

DISCOVER DERBY

Welcome to Derby and the Southern Gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Here Derby had its beginnings and remains of its Roman, Saxon and industrial past can still be seen.

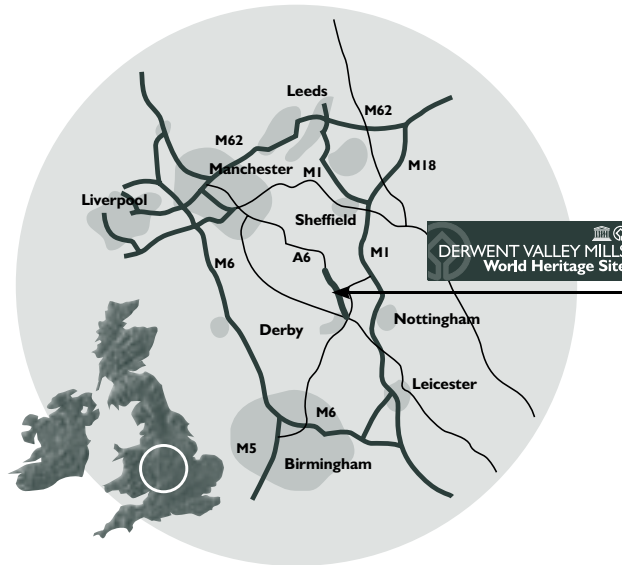
From Darley Abbey, the River Derwent flows between two Conservation Areas, Strutt's Park and Little Chester, before passing Derby's Museum of Industry and History. This occupies the site of a silk spinning mill built by John and Thomas Lombe in the early eighteenth century. It was the world's first factory.

Derby developed as a silk and cotton spinning centre. The Strutt family owned mills here as well as at Milford and Belper. William Strutt lived at St Helen's House and the houses of Strutt's Park are built over its gardens. There were also lace and elastic web weaving mills. One of these – Bath Street Mill – stands within the World Heritage Site.

Derby also won world renown for engineering skills. Along this stretch of the river, the 'Fox Brothers' made machine tools, 'Haslam' built refrigeration plants for use in ships and cold stores and 'Handyside' manufactured castings, bridges, towers, piers etc, which were transported across the world. Derby Crown China's first factory was also close by.

The importance of Derby and its historic industrial neighbours at Cromford, Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey was reflected by the World Heritage Site status given to the Derwent Valley Mills in 2001. Derby is also within the National Heritage Corridor.

This leaflet offers a short circular walk, with optional extensions, visiting the most significant historic sites, including the site of the Roman Fort and Well at Chester Green. During your walk you will see more information on interpretation boards, including one adjacent to a former Handyside railway bridge and the other near St Mary's Bridge.



HERITAGE WALK DERBY



This leaflet has been sponsored by:



For details on Derby and the Silk Mill visit
www.derwentvalleymills.org

Derby Tourist Information Centre
Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby DE1 3AH
Tel: 01332 255802 or visit www.visitderby.co.uk

Front cover (clockwise from top left): St. Paul's Road, Derby; East Prospect of Derby in 1695; Marcus Street Roman site; St. Paul's Church 1849-50.
Derby lies within the National Heritage Corridor™

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Published by Little Chester Local History Group. Text by J D'Arcy and Geoff Sadler.
Designed and printed by Origination.

Haslam's Works



**DERWENT VALLEY MILLS
World Heritage Site**

SOUTHERN GATEWAY WALK

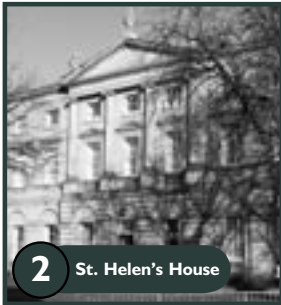
The walk begins at the car park on City Road. This lies over a former Great Northern Railway (later LNER) embankment. From here it is only a few paces to the River Derwent. A former GNR bridge, constructed in 1877 by Andrew Handyside, spans the river. As you cross the bridge, look upstream towards Darley Abbey and the boathouses, before turning left down a short flight of steps to the river bank or follow the surfaced path round to the right to pass under the bridge. Here you will find an **interpretation board**, which will tell you more about the bridge and the surrounding area.

Proceed along the footpath towards Derby, which follows the route of a spur branch of the railway, and fork right towards the 12 storey Rivermead House. Turn right when you reach this building to view the front aspect of George Holmes' Bath Street Mills (c.1848). There is no public access to the mill premises. Close by is St. Alkmund's Well. Here you will find an interpretation board, which will tell you why the well is dedicated to a Saxon saint.



1 St. Alkmund's Well

You can now either retrace your steps and continue along the riverside path **or follow Option A** (see below) to view St. Helen's House, at one time the home of William Strutt.



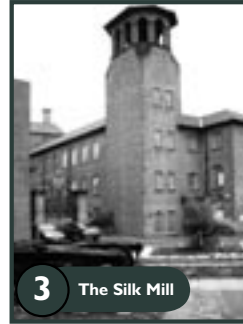
2 St. Helen's House

If you choose the riverside path, continue past the Furnace Inn to St Mary's Bridge where you will find an **interpretation board** explaining the history of the bridge and its unique bridge chapel. **Route continues after Option A.**

OPTION A. Next to the well is Well Street, which is steep and cobbled. Ascend this street and at the top, turn left along North Parade. This is a Grade 2 listed terrace (1826). At the end of the row, a former school playground was once a burial ground attached to the now demolished St. Alkmund's Church. Walk on until the way ahead is blocked by the Inner Ring

Road. Turn right and pass St. Mary's Catholic Church, designed by Augustus Pugin and opened in 1839. Walk along Bridge Gate, passing an early 18th century building, which is now a convent, until you reach a main road. Here you will find Grade 1 listed St. Helen's House. Built to designs by Derby architect Joseph Pickford in 1767, William Strutt lived here from 1806-1830.

Retrace your steps but this time, follow the path running downhill alongside the ring road to the river. You can see the 16th century tower of Derby Cathedral to the right. At the bottom, turn left onto Sowter Road and when you reach the sign for Duke Street, cross the road to the bridge. Here you will find the **interpretation board**, which will tell you more about the history of the bridge and the ancient bridge chapel. (The Silk Mill can be visited from here - see box)



3 The Silk Mill

Route Continued: Cross over the bridge and turn left past the Bridge Inn. Cross City Road and continue along Mansfield Road. On your right are buildings which were once part of St. Mary's Railway Goods Wharf, laid out to serve the Midland Railway. These listed buildings, including the cantilevered loading bay, have now been converted to other uses. Pass The Duke of Clarence to St. Paul's church (1850) and Chester Green (1882-1886) Pause to admire its setting and the architecture of the houses on St. Paul's Road along the edge of the Chester Green. Haslam built these for his workforce (c. 1890) [Cover photo]. At certain times you can enter the church to visit the Little Chester Heritage Centre.

From here you can either walk along St Paul's Road in front of the houses **or follow Option B** (see below) to view the Roman site of Derventio.

At the far end of St Paul's Road you will come to the facade of Sir Alfred Seale Haslam's Union Foundry and the associated building opposite. These are fine examples of Victorian brickwork and industrial architecture. Walk past the facade and before turning into the 'Start' Car Park, you will find, within the greenery, an interpretation board a few strides further on. This will tell you about a Roman building which was found in 1924 during the construction of the nearby cricket pavilion on the field known as Parker's Piece.

OPTION B. From the church follow the path through the Green (1882-1886) with Haslam's Union Foundry in the distance on your left.. Turn left along Chester Green Road and right into Marcus Street. At the end of Marcus Street you will find a Roman well and base stones of a timber framed Roman building. [Cover photo] An **interpretation board** will tell you how it was discovered. Just before reaching the well, a footpath to your left follows the line of the former Great Northern Railway. Return, by this route, to the 'Start' Car Park where, within the greenery, there is an **interpretation board** where you can learn more of the area's Roman past.

The **Silk Mill**, now Derby's Museum of Industry and History, is a short distance downstream. It is worthy of a separate visit. Here there is a wealth of information and artefacts about this part of the World Heritage Site for you to enjoy. It can be reached from here by following a path, which leads you under the bridge and along the riverside. Alternatively, if the riverside path is inaccessible, follow Sowter Road under the Ring Road Bridge and follow the signs to the Museum. Entry is free.

