

The Derwent Valley

The Valley that changed the World

Derwent Valley Mills
World Heritage Site

Annual Report
2015 – 2016



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organisation



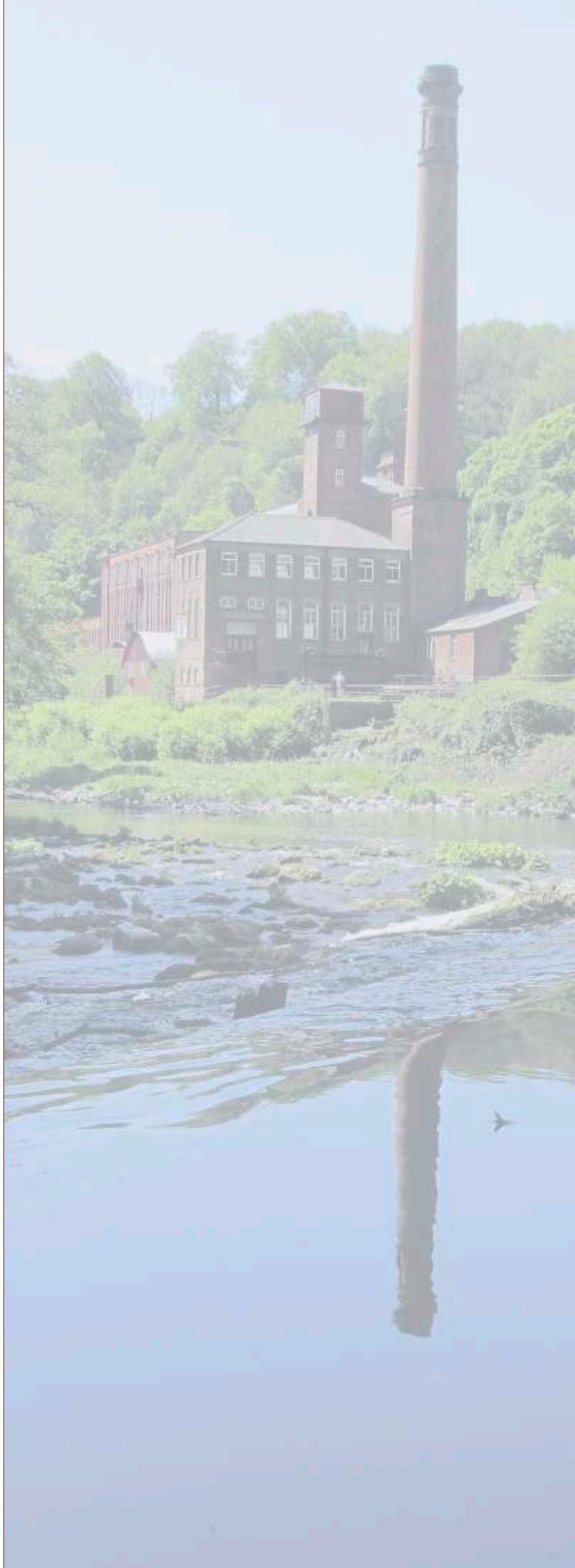
Derwent Valley Mills
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001



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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The year 2015/16 was a period of transition for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Partnership (DVMWHS). It completed a review of its governance and operated in the knowledge that the funding from Derbyshire County Council would be reduced by £60,000 in the financial year 2017/18. How this would be implemented would not be known until the autumn of 2016.

Nevertheless, the year saw the completion of some long-standing projects by partners and the continuing development of others. The Arkwright Society opened the Gateway visitor centre and the Cromford Creative business units, completing the first phase of its major development plan. Derby Museums Trust achieved great success in being awarded substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council to realise its goal of creating the Museum of Making at the Silk Mill. Belper North Mill Trust looked to the future with the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council. Darley Abbey Mills' new wedding suite proved to be both a commercial and conservation success. The residents of the Clusters in Belper began to lay the foundations of a conservation project for their historic roads; a really good example of local people owning and actively participating in the protection and understanding of their heritage. The Friends of Cromford Canal have continued to improve the condition of the canal and have successfully developed the operation of the narrow boat Birdswood.

Another example of this commitment by local people is the way in which they work to support the popular Discovery Walks and Discovery Days festivals organised by the DVMWHS team. These events could not happen without them and the enthusiasm and knowledge they demonstrate is truly remarkable. On a global level UNESCO is keen to ensure that World Heritage Sites actively engage with local people. The DVMWHS has always benefitted from local people from its inception and once again this report gives me the opportunity to thank them. The DVMWHS team has had a busy year delivering a

range of projects, implementing the new governance structure and supporting partners. There has been an increase in planning work and this is likely to continue into the future due to development pressures and the need of local authorities to develop Local Plans that are acceptable to government.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their support and to offer a warm welcome to those new Steering Group and Panel members.

Cllr Ellie Wilcox

Chair
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site



1.0 VISION, MISSION AND KEY AIMS

1.1 Vision

The Derwent Valley Mills will...

Celebrate the Outstanding Universal Value of DVMWHS, enabling the global community to enjoy, engage with and be inspired by their legacy.

Be renowned for best practice in WHS management and for its contribution to the local and regional economy.

Be a popular, quality tourist destination, shaping a creative future and become a symbol of regional and national pride.

The site will be

- Understood as essentially a **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE** – where the historic mills and workers communities are experienced in the beautiful setting of the Derwent Valley, which although altered by human activity has remained largely unchanged since the Industrial Revolution. This is the **SPIRIT OF PLACE** and it is this above all which needs to be protected.
- Experienced as a **WORKING LANDSCAPE** where structures and land which have lost their original function find new uses which respect their historic appearance and character and where new development is appropriate and designed to high standards.
- Managed by a strong and trusted partnership where the people living and working within it **ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS OF MANAGEMENT**. A place where the role of the individual property owner is recognised within a collaborative framework.
- An **ESTABLISHED DESTINATION** for Day and Short Stay visitors which has **ATTRACTIONS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY** with a reputation for excellent **CUSTOMER CARE**.
- A cultural landscape which can be **ENJOYED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS**, ranging from a simple stroll along the canal or a site visit to a long-term exploration of history, technology, archaeology or ecology.
- **A LIVING SPACE** which is an **INSPIRATION** for artists and a home for **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**.
- A place which **INSPIRES** people to visit it and support its preservation and enhancement at different levels, ranging from investment in local shops and services to sponsorship and philanthropy.

1.2 Mission

To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its unique culture, heritage, economy and landscape in a sustainable manner.

1.3 Key Aims

1. To protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.
2. To promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS.
3. To promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.
4. To enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities.
5. To promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.
6. To promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.
7. To build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional and national stakeholders.
8. To work with partners to access funding and deliver projects.
9. To manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner.

2.0 THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 The vision for the DVMWHS is set out within the Plan, which was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and the public. It presents an analysis of the current issues and opportunities facing the Site and an implementation and action plan which aims to address them.
- 2.2 **Aim 1 is to protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.** Here, policies focus on the statutory and policy framework that will protect the Site against development that will impact on its Outstanding Universal Value and the monitoring and conservation activities that need to be undertaken to ensure that it is effective.
- 2.3 **Aim 2 is to promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS** through a range of social media, publications and activities, including the successful Discovery Days festival. It also examines transport issues within the Site and ways to encourage the use of public transport and encouraging new users.
- 2.4 **Aim 3 is to promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.** The development of the Site as a sustainable tourist destination is an important one. This aim covers marketing activities, arts projects and the actions required by the partnership members to improve the infrastructure and offer of the attractions within the Property.
- 2.5 **Aim 4 is to enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities** so that local people and businesses feel engaged with the Site and can gain benefits from it. Data collected on its economic and social impact will assist future funding opportunities.
- 2.6 **Aim 5 is to promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.** It builds upon an existing body of research and publications into the history of the Site and aims to strengthen partnerships with neighbouring Universities. The DVMWHS Educational Trust has played a key role in publishing works on the Site. A key objective is the production of a Research Framework for the Site.
- 2.7 **Aim 6 is to promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.** The Site is a destination for local and regional schools. This section aims to further develop partnerships and projects within the Site and also with schools, colleges and universities to enable it to become both a subject for study but also an inspiration for other areas of creativity and informal learning.
- 2.8 **Aim 7 is to build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional national and international stakeholders.** Strong partnerships are essential to the future of the Site in terms of credibility, visibility, delivery of projects and future funding. The role of working with and supporting the many volunteer organisations which aid the Site will continue to be essential.
- 2.9 **Aim 8 is to work with partners to access funding and deliver projects** and follows logically from the previous aim. Partners within the Site benefit from advice on funding bids and need to co-ordinate bids to maximise success.
- 2.10 Finally, **Aim 9 is to manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner** through robust internal systems and the securing of adequate long-term revenue resources to support the Partnership. This section also considers the long-term capital projects which, although currently un-funded could have a considerable and positive impact on the Site.
- 2.11 **A Continuing Conversation:** The Management Plan sets out an ambitious but realistic programme which reflects the ambitions of the partners to protect, enhance and promote their own properties and also the World Heritage Site. The Plan is not intended to be an inflexible document and it is recognised that the landscape in which the Site operates will always be wind-blown by new issues, challenges and opportunities not known at the time of writing. As a result the DVMWHS Partnership will continue to welcome a dialogue between itself and the people who live, work and relax in this exceptional cultural landscape.

3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: 2014 – 2015

1 To protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.

- Responses made to key planning applications within the DVMWHS.
- Monitoring of the DVMWHS in accordance with UNESCO requirements.
- Opening of refurbished wedding suite within Darley Abbey Mills.
- Conservation work on the warehouse within Cromford Mills completed.

2 To promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS

- Newsletter 2016 published with support from DerwentWISE.
- Visitor Guide updated and reprinted for 2016.
- Discovery Days and Discovery Walks delivered with positive feedback.
- Website usage increased.
- Social Media further developed as promotional tools.
- World War One commemorations within the DVMWHS delivered.

3 To promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.

- Gateway visitor centre opens at Cromford Mills.
- Narrow boat Birdswood on the Cromford Canal attracted over 6,000 visitors.
- Worked with Derby Museums and Galleries to develop the Silk Mill project. This £16 million project is progressing.
- Familiarisation training tours of the DVMWHS for volunteer guides.

4 To enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities

- Mills buildings brought back into use as part of the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy.
- Wedding Suite for Darley Abbey opened and operating successfully.
- 'Great British High Street Exhibition' at Belper to highlight the town's economic heritage and current successes.

5 To promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.

- Research Framework completed and launch planned for 1 October 2016 at Arkwright Society conference.
- Arkwright Society held second successful academic conference on the Industrial Revolution.
- Cromford Revisited book sold well through the year.
- Development support for exhibition of new research at Strutt's North Mill.
- Winter-time training for DVMWHS volunteers to widen their understanding of the Site.

6 To promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.

- School visits to key DVMWHS buildings continued.
- Talk to Ripley Junior School on Outstanding Universal Value.

7 To build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional national and international stakeholders.

- DVMWHS a partner within the EU funded PROTHEGO project.
- Volunteer awards presented for fifth year.
- Familiarisation training tours of the DVMWHS held for volunteers and staff working at the key sites.
- Attendance at EU Conference of European WHS associations in Strasbourg.
- Established new links with Buxton Crescent with a view to wider promotion of 'Georgian Derbyshire' once development is complete.
- Ambassador training for businesses extended to local councillors, and set-up training given to other communities.
- Enabled visit for Duke of Devonshire to Strutt's North Mill, the Cluster Roads and Station Project at Belper to establish new networking links.

8 To work with partners to access funding and deliver projects

- Continuing work with Derby Museum and Silk Mill project, and its successful fundraising.
- Continuing to support and liaise with DerwentWISE.
- Supported Derbyshire Community Foundation to deliver the Vickers Fine Art Award 2016/17.
- Funding secured for building restoration with PSiCA grants in Cromford and Belper.
- Film project The Rumour Mill at John Smedley as part of AHRC funded Stories of Change project.
- Belper Clusters Preservation Group secures £9,600 HLF start-up grant.
- Worked with Belper Town Council to support their East Midlands in Bloom entry and plans to commemorate the 90th birthday of the Queen.

9 To manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner

- Local authority support reduced but maintained.
- New governance structure implemented.
- Sponsorship secured for newsletter.
- Historic England support for printing of Research Framework.



4.0 PROTECTING THE SITE

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 The existing Local Plans of the constituent local planning authorities within the DVMWHS all have 'saved' policies that relate to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS. The UK Government requires all local authorities to produce new Local Plans within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and subsequent Planning Practice Guidance.

4.1.2 Local authorities are also under pressure to prove that they have a five-year housing supply within these new Local Plans, and identify suitable development sites. Derby has tightly drawn municipal boundaries and cannot achieve this without the agreed allocation of housing within neighbouring districts, particularly in South Derbyshire District Council and Amber Valley Borough Council. The latter will clearly have an impact on the DVMWHS and Belper in particular.

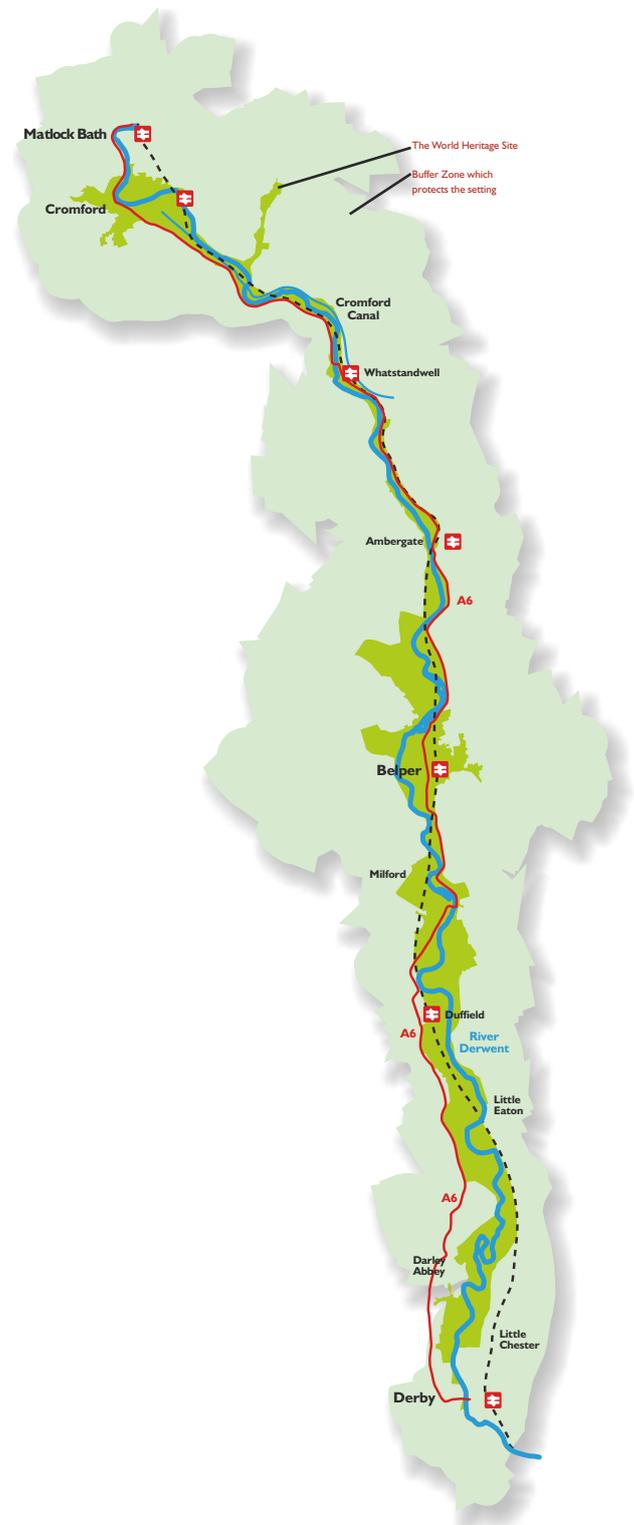
4.1.3 Potential developers will be looking for green and brown-field sites within the Site and the Buffer Zone and the fact that the planning authorities have yet to have their new Local Plans approved could place parts of the Site at risk. The National Planning Policy Framework has a presumption in favour of sustainable development and future applications within the DVMWHS will be determined on whether a proposal inflicts substantial or less than substantial harm on the Site, balanced against the level of public benefit. The DVMWHS was aware of a potential development within the Buffer Zone at Darley Abbey (within Derby City) in February 2015.

4.1.4 The table below sets out the likely date that the local planning authorities within the DVMWHS will have their Local Plans adopted.

Local Authority	Date of adoption
Amber Valley Borough Council	2017
Derby City Council	2017 (draft in Spring 2017)
Derbyshire Dales District Council	2017
Erewash Borough Council	Adopted in 2014

4.2 Planning Applications

4.2.1 The DVMWHS is a non-statutory consultee and provided responses relating to the impact on Outstanding Universal Value for consultations on planning applications submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council (158); Derbyshire Dales District Council (38); Derby City Council (12) Erewash Borough Council (11) and on the Local Plans being developed by these councils. The Partnership is grateful to the advice provided by Derbyshire County Council's Conservation and Design Section.



4.3 Midland Mainline Electrification

4.3.1 The line from London to Sheffield runs through the DVMWHS. It currently has 13 million passengers a year, representing a rise of 130% in the past 15 years. This figure is expected to rise in the next 10 years. The original scheme planned to completely electrify the line. The UK Government postponed the implementation of the Midland Mainline Electrification in 2015. Prior to this preliminary survey work in the Derwent Valley had been undertaken to inform the work of Atkins, the lead engineers. In addition Network Rail had voluntarily committed to a Heritage Impact Assessment within the World Heritage Site. The Government re-affirmed its commitment to the project in 2016 and design work recommenced.

4.3.2 The line from Derby to Chesterfield is one of the most important survivors of the pioneering phase of England's railway development, acknowledged by Historic England as the finest surviving example of a railway designed by George and Robert Stephenson, the leading railway engineers of the day. The line opened in 1840 and the majority of the structures survive unaltered. It has 22 listed railway bridges, viaducts and tunnel portals in the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone.

4.3.3 The line from Derby to Ambergate is within the DVMWHS and presents a significant design challenge to install the overhead cabling and at the same time preserve the historic bridges. Alan Baxter and Associates will continue to act as heritage advisors to Network Rail. It has stated it will work closely with local authorities when designing new infrastructure in areas of architectural or cultural significance. The DVMWHS will continue to be involved in this process as the main challenge facing Network Rail is to deliver appropriate solutions for the electrification of this historic line in an early industrial landscape of international importance. The Kettering to Sheffield section, which includes the Derwent Valley is expected to be completed by 2023.

5.0 LEARNING

5.1 The DVMWHS Education Working Group continued to meet during the year, bringing together learning providers and site education staff from along the valley to share best practice, coordinate related education and learning projects and work together to promote learning about, within and for the Site. In this context 'education' covers all elements of learning for all ages, abilities and groups. The group has been chaired by the Environmental Studies Service Manager from Derbyshire County Council. Following the governance review of the DVMWHS the work of the Education Group will be combined within the Learning and Research Panel.

5.2 The Learning providers from a variety of DVMWHS attractions co-ordinated a one day training event for teaching staff. This 'Learning Tour' for Key Stage 1 and 2 staff travelled the valley and helped them to learn about the significance of the DVMWHS and showcased the educational visit experiences on offer for their pupils. This was very well received and it is hoped that it can be repeated in the future. Many of the key sites were also represented at the Derbyshire Learning outside the Classroom Conference in April 2015 promoting the learning offer across the site to over 120 people.



5.3 The DVMWHS Education Working Group have developed a learning strategy for the site which draws together the World Heritage Site educational work being delivered and developed for the site. This has enabled co-ordination of work going on at various locations and has helped highlight opportunities for future learning projects by identifying which audiences are currently under-represented in the provision on the sites.

5.4 Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service (part of Derbyshire County Council) continues to support the learning work of the DVMWHS. They continue to offer a pupil learning day which explores Outstanding Universal Value and the values and attributes of the DVMWHS as part of their outreach work programme and offer free to download resources for a variety of DVMWHS sites (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environmentalstudies). Their work on the now completed, Heritage Lottery Funded 'Young Roots' partnership project continues to be viewed and used. Lecturers at the University of Derby are developing a relationship with the Site based on this project and it is hoped that the continued digital interpretation of the Site can develop by providing 'workplace' learning opportunities for the undergraduate modelling and animation students at the University of Derby.

6.0 PARTNER'S PROJECTS

6.1 The Arkwright Society

6.1.1 This year witnessed the opening of the Gateway visitor centre at Cromford Mills on 10 March 2016, alongside the completion of the Cromford Creative business units. These projects, mainly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund represent the end of the first phase of the Arkwright Society's ambitious master plan for the Cromford site. The opening ceremony was performed by William Tucker, the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire.



6.1.2 Housed in the Grade I listed mill and warehouse building of 1785-1790 the Gateway visitor centre is on the ground floor and links through to Richard Arkwright's first mill of 1771. The centre features an introductory audio-visual that tells the story of the Derwent Valley Mills. The main exhibition area features a three-dimensional map with interactive touch screens providing additional information. The first mill houses an imaginative projected experience, an encounter with Sir Richard Arkwright, who tells the visitors his story.



6.1.3 Above the Gateway are four storeys, which now house the Cromford Creative business centre. The building has been converted in to attractive, flexible office spaces, with kitchen facilities and break-out rooms. There are also spaces for individual hot-desking. Like Darley Abbey, such conversions allow for sensitive conservation of the fabric, whilst giving the historic building an appropriate new life. It will also give the Arkwright Society a sustainable stream of revenue income. Given the levels of degradation and contamination in this building, its completion is a real achievement for the Arkwright Society.

6.1.4 In addition the Arkwright Society conducted improvements to the café in the Wheatcroft's Wharf building, which it leases from Derbyshire County Council. This involved expanding into the first floor and enlarging the ground floor kitchen. This has delivered additional covers, better quality furniture and the ability to open with a restaurant menu in the evenings.

6.1.5 The Society continued to operate a comprehensive programme of events and activities throughout the year including its second academic conference in October 2015.



6.1.6 The educational offer at Cromford Mills has developed greatly since 2013 with a large expansion of work with primary schools. The majority of school visits were by primary schools, mainly from within Derbyshire and Derby. The primary offer centres on an immersive role-play in which children become new mill workers for a day. This includes interaction with role-play characters, practical activities and a tour of the mill and village, all in 18th Century costume. Changes to the examination and assessment system for secondary school students have prompted a response in targeting slightly younger students from years 8 and 9. A range of provision is offered to college and university groups covering areas as diverse as geography fieldwork and heritage site management. Work experience placements are offered to both school and college students. Provision for visits by Special Schools is under revision with the aim of increasing visit numbers and providing a useful resource for Special Educational Needs students and their teachers.

6.2 Belper Cluster Roads Preservation Group

6.2.1 The Clusters in Belper are an important part of the World Heritage Site's early industrial housing. Constructed by the Strutts in 1805 the houses are three-storeyed detached villas divided to form four back-to-back dwellings. They are amongst the earliest surviving examples of this type. The roads are contemporary with the houses and taken with the houses the Clusters display an almost unchanged early 19th century streetscape. The roads have deteriorated through the impact of modern traffic and water and frost damage.

6.2.2 The Cluster Roads Preservation Group developed from residents living within the Clusters and their shared desire to conserve and restore the historic road surfaces outside their properties. Following extensive consultation with all the property owners and discussions with the DVMWHS Team they submitted an application for an HLF Start-Up Grant. The DVMWHS and Derbyshire County Council acted as the applicant as the group had no bank account and charitable status. The bid for £9,600 was successful and the group achieved much during 2015/16. The grant allowed it to work to become a Charitable Organisation and establish a bank account. Once these key actions have been achieved the funding will be transferred to them to continue the project, which has expenditure dedicated to materials research, education projects and training for the group.



6.3 Belper North Mill Trust

6.3.1 Nicky Crewe resigned as Museum Manager and has been replaced by Mark Higginson. Mark has previously worked at the Silk Mill in Derby and the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock.

6.3.2 The Trust has continued to utilise the grants it received from the Heritage Lottery's Transition Fund and the Arts Council Museum Resilience Fund in 2015. The former allowed the Trust to appoint DCA Consultants to conduct a governance review and also consider the longer-term options for the site. The consultants met with key stakeholders through the year and the reports will be produced in 2016.

6.3.3 The Resilience funding enabled the Trust to appoint Tom Wyke as its Fundraising and Volunteer Support Officer for 30 hours per week until March 2017. So far this has led onto the completion of a number of different smaller projects including:

- Completing the recruitment, induction and training of a range of new volunteers to help with the running of the museum.
- Securing funding from the Postcode Community Trust, to run a Community Craft Project to help embed the museum more within the local community.
- Through attendance of the EMMS 'Stronger Museum Programme' we have begun to better consult with our visitors and non-visitors through questionnaire surveys.
- The development of new Educational Trail Booklets and an accompanying map for children and families, using funding from Open Gate Trust and Toyota Charitable Trust.

6.3.4 There are many more exciting projects planned for the period 2016/2017, including:

- An extensive programme of 'Belper Heritage Walks'.
- An art installation in partnership with Fleet Arts and Tan Draig OBE.
- A redevelopment of the Education Offer.
- Support from University of Derby interns.
- A Belper Mills' Artists and Makers Fair
- Completion of the Community Craft Project.

6.4 Darley Abbey Mills

6.4.1 Pattern's Properties, the owners of the Mills had previously unveiled an ambitious plan to develop a wedding venue within the West Mill of 1809-21. Planning permission was granted by Derby City Council and work began in 2014. The scheme involved the sensitive conversion of four floors and included an area for ceremonies, lounge areas, a bar, dancefloor, cloakrooms, a bridal changing room a new lift and a range of landscape improvements outside the Mills and down to the riverbank. These works were completed on time and the venue opened in the summer of 2015. Bookings had been received prior to the opening and it has been fully booked throughout the year. The works have maintained the 'industrial aesthetic' of the building and have left the original floors exposed as well as the internal pillars and early fireproofed ceilings.



6.4.2 This success has led the owners to move on to restoring the Mill Manager's house, which sits within the heart of the complex. This will be used as accommodation for bridal parties prior to the ceremony.

6.4.3 Four new businesses located to the Mill complex during 2015/16, creating 15 jobs. The site continues to maintain its reputation as a thriving business centre set within an attractive and historic environment.

6.4.4 The Our City, Our River flood prevention measures for the Lower Derwent valley continued to be developed throughout the year covered by this report, with some planning applications coming forward on which the DVMWHS Partnership have commented, mainly with concerns over design details to minimise impacts on the setting of the river.

6.5 Derby Museums Trust

6.5.1 2015/16 has seen the Silk Mill Museum of Making project continue with great success. In May the Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed that the funding bid had been successful and £9.38 million had been committed to the £16 million project. More good news followed with the Arts Council awarding £2.58 million. These major grants, along with the £4 million from Derby City Council now leave a relatively modest funding gap to be secured in the coming months.



6.5.2 Following the announcement, Derby Museums began to mobilise its activities in order to meet the requirements of the second stage of the bid. Tenders were produced for the scheme architects and exhibition designers. Both of these tenders demanded a different approach from the consultants. The Museum of Making has pioneered 'co-creation' from its inception, drawing on the skills and creativity of local people, and the successful design teams were required to demonstrate how they could operate successfully in this environment. The DVMWHS Director was a member of the appointment team. Shortlisting and interviews were held in January and February 2016 and Bauman Lyons was appointed as scheme architects and Leach as designers. Both companies have been working with the museum and its staff and volunteers throughout the year.

6.5.3 The Silk Mill has continued to open as a venue for a range of pop-up projects and exhibitions that tested ideas that could shape the final product. These have been branded together under the title of RE:Make the Museum. The project has involved hundreds of volunteers working with the museum and design teams to design and make furniture and fittings, selecting objects and writing interpretation. This supports the three key themes of the project.

- Inspired by the Makers of the Past: Shaping the way in which Derby is understood and appreciated.
- Made by the Makers of Today: RE:Making the museum by pursuing mutual relationships with others through the citizen curator approach.
- Empowering the makers of the Future: Inspiring people to see themselves as the next generation of innovators, makers and creators.

6.5.4 Derby Museums Trust avoided a dramatic cut to its grant from Derby City Council last year but this was a deferral, and discussions have continued on this matter throughout 2015/16. The Council, like all local authorities, is under enormous pressure to reduce its budgets.

6.6 Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

6.6.1 Improvements to stations continued throughout the year, with passenger numbers increasing to 681,313 in 2015/16, an increase of 5.5%. Cromford, Matlock Bath and Belper saw rises of 5%, 11% and 7% respectively.

6.6.2 East Midlands Trains have operated the franchise since November 2007. Passenger numbers have grown dramatically since the introduction of a reliable hourly train service, unlocking significant suppressed demand by local residents and visitors to the area. Passenger journeys have increased at all Derwent Valley Line stations, especially at the main towns of Matlock and Belper. Commuter journeys from Duffield have increased, as has the visitor growth at Matlock Bath.

Passenger Growth 2007/8 to 2015/16	2007/8	2015/16	Passenger Growth	Growth (%)
Ambergate	19,809	41,608	21,800	110
Belper	79,207	225,662	146,455	185
Cromford	17,405	42,803	25,399	146
Duffield	21,857	61,644	39,787	182
Matlock	92,942	214,790	121,848	131
Matlock Bath	23,866	70,667	46,801	196
Whatstandwell	14,547	24,137	8,680	56
Totals	270,543	681,313	410,770	152



6.6.3 The stations continued to work with local volunteers and their efforts received the following awards in 2014/15.

Ambergate

Winner – Most Improved Station - East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2015: The award recognised the floral displays created by the station adopters and the access improvements conducted by East Midlands Trains.

Belper



Winner - Best Community Art Scheme - Community Rail Awards 2015: The award was for a new station mosaic and artwork. This project was developed by Transition Belper and led by artist Christine Gray who worked with local people and schools. The project also won Best Community Rail Photograph, taken by Ashley Franklin.

Runner Up - Community Partnership - East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2015. This award was also for the Station Mosaic and community gardening at the Station.

Cromford

Winner – Environment - East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2015: This recognised the work of volunteers and local organisations, including the Community Rail Partnership, the Arkwright Society, Cromford Parish Council and DerwentWISE. The works included the clearing of self-set trees and the planting of native trees, bulbs and wildflowers.

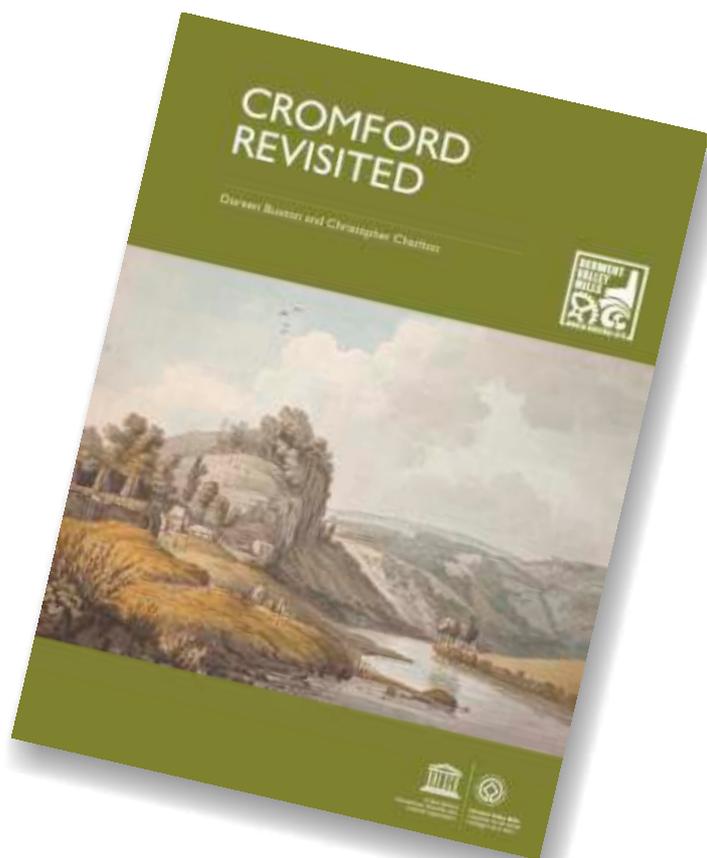
6.7 Derwent Valley Trust

6.7.1 The Cycleway working party, chaired by Derek Latham continued its work on testing the feasibility of an off-road cycleway from Matlock Bath to Derby. A number of awareness raising events were attended by the group to meet with the public to discuss the possible route and gain support for the cycleway, with support received from a number of organisations in and around the Derwent Valley. Work has been carried out to identify land ownerships along the potential route, and possible funding opportunities have been sourced for the development stage and the capital works.

6.8 Derwent Valley Mills WHS Educational Trust

6.8.1 Derbyshire County Council has continued to support the work of the Trust by securely storing its stock at County Hall in Matlock. The Trust has established a new distribution and sales system staffed by its volunteers.

6.8.2 Sales of the latest publication, Cromford Revisited by Doreen Buxton and Christopher Charlton have been strong throughout the year.



6.9 DerwentWISE

6.9.1 The DVMWHS team has continued to work closely with their counterparts at DerwentWISE. Cllr Ellie Wilcox is a member of the DerwentWISE Board, as is Mark Suggitt, who is also the vice-chair.

6.9.2 The following projects which relate to the DVMWHS were developed during 2015/16.

Programme A: Conserving or Restoring

High Tor Woodland Creation: One Derbyshire Dales Ranger trained in NPTC tree climbing and aerial rescue. Climbing equipment purchased to ensure the woodland is managed sustainably for the future.

Habitat Restoration: 16 landowners engaged, 14ha of meadow maintained, 3ha of woodland restored, 455m of hedgerow restored, 216m of dry stone wall repaired and 17.51ha UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats restored.

Lea Wood – Lighting up the Flowers: 0.8ha of Rhododendron cleared by DWT staff and volunteers.

Willersley Castle Landscape Conservation Management Plan: Reptile survey and grassland reports completed. A tree report and action plan will be produced in the summer 2016 and the plan will be shared with the wider community and stakeholders through consultations workshops.

Milford Plantation: One volunteer has been trained in brush-cutter techniques and scrub clearance has been extensive.

Opening up Iconic Views: Thirteen views have been opened up, eleven at Darley Park and two at Artists Corner, Matlock Bath, and Crich Tramway Village.

Duffield Castle: Two community habitat restoration days were held and two volunteers have been trained in oral history. A tender will be issued in May 2016 for a representation report which will include a feasibility study and options appraisal.

Aqueduct (Lengthman's) Cottage: Chris Pike Associates produced a condition and structural survey and short term action plan. DerwentWISE is investigating three options: 1) Holiday let with open days for the public. 2) Walkers' shelter with interpretation. 3) Secured ruin.

A23B Field Barn Survey and Restoration: Two training workshops and a talk, given by local expert Mary Wiltshire on field barn surveys in Bonsall, and were attended by 11 volunteers. 23 people are signed up for the project and four practical surveys have been submitted. Mapping of approximately 40 field barns with photographs was also received using Google Earth. The completed surveys are submitted to Derbyshire County Council where the details will be added to the Historic Environment Record.

Slinter Mill Pond Survey: The Environment Partnership will undertake a historical survey of the remnant features, and recommendations on restoration options in the summer 2016.

Darley Park Landscape Conservation Management Plan: The Green Flag status was re-awarded for the Park and the local volunteers received a Green Flag Community award. A community stone mosaic project is well underway with four consultation workshops held and five build sessions are planned for spring 2016.

Programme B: Increasing Community participation

DerwentWISE/DVMWHS website: Shared website with a user average of around 2,500 per quarter and 23% returning visitors. Social media is developing steadily with 250 twitter followers and 114 Facebook likes.

Heritage at Risk: A designated project website has been created which enables volunteers to upload their surveys. ArcHeritage (in partnership Locus Consulting) have delivered two heritage surveying training sessions with 25 volunteers having completed 28 surveys over 19 sites.

Underwater and Water Life and the Understorey Story: 24 art workshops delivered engaging with 282 people including mental health users, an Asian ladies community group and schools.

Film and Photography: The University of Derby worked with the children of Long Row School, Belper to produce a range of landscape and historic building photographs of East and North Mill. There will be exhibition of the works in 2016.

Lost Stories: Eighty students from the BA (Hons) Illustration, Animation and Graphic Design programmes were given a brief to come up with creative and engaging interpretation designs for Duffield Castle. An exhibition will be held in Duffield of the works to coincide with the representation report.

LIDAR Survey: Two advisory reports were produced by Trent & Peak Archaeology; one from existing LIDAR data held by the Environment Agency which produced 183 new records, which have been entered onto the Historic Environment Record(HER). The second was from new data that was produced when Blue Sky Ltd undertook a flight of the northern woodland areas around Ambergate, Cromford and Alderwasley. In total a 20km2 area was recorded which produced 329 new records which will go onto the HER in autumn 2016.

Programme C: Increasing Access and Learning

Improving Access to Cromford Canal: 1.43km of towpath from Lawns Bridge (Cromford Meadows) to High Peak Junction were resurfaced along Cromford canal.

Learning my Landscape: 10 schools were worked with and several new habitats have been created within schools including woodland enhancement, wildlife hotels, bluebell planting and nest boxes.

Derwent Explorers: Five trips and overnight woodland residential stays were held at Shining Cliff Woods with special educational needs children and a youth group.

Programme D: Training

Get Skilled for DerwentWISE: 418 participants took part in non-accredited courses over 452 guided learning hours. 41 participants engaged in accredited courses over 291 guided learning hours. 184 people took part in family activities and 316 people engaged at events across the area.

6.10 Friends of the Cromford Canal

6.10.1 6,152 passengers enjoyed trips on the narrow boat Birdswood which operated from March until the end of October with Santa Specials before Christmas. Horse-drawn weekends were offered throughout the season, in conjunction with Leawood Pumphouse. A number of free, themed family events were also provided. An enlarged Education Package will be developed for 2017.

6.10.2 The Friends continued to assist Derbyshire County Council in maintaining the length of canal within the DVMWHS, including channel clearance, which has benefitted local wildlife and also allowed Birdswood to operate. They also contributed activities to Discovery Days in October 2015.

6.10.3 A new website, www.birdswood.org was designed and launched in February 2016. This features an online booking facility and has links to the DVMWHS and Visit Peak District websites.



6.11 High Peak Junction and Leawood Pumphouse

6.11.1 The Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service has carried out improvements on the section of canal that they directly manage.

- Improvements to surfacing and drainage of the link between Cromford Village and the High Peak Trail.
- 180m of dry stone walling completed at Sheep Pasture Top on the High Peak Trail, a location providing iconic views over the Derwent Valley.
- Cromford Canal towpath, 2km of resurfacing work was carried out enabling access for all along the length of canal from Cromford to Ambergate.
- A spillway was constructed on Cromford canal adjacent to Simms Bridge Whatstandwell. This will reduce the possibility of flood risk and structural damage to the canal and surrounding land. A lengthy section of canal was repuddled to reduce ongoing problems with leaks.
- Non Destructive Testing was carried out on the Leawood Pump boilers, enabling 3 further years of steam operation if in conjunction with approved pressure testing.

6.12 Masson Mills

6.12.1 The site continued to operate as a shopping village and the museum remained open.

6.12.2 The museum featured in the BBC 4 documentary series A Very British Romance, presented by Dr Lucy Worsley. It was screened in October 2015.



6.13 John Smedley

6.13.1 John Smedley has hosted an innovative art project throughout the year. A part of the factory has become the studio of award winning Director Bexie Bush and BAFTA winning producer Chris Hees. They and their team are working on *The Rumour Mill*, a stop-frame animated film about the future of energy along the Derwent Valley. The film forms part of *Stories of Change*: exploring energy and community in the past, present and future a £1.74 million grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The project draws on history, literature, social and policy research and the arts to encourage a more imaginative approach to current and future energy choices. It is led by the Open University with input from the universities of Bath, Birmingham, Exeter, Sheffield and South Wales. Bexie Bush and Chris Hees chose to work at John Smedley as it remains a producing factory and the film will incorporate interviews conducted with the work-force. The stop-frame process is a time-consuming one and the work will continue into 2016/17.

7.0 DVMWHS PROJECTS

7.1 Ambassador/Cluster programmes

7.1.1 The Belper Cluster Group was renamed the Belper Vision Group, in response to its success in the Great British High Street Competition in November 2014. Three Belper Ambassador sessions were held and 25 new Ambassadors were trained from 14 different organisations. In Darley Abbey one Ambassador session was held with 11 people trained.

7.2 Discovery Walks

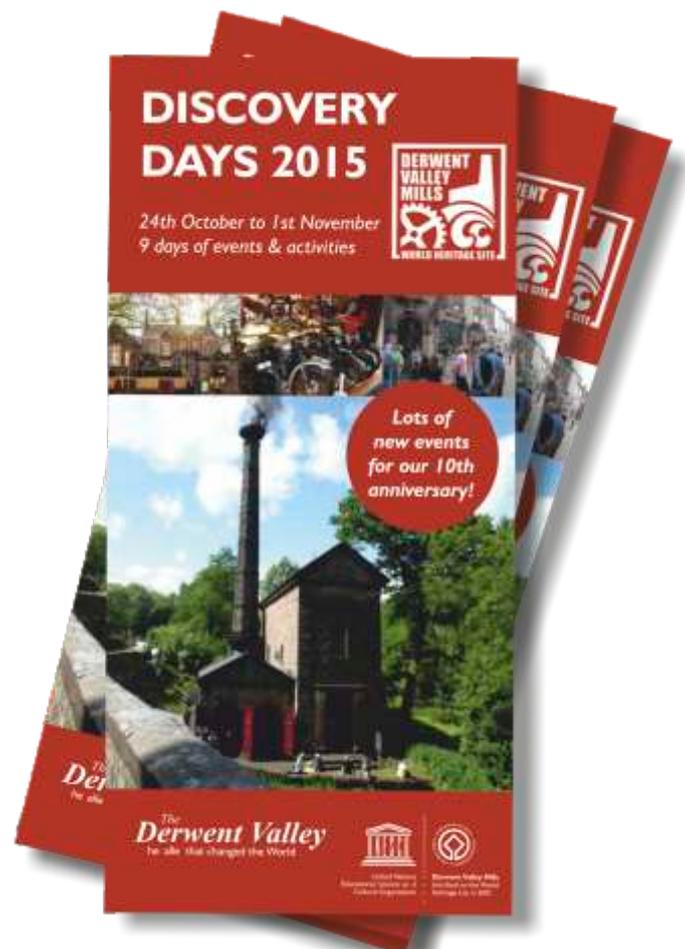
7.2.1 The programme of Discovery Walks took place across the DVMWHS from 25 May to 7 June 2015. 49 walks were offered and attracted 934 people. All but 10 of these were adults, the majority being between 30 and over 65 years old.

7.2.2 Most people came from within Derbyshire post-codes, the highest being from Belper, which is the largest town within the DVMWHS. The overall satisfaction rate was high with 70% of respondents rating them excellent and 25% very good. 70% had been on a Discovery Walk before.

7.3 Discovery Days

7.3.1 The Discovery Days festival celebrated its 10th year in 2015, taking place over the week of 24 October to 1 November. It offered 119 events and attracted 11,744 visits, which was a decrease on the 13,911 achieved in 2014. Visitor feedback, collected through evaluation forms, was very positive, with 70% of respondents rating them excellent and 20% very good. 60% had been to a Discovery Days event before.

7.3.2 The majority of visitors found out about the event through the brochure, which is distributed widely throughout the County. Most came from within Derbyshire post-codes, the highest being from Belper, Derby, Matlock and Ripley.



7.4 Research Framework

7.4.1 Dr David Knight and the Management Group continued to work on the framework throughout the year. Much of the work centred on the editing of the 54 short introductions to the research topics, updating the bibliography, selecting images and proofing. The design of the volume and the printing costs were generously supported by Derbyshire County Council and Historic England respectively. The design was by Val Sisson of the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. The document will contain over 90 illustrations.

7.4.2 The framework will include a range of research topics linked to I I themes, namely:

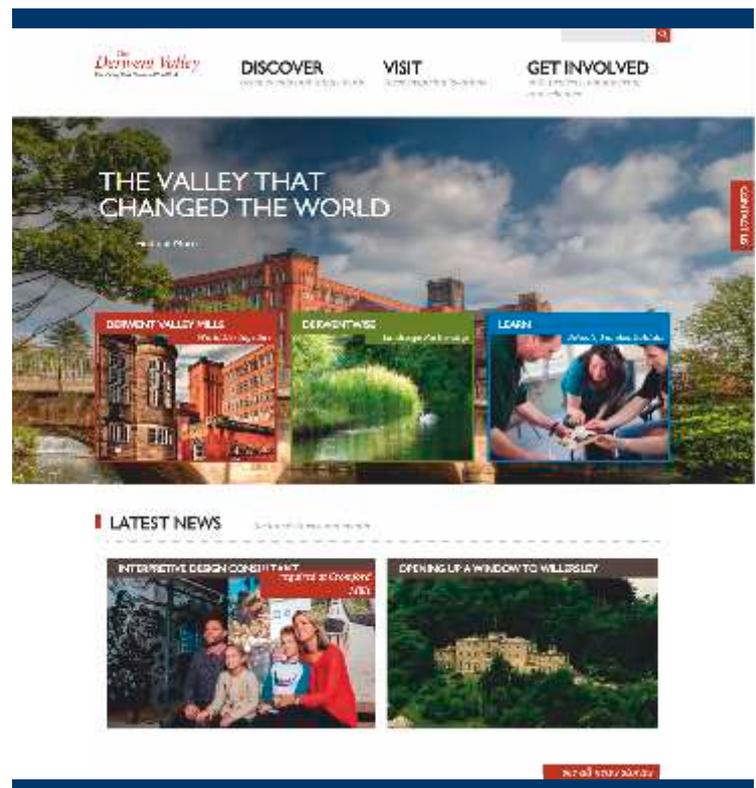
1. Changing interpretations of the Derwent Valley
2. Industry, trade and settlement before the factory system
3. The Enlightenment
4. The low-carbon industrial revolution
5. Industrial metamorphosis: the 19th to 21st centuries
6. The factory owners, landed gentry and middle classes
7. The urban and rural labour force
8. Transport, power and public utilities
9. The built environment
10. Landscape and environment
11. National and global impacts

7.4.3 The document will be printed in the summer of 2016 and officially launched at the Arkwright Society academic conference on 1 October 2016. It will also be available as a web version and as a downloadable PDF on the DVMWHS website. It will be widely disseminated to universities, individuals, local societies and research networks.

7.5 Website

7.5.1 The DVMWHS joined forces with the DerwentWISE project to produce a joint website in 2014/15. The lead officers were Gwen Wilson from the DVMWHS and Nadine Stevenson from DerwentWISE. The site went live in March 2015 and has been well received for its ease of navigation and wealth of information and images.

7.5.2 The number of users during the year was 29,577 in 35,625 sessions. The number of page views was 87,773, with the most popular pages visited, after the home page, being Discovery Days, the Map of Attractions and the Events Page. The Visit Section and History Section receive many website visits and, maybe surprisingly the “How does a Site become a World Heritage Site” receives many visits from different countries. The website, as a whole, has been accessed from countries all over the world, with the most visitors coming from the UK, USA, Russia, Australia, Germany, China and Japan. A new Get Active in the WHS section was added in the autumn of 2015, which features walking, cycling and other opportunities for getting active in the World Heritage Site.



7.6 Volunteering

7.6.1 Volunteers from across the DVMWHS were invited to find out more about Crich Tramway when over 20 volunteers attended for a behind the scenes tour and a trip on a tram, and then later in the year around 50 volunteers came together for a sneak preview of the new Visitor Gateway and Cromford Creative business units. The volunteers attending were from a range of organisations in the DVMWHS and this is encouraging them to work together and find out more about what is happening in other parts of the DVMWHS.

7.7 PROTHEGO Project

7.7.1 Following the completion of the research on climate change in 2015 (See Annual Report 2014/15 para 6.2) the DVMWHS was invited to become a demonstration site within the PROTHEGO Project. (Protection of European Cultural Heritage from Geo-hazards) This is a European Union funded project with partners across the EU. The lead organisations within the UK are the British Geological Survey and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

7.7.2 The project aims to develop a methodology for analysing the potential geological threats to European World Heritage Sites by applying space technology based on radar interferometry (inSAR) to retrieve information on ground motion and map geo-hazards in the 400+ UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Europe.

7.7.3 The pilot demonstration sites are Rome (Italy), The Alhambra (Spain), Choirokoita (Cyprus) and the DVMWHS. The project will begin in 2015/16.



7.8 Derwent Pulse

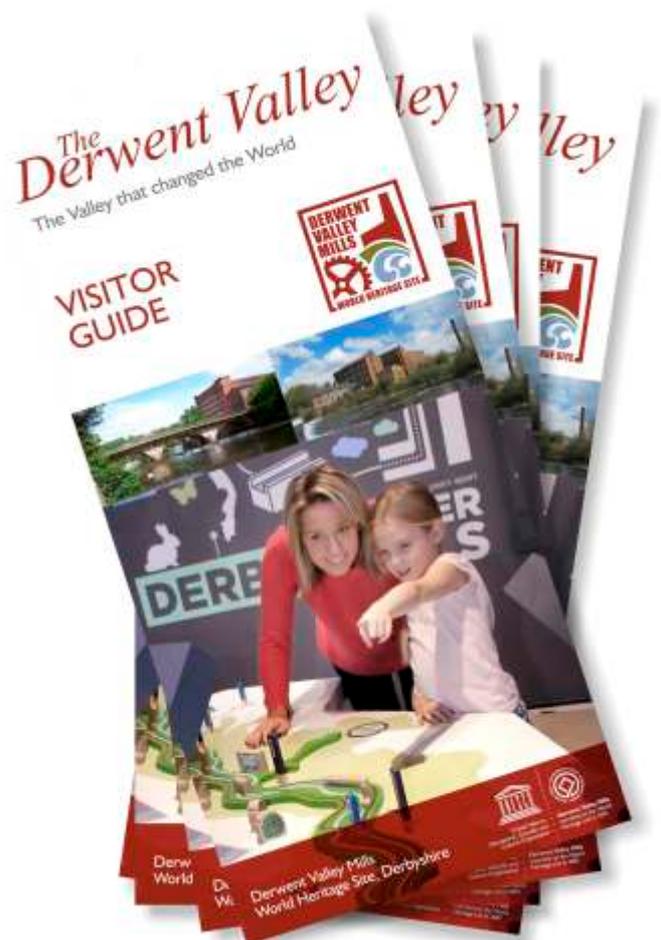
7.8.1 This major art project was delivered in 2013/14. It won the prize for Best Audience Development Project at the Derbyshire Heritage Awards in October 2015.

8.0 PROMOTING THE SITE

8.1 Marketing

8.1.1 The leaflets promoting the Discovery Walks and Discovery Days were produced. The feedback collected from these events illustrated that this traditional method of publicity is the most effective. The Visitor Guide for the DVMWHS continued to be distributed throughout the year.

8.1.2 There is limited funding for advertising although key adverts were placed in the Visit Peak District and Derbyshire's Destination Guide and the Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service's Events Guide.



8.2 Media Coverage 2014 – 2015

- 8.2.1 A regular column for the Heritage Co-ordinator ran throughout 2015 in the Belper News, highlighting World Heritage Site activities, particularly in the Belper area. The team also contributed to the Arkwright Society's monthly column in Derbyshire Life.
- 8.2.2 Radio Derby regularly covered events in the DVMWHS in 2015/16, including: Discovery Walks (May 2015); the heritage aspects of Belper's entry in East Midlands in Bloom (July 2015); Amber Valley's decision to prepare Compulsory Purchase Order for the Belper Mills (August 2015); a general piece on Belper and the North Mill (August 2015); and the announcement over the new design for the tearooms in Belper River Gardens (February 2016).
- 8.2.3 Newspaper coverage was also given for the two Discovery Festivals, and the new Belper River Gardens tearooms design.



8.3 Representing World Heritage

- 8.3.1 World Heritage UK (WHUK): The DVMWHS Chair and Team attended the first WHUK Conference on World Heritage and Tourism at Saltaire in Bradford in October 2015. This was a useful event for sharing experiences and networking. The DVMWHS Director continued to sit on the WHUK Committee during 2015/16. The second conference will be held at Caernafon in 2016.
- 8.3.2 Meeting of Associations of World Heritage Properties in Europe: This event was funded by the European Union and organised by the French equivalent of WHUK. It took place at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 15/16 October 2015.

The DVMWHS Director represented WHUK and gave a presentation on the work of the organisation. Jane Gibson from the Durham World Heritage Site and Henry Owen-John from Historic England also attended. The following countries were also represented: Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. It was important for WHUK to be represented and to learn from longer established associations.

- 8.3.3 The students from Durham University's Heritage Management MA visited the DVMWHS on 4 March 2016. The Director gave a presentation on the Site and the students visited Cromford Mills and Cromford village.
- 8.3.4 Barry Joyce, the Chair of the Conservation and Planning Panel, continued to serve as vice-chairman on the World Heritage committee of ICOMOS-UK.



8.3 Staff Lectures and Publications

8.3.1 Lectures

Staff member	Title	Venue	Date
Mark Suggitt	The DVMWHS	Durham University MA Visit, Cromford	4 March 2016
Mark Suggitt	The DVMWHS	The Grand Tour Press Visit	17 March 2016

Adrian Farmer	Belper in WWI	No28, Belper	25 April 2015
Adrian Farmer	Ambassador Scheme	Town Hall, Wirksworth	27 April 2015 & 3 August 2015
Adrian Farmer	OUV to Ripley Junior School	Belper Railway Station	19 May 2015
Adrian Farmer	Ambassador	Council Offices, Heanor	21 May 2015
Adrian Farmer	Derwent Valley Mills WHS to Arkwright Society	Gothic Warehouse, Cromford Wharf	6 August 2015
Adrian Farmer and Sukie Khaira	Ambassador Scheme to Spondon traders	Cottage Project, Belper	2 October 2015
Adrian Farmer	Engaging Belper in WWI Heritage	Chesterfield Library	16 October 2015
Adrian Farmer	WHS Images from the DRO	No 28, Belper	8 January 2016
Adrian Farmer	Millworkers and Leisure for U3A researchers	Strutts, Belper	12 January 2016
Adrian Farmer	Strutt Family for WHS volunteers	No 28, Belper	9 February 2016
Adrian Farmer & Barry Joyce	OUV for Belper Neighbourhood Plan	No 28, Belper	3 March 2016

8.3.2 Publications

Staff member	Title	Publisher	Date
Mark Suggitt	Lion Salt Works	Museums Journal	September 2015
Adrian Farmer	Viewpoint ~ Regular Column	Belper News	April 2015 – December 2015
Adrian Farmer	Derwent Valley Mills Through Time	Amberley Publishing	May 2015

8.4 Positions held on associated bodies:

Staff member	Position	Organisation
Mark Suggitt	Board member	Vickers Fine Art Award, Derbyshire Foundation
	Vice-Chair	DerwentWISE Board
	Committee member	World Heritage UK
	Member	Arts Derbyshire, Festivity, Culture Derbyshire
	Member	Cromford Canal Partnership
	Member	Darley Abbey Partnership
	Board Member	Derby Silk Mill Project Board

Adrian Farmer	Committee Member (until April 2015)	Belper Civic Forum
	Advisor	Belper Tea Rooms Association
	Vice-Chair	Friends of Belper River Gardens
	Chair & Secretary	Belper World War One Commemorations Working Group
	Member	Belper in Bloom Working Group
	Member	World Heritage UK
	Advisor	Belper North Mill Trust
	Member	Belper Vision Group
	Member (from February 2016)	Belper Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations Group

9.0 STAFF

Mark Suggitt
Adrian Farmer
Sukie Khaira
Gwen Wilson

(Director)
(Heritage Co-ordinator)
(Development Co-ordinator)
(Business Support Assistant)

10.0 BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016

Councillor Ellie Wilcox
Councillor Ranjit Banwait
Barry Joyce
Councillor Paul Jones
Councillor Alan Cox
Patrick Morriss
John Rivers
Councillor Geoff Stevens
Councillor Sir Richard Fitzherbert
John Beswarick

(Chair)
(Derby City Council)
(Amber Valley Borough Council) till May 2015
(Amber Valley Borough Council) from May 2015
(Derbyshire Dales District Council) till May 2015
(Derbyshire Dales District Council) from May 2015.