

A20 Duffield Castle

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>The footprint of Duffield Castle capped with crumbling tarmac tells little about the mediaeval fortress that once stood there. Over time archaeological digs have helped piece together some of its history. DerwentWISE commissioned the Jessop Consultancy to do a reappraisal of the studies, gathering together all the findings. This was followed with an options appraisal by Arc Heritage and In Heritage. It identified the possibility of ‘soft capping’ with turf to stabilise the tarmac and masonry below, as well as suggesting some ideas for improving the site for visitors.</p> <p>Installing the soft capping was beyond the DerwentWISE budget and time constraints. However, we were able to make improvements to help visitors feel welcomed, and prepare them for what they can experience on site. Duffield Castle also featured at the Duffield Arts festival with performances that reflected the Castle’s History.</p> <p>University of Derby students based a project around the Castle’s Hand produced an exhibition of interpretative artwork that was displayed at a consultation event and DerwentWISE’s final celebrations at Derby Theatre and Cromford Mills.</p>	
<p>Lead Organisation</p>	<p>National Trust/ DerwentWISE Scheme Office</p>	
<p>Partners</p>	<p>Historic England University of Derby Jessops Consultancy Arch Heriatge InHeritage Smeeden Foreman</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>Duffield</p>	
<p>Duration of project</p>	<p>March 2014 – April 2019 Yrs: 1-5</p>	
<p>Total cost of project</p>	<p>£40,403</p>	
<p>Volunteer time</p>	<p>£2,750</p>	
<p>In-kind time</p>	<p>£2,969</p>	
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x appraisal report to raise awareness of the site and encourage local participation in its conservation and upkeep for the future. The works would enhance the visual 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x option appraisal report & 1 x Representation report. Both conservation and interpretation opportunities on the site were considered.

	<p>amenity and aid readability and interpretation with 1 panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 visible and safe resource for the enjoyment of the local community, school groups and visitors to Duffield • Develop 1 'friends of group' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x visible and safe resources Activities undertaken from the recommendations outlined in the report, including updating arrival signage, making the site more visible. Thinning vegetation opening up historic views from the site, simultaneously opening up the site and enhancing the perception of site safety. We improved visitor enjoyment by installing an interpretation panel and two interpretative features. • Due to National Trust capacity, at this time, the management of a 'Friend's group' is not achievable. Links with the local community were built upon through two consultation events; a community day on-site; and the Castle featured in the Duffield Arts festival.
<p>Headlines/added value</p>	<p>The options appraisal built on a report that brought together all the existing archaeological studies of the site.</p> <p>We have identified a solution to the conservation of the remains without causing further damage by removing the tarmac. There is a foundation in place to develop further interpretation of the site on. Historic views that show the castles vantage point are visible again.</p> <p>A reconstruction illustration was commissioned as part of the new orientation panel. We were careful to design arrival interpretation to help visitors get a realistic expectation on arrival, including text cut into the railings leading up to the site. A sculptural bench references the castle construction and de Ferrer's family. Student artwork has been displayed at all our final celebration events, raising the profile of the Castle beyond the village.</p> <p>The University of Derby Graphic Design, Animation & Illustration students created some excellent interpretative pieces that went on display at one of the consultation events.</p>	
<p>Outcomes</p>	<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 • B1 A <i>celebration</i> of the beauty, wildlife and fascinating history of 	

	<p>the Lower Derwent Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • C3 <i>Improved access to information</i> about the area and its heritage • C4 <i>Increased opportunities</i> for access as part of <i>formal education</i> (through schools), fostering the conservationists of the future • D2 Opportunities for <i>local people to develop skills</i> to enable them to engage with their local landscape and its conservation, and benefit from personal development and improved employment prospects
<p>Lessons Learnt</p>	<p>Unravelling the history of the site proved challenging, with much cross referencing of sources required. Local historian Barry Crisp was a great help in ensuring the material we displayed on site was accurate.</p> <p>The DerwentWISE team co-ordinated the involvement with the University on this project. As a result the National Trust team based at Kedleston missed out on the opportunity to develop ongoing connection with the University. On this occasion, with the National Trust undergoing staffing changes, it was perhaps inevitable, but it was definitely a learning point.</p>
<p>Any recommendations going forward</p>	<p>The National Trust hope to continue involvement with the Duffield Arts festival. We hope that the National Trust will find capacity in the future to look at a larger project to take forward some of the recommendations in the options appraisal including the soft capping, visitor route and interpretation.</p>