of call.

The second LTP, includes key principles, developed from earlier Local Transport Plans.

- Setting out transport in a wider context.
- Identifying best value for money solutions.
- Includes a set of indicators for monitoring performance and sets locally relevant targets related to national requirements.

Both LTP's have been produced after rigorous environmental assessment of potential transport strategies. The LTP's however are not a prescriptive list of things that both Councils will be doing in the next 5 years, though in developing any proposals for the World Heritage Site, conservation needs of the whole site, including bio-diversity issues, will be taken into account.

Sustainable Tourism

Tourism is a key industry as it not only contributes to the revenue of the sites themselves thus aiding their repair and restoration but it can also help support local business resulting in economic benefit to the local community. Although there is a need for a careful balance to be struck between protecting the heritage asset and amenity of local residents and tourism. Pressure from an increased number of visitors is most likely to be expressed in terms of car parking and traffic management, which is addressed under the transportation section.

For the site to prosper there is a need for a strong economic base for the communities. At present, the tourist trade and employment presented by the key sites is limited and is insufficient in itself to support the local economy. However the site as a whole is an important heritage asset and can play a key role in the sustainability of the communities within it and as part of heritage led regeneration. The Heritage led Regeneration Scheme and Townscape Heritage Initiative in Belper are vehicles which will help deliver sustained economic vitality of the community.

Objective 19: Assess the capacity of individual locations within the site to absorb tourism and derive a sustainable tourism strategy which benefits the local economy

At present, there is not considered to be a problem with site capacity however more sophisticated data collection and information is required in order to inform management considerations for the site and for tourism monitoring.

Objective 20: Encourage individual visitor attractions to adopt the principles of the Management Plan in their individual strategies

All the visitor attractions are involved in the delivery of the objectives of the Management Plan. The Site Co-ordinator, Communications and Outreach Officer and members of the Partnership are continually encouraging owners to adopt the principles of the plan.

Objective 21: Develop an integrated marketing strategy for the site which takes account of the critical balance between conservation and tourism

The Marketing Strategy adopted by the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Sites Panel of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership in 2004 was reviewed, with several targets met in the first year, including the provision of a visitor guide for children. A more extensive and long-term strategy needs to be developed and it is hoped this will take place in 2006/7.

Co-ordination, Monitoring and Consultation

Objective 23: Formulise arrangements for the continuing management of the site

The Management Plan established the main structure of the management of the site in the form of the Partnership, the Technical Panel and four sub panels of Transportation, Research and Publications, Tourism Arts and Heritage Sites (TAHS) and Industry and Commerce (Appendix 3).

This has remained largely unchanged except for some additions to the membership of the Partnership. New additions in 2005/6 were: Darley Abbey Community Association; Darley Abbey Society and the Friends of the Derwent Valley Line.

Some changes have been made to the method in which the Partnership manages the World Heritage Site, reflecting its ability to evolve in the face of changing needs, and the desire to simplify the management structure where duplication takes place.

A Collections Group was formed, to: audit what collections exist within the Partnership which relate to the World Heritage Site; discuss and agree criteria governing future collecting policy, including the subjects or themes for collecting; identify the period of time and/or geographical area to which collecting relates; discuss and agree limitations on collecting; and form an acquisitions procedure and policy.

The creation of the Collections Group followed the purchase by Derby Museum and Art Gallery of 'A Prospect of Derby', c.1725 by an Unknown Artist. The painting is a detailed panorama of the City at the height of its prosperity, and centres on the newly built Silk Mill. The purchase was made possible with the help of generous grants from the National Art Collections Fund, and the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund as well as donations from local sources. The painting has been beautifully conserved and is now on display in the Museum.



'A Prospect of Derby', c.1725 by an Unknown Artist

A working group was created to progress consultation over the Economic Development Plan, identify priorities and agree on a method of delivery for meeting objectives.

Owing to the duplication of objectives between the DVMWHS Transportation Panel and the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership (DVRTP), and the desirability of keeping the management structure of the DVMWHS as slim as possible, it was agreed the panel should be dissolved, with any matters not dealt with by the DVRTP being directed to the Technical Panel.

Changes in how the Partnership is funded were discussed and agreed, ready for implementation at the end of the 2005/6 financial year. The three-year pump-primer contribution from the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership came to a close at that time. Early in 2003 the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership had agreed on a £303,000 programme of activities - £288,986.08 of which has now been spent on core funding, with a further £7,990.41 towards the costs of the Economic Development Plan - £296,976.49 in all. Of the £139,000 available in the final year (2005/6) £139,000 was spent. The DDEP funding attracted significant amounts of match-funding, with £510,403.22 made available for projects during those three years.

From April 2006, core funding will be provided primarily by the lead partners of Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Erewash Borough Council, with additional support from the town and parish councils within the World Heritage Site, and other partners. This funding will ensure the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator's role will continue as a permanent post, based within the county council's Environment and Design Section.

A full revision of the Management Plan had been programmed for 2005/6, but time restraints imposed by the project deadlines for the final year of DDEP funding, and staffing changes, resulted in the need to defer revision by one year.

Objective 24: Instigate a continuing programme of consultation and public involvement

Economic Development Plan consultation

Following the publication of the consultants' recommendations in December 2005, a period of consultation was opened to ensure the views of the key partners, particularly the town and parish, district, borough, city and county councils, could be incorporated into an economic development strategy for the World Heritage Site in 2006/7.

Discovery Day questionnaire

A questionnaire was produced for distribution at events on Discovery Day, providing information on where people came from and what events interested them the most. This consultation process will be repeated for future Discovery Days.

Objective 25: Establish a monitoring regime which informs priorities in the long-term

This annual report forms the basis of the establishment of a more formal monitoring regime and as part of the process priorities have been set for the coming year.

The Management Plan included a timetable for delivery of projects, part of which expired in 2006 – a review of the plan is due to take place in 2006/7 to set new targets for the future. The table below is a summary of the targets which were set and identifies which were achieved.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACHIEVEMENT
Pursue funds under the Townscape Heritage Initiatives (Objective 5)	Work progressing successfully within the Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative.
Implement the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (Objective 5)	Scheme extended and targets achieved.
Carry out conservation area character appraisals (Objective 6)	Carried out or agreed for 2006/7.
Carry out specific improvements at the Clusters, Belper (Objective 6)	Survey work completed.
Review status of Darley Abbey Park and Allestree Park (Objective 7)	Darley Abbey Park is now within the extended Darley Abbey conservation area.
Continue the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Objective 9)	Revised in part and continuing.
Prepare Fire Risk Assessments and Action Plans for key buildings (Objective 10)	Work progressing.
Establish a GIS database (Objective 11)	First phase completed.
Instigate further research (Objective 12)	Research completed on Milford Foundry Site and The Clusters, Belper.
Establish a better liaison between major interpretative locations (Objective 13)	First branded interpretation panels erected, with others ready. Leaflets printed.
Develop site-wide guidelines for presentation, communication and presentation (Objective 13)	Guidelines made available to download from website.
Pursue museum development plans (Objective 13)	Development of educational resources at Strutt's North Mill, Belper with EMLLAC.
Establish and archive of high-quality digital images for promotional purposes (Objective 13)	Archive updated and extended.
Produce an occasional newsletter and site-wide leaflets (Objective 14)	Newsletters produced in September 2005 and March 2006. Visitor guide updated, and children's guide, group guide and train window guide produced.
Encourage organisers of events within the site to encompass the world heritage theme (Objective 14)	Site-wide participation in Discovery Day themed event.
Explore the provision of a teaching pack for schools in and around the site (Objective 15)	Education directory and resource packs created, printed and made available on the website.
Encourage production of community guides, walking tours and other interpretation programmes (Objective 15)	Work begun on Belper Town Trail, and publication of walk guides to accompany interpretation boards at Belper and Milford. Ambergate canal walk guide reprinted.
Produce a marketing strategy (Objective 21)	Marketing strategy for 2005/6 established and main targets met.

Projects not Identified in the Management Plan

Economic Development Plan

The Management Plan defines 25 objectives for the future management of the site embracing issues such as: nurturing and sustaining cultural assets; improving basic infrastructure and environmental quality; and harnessing learning and educational potential. The Management Plan also identifies the objective of promoting the area for inward investment and tourism development but it does not deal with how this is to be delivered.

Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and EMDA recommended that an economic development plan be produced to complement the Management Plan.

The Economic Development Plan, delivered to the Partnership in December 2005 thanks to funding from the DDEP represents a vital step in realising the range of economic opportunities afforded by World Heritage status as a force for change and stimulus for regeneration. The consultants involved were asked to meet the following key objectives:-

- Present a strategy for the whole area from an economic development perspective;
- Identify the distinctive role the World Heritage Site performs as an economic driver and its potential to support economic regeneration within the region/sub-region. This should be within the context of the Regional Economic Strategy;
- Provide a 'position statement' from which a realistic economic assessment of the area's potential can be established and a series of targets defined;
- Quantify the scale of change and activity appropriate for the World Heritage Site, across a range of sectors including tourism, retail and mixed use development, taking into account the regional/sub-regional role envisaged; and
- Prioritise key development projects and sites for action to inform the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

Following the delivery of the Economic Development Plan, extensive consultation with the World Heritage Site partners was undertaken, and an expression of interest submitted to the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership for funding to provide a three-year Economic Development Officer to take forward the priorities identified during the consultation period.

The review of the Management Plan taking place in 2006/7 is expected to embrace aims highlighted in the Economic Development Plan to provide a wider-reaching set of objectives for the future.

Priorities for 2006/2007

The greatest 'internal' challenge for 2006/07 is to secure an economic development officer for the DVMWHS, to advance selected proposals made within the Economic Development Plan.

The Management Plan identifies a number of priorities for the coming year but a number of new targets have been identified all of which are listed below.

- Revise the Management Plan. The revision will embrace objectives highlighted within the Economic Development Plan and include key performance indicators for the site.
- Prepare a Conservation/Development Plan for the Darley Abbey Mills in conjunction with the owners.
- Complete the first phase of interpretation boards with supporting leaflets for key areas within the DVMWHS. This phase includes Belper and Milford (already completed), Darley Abbey and the St Mary's and Handyside river bridges north of the Silk Mill, Derby.
- Produce a guide book publication for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
- Sustain the success of the first World Heritage Site Discovery Day for the second event in October 2006.
- Seek progress on essential repairs to Strutt's North Mill, Belper.
- Work towards securing the future of the Derwent Valley Line.
- Establish stronger partnership working with the emerging Destination Management Partnership.
- Seek progress on repair and reuse of Buildings at Risk.
- Pursue publication of the Darley Abbey monograph.
- Support the submission of an application to the HLF for conservation of Belper River Gardens.
- Seek progress on securing the repair of the aqueduct at Cromford Mill.

Seek progress on the formulation of Fire Action Plans for the Derwent Valley Mills and industrial communities.

Member organisations of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership

Due to the size and complexity of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and the numerous owners and stakeholders, a partnership form of management has been established.

The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, chaired by Cllr Joyce Sanders, is composed of representatives of about 30 separate bodies including the local councils, voluntary societies, regeneration agencies and conservation bodies. By monitoring the implementation of the Management Plan the partnership are responsible for the conservation of the site, encouraging sustainable modes of transport, unlocking the educational opportunities, and developing tourism and the local economy in an environmentally and economically sustainable way for the benefit of the local community.

The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership is composed of the following partners:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership
- Belper North Mill Trust
- Derwent Valley Trust
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Friends of Cromford Canal
- Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills
- The Arkwright Society
- CBI East Midlands
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- East Midlands Development Agency
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- ICOMOS UK
- Learning and Skills Council, Derbyshire
- The Derbyshire Chamber and Business Link
- Alderwasley Parish Council
- Breadsall Parish Council
- Crich Parish Council
- Cromford Parish Council
- Darley Abbey Society
- Darley Abbey Community Association
- Dethick, Lea & Holloway Parish Council
- Duffield Parish Council
- Little Eaton Parish Council
- Matlock Bath Parish Council
- Belper Town Council
- Ripley Town Council
- Wirksworth Town Council

