

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Annual Monitoring Report

April 2004 – March 2005



Monitoring Report

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.

This is the second annual report undertaken for the DVMWHS and covers the period from April 2004 to end of March 2005. It has been prepared in liaison with members of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership. It includes the work undertaken by numerous different individuals, groups and organisations within the site to achieve the strategic aims of the Management Plan.

Introduction

In December 2001, the Derwent Valley between Matlock Bath and Derby was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (the 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.

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- 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 set and prioritise actions for the coming year.

Summary of Major Achievements 2004-5

Significant investment by the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, the sub-regional funding agency, in a package of development measures, has enabled a period of sustained growth in the achievements of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, aided by the addition of a part-time communications and outreach officer.

The great majority of the pre-set objectives and actions in the management plan for the year have been met or are in the progress of being delivered. The achievements are due to the hard work and commitment of many partners, volunteers and the local community organisations and individuals. World Heritage Site designation does not bring with it any specific funds but it has raised the profile and status of the site and has unlocked funds from a number of organisations and sponsors to enable an impressive range of work to be implemented.

Of particular note are the arts projects, which have involved large numbers of the community (including many children) in workshops, as well as several arts-based organisations, and attracted funding from sources not previously involved in the work of the Partnership. Three of these projects were completed in 2004-5, with two further projects initiated.

The production and launch of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site website (www.derwentvalleymills.org) has also been a major step forward, creating a centrepiece to the outreach programme for the Partnership. This multi-use website provides information on visiting, conservation, history, literature, events, breaking news, education and children's games, and is a huge resource provision for the global audience across a wide age range and interest levels.

A project initiated in 2004/5, which will have a major impact on the long-term economic future of the Site, is the Economic Development Study, funding provision for which was given by the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership. Its findings, and actions consequent upon them, will be dealt with in next year's monitoring report.

This report covers the achievements and documents the majority of work that has taken place within the site in accordance with the objectives set in the Management Plan for the period April 2004 to March 2005.

The main achievements are:

- Creation of DVMWHS website.
- An increase in events within the site including; arts, leisure and educational.
- Review of conservation area boundaries and designations.
- Hosting of the UK World Heritage Conference.
- Preparation of walking guides to the site.
- Creation of new interpretation room at the Silk Mill, Derby.
- Redesigning of the exhibition space at Strutt's North Mill, Belper.
- Preparation of an Education Manual.
- Securing of funding and commencing of Townscape Heritage Initiative for Belper and Milford.
- Establishing a second phase for the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme.
- Commissioning of a feasibility study for stables at Darley Abbey.
- Preparation of application to the HLF for conservation of Belper River Gardens.
- Continued development on the publication of the Darley Abbey monograph.
- Work towards repair and reuse of Buildings at Risk.
- Installation of interpretation boards for Belper and Milford, and final design work agreed for Darley Abbey and Derby.
- Creation of information packs for accommodation providers within a ten-mile radius of the World Heritage Site and the region's media.
- Development of ten branded postcards showcasing each of the main mill sites.

The Management Plan

The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership (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 that 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.**

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 which have been 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. 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 therefore 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 the 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. This plan will be ultimately replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy, but this is unlikely to happen before 2007.

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.

Derbyshire Dales District Council

The Inspector's Report into objections to the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was received by the Council in December 2004. The Council intends to publish its Proposed Modifications at the end of June 2005, with a view to adoption by the end of the year. The Council's Local Development Scheme was approved by the Secretary of State in April 2005.

Amber Valley Borough Council

The inspector's report into the Local Plan Inquiry has been received, and is currently being considered. The report on the proposed modifications to the Local Plan is to be considered by Full Council on 29 July, if approved, these modifications will be published in September for public comment for a six week period. It is hoped that the Local Plan will be adopted in January 2006.

The new Local Development Scheme has been approved as fit for purpose by the Government Office for the East Midlands.

Erewash Borough Council

The council has carried out the modifications stage for the local plan which involved a six week period of consultation ending on 18th April 2005. The responses to this are currently being assessed and consideration is being given to the requirements for any further amendments to the plan. All information is to be reported to a Full Council meeting on 28th July 2005 where members will consider formal adoption of the plan.

Derby City Council

The City of Derby Local Plan Review is at an advanced stage of preparation. A public local inquiry into objections to its policies and proposals was held in late 2003 to mid 2004 and the Inspector's report

received in January 2005. The Council will consider this report in September and will then place modifications on deposit that month. It is anticipated that the Plan will be formally adopted in February 2006. The Inspector has not recommended any changes to the Policy itself but only one relatively minor change to the Reasoned Justification.

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 made or expected this year included:

- Milford Foundry Site - Scheme for mixed-use development approved and works have commenced on site.
- Milford Mill Site – Brief produced for archaeological desk-based assessment and building recording.
- Green Lane Site, Belper - Approved scheme for retail and leisure use being revised to address the concerns of the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage.
- Former Fuchs Lubricants Site, Belper - Scheme for mixed use, including hotel, approved and works have commenced on site.
- Land North and South of Derwent Street, Belper - No scheme yet submitted.

All of these development proposals have been, or will be, scrutinised to a high level, with particular regard to archaeology and design considerations.

Cromford Mill

Planning and Listed Building Consent applications were submitted for Building 18 for reinstatement of the floors and roof to Building 18 and reinstatement of the water wheel on the east elevation. Both applications are pending. The work will enable re-development and re-use of this important building.

Bliss Site Derby

The site of the former Aida Bliss factory at City Road, Chester Green, Derby that directly abuts the Site is presently the subject of a residential redevelopment proposal. The developer's initial proposals are to be revised to take greater account of the heritage/Conservation Area issues of this important site situated adjacent the River Derwent.

Connecting Derby

In Derby a small number of development proposals affecting the southernmost part of the WHS have been assessed because of their impact on the site, with English Heritage involvement. Prospective applicants for development of a key site within the buffer zone at Full Street are undertaking pre-application consultation with key bodies prior to the formal submission of their development proposals.

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, Sites and Monuments Record, Listed Buildings, Locally listed buildings, Register of Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas.

These are kept under continual review as more information comes to light on the significance of individual buildings, areas and archaeology. A method of monitoring these changes is listing the additions to the list.

Listed Buildings

The following buildings were worthy of consideration for listing and submitted to DCMS for consideration

Former Smithy, Greyhound Yard, Cromford. An application was made to the Department for Culture Media and Sport for the addition of this interesting late 18th century building to the Statutory List, in response to a planning application being made for conversion to a dwelling. It stands in a prominent location by the side of Scarthin Mill Pond and is part of the complex of service buildings associated with The Greyhound Inn, which is listed grade 2*. All the other buildings within the inn's yard are listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of the Greyhound Inn. The request was refused.

Pyms Solicitors, Bridgefoot, Belper. In light of a possible development proposal involving the creation of a new road to the west of the A6, which might threaten this building, a request was made to the Department for Media, Culture and Sport to determine whether it met the test for inclusion in the Statutory List. DCMS ruled that it did not have sufficient architectural merit. However the building and garden are of very considerable townscape significance to the Belper Conservation Area and Conservation Area Consent would be needed for demolition of the building. Research undertaken for the submission revealed that it was erected by the Strutts soon after the land was purchased, in 1791, and that it was used by them and their successors as an administrative office right through the 19th century. It has a strong room which was used as an armoury for the Mills. It may be seen therefore that it has considerable significance to the World Heritage Site, as well as it and its garden being an important and attractive element in the historic street scene.

Bath Street Mills, Derby. A request to DCMS to spot-list the Bath Street Mill complex was rejected on the advice of English Heritage, who considered that the complex had insufficient historic merit to justify inclusion on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Historic/Architectural Interest. The mill complex is situated within the Strutts Park Conservation Area and therefore, nonetheless, it will continue to enjoy statutory protection from unauthorised demolition through the Conservation Area legislation.

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.

A partnership grant scheme, specifically aimed at the Site, has operated since March 2001. The Implementation Programme for the 2001/3 Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) includes schedules of buildings, usually in non-residential use, which are eligible for grant assistance, within the conservation areas of Cromford, Belper & Milford and Darley Abbey.

In March 2004, a study was commissioned to review the priorities for the continuation, or any successor, grant scheme, embracing conservation area enhancement in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The study sought to align the grant scheme more closely with the priority actions agreed within the Management Plan, with the intention of:

- identifying buildings and structures which make a positive contribution to the important cultural landscape of the Site and ensure their conservation, and
- resolving the anomaly that some parts of the major linear threads that unite the World Heritage Site, which are integral to its historic significance, are located outside existing built environment protective designations.

The River Derwent, the Cromford Canal, the railway and the former turnpike road (now the A6) contain buildings and structures of historic significance to the Site, but as parts are located outside designated conservation areas, they are not eligible for grant assistance.

The study has produced suggestions for the revision to the boundaries of four of the conservation areas within the Site, at Belper, Cromford, Whatstandwell and Derby, supported by the production of reasoned justification, based on historic research, analysis and inspection of the surviving physical features for each area.

Additionally, a reasoned justification for the potential designation of an Ambergate Conservation Area has been produced based on historic research and field survey.

In conjunction with the review of the Conservation Areas within the Site, priority buildings and structures that contribute to the cultural value of the Site have been identified and scheduled for the purposes of targeting under a historic building repair grant scheme. This is supplemented by a comprehensive gazetteer of all structures in the study area, providing a valuable database resource.

Sites and Monuments Record

Over 300 Sites and Monuments Record entries were created or enhanced within the Site during the review period.

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.

Slinter Bobbin Mill, Cromford

The repair of Slinter Bobbin Mill by the Arkwright Society and its adaptation for use as a holiday cottage on the upper floor and as an interpretation point in the undercroft will be completed in July 2005. Work on the mill building was delayed while the Bobbin Mill Pond was de-silted. The pond is now in water again and the waterwheel has been restored to working condition. Three separate grant programmes have contributed to this work. The Slinter dam and the waterwheel, and subsequently the pond, were funded by the Derbyshire Environmental Trust with money from the Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Scheme. The mill has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Arkwright Society and by two loans from the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Wheatcroft Warehouse and Cromford Canal Wharf

This grade II listed building, out of use for many years, has now been restored by the Arkwright Society with grants from English Heritage and Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership. The building has

opened as a café. In association with the buildings, the Arkwright Society has undertaken an extensive schedule of works within the confines of the Wharf including repairs and reinstatement to the canal and inlet arm edgings, historic posts and rails, gates, the surfacing to the 'peninsula' land between the canal arms, amenity and safety lighting.

Wharf Shed, Cromford Canal/High Peak Junction

The unlisted Wharf shed, on the Cromford Canal, is part of the County Council's Lea Green Development Centre. The wharf shed was built as a transshipment centre for goods going between the railway and the canal. It became a residential centre for young people in the mid 1970s. The centre has undergone a £125,000 remodelling. The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) contributed £55,000 to the project. Since reopening, more than 20 schools, youth groups and organisations have used it, including the RAF Mountaineering Association and Rolls Royce.

The Bear Pit, Cromford

This Scheduled Ancient Monument has been the subject of a programme of repairs, which includes renewal of the timbers to the sluice gates and the repair of associated mechanisms, re-pointing, de-silting and de-vegetation.

Ownership of this structure is unknown but the parish council secured a grant from Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Fund and the repair works are now complete.

Some of the following 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 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>Work is due to commence to the ruinous Old Bakehouse to the rear of the frontage property. Subsequently, this single storey building is to be converted to holiday accommodation. The adjoining outbuildings will be altered at the same time to improve access which will bring the vacant upper floors into residential use following the consolidation works undertaken with grant assistance in the previous phase of works.</p> <p>A grant has been offered for these works from the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme.</p> <p>Future phases include the repair and conversion of the nearby Wash House and the adjacent stables to the Swifts Entry courtyard.</p>
Cromford Mill, Building No 1	Repairs to the external shell of the building are now complete and all the upper floors have been repaired or renewed. The building will require essential services and fitting out before it can be brought back into use. This work has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and emda.
Cromford Mill, Building No 17	The repair of the external shell of the building is now complete. This work has included the installation of 115 replica windows. A staircase has been reinstalled in the apsidal end of the building replicating the original. Much work remains to be done including the installation of

	<p>services, a lift and a further staircase together with the repair and renewal of the upper floors. This awaits further funding. The recent work has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and by emda.</p>
Cromford Mill, Building No 18	<p>The inside of the building has been subjected to intensive archaeological scrutiny from which has emerged a new appreciation of how the building functioned in its original state. The repair of the severely damaged northeast section of the building is now in hand. This work includes the installation of a steel frame. The work has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and by emda.</p>
Cromford Mill, Aqueduct	<p>Proposals have been formulated by Arup, the engineers commissioned by the Arkwright Society, to oversee the reconstruction of the aqueduct which was badly damaged when it was hit by a heavy goods vehicle in 2003. Discussions with English Heritage are now underway and are expected to form the basis of an application for Listed Building Consent and for planning permission to re-erect the structure in due course.</p>
The Fishing Lodge, Mill Road, Cromford	<p>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. No current progress.</p>
Aqueduct Cottages (Lengthman's Cottage) Lea	<p>The transfer of this property to the Arkwright Society is not yet complete. The Society regards it as essential that the future of this structure should be considered within the overall framework of the World Heritage Site's plans for the Cromford canal and as soon as the Society is in possession of the property a consultation process will take place.</p>
Lea Bridge Cottages, Lea	<p>John Smedley Ltd, the owners of the cottages have undertaken emergency works to weatherproof the buildings from the elements. This has included re-sheeting the rear roof slope, removal of saplings/vegetation around the buildings and securing doors and windows. Discussions on the future of the cottages and the Smedley factory site to be undertaken during Summer 2005.</p>
North Mill, Footbridge and Weirs, Belper	<p>Belper North Mill is in relatively new ownership. Future discussions will explore how the findings of the comprehensive condition survey, produced in 2003, can be carried forward.</p> <p>A condition survey of the Horseshoe Weir has been undertaken by a firm of specialist divers and surveyors, with a report having been produced indicating a series of</p>

	<p>recommendations with cost estimates. Though the structure exhibits no immediate concerns, future liaison with the owners will seek to secure the repairs that have been identified.</p> <p>No action has been taken over protecting the footbridge.</p>
Former Congregational Church, Belper	<p>This building is a target building in the Heritage Lottery Fund-led Belper & Milford THI Grant Scheme. It has been acquired by private owners for use as a single private dwelling, for which it has planning permission and listed building consent. Work has commenced to repair the roof structure and covering, with a £180,000 grant from the scheme. It is anticipated that this historic and key townscape building will be removed from the 'at-risk' register, and thereby saved from possible demolition.</p>
Dalley Farm and Outbuildings, Belper	<p>Draft Development Brief produced. Awaiting input from English Heritage.</p>
Foreman's Cottage, Darley Abbey Mills	<p>Derby City Council has commenced formal discussions with owners of the industrial complex with a view towards the preparation of a Management Plan for the site of the Boars Head Mills. This will include proposals for the repair of the historic buildings of which the needs of the Manager's House is acknowledged as being the highest priority.</p>

Condition Surveys

With benefit of a HLF grant Derbyshire County Council commissioned consultants to produce a Conservation Management Plan for the part of the Cromford Canal which falls within The World Heritage site. This important piece of work includes a condition survey which encompasses buildings, boundary walls, bridges, viaducts and other structures. It also includes a survey of the Canal's flora and fauna. It provides an important first step towards the development of a process of restoration and development.

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 (2004/05): the English Heritage allocation for the financial year 2004/5 (to the Derwent Valley WHS) for the three settlements, Cromford, Belper and Darley Abbey was £50,000, with an additional £31,000 from the partners' contributions. A brief summary of the conservation achievements in each area is as follows:

Cromford

In this financial year, grants have been offered to a total of nine properties covering a variety of works including re-roofing, window reinstatement and stone repairs, to buildings in both commercial and residential use.

Specifically, the grant scheme has enabled a useful topographical survey to be commissioned to enable the preparation of a detailed scheme for the restoration of historic paving in North Street; the rescue of a long-standing target building and Building-At-Risk at No 7 The Hill (see above), which has received half the annual allocation for a wide-ranging schedule of works and the high quality restoration of one of a pair of surviving bow windows to a fine late-Georgian shopfront to the village store.

Belper

Six offers of grant assistance have been made including one for the comprehensive repair to a vacant property that will have mixed commercial and residential use, bringing back upper floor space into use, re-roofing, window repair, an improved shopfront and paint removal. The main Belper coaching inn will be enhanced by the reinstatement of a number of its sash windows, including the prominent windows flanking the entrance. A traditional shopfront will shortly be repaired and restored to a fine Georgian property following the successful grant-aided reinstatement of the Georgian sash windows to the front and side elevations on the upper floors.

Darley Abbey

No grant offers have been made but negotiations have progressed to a point where an application could soon be received for extensive repairs to the Manager's House at Darley Abbey Mills.

Belper/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 is focusing, 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 involves securing the repair and re-use of significant buildings which are currently vacant and the implementation of environmental improvement schemes.

The scheme will operate for five years and is being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Belper Town Council. It is anticipated that it will provide for an investment into the historic environment of approximately £2m over the five years of its operation.

The scheme has to date been successful in restoring a number of former Strutt workers cottages in Belper and Milford, and a number of other grant applications are awaited. The Steering Group has also approved grant applications for the restoration, repair and re-use of the Congregational Church and a vacant building in poor condition adjacent to No. 40 Market Place.

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

Conservation Area Character Appraisals

A revision of the Belper and Milford Conservation Area Character Appraisal is to be carried out in 2006 as part of the new Local Development Scheme.

The Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Matlock Bath is currently being undertaken – completion is targeted for late Summer 2005.

Cromford Conservation Area Character Appraisal will be commenced in Autumn 2005 with completion targeted for early 2006.

An appraisal of Darley Abbey Conservation Area has been carried out but is to be subject to the new processes of adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance that have been introduced as part of the new Development Plan Framework.

In Erewash there are two Conservation Areas, Eaton Bank which is located in the buffer zone to the World Heritage site and Little Eaton which is located adjacent to the World Heritage site. It is planned that character appraisals for these two areas will be carried out during the next twelve months.

Environmental Improvements

Some improvement schemes are to be carried out under the Belper and Milford THI Scheme, but these have not yet been implemented.

A topographical survey of North Street, Cromford was commissioned and undertaken as a necessary first stage to producing a detailed scheme for repair and restoration of the historic paving.

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

Belper River Gardens HLF bid submission

An application is to be made in mid June 2005 to the HLF for funding for a Development Officer, who will be employed on a temporary basis to finalise the details of the scheme.

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

Landscape Character Assessment

Derbyshire County Council published *The Landscape Character of Derbyshire*, which by map and written descriptions identifies all the Landscape Character Types in the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone. In addition the publication includes summary tables of landscape management guidelines.

Work is proceeding to promote the understanding of the characterisation work such as carrying out workshops with District and Borough Councils.

Work will proceed within the Landscape Character Assessment Project to produce detailed landscape design and management guidelines.

Objective 9: Conserve and enhance biodiversity within the site

Action 17 key area study: The HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) Cromford Cultural Landscapes Conservation Management Plan for the Cromford Canal was completed in February 2005. This includes the Ecological Appraisal of Cromford Canal and identification of management aims and objectives for 32 compartments. These have been agreed by English Nature. An Invertebrate survey and appraisal of Cromford Canal has been carried out for English Nature and its recommendations integrated with the Ecological appraisal.

4. 2. 17 and Appendix 6: Now 'Lowland Derbyshire LBAP':

English Nature has assessed the condition of the SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) within the WHS:

- Cromford Canal SSSI: 18% in favourable condition, 35% unfavourable but recovering, 47% unfavourable no change – the Ecological assessment now provides a framework for seeking to increase the area in favourable condition;
- Shining Cliff Woods SSSI: 29% in favourable condition, 70% unfavourable condition but recovering, and 1% in unfavourable condition for which there has been no change – the Forestry Commission have commenced extensive management work to improve the condition of 70% of the site.

Work on UK priority habitats:

- Habitat action plans for priority habitats within the study area have been reviewed and revised in the last 18 months and new species action plans for species of particular interest in the study are in preparation, including SAPs (Species Action Plans) for bat, otter and water vole.
- An area of species rich grassland, a UK priority habitat, adjacent to Slinger Wood in the WHS buffer on the Via Gellia has been purchased by the Arkwright Society and declared as a Local Nature Reserve by Cromford Parish Council. It will be managed to enhance its biodiversity.
- Duffield PC has declared the newly created Duffield Millennium Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), providing new areas of grassland and wet woodland.
- An inventory of lowland wood pasture and parkland for the region has identified all relevant sites within the WHS and buffer zone. Resurvey by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) has started at one of these, Crich Chase. This site has recently been identified as of biodiversity importance for its veteran trees, which provide linkages to early smelting and charcoal making in the valley.
- DWT's Wyver Lane reserve in the WHS at Belper has been enhanced by the creation of a new scrape for wading birds.
- DWT has identified and resurveyed semi-natural grasslands in the LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan) area, this will provide a good basis from which to seek to protect and enhance grasslands of value in the WHS and its buffer zone.

Work on UK priority species:

- Dormouse, a UK BAP priority species has been successfully reintroduced as part of English Nature's species recovery programme within ancient woodland in the WHS buffer zone.
- There has been continued work on various locations along the Derwent to favour otter.
- Cromford canal is recognised as an important stronghold for populations of water vole. An updated survey will enable all management works to be carried out without adverse impact on this species.

Other activities:

- Derby City has had a 'Greenprint' prepared which provides guidance on how the actions and targets in the LBAP can be implemented at the local level.

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 environment agency has been invited to talk to the Technical Panel however this project is no longer a priority project and has not been progressed.

This year the key mills did not suffer from the usual flooding problems, in particular Strutt's North Mill, Belper which only had one small flood.

Fire Action Plans

Initial contact has been made with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding risk preparedness.

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. 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 will take place to seek more pro-active intervention in the Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey sections of the Site.

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 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

Funding for development of the GIS database was transferred to 2005/06.

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

Research

The Research and Publications Panel has appointed a working party to examine the historical and archaeological evidence associated with the Darley Abbey mills with a view to commissioning a publication. This follows the release in draft of English Heritage's survey of the Darley Abbey Mills buildings. The resulting publication will form part of the range of literature provided by the Derwent Valley Mills educational charity which, with support from the University of Derby, the Derbyshire and the DDEP has established a revolving publications fund. This fund has commissioned a series of 10 postcards of the key points in the World Heritage Site with the aim of encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of the history of the site.

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

Museum Development Plans

A new exhibition at Derby's Industrial Museum opened in May 2005. Funding from DDEP and the latest research have given the museum a new exhibition that explains the function of the mill and its workforce. It includes original artefacts and photographs of the Mill as well as interactive displays, graphic panels and an animated figure to help people understand the Mill and its importance in the industrial revolution.

Heritage Lottery Funding has enabled the Belper North Mill Trust to commission new exhibition display boards. Her Grace the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire unveiled the new exhibition on Monday February 28, cutting a ribbon to officially open the transformed main gallery.

The new interpretation panels take visitors through the early history of the cotton industry, and the mills built by the Strutt family in Belper. They explain the workings of the early machinery and how the millworkers lived, as well as describing other related industries, such as hosiery production

and chevening. The work was carried out by Devon-based consultants Imagemakers, who also devised a game for young visitors to play.

The unveiling of the first three branded interpretation boards for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site took place opposite the Strutt Arms at Milford and on Long Row and in De Bradelei Mill's courtyard at Belper. Many of the people involved turned out to see the unveilings, which were followed by free history walks around the two communities. Belper Historical Society compiled the boards with input from the World Heritage Site's Research and Publications Panel and created them with funding from the Local Heritage Initiative. Other funding and contributions in kind came from Amber Valley Borough Council, the Derwent Valley Trust, the Herbert Strutt Charity, Groundwork Erewash Valley, Milford residents and Maypole Promotions. Design work was carried out by Origination of Derby, the panels were created by Pryorsign, and erected by Amber Valley Borough Council. Walk leaflets to accompany the boards are to go into production in 2005/6.

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 Objective 15 and 21. In the coming year the grant from DDEP which is funding the part time post of Communications and Outreach Officer will enable the development of an all encompassing strategy pulling all these strands together.

The actions sited under this objective in the Management plan include a number of actions including the production of a newsletter and site wide leaflets.

The 4th issue of the World Heritage Site Newsletter was produced and in November 2004, 38,000 copies were distributed to households within the site and surrounding area. An additional 7,000 copies of the newsletter have been distributed to the main key sites, local libraries and Council offices. The newsletter is also available on line through the partnership's new website (see below) and local authority websites (appendix 2).

For the first time the newsletter expanded to six gatefold pages, and contains articles on the latest developments within the site, as well as design artwork for the train wrap (see below). It was launched at the World Heritage Sites Conference hosted by the Arkwright Society at Cromford Mill in October 2004.

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 has been distributed for display on all the local council websites and the key World Heritage Sites.

A new Derwent Valley Mills website www.derwentvalleymills.org has been developed and launched. This is a valuable new resource for visitors, residents, walkers, historians, teachers and students. In order to help promote physical access to the mills the website contains information on opening times, maps etc. An extensive history section allows people to discover more about the key sites and men responsible for the development of the textile industry during the Industrial Revolution. There are also games and quiz to entertain.

In order to raise the profile of the Derwent Valley Mills and its accessibility by train, some funding was used to wrap 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. Over the next year the train will help 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.

In addition to the trains the Partnership has been working closely with the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership to promote the public transport services in the Valley. This has included production of timetables and images of the mill sites applied to the buses.

Press releases were issued throughout the year, and with the support of the Derbyshire County Council press office reached 26 weekly newspapers, 6 local daily newspapers, 8 national daily newspapers, 11 local radio stations, 5 national radio stations, 3 regional television stations, and 5 regional magazines.

Topics covered in press releases included:

- The bicentenary celebrations for Belper North Mill
- Each of the arts projects – the Children of the Mills event, the textiles project and the Watch This Space performances
- The launch of the wrapped Derwent Valley Mills train
- The launch of the Trent Barton buses with mill photographs at the rear
- The launch of a real-time platform information screen at Belper
- The launch of the website
- The launch of the business information packs
- The appointment of consultants for the economic development plan

Efforts to encourage the use of Derwent Valley Mills releases and promote the site resulted in a meeting with and article from the Derby Evening Telegraph, conducted at the offices of the DVMWHS business champion, Brian Ashby.

An information pack for the media was produced, providing correct details about each of the key sites, their history, present projects and future plans. These are to be used to encourage feature articles, and provide accurate background information for journalists.

The Tour of Britain Bike Race took in part of the site, passing Masson Mill as it headed south from Matlock Bath, then through Cromford, returning at Belper, where cyclists passed first Crossroads and Dalley Farms, then the North Mill, before continuing down the A6. This route took them through Milford, past Darley Abbey, to Derby and beyond. The BBC commentators were provided with background information on each section of the tour through the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, to help them comment on the race.

Objective 15: Develop mechanisms to facilitate access to the site and to unlock its full potential as an education and 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 are underway.

Arts Project

The community arts project is 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. The first two strands of the project have been highly successful in achieving its aims.

The first project the Children of the Mills engaged 212 children in developing and presenting a drama performance about the mills. The children learnt about the history of the site through a creative medium. The whole event led to many children telling their friends and families about the mills and their history. Over 400 people attended the performance a number of whom had not visited the mills previously.

The textile and creative writing project has engaged a wide section of the community by holding over 61 workshops involving over 500 members of the community. There are also art installations in place at Masson Mills and The Silk Mill. The final two strands are at the development stage and are due to take place in the coming year. In addition an education pack is being produced to provide visitors with inspiration and activities related to the World Heritage Site.

Arts Council funding enabled Strutt's North Mill Belper to be the venue for Watch This Space, an on going programme of site specific arts events, which animates and evokes the history and atmosphere of a space through a variable combination of performance, music, film and the application of creative technology. A series of public performances took place and due to the nature of the piece and the space audiences for each performance were restricted. In total 110 people experienced the performance. In addition a short film was produced as part of the project and was shown in four sites in the Derwent Valley.

Local communities are beginning to embrace the World Heritage Site as a source of inspiration for community events and activities. A community group in Milford are in the early stages of making a film about Samuel Slater.

Television Productions

The Partnership has received a number of enquiries from television companies. One enquiry resulted in filming taking place at Cromford and Masson Mills for Oxford Films' Building Britain Programme, presented by Dr Simon Thurley, the Chief Executive of English Heritage.

Publications

A series of ten branded postcards – featuring Masson Mills, Cromford Mill, Belper North Mill, Milford, Darley Abbey Mills and the Silk Mill – were developed, with funding provided from the educational charity's revolving fund. To encourage smaller retailers within the World Heritage Site, branded racking is to be provided.

Education

Work has progressed on the provision of an education manual, providing detailed information for schools on facilities for visiting along the site, and areas of the curriculum which can benefit from these visits.

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

In order to avoid additional congestion on the A6, a leaflet has been produced to encourage people to enter the World Heritage Site at Ambergate and walk along the Cromford Canal. This leaflet gives train and bus times and promotes places of interest and pubs and café stops. Copies of the leaflet have been taken by members of the public since its inception. It is now in its fourth edition. The leaflet costs have been met through advertising by visitor attractions along the route.

The Derwent Valley Heritage Way

Following the opening of 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, this well marked walking route has provided a sustainable mode of accessing the site and is a key part of the developing integrated transport system. A number of sponsored walks along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way have now taken place, to aid charities.

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

The Rural Transport Partnership has secured a number of improvements to the train and bus network in order to provide a better public transport service.

Joint Bus and Train initiatives

Days out in the Derwent Valley by Bus and Train – places to visit by bus and train including Derwent Valley Mills. Leaflet included discounted entry vouchers for visitors arriving by bus or train. Discount vouchers also used in other Peak Connections Days Out guides including Days Out from Chesterfield

Promoting Public Transport in new literature e.g. Belper Celebration magazine (distributed to all Belper households), tourism brochures and videos, Scenic Britain By Train

Developed new local outlets for public transport information

Train Services

- Real time information display screens at Belper and Matlock.
- RTP Station noticeboards at all stations with local map, bus information and other updated information re train services.
- Repairs to shelter at Duffield and Ambergate

- The Derwent Valley Line Local Train Times and Information Guide 35,000 copies produced and 17,500 delivered to households in the Valley.
- Negotiated an extra train service for Matlock Bath Illuminations Firework Nights 2004, produced associated publicity for this.
- Instigated and part funded Derwent Valley Mills liveried train with WHS and Central Trains.
- Helped save morning commuter service from being axed – December 2004.
- Rail user group Friends of the Derwent Valley Line established.

Bus Services

Trentbarton Derwent Valley Bus Services liveried as Trentbarton serving location name and the Derwent Valley. 9 vehicles branded including 4 showing images of mills at Derby, Belper, Cromford and Masson and using World Heritage Site logo.

River Navigation Feasibility Study

The River Navigation Study is now complete. It revealed that feasibility depended on approximately £125,000 of capital funding for which no funding source currently exists.

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

Consultation and discussions are ongoing to ensure that these plans seek to improve the appearance and conservation of the World Heritage Site.

Work is progressing on both the Derby and Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Derbyshire LTP covering the World Heritage Site for the period 2005/6 to 2010/1.

Both LTPs will be submitted to the Department for Transport by 31 July 2005, with the final LTP 2 to be submitted by 31 March 2006. Work is also in hand preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the LTP. During autumn 2005, the County Council intend undertaking a full consultation which will include the World Heritage Site Partnership on both SEA and LTP 2 prior to submission of the final report by 31 March 2005.

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. However, 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. Belper has been named one of the nine 'Beacon Towns' chosen by the Countryside Agency as test beds for a new initiative aimed at revitalising England's Market Towns. In addition the Heritage led Regeneration Scheme and potentially Townscape Heritage Initiative are vehicles which will help deliver sustained economic vitality of the community, by improving the tourism 'product'.

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 development of an integral marketing strategy requires the reconciliation of the East Midlands Tourism Corporate Strategy 2005-8 and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Economic Development Plan. The former specifically identifies the development of the World Heritage Site as a potential cornerstone project to re-invigorate tourism in the area. The Economic Development Plan, at the consulting stage when this report was compiled, presents a number of position statements, the resolution of which may provide the basis for an integral marketing strategy which takes account of the balance between conservation, tourism and other forms of economic development.

The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Sites Panel, reconvened in June 2004, has given particular consideration to the establishment of a brand for the World Heritage Site and has established a working party to consider how such a brand might be marketed in the light of the recommendations of the above reports. In addition the panel has agreed a marketing strategy, revised and updated annually, to

focus its activities. Activities over the past year have included press liaison, advertising the World Heritage Site in the media – in specialist, countryside and travel magazines, the creation of a website, the commissioning of educational and arts projects, the provision of promotional material, information to local businesses and the tourist trade, a newsletter and the preparation for a Derwent Valley Mills Open Day in August 2005.

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 slight changes of membership on the Partnership.

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

This is an on-going process, which the creation of the Derwent Valley Mills website has been designed to support and enhance.

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 for this year many of which are discussed in this report. The table below is a summary of the targets which were set and identifies which were achieved.

The Culture and Prosperity Commission of Derby City Council undertook a review of the way the Council promotes its parts of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site which lie within the City Boundary. This resulted in five recommendations to the Derby City Council Cabinet:

- i. Within the requirements of the National Curriculum, to actively encourage the Education Service to consider introducing the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to Derby schools, by the start of the 2005 academic year.
- ii. To investigate the installation of economically and environmentally sustainable pedestrian and transport links, that could be established between the Silk Mill in the city centre and the Mills at Darley Abbey.
- iii. To nominate a Derby City Council Officer to coordinate the activities of Council and non-Council representatives of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership.
- iv. For the council to develop and promote its part of the Derwent Valley Mills WHS, by:
 - a. Pursuing funding for a feasibility study into the renovation of the Darley Abbey Stable Block in Darley Park for use as a visitor centre.
 - b. Assigning an officer to identify and pursue World Heritage Site funding opportunities.
 - c. Ensuring planning approvals for developments within the World Heritage Site buffer zone in Derby incorporate section 106 agreements that can be used to support Derwent Valley Mills WHS projects within the city.

- v. For the Council to actively investigate the opportunities for promoting the part of the World Heritage Site in Darley Abbey Village and at the Mills, by:
 - a) Supporting the property owners within the World Heritage Site by identifying and informing them of grant funding opportunities and to provide them with advice for making appropriate applications.
 - b) Engaging with the Darley Abbey Mill property owners about the possibility of mixed use development at the site, which may include some residential use, and about generating renewable energy from hydroelectric power.
 - c) Communicating with Darley Abbey Mills property owners on issues which affect Derbyshire's part of the World Heritage Site and provide regular updates on matters which specifically relate to their part of the site, including Darley Abbey residents.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACHIEVEMENT
Pursue funds under the Townscape Heritage Initiatives (Objective 5)	Contract with the HLF finalised. Officer appointed for Belper & Milford THI.
Review Published advice and add new literature (Objective 5)	Ongoing.
Addition of Belper Cemetery to the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Objective 7)	Site added, providing protection through provision in local planning policies and material consideration in planning applications.
Continue the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Objective 9)	Continuing.
Prepare Fire Risk Assessments and Action Plans for key buildings (Objective 10)	Work begun and progressing.
Establish a GIS database (Objective 11)	Partially met – ongoing project
Establish a better liaison between major interpretative locations (Objective 13)	First branded interpretation panels erected, with others ready. Work continuing on leaflets.
Explore the provision of a teaching pack for schools in and around the site (Objective 15)	Education directory created, and ready for printing.
Provide information and support for local shops and potential investors (Objective 19)	Information packs for local businesses produced and promoted.
Produce a marketing strategy (Objective 21)	Marketing strategy for 2004/5 established and creation of working group to strengthen and enhance strategy formed.

Projects not Identified in the Management Plan

Economic Development Masterplan

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 masterplan be produced to complement the Management Plan.

The Economic Development Masterplan will represent a vital step in realising the range of economic opportunities afforded by World Heritage status as a force for change and stimulus for regeneration. Given existing commitments and the input of work required to develop this plan it is most practical for consultants to be commissioned to undertake the work. Following discussion with the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, a contribution of £50,000 has been offered towards the development of the plan 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.

UK World Heritage Site Conference

In October Cromford Mill hosted a UK World Heritage Conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the UK ratification of the UNESCO World Heritage Site convention. The principal speakers were Sir Neil Cossons OBE (Chairman of English Heritage); Sheelagh Evans (Head of World Heritage DCMS); Stuart Smith OBE (Secretary of International Committee for Conservation of Industrial Heritage); Christopher Young (Head of World Heritage and International Policy, English Heritage).

The two day conference was attended by delegates representing many of the UK World Heritage sites, other attendees included those who live and work in the sites. It provided a forum for discussion on current issues and exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Priorities for 2005/2006

The greatest 'internal' challenge for 2005/06 is to identify a mechanism for sustainable funding for the DVMWHS's core management, post March 2006, when the DDEP funding ends.

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.

- Secure sustainable funding for core management eg co-ordinator's salary, newsletter etc
- Increase the number of events within the site including arts, leisure and educational.
- Review conservation area boundaries and designations.
- Establish key performance indicators for the site.

- Secure the future of the Derwent Valley Line.
- Complete implementation of the Derwent Valley Economic Regeneration Scheme.
- Establish positive partnership working with the emerging Destination Management Partnership.
- Ensure that the development of the DVMWHS is part of the strategic planning for tourism of the County and Region.
- Establish mechanism for obtaining tourism baseline data.
- Pursue commissioning further research of the cultural significance of the site.
- Develop policies on portable objects for inclusion in the Management Plan.
- Repair Aqueduct at Cromford Mill.
- Formulate Fire Action Plans.
- Formulate Flood Action Plans.
- Work with owners to pursue funding for essential repairs and planned maintenance to weirs and other water features.
- Progress repairs and reinstatement to building 18 at Cromford Mill.
- Publish Teachers Resource Packs.
- Pursue funding for Cromford Village environmental improvements.
- Pursue funding for repairs for Masson Mills.
- Progress essential repairs to Strutt's North Mill, Belper.
- Commission a feasibility study for stables at Darley Abbey.
- Submit application to the HLF for conservation of Belper River Gardens.
- Pursue publication of the Darley Abbey monograph.
- Work towards repair and reuse of Buildings at Risk.
- Install interpretation boards for Darley Abbey and Derby.