

A14-A14B Willersley Castle Landscape Restoration

Project Summary	<p>Willersley Castle is a Grade II* listed late 18th Century mansion designed by the architect William Thomas for the industrial pioneer Sir Richard Arkwright. The picturesque parkland was designed and laid out by John Webb. It is designated as a Grade II registered park and garden. To quote the register description for the park ‘...The ground rises to Cat Tor, a rocky peak c80m north-west of the Castle, from which there are extensive views north and west along the Derwent gorge and across Matlock Bath to the Heights of Abraham, and south-west across the Derwent to the late C18 and C19 Masson Mill.’ The Castle is now a hotel owned by the Willersley Guild with the majority of the former parkland belonging to the Guild although the land which is being considered also includes land belonging to the Arkwright Society and the Church of England (St Mary’s Church). This project consisted of producing, securing match funding and implementing a management plan for the parkland.</p>	
Lead Organisation	DerwentWISE/ Derbyshire County Council	
Partners	Christian Guild DVMWHS Arkwright Society St Mary’s Church Historic England	
Location	Cromford	
Duration of project	April 2014 - March 2018 Yrs1-4	
Total cost of project	£13,010	
Volunteer time In-kind time	- £1,910	
Outputs	Original target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Landscape Management Plan produced. The management of approximately 12ha of historic parkland 	Achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Landscape Management Plan produced. The management of approximately 12ha of historic parkland
Headlines/added value	Reptile and grassland survey Tree report 8 iconic views reopened after public consultation	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1 An <i>integrated approach</i> to natural and cultural heritage and landscape character conservation A2 The delivery of <i>significant, long lasting improvements</i> to the condition (and extent where appropriate) of priority sites and features, and hence to the landscape character 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3 Long term improvements to the landscape <i>brought about through better understanding, engagement</i> of land managers and communities, and land use policies and activities <i>based on good information</i> • B2 An <i>increased public understanding</i> of the value of the landscape, and of the need for it to be conserved and restored • B3 Increased <i>engagement and capacity among landowners and communities</i> to care for the landscape in the long term • C1 <i>Improved physical access</i> to the area and its heritage, particularly in ways which discourage car use and promote physical activity • C3 <i>Improved access to information</i> about the area and its heritage
<p>Any recommendations going forward</p>	<p>The Christian Guild will need support to take some of the more substantial elements of the management plan forward, in particular the restoration of the paths up to Cat Tor which will need grant funding to achieve.</p>