

A21 Aqueduct cottage

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>A much loved landmark on the bank of the Cromford Canal, the picturesque cottage was falling into a ruinous state. Mansell Architects produced a survey and options appraisal as part of the development phase of DerwentWISE. We followed this by commissioning a Structural Condition Report.</p> <p>One of our volunteers, Ron Common, dedicated himself to the project and carried out extensive research to build a business case for the restoration of the cottage to be used as a 'gateway site' to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Lea Wood reserve, amongst others.</p> <p>Meanwhile the landscape conservation volunteer team carefully extracted self-set trees from the ruin which were threatening the remaining fabric of the building. A sink hole drained the section of canal in front of the cottage, allowing Ron to retrieve some of the masonry that had been lost to the canal bed. Heritage builder Andrew Churchman carried out repairs to stabilise the stonework. Local artists Abigail Sawyer, Ruth Gray, Mandy-Jayne Alhors and Joanna McPherson created paintings to cheer up the boarded up windows.</p>	
<p>Lead Organisation</p>	<p>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust/ DerwentWISE Scheme Office</p>	
<p>Partners</p>	<p>Friends of the Cromford Canal Derbyshire County Council Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust Andrew Churchman James Boon Architect Chris Pike Associates Mansel Architects</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>Cromford Wharf</p>	
<p>Duration of project</p>	<p>April 2015 – March 2019 Yrs: 2, 3 & 5</p>	
<p>Total cost of project</p> <p>Volunteer time</p> <p>In-kind time</p>	<p>£17,045</p> <p>£11,200</p> <p>£3,175</p>	
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 appraisal, selection and worked up schedule for restoration of the cottage and interpretation. 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 appraisal, selection and worked up schedule for restoration of the cottage and interpretation
<p>Headlines/added value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Structural Condition Report • Repairs to consolidate the areas identified as most vulnerable. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree works to remove self-set trees threatening the masonry. • 5 x pieces of artwork reflecting a ‘window on wildlife’ donated by local artists. • 1 x Business case developed supporting restoration of building as interpretation shelter. • Facebook group with 338 members. • Interview with Fay Bark gaining an insight into life in the cottage including sketches of the interior and kitchen gardens. • 2 x public events to highlight the work and plans: a Discovery Days talk and exhibition at Wirksworth Pop up Gallery owned by Derbyshire Historic Building Trust. <p>Volunteer Ron’s contribution was enormous, and his professional expertise added a dimension to the project we would not otherwise have been able to deliver. Andrew Churchman and James Boon also contributed considerable professional input to the project.</p> <p>Thanks in part to Ron’s passion and enthusiasm the restoration project has considerable support from the community and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have committed to restoring the cottage in their business plan.</p> <p>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with support from James Boon Architect and contributions from Friends of the Cromford Canal have been able to submit a planning application for the repairs and change of use.</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 • 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> • B1 A <i>celebration</i> of the beauty, wildlife and fascinating history of the Lower Derwent Valley • 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 • 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>The project has been a balancing act, rallying support whilst not raising expectations beyond what the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have capacity to deliver amongst their other priorities.</p>
<p>Any recommendations going forward</p>	<p>The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are putting together a funding plan to restore the cottage and introduce interpretation inside. Rich archive material should be used to explain the historical role of the cottage. There is also an opportunity to relate the past way of life in the cottage</p>

	to the Trust's Living Landscape agenda, by drawing comparisons between then and now. The link to Florence Nightingale provides a target for delivery as the bicentenary of her birth is celebrated in 2020.
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