

## Beyond DerwentWISE

### A Legacy Plan for the DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme

#### Executive Summary

- After ten months of consultation with partners, community groups and grant recipients, it has been demonstrated there is a will to continue DerwentWISE after June 2019. The desire to push forward with the positive elements of the scheme and to progress from lessons learnt is strong.
- In what form that will be needs further consideration and funding identified.
- In relation to the strands of work the Scheme has been following, it is proposed that any continuation of activities should merge the strands of ‘culture’ and ‘nature’ into a wider context of **landscape heritage**. The Partnership has made considerable progress towards bringing the different specialisms together; however there is still a need to strengthen this approach and integrate the separate strands.
- The DerwentWISE strapline ‘**Inspire and enable people to care for the Lower Derwent Valley**’ is an important value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) and many of the organisations involved in both the DVMWHS and DerwentWISE partnerships. To continue with this ethos would build on the strength of the Partnership and draw in others.
- The consultation responses including proposals for continued activities, suggest there is potential to take forward the DerwentWISE legacy under the DVMWHS umbrella, enabling and strengthening the concept of the heritage of the Lower Derwent Valley for the future.
- The development of a strategic ‘land use’ management plan, reflecting the schema of landscape management considerations in figure 1\* would be an important tool to safeguard the Valley’s unique heritage features in line with the DVMWHS Outstanding Universal Value. Together, the schema and management plan would enrich the DVMWHS by emphasising its unique **landscape heritage**, increasing the opportunities for projects to have maximum impact.

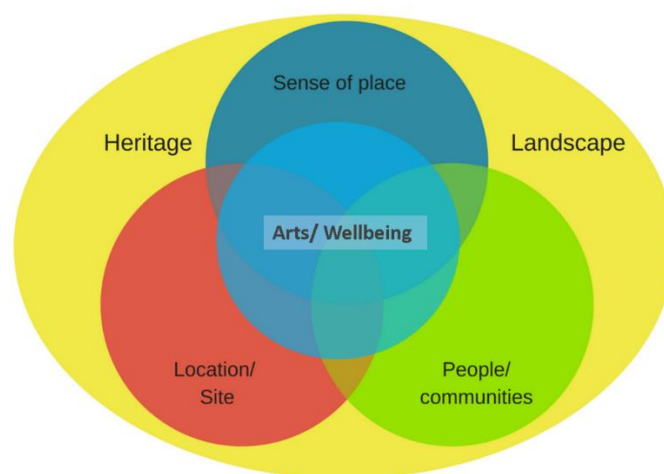


Figure 1. Schema of Landscape Management Considerations

## **Background**

As part of the DerwentWISE Partnership, the scheme is required to submit a legacy plan a year before the scheme formally closes on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. Building up to the production of this plan all partners have had the opportunity to be involved in the following options, all of which have been well attended or supported:

- **Be a member of the Legacy Task and Finish Group** – this group was established to help steer the Legacy Plan and discussions
- **Complete or undertake a legacy 'interview'** to understand what individual partners would like to see post 2019 (see Appendix 1 for the questions)
- **Take part in legacy planning exercises at the Evaluation Workshop** on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- **Attend the Legacy Planning Workshop** on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (this session was open to all partners, delivery agents, and the community groups and grant recipients worked with over the scheme's life)

### **Three legacy T&F group meetings have been held to date:**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017:

Many questions were raised thanks to the presentation by Matt Buckler (Moors for the Futures Partnership) who were invited as a partnership which continued successfully after a HLF LP scheme. Also considered in this first meeting was what type of legacy plan we would wish to put forward. It was recommended that we submitted both a programme closedown report and a legacy plan of where the partners would like to see the Partnership post 2019. With this in mind, the Scheme Manager has undertaken a series of interviews with partners and delivery agents (See Appendix 1).

#### 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017:

The second meeting discussed the initial findings from the partner interviews which were:

- Partners wish to see the continuation of the partnership but are not sure in what form – influencer/facilitator/networker or delivery (less support for this at moment)
- The value of the DerwentWISE brand provides a positive image and neutral space
- Bringing together natural and cultural heritage through shared ideals of landscape has been a key element of the partnership and should continue
- The objectives and area of the scheme need to be reviewed
- There is a query as to who should host the Partnership if it goes forward?
- Well-being and art is a common strand that people wish to incorporate which may lead to new partners and organisations being involved

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017:

The third meeting was a useful exercise to enable the construction and direction of this report. Discussions were held from the findings of interviews, workshop and the legacy task and finish group meetings. It is vital that the legacy plan is shaped by the Partnership so that it reflects all involved. It should have the full support and confidence of the Board members before they introduce it to their organisations for approval.

## **Why continue post 2019?**

### Partnership working

The Partnership has been successful in bringing organisations together to consider landscape as a whole, and to value the different specialisms that help make landscape partnerships most effective. It is vital to keep that momentum; if organisations are not working together through the brand of DerwentWISE they may break away back into their niche areas. This may lead to silo working, duplication of activities, gaps in audience participation and a non-holistic approach to land use management.

### Communication and networks

Under DerwentWISE new relationships have been formed and enhanced on an individual basis but also at an organisational level.

DerwentWISE scheme officers have been given access to other strategic groups and partnerships which enable a wider understanding of the Valley and has led to some interesting projects e.g. Derby Train Station interpretation. As this information is fed back into the Partnership it is also transferred out into the wider network.

As DerwentWISE works at both the strategic and local level it brings communities together with deliverers and decision makers which is sometimes difficult for existing structures, due to capacity and/or resource issues. Examples include the Partnerships annual business planning workshops and the sub groups (Landscape, Access & Interpretation and Cultural).

### Resource sharing

By bringing partners together to undertake activities, lessons learnt and risk management, the Partnership has considerably increased the sharing of valuable resources including materials, tools and people. Examples include attendance at events, Grazing Comes to Town, equipment for training courses and the sharing of promotional materials.

### The Brand

The logo and name are recognised by organisations, volunteers and community groups as something that has had a positive effect on the landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley. The general public are becoming increasingly aware of the brand. This has become apparent during attendance at public events. In the last year numerous people have said they have heard of DerwentWISE and expressed knowledge of the different projects.

Some of the partners suffer unjustly from the stigma of negative profiles and presence e.g. local authorities and government agencies. It has been useful for some of their activities to be linked to the DerwentWISE objectives thus emphasising a positive image and creating stronger community messages.

Concern has been raised that, amongst some people and community organisations, there is confusion over the difference between and hierarchy of the DVMWHS and DerwentWISE; for some people they are seen as synonymous. Any 'legacy' extension to DerwentWISE must make clear that DerwentWISE is a Landscape Partnership project that promotes and supports best possible landscape stewardship within and surrounding the World Heritage Site (WHS). The DVMWHS is inscribed onto The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List in recognition of its international significance, the importance of which needs to be preserved for the global community. The DerwentWISE boundary is greater in area than the DVMWHS as it includes and goes beyond the WHS buffer zone; it is a project that primarily respects and helps to enhance the landscape which cradles the WHS. The international importance of the DVMWHS is paramount and any work undertaken outside the WHS boundary would need to support the values of the DVMWHS.

## Options for consideration

### What role will DerwentWISE undertake?

**Facilitation/co-ordination** – continue regular meetings of the partners (possibly twice a year) to discuss strategic issues and delivery of activities to avoid duplication and foster links between natural, cultural, art and learning.

**Host a partnership co-ordinator** – this would be an enabling role to action the existing and new projects that have been identified as post 2019 activities. A central person would need to drive these actions forward, working with partners to apply for funding to set up new projects and continue existing activities. Appendix 2 identifies projects that have been proposed resulting from the various consultations. **As part of the legacy work this has been refined into an activity list (Appendix 3); presented in tabular format this will synergise activities with priorities; and identify organisations and outcomes for delivery.**

Currently, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derwent Valley Trust have been identified as potential hosts/facilitators/co-ordinators. These are options and do not form any formal commitment at this stage. Other organisations may be considered as the legacy discussions and planning continue.

If the Partnership is to be taken forward a holistic approach to the value of the **Landscape Heritage** must be prioritised. This holistic approach points to both the need and value of a formal continuation or legacy for DerwentWISE. For example, consideration for the protection, restoration and creation of the integral natural heritage within the Lower Derwent Valley must compliment the WHS; future activity cannot jeopardise the elements that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value or, in turn, the loss of priority biodiversity targets, or negative impacts on the water environments within the Valley.

### How could this be supported?

Funding would be sought for a full-time partnership co-ordinator post for a two year period. This would enable the work to continue for facilitation of networks, partnership communications, enabling grant submissions and the setting up of new projects.

### The objectives and area of the scheme

The unique status of the DVMWHS needs to be respected in any future work. The DerwentWISE legacy needs to create a sound platform for partnership working that enhances the **landscape heritage**, and makes the partnership robust enough to take on modern challenges i.e. climate change, planning, declining habitats, poor water quality and low carbon infrastructures.

Any rationale for revising the project boundary or including projects outside the boundary would include at least two key elements associated with the Lower Derwent Valley e.g. industrial heritage, topography, landscape character.

### Existing structures

New or additional governance structures should not be created for the future DerwentWISE Partnership as this will only create a strain on already existing capacity. The Partnership needs to explore the potential of existing governance structures once its 'chosen path' has been identified.

## Implications if DerwentWISE does not continue

Reasons to continue the Partnership outweigh the case for its termination, the primary driver would be the availability of finance. If the Partnership ends there is a strong risk that the current levels of effective joint

working and landscape scale planning and delivery may not continue, as organisations struggle for capacity and funding in the current financial and political climate.

Projects might happen in isolation, missing opportunities to maximise use of resources, funding and time. Organisations would be less efficient due to a higher risk of duplicated activities resulting from less communication and working together. Engagement with some key audiences may be missed as it would be harder to identify gaps in audiences targeted at a local level. Recognition of this omission may not be heard at a strategic level.

Many projects have achieved their DerwentWISE targets but further potential has been identified for which enabling support would be required. Examples of such projects (under each programme area) are:

- Prog A – Grazing Comes to Town (Derby City Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, private landowners, Friends of Darley & Nutwood). **On-going benefit:** is now established and is self sufficient
- Prog B – Field Barns Restoration (Derbyshire County Council, Middleton Parish Council, Historic England, local community). **On-going benefit:** from the findings of the survey the need for a more ambitious restoration field barn project has been identified
- Prog C – Cromford Canal & Darley Park Interpretation (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Cromford Canal, Derbyshire County Council, Arkwright Society). **On-going benefit:** improved visitor experience and access
- Prog D – Working with Stone (National Stone Centre, Walls for the Future, Derbyshire Adult and Community Education Service, local landowners). **On-going benefit:** co-ordinated training opportunities for high quality traditional skills

### Key priorities identified

- **Sustainability** – including capacity, habitat management and volunteer management, training & skills, Research & Development (R&D) – Knowledge Exchange
- **Communication/Co-ordination/ Strategies** – for all across the Lower Derwent Valley. Collective data sets and records to inform future maintenance and track progress.
- **Access/Engagement/Infrastructure** – information and people
- **Implementation of plans** produced ‘safeguard, restore and adapt’ – feeding into a Land Use Plan for the Lower Derwent Valley

### Overall Conclusions

After ten months of consultation with partners, community groups and grant recipients, it has been demonstrated there is a will to continue DerwentWISE after June 2019. The desire to push forward with the positive elements of the scheme and to progress from lessons learnt is strong. In what form that will be now needs detailed consideration and funding needs to be identified.

In relation to the strands of work the Scheme has been following, it is proposed that any continuation of activities should merge the strands of ‘culture’ and ‘nature’ into a wider context of **landscape heritage**. The Partnership has made considerable progress towards bringing the different specialisms together; however there is still a need to strengthen this approach and integrate the separate strands.

The DerwentWISE strapline ‘Inspire and enable people to care for the Lower Derwent Valley’ is an important value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) and many of the organisations involved in both the DVMWHS and DerwentWISE partnerships. To continue with this ethos would build on the strength of the Partnership and draw in others.

The consultation responses and proposals for continued activities, suggest there is potential to take forward the DerwentWISE legacy under the DVMWHS umbrella, enabling and strengthening the concept of the heritage of the Lower Derwent Valley for the future.

The development of a strategic ‘land use’ management plan, reflecting the schema of landscape management considerations in figure 1\* would be an important tool to safeguard the Valley’s unique heritage features in line with the DVMWHS Outstanding Universal Value. Together, the schema and management plan would enrich the DVMWHS by emphasising its unique **landscape heritage**, increasing the opportunities for projects to have maximum impact.

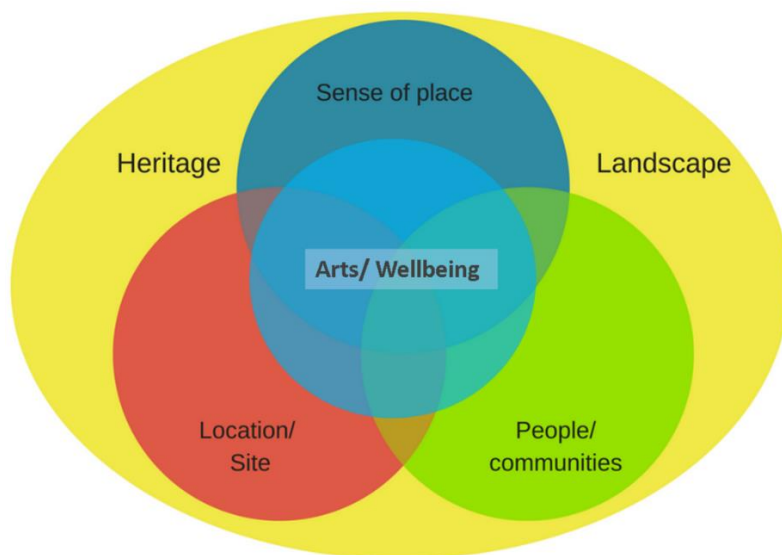


Figure 1. Schema of Landscape Management Considerations

The balance highlighted in the schema in figure 1 provides opportunity for new emerging priorities but also allows for **landscape heritage** to be at the heart of all future plans and activities.

Considerations from the DerwentWISE interim evaluation report and any lessons learnt have been incorporated into this legacy plan and will help inform future legacy activities.

### Timetable for Legacy Plan

The agreed timetable was put together to by the Legacy T&F group to enable enough time for consultations, presentation to the Board and partner organisations for approvals.

Actions	Deadline
Update report to 21 <sup>st</sup> June Board meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Legacy Planning workshop	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2017
Draft legacy plan for review at 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec Board	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017
Draft report to partners for review	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018
Comments back from partners	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2018
Revisions completed by Scheme Manager	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018
Summited back to Board for final approval (was originally 30 <sup>th</sup> march before the Board meeting date was established)	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Sent out for partner organisation approval and letters of support	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2018
Collation of approved partners	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Submission to HLF	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Appendix 1

### DerwentWISE Legacy Plan – Partner Questions 2017

- 1) Has the partnership been valuable to your organisation?
- 2) Do you think the partnership should continue?
- 3) Are there projects you wish to continue or feel there is a need to continue?
- 4) Are there any new projects you would want to put forward and any new partners that we would need to engage with to deliver them?
- 5) If aligned to a new partnership do you think the current LCAP objectives are appropriate or do you think they need revising?
- 6) Do you value the branding of the partnership?
- 7) Do you think the partnership should continue?
- 8) Would/could you contribute to a role?
- 9) Have you been involved in the sub-groups?

<b>Partner Responses</b>		
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Meeting Date or emailed questions</b>
Tim Allen	Historic England	emailed 30.10.17
Lynn Allison	Amber Valley Community Voluntary Service	12/04/2017
William Alves	Derbyshire Dales District Council	emailed 30.10.17
Alison Baker	Environment Agency	04/05/2017
Rachel Coates	Amber Valley Borough Council	12/04/2017
Duncan Cowie, Hilary Helmes & Dave Winslow	Derby City Council	26/04/2017
Tristan Gallety	Forestry Commission	emailed 30.10.17
Jane Hardstaff	Fleet Arts	10/04/2017
Sarah Laman	Community Representative	04/04/2017
Karl Hobson	Natural England	emailed 30.10.17
Angela Mayson & Louise Valentine	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	18/04/2017
Simon Wallwork	Arkwright Society	emailed 28.08.17
Jeremy Climpson	National Stone Centre	02.08.17
Adam Lathbury	Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site	Annie met with Feb 2017
Prof Chris White	University of Derby	20/04/2017
Cathy Cooke	Derbyshire County Council	11/07/2017
Jane Carver & Gillian Scotford	Accessible Derbyshire	11/07/2017

## Appendix 2 – Projects and priorities

1) Initial findings\* from early interviews

### List of projects wished to be continued

- Underwater and Understorey – participatory arts. Running arts project as part of other project not in parallel
- Landowner liaison
- Weirs project
- Wildlife Guardians/citizen science
- Willersley Castle
- Derwent Explorers
- Habitat restoration
- Grazing Comes to Town
- Heritage At Risk
- Aqueduct Cottage

### List of new projects and potential new partners

<b>Reliving the past through textile heritage</b> – the untold stories from Arkwright to modern production	John Smedleys, Masson Mill, Silk Mill and Strutts North Mill
<b>Volunteer conservation passport</b> – providing a generic process for conservation volunteers to meet standards that would enable them to volunteer across organisations	Derby CVS Groundworks Friends of Derby Parks
<b>Ancient History</b> – taking the landscape back pre-people	Facility of History UoD
<b>Land use mapping</b> – a consistent approach to help inform stewardship and future planning	Local Nature Partnership Notts WT
<b>Darley Park meadow</b> - restoration & bank side improvements	Friends of Darley Park & Opens Spaces Darley Abbey Historical Group
<b>Ford Lane meadow</b>	Friends of and Resident Community Groups
<b>Mackworth Park/estate development</b>	Friends of and Resident Community Groups
<b>Fish passes</b>	Transition Belper
<b>Natural Flood risk management</b>	Chester Green Residents Association
<b>Heritage at Risk</b> – restoration project	Dethick Lea and Holloway, BASA

**\* These lists are only from the initial findings and interviews and will be worked up through more discussions over the forthcoming months and they are not exhaustive. Also they will be updated from the findings of the half scheme evaluation report.**

**All 60 projects in the current scheme will be evaluated for their success and impact. These findings will help towards the development of any future projects**

2) The list below was put together at the legacy planning workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 2017.

Individual priorities:

- Derwent Forest – connect all up and include wild areas – managed woodland
- Increase heritage skills and training not to lose what people have learnt
- Control trees in river corridor



- Research into economic impact and tourist spend
- Rivers knowledge – where species are, what has been done, practical management
- Habitat fragmentation especially rivers and fish, halting decline in habitats
- Include diverse communities
- Future maintenance costs for habitat management
- Engage young people
- Access for navigation alternatives for transport – waterways/canals/river
- Improvement of the railways - better connection with cities
- Funding for art and wellbeing
- Develop an informed landscape framework that balances the relative significances for appropriate stewardship
- Tree management in Matlock Bath
- Dry-stone walls all repaired
- Interpretation well planned
- Accessibility in the wider sense
- Share information with voluntary groups – extend the reach. E bulletin/newsletter
- Common induction/accreditation for conservation volunteers
- Protecting and conserving the canal
- Manage Birdswood for public trips on canal & 25,000 people engaged. Invested £15,000 cash in maintenance/restoration
- Water control structures that wildlife habitats
- DVMWHS interpretation strategy – action plan – digital project
- Wirksworth Interpretation Strategy
- DV Mills trail/ Civic Society
- WWI + Quarries in Middleton
- Stoney Wood group Forest Fayre
- Fisheries specialist/ improving wildlife and habitats
- Trent catchment linked to Derwent
- Flood risks/weirs – inc. Darley Abbey
- Fish passes at Whatstandwell
- Salmon Spawning
- Catchment Partnership – key partner
- Rivers habitats
- Inspiring people
- Defending wildlife
- Living landscapes
- Communicate how to manage landscape to retain its significance to understand how best to manage the landscape and convey the significance
- Promote stewardship of the landscape