Evaluation summary of Years 1-3 of the DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme

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Photo credits:
Front page, clockwise from top left: ForestWISE forest schools training (Sarah Keogh, 2014), Underwater Life (Nadine Stevenson, 2016), Belper Bridge (Rachel Costigan, 2016), Removing trees at Milford Weir (Jo Wheeler, 2016); Page 3: Industrial and natural heritage on the River Derwent (Katherine Williams); Page 4: Dry stone walling (David Savage, 2016); Page 5 from top: Milford Weir before trees cleared (David Savage, 2016), new view at Milford Weir (Jo Wheeler, 2016); Page 6 from top: light box created at Make & Mend group (Sarah Laman, 2017), creating light boxes at Belper Goes Green event (Tania Pells, 2015); Page 7: story walk with children from Umbrella (Jo Wheeler, 2017); Page 8: Aqueduct cottage (Katherine Williams); Page 9: Bee homes made by Matlock All Saints Primary School (Marc Whitlock, 2017); Page 11: highland cattle at Darley and Nutwood Local Nature Reserve (Dave Winslow); Page 12, from top to bottom: landowner pie and pea supper (Nadine Stevenson, 2017), weir management training (Rachel Costigan, 2016); Page 13, from top to bottom: Bow Wood walkover surveys (Tania Pells, 2017), Lea Wood Knoll archaeological find (Jo Wheeler, 2017), volunteers excavating at Lea Wood Knoll (Jo Wheeler, 2017); Page 14: evaluation workshop (Katherine Williams); Page 15: school visit to DWT Whistlestop Centre (Emma Wood, 2017)

DerwentWISE is a partnership between:

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust  
Amber Valley CVS  
Derbyshire Dales District Council  
Derwent Valley Mills  
Derbyshire County Council  
Environment Agency  
Fleatarts  
National Stone Centre  
Derby City Council  

Historic England  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Arkwright Society  
Forestry Commission England  
University of Derby  
NATURAL ENGLAND  
NFU
Introduction

The Derwent Valley, fondly known as ‘the valley that changed the world’, is located in the centre of Derbyshire. This is a natural valley where world class industrial heritage was born and, as such, it is recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (WHS). It is a spectacular example of how nature and human populations have co-existed and been dependent upon each other for centuries. The magnificent and beautiful valley is a unique mix of heritage characterised by industrial mills, ancient woodlands, pre-industrial archaeology, diverse geology and species-rich meadows all united by the River Derwent which flows through it and has shaped it over millenia.

Covering 71.5km$^2$ of the Lower Derwent Valley, following the River Derwent from the limestone gorges surrounding Matlock Bath and Cromford to the edge of Derby city, the DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme exists to:

- Bring together expertise, resources and knowledge
- Raise awareness and educate the public
- Support, engage and inspire communities
- Provide opportunities for all
- Protect, improve, restore and care for the environment, the landscape, its biodiversity and its heritage
- Celebrate a rich and diverse heritage

This interim report forms part of a multi-faceted and participative evaluation approach which includes film, social media and written elements. The evaluation is measuring success of the whole scheme against three agreed indicators:

- A richer landscape is created
- People and place are connected
- The DerwentWISE legacy will be long lasting

Case studies and examples of success against these indicators are highlighted in this report. The evaluation does not attempt a detailed review of each of the 60 projects.
Creating a richer landscape

The DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme has delivered a number of projects which add richness to the landscape through conservation activity, capital installations and access improvements. These projects celebrate, protect and preserve all elements of heritage from the wooded valleys, to industrial history, to local tradition, to memories of past times and more. Most importantly, the Scheme is bringing together different types of heritage: natural, cultural and industrial, and celebrating them within the same managed landscape.

The impact of the DerwentWISE programme is characterised by improved biodiversity, restored landscapes, recorded archaeology and engaged communities but the richness of a heritage landscape is not always evidenced through tangible outcomes. Improved access and understanding mean that more people are able to enjoy and benefit from the range of heritage opportunity which the landscape provides, thus they perceive a richer landscape. People’s experiences in the landscape are important; improved access or information for those who have mobility or access needs will make the landscape usable for these people.

There appears to be much discussion within the partnership about the significance of natural versus cultural heritage but it is their connectedness that makes the Lower Derwent Valley so special. A rich heritage landscape tells a story which has been shaped by natural and man-made processes. Together these create a legacy which is passed down to future generations and must be managed to preserve the different heritage elements and deliver landscape ecosystem services now and for many years to come. The partnership must continue to explore ways of identifying and exploiting the way that heritage is connected. Both current and future (legacy) projects need to enable natural and industrial heritage to work together in the landscape, as they have for hundreds of years.

Over the final two years, projects need to evidence how landscape improvements are enhancing biodiversity, built heritage and audience experiences.

Dry stone walling with corporate volunteers from Infinis
Iconic views

DerwentWISE has far exceeded targets for opening up iconic views and enabling access to landscape vistas which have been concealed for many years. This project has added to the richness of the landscape, but further work is needed to identify the impact of this on visitors and the public and to evaluate whether this has also enabled more people to engage with the landscape and connected people with place (second success measure).

Dry Stone Walling

Dry stone walls criss-cross the Derbyshire countryside, defining the landscape and providing field boundaries and important habitat. The DerwentWISE project has trained volunteers to survey walls (wall condition and ecological surveys), rebuild walls and restore habitats. The unique story of dry stone walls has been revealed, providing a window into a long farming legacy in the area.

DerwentWISE has been working in conjunction with the National Drystone Wallers association to test and develop their model for drystone wall surveys which has the potential to be shared nationally. Involvement with the DerwentWISE project has encouraged them to consider in more detail how they could attract a broader membership by appealing to people who value the heritage of walls in the landscape as well as people who are interested in practical repair work.
Conservation projects

DerwentWISE has been responsible for the improvement of 95.23 hectares of land for wildlife. These include newly planted meadows, ancient woodlands, walls and field boundaries. Eight conservation grants have been awarded to local landowners. These grants have helped to improve the landscape by removing invasive species from woodlands and rivers, fencing existing sites to prevent damage to fragile ecosystems, and the restoration of poorly managed places to bring them back into positive management. The scheme partners have worked together to achieve these significant biodiversity gains in the Lower Derwent Valley.

DerwentWISE has also raised awareness through meetings, workshops and events to highlight the importance of positive land management in all areas.

Lea Wood

The DerwentWISE project has created a new opportunity for both volunteers and wildlife at Lea Wood. By first identifying a need and then supporting local volunteers to clear the ever encroaching rhododendron, DerwentWISE has enabled the restoration of an important ancient woodland.

This project has inspired local people by providing information about the site and practical ways for local people to help. A group of local volunteers has been trained and are working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to create a richer site for wildlife and people.

The Lighting up the Flowers project, led by Fleet Arts, provided public events where people of all ages used light boxes to make images of the flora and fauna of the woodland.

So far volunteer teams have cleared 2.86 hectares (of a total area of 4 hectares). The benefits of this are already being seen with ground flora beginning to return including yellow archangel, wood anemone and enchanter’s nightshade. Spotted flycatcher have nested in the woodland for the first time this year.

Top & Middle: creating light boxes; Bottom: Belper Lane End Meadow
Connecting people and place

The potential of a richer landscape is only realised if the people who live in, work in and visit it appreciate its value and benefit from the range of ecosystem services it provides. In three years, DerwentWISE has engaged 13,699 people in activities which have provided new heritage experiences, enabled them to volunteer or make a difference to the landscape and improved understanding and awareness. These have included volunteer programmes, training opportunities, school sessions, family events and many more. A range of individuals and groups have participated in and contributed to the project and, for some, this has been life changing. This is evidenced through testimonies, feedback forms and film recordings of participants. It is rare that a project that can evidence such a strong link to improved wellbeing. This is a credit to the DerwentWISE partnership and also demonstrates the huge potential of a heritage landscape like the Derwent Valley to provide wide-ranging benefits to both local people and visitors.

A new relationship with Accessible Derbyshire has added value to the partnership by enabling project staff and partners to gain a new understanding of what accessibility means. Instead of changing infrastructure and improving rights of way, the focus now is on providing appropriate information for users with varying access or mobility needs so that a wider range of people can find their own connection to the DerwentWISE landscape. Improved interpretation and information will enable people to understand project/site accessibility, plan their visit and have an enjoyable visitor experience.

Whilst the project produces lots of information, the communications messages could be clearer. Reference to a Communications Strategy in the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) seems to focus on methods of communications rather than identifying core heritage messages. The sheer number of projects (60 in total) makes the website difficult for a visitor to navigate and much of the information is copied from and structured as in the HLF application rather than presented in a visitor-friendly way. Social media is well used to engage local residents and visitors to the area. However, engagement is relatively low (Facebook 381 likes inc: Aqueduct Cottage page; Twitter 399 followers; Instagram 59 followers) and there is probably potential to improve participation by sponsoring posts and linking to/sharing posts by others. Partners could help by also sharing and promoting DerwentWISE pages.

Heritage for all

Working together with Accessible Derbyshire and the Derwent Valley Trust, DerwentWISE has trained volunteers to carry out an access audit of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. New visitor information is being created to enable more people to make informed choices about how and where they access the Lower Derwent Valley.

A creative story-walks project has been engaging children with disabilities with the support of Derby-based charity Umbrella. The young people and their families are acting as consultants to help DerwentWISE produce a downloadable resource to encourage more...
Aqueduct Cottage

The Aqueduct Cottage project has been supported by a lead volunteer and has recruited the support of hundreds of local and interested people via social media. Regular updates via Facebook, and a shared interest in restoring this structure, have developed a strong and supportive community (234 Facebook members). This demonstrates the potential of community engagement when there is time and staff/volunteer capacity allocated to foster it, progress the project and maintain public communications.

DerwentWISE has cleared the vegetation which is threatening the structure of the cottage and there are plans afoot to restore the roof. Local artists have been engaged to paint images celebrating local wildlife in the windows and these are proving popular with visitors and passers by. Research into the cottage’s history, including an interview with ex-resident Frances ‘Fay’ Bark, has revealed some interesting stories, not least the presence of a kitchen garden which has been lost since the cottage has been uninhabited. Social media has enabled supporters to contribute many new memories and photographs which are helping to piece together the story of this little cottage on the canal.

This project illustrates the conflict that sometimes exists between natural and cultural heritage. After decades of dereliction, nature had taken over here and has had to be cleared to preserve the cultural heritage and give visitors an insight to this story. Of course, nature will recover and, in time, the restored cottage will, once again, be surrounded by woodland species (but, this time, in a way that does not threaten the structure of the stonework).

Further interpretation will improve this site and tell the story of the cottage, which was built by Peter Nightingale (great uncle of Florence Nightingale) and served for many years as a lock-keeper’s cottage.

“So glad the cottage is feeling a little love again”

Project supporter, via Facebook

Image provided by Fay Bark showing the cottage as she remembers it
Derwent Explorers

The Derwent Explorers project has provided new opportunities and experiences for young people who are finding it difficult to engage with school and other services. This has made a huge difference, getting them out in a natural environment, building skills and confidence, allowing them to explore rules and helping them to build relationships. Feedback from an 12 year old participant demonstrates the success of this:

‣ Where would you be if you weren’t here?
  Probably on my xbox

‣ Have you been inspired to try something new?
  Every single one of these trips I get inspired to do something new

‣ What has made you smile today?
  Everything

‣ What have you learnt today?
  How to make a fire, how to make a good den using sticks. Also how to socialise a bit better.

‣ What are you proud of?
  I’m proud of coming because last time (first time) I was scared and a bit worried. I feel happier this time.

Forest Skills

DerwentWISE has trained 16 Forest School leaders who are now inspiring children and young people across the valley to love nature and explore the natural world. Claire Bowle from Middleton Primary School explains:

“I gained an enormous amount from the training. It was really interesting to learn the theories behind Forest School and the psychologies behind working with the children. I gained a lot of ideas and enhanced my own skills with the outdoors.

“We’re beginning to see evidence of the impact that Forest School has had upon children…the children who are moving on into Years 5 and 6 are now bringing the group approach into their work outdoors. They have the attitudes and the ethos that we promote at Forest School and that’s evident when we take them outdoors with the outdoor curriculum now… We are finding that children that may have difficulties in the classroom don’t have those difficulties outside… Children who are quite tense and anxious in the classroom, when they have been working with their senses, feeling trees, talking to them, they completely relax.

“DerwentWISE is certainly having an impact on the children, with their families and with the community when they are visiting areas that they now know where the DerwentWISE projects are and they are bringing that back to school… One child, as a positive result of Forest Schools, said that she now looks around her and takes in things in her environment when she’s on a walk or on the school field - she said that she’s noticed things that she hadn’t noticed previously…[Our children] are having a better understanding of their environment…and that’s something they’ll be able to pass on to future generations.

“[DerwentWISE has given us] a sense of being part of Derbyshire.”
Leaving a lasting legacy

The DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme documentation states that, “beyond the HLF funding period, our beautiful, accessible, connected and resilient heritage landscape will continue to be looked after, loved by the community and valued by all.” This is vital to secure a sustainable future for all the activities delivered and to realise the full potential of the project.

Some projects are already well on their way to establishing a secure medium to long-term future. New partnerships have supported this and shared responsibility for resourcing projects in the future will give them a strong chance of success. Investing in training and skills, and engaging landowners and decision makers, will provide a legacy where the values of DerwentWISE can continue to be supported after project funding ends.

Other projects will naturally come to an end but the benefits provided will continue long after this. Improved mental wellbeing, social relationships and understanding of the world will have a lasting impact on individuals who participated in DerwentWISE projects. One group supervisor, who attended DerwentWISE activities with a group of people suffering mental health problems, said, “…there were residents who came off suicide watch while engaged with the sessions”. There cannot be a stronger legacy for individual participants than this.

DerwentWISE’s role in inspiring future generations should also not be underestimated. Activities ranging from story telling to forest skills to family heritage events are fostering a love of the Derwent Valley and may influence the way young people grow up, the decisions they make as adults and the values they pass on to future generations.

Legacy planning needs to build on DerwentWISE successes but also address challenges. In particular, the number of projects could be streamlined to make project management simpler. Messages could be stronger to ensure that the unique relationship between natural, cultural and industrial heritage in the Lower Derwent Valley is recognised and valued by everybody involved. Communities outside the current scheme boundary have expressed an interest in taking advantage of the activity that DerwentWISE has offered, and opportunities for useful projects which fit DerwentWISE objectives but lie beyond the current boundary have already been identified.

Moving forwards into a legacy period, there is potential to review the scheme area, including discussing whether new projects/sites should be included and even whether a formal boundary is needed at all.

A partnership review is needed in the final stages of the project, to evaluate the strength of the partnership and identify a strong legacy structure (which will include determining whether the partnership needs to be sustained). If the partnership is to continue, the role of the each partner as well as the overall partnership needs to be explored and agreed. If DerwentWISE is to continue as a partnership, it will be important to retain key functions which all partners have cited as strengths in the current project. These are strategic co-ordination/facilitation, financial management, partnership/relationship management and communications support. Alongside this, the contribution of specialist heritage partners and individual staff needs to be recognised so that the passion for heritage and belief in the project is not lost in a new ‘administrative’ structure. The partnership needs to explore the identity of ‘DerwentWISE’ to decide whether this should be retained in the legacy period. Market research may be needed to evaluate how public audiences and other stakeholders recognise and relate to ‘DerwentWISE’ and ‘the Derwent Valley’.
Grazing Comes to Town

This innovative project, which is a partnership between DerwentWISE, Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, has engaged an urban community in creating a wildflower-rich meadow and improving biodiversity in the centre of Derby. It demonstrates the power of partnership and community and has established a strong structure which will secure the legacy of both the project and the site for the future.

The partnership has supported volunteers to clear invasive species and to secure stewardship funding (via Derby City Council) to provide stock-proof fencing for an area of Darley and Nutwood Local Nature Reserve. Once the site was suitable, DerwentWISE funded the purchase of three pregnant cows, one bull and 26 sheep which arrived on site in September 2015. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are responsible for managing the stock (including sales of beef/lamb). A local management group will co-ordinate events, involve the community and ensure the site is monitored daily to maintain cattle health and check fences. A shared site Management Plan ensures that local volunteers are able to contribute to an agreed strategy for the site.

Already nature is starting to return to this previously overgrown and wildlife-poor site. It is now a vitally important site rich in wildlife within the city. Wildflowers are thriving with 138 different species recorded on site and 5 different orchids. Butterflies are abundant and proximity to the river makes this an important foraging ground for dragon and damselflies. Ninety nine bird species were recorded in a single year.

In the future, this project will continue to be supported by both Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, working with local volunteers and the community. Stewardship funding will continue to support the project and enable ongoing management of stock and the site. The Community Management Committee are committed to continuing to engage local people by providing events and activities.

“The main thing we’re trying to do is to preserve as much biodiversity on this site as possible...

“Last winter when we were grazing people were very fond of coming down to see the two cattle and twelve sheep. Children, in particular, really enjoy coming round and looking at them. For city dwellers like us it is very novel to find farm animals, and particularly the sort of animals we have here, roaming around in a nature reserve...

“Probably the most important thing we’ve learnt from the project is the value of listening to professionals”

Feedback from Management Committee Member and local volunteer Dr Keith Dodd

Left, grazing by Highland Cattle will maximise biodiversity value
Engaging landowners

The support of landowners will be vital in securing a lasting legacy and ensuring heritage is valued and protected in the future. The partnership has developed relationships with 46 landowners, including hosting a pie and peas supper for 24 individuals. Through DerwentWISE, landowners can access training and find out more about the heritage on their landholding and alternative land management techniques.

This needs to continue and the final two years of the project will be important in establishing the success of these events. New opportunities to engage and influence developers to ensure that they recognise the value of the Derwent Valley heritage could be explored. In the legacy phase, the opportunity to identify new landowners will be significant. Understanding and engaging the mosaic of landowners will create a more joined up heritage landscape.

The support of partners, landowners and developers will be essential to the project legacy. Without this, the ongoing preservation and celebration of heritage in the Derwent Valley will be compromised.

Monitoring Weirs

The Weirs Management project has established a strong model of volunteer engagement which will monitor the condition of the Derwent Valley weirs for the future and is a good example of legacy planning. A baseline survey was carried out by JBA Consulting to provide a high standard of data which can inform maintenance planning and further activity. Alongside this, volunteers have been trained and upskilled to carry out quarterly surveys in perpetuity.

In the future, there is potential for this project to bring together natural heritage conservation (e.g. monitoring migrating fish or installing fish passes) and innovative new projects which address future needs (e.g. hydro-energy production) alongside the ongoing structural monitoring activity (industrial heritage). The project team are hoping to develop new legacy opportunities with the University of Derby and the Environment Agency (e.g. working with students to design solutions to different heritage needs).
Developing Archaeological Skills

The research carried out by DerwentWISE has provided a new understanding of our past and permanent records of previously undiscovered archaeology. On top of this, the engagement of volunteers has ensured that learning and skills are shared in a way that will contribute to future projects in the Derwent Valley and beyond.

Archaeologist Jim Brightman of Solstice Heritage explains:

"We’re making sure that everyone who wants to take part and learn gets the basic skills so they can go away from this project…and feel comfortable that they could go out, walk that landscape, identify archaeological features and record them in a standard way. It’s giving people those skills and the confidence…"

"From an archaeological point of view we want to create a record which will be lasting and will enable better decisions and management…the key legacy is enabling people to go on and investigate things that interest them…"

"DerwentWISE is certainly raising awareness of the area and it’s natural history and history. Hopefully the project will lead to a greater understanding within the community of its broader environment and, particularly, the historical aspects of it. I hope the project will reveal more of [the landscape history]…"

"[Working with volunteers] is one of the most enjoyable parts of the work that I get to do… projects like this, working with enthusiastic volunteer groups, working in interesting parts of the world, in really beautiful landscapes, that’s the pleasurable bit, that’s the bit you would do all the time if you could."

A local community group (Dethick, Lea and Holloway Heritage Group) will continue to raise awareness and interpret the local heritage.
Conclusions

DerwentWISE is a strong partnership working to protect, improve, restore, care for and celebrate the unique heritage that exists in the Lower Derwent Valley. The partnership is making good progress towards the three project success indicators. There is strong evidence that the partnership is delivering a richer landscape, both in terms of preserving or improving heritage value and improving understanding and perceptions of the heritage landscape. Many projects are to be connecting people and place; evidence gathered over the next two years will help to evaluate the impact of this and demonstrate how new experiences and opportunities are, for example, changing perceptions or improving wellbeing.

The thought that has been given to the DerwentWISE legacy is a strength of the project. Many projects have established robust plans to continue beyond the HLF funded period and new partnerships will sustain heritage activity in the future. Legacy planning has been built into the original project design during the HLF development phase and the partnership has also seized new opportunities that have arisen during the delivery period. There is a strong sense of willingness, from all partners, for work to continue beyond 2019, whether that is as part of DerwentWISE or not. The biggest challenge for project legacy will be to establish how the strengths of DerwentWISE can be retained beyond HLF funding. In particular, whether there is a continued need to co-ordinate a connected landscape-wide approach for the preservation and celebration of the unique heritage of the Lower Derwent Valley. Once this is agreed, the function of the partnership, roles of individual partners, future projects, and programme geography/boundaries can be explored.

New partnerships which have developed through the project delivery period (including working with Accessible Derbyshire, National Trust and others) have strengthened the project and increased its impact. DerwentWISE has also facilitated relationships which have established new activity beyond the Derwent Valley boundary which add value to the project and deliver heritage impact more widely.

Whilst the strengths and achievements of the DerwentWISE partnership deserve to be celebrated, there are some areas where improvements could be made. The structure of DerwentWISE is complex in comparison to other Landscape Partnership Schemes. The number of projects (60) delivered by DerwentWISE far exceeds the number delivered by, for example, Lindisfarne Peregrini LPS (12 projects), Revitalising Redesdale (12), Land of Oak and Iron (14), Nenescape (11) or Sheffield Lakeland (22). The complexity of the DerwentWISE project structure adds significantly to the administrative and co-ordinating role required of the project team.

Within the partnership there is sometimes conflict between the perceived different needs of ‘natural’ versus ‘cultural’ heritage. A clear and coherent message around the importance of the unique mix of heritage in the Derwent Valley is needed. Recognising
the role of the natural river valley in creating the industrial and social heritage is vital, and similarly celebrating the role that human intervention has had over centuries in forming the natural habitats we see today must be a priority.

Whilst the passion and enthusiasm of project partners is excellent, the roles and expectations of partners (particularly the host partner) could be more clearly defined. There is a risk that the enthusiasm, commitment and expertise that exists within project partners (staff and volunteers) could get lost within strong management systems and administrative structures. Space and time to simply enjoy the heritage of the Derwent Valley is important (not just for the public) and the more the project team and partners engage in this, the stronger the partnership will be. This shared learning and collaboration strengthens relationships, supports staff development and enables a more joined up approach to heritage conservation which must continue into the future.

Finally, whilst a five-year project term allows for some stability, it also comes with a level of unpredictability, particularly in the current economic climate. DerwentWISE has been through some turbulent times since it started including a new Chief Executive and restructure at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, considerable change within public sector partners and change to the membership of the partnership board and project team. Whilst change is not necessarily negative, it can be challenging for project staff faced with new priorities, change in management or reduced partner capacity. This is particularly true when the change is external or out of the project’s control. Planning for such change is difficult and is likely to remain a challenge in the future. Whilst it may be impossible to predict this type of change, sustaining strong partnership relations and communications will help to mitigate its impact.

Tania Pells, DerwentWISE Scheme Manager explains the importance of legacy planning...

“Legacy is part of the planning right from before the project starts. Through the partnership and the programme delivery [we have learnt that] we all need to work together to create this better landscape. That helps form part of the legacy planning.

“We do direct legacy planning where we look at the projects we have delivered and assess the need for those projects. Some projects do finish, others need to continue. Part of the legacy planning is looking at how we can take that work forward through the partnership or by drawing in new funding. There are also new projects that need to start because of the work we have completed within DerwentWISE.

“For example, we’ve been doing some survey work of field barns in Middleton area. What we’ve found from the baseline survey is that conditions are poor: of 61 barns surveyed only 13 came out as good to fair. These barns have been lost in time and, eventually, they will crumble to a point where there will only be foundations and stones that have fallen. They’re an integral part of the heritage of the Middleton and Bonsall area. What we’d like to do is work with the County Council conservation team to look at putting another bid forward to help with the restoration of those barns.

“Legacy planning needs to start early. You need to start thinking about the end of the programme, and beyond the end of the programme, when you start. If you leave this to the end you will miss opportunities. Understanding the impact is also important. I get a real sense of satisfaction from both learning little things (like how to make a stone mosaic) and from working at a strategic level, knowing I can help influence future policy and strategies at a landscape scale. I also get a real satisfaction from seeing how individuals benefit from the project. That is the reward for me – seeing the impact of the project and knowing that this will continue in the legacy phase.”
Recommended priorities for Years 4-5

The final two years must continue delivering excellence and establish resilience in projects which will enable continued delivery of heritage values and principles beyond 2019. Legacy planning should:

1. Embed training and skills so that structures exist within communities to maintain heritage sites and continue activity delivery
2. Develop relationships with heritage partners, land owners and potential developers/land managers to establish land use priorities and set foundations for the development of a land use plan (management plan) in the longer term
3. Identify new opportunities to sustain delivery beyond the funding period (e.g. partnership opportunities, grant fundraising, down-scaling projects, and community ownership)
4. Agree the future of the partnership, including establishing partner roles, reviewing/simplifying project structure and agreeing the function of or need for a co-ordinating team. This must draw on the heritage expertise that exists within the partnership
5. Review communications and defining public messages about the importance of the unique heritage of the ‘valley that changed the world’
6. Build stronger public engagement through social media which can sustain support beyond 2019

The final two years must also inform project learning and evaluation. Participation in evaluation activity needs to be improved and partnership activities which enable reflection and learning should be encouraged. Projects need to collect more information to evidence success, celebrate achievements and, most importantly, demonstrate impact.

The independent evaluation of DerwentWISE is provided by Katherine Williams and Alan Fentiman. This report is written by Katherine Williams, August 2017. It forms part of a suite of evaluation outputs provided for the DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership Scheme.

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