

A23B Field Barns

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>Field barns, along with drystone walls, are a distinctive feature of the DerwentWISE landscape, especially around the village of Middleton By Wirksworth. Often in disuse and frequently falling into disrepair, we wanted to make a record of the barns before they are lost.</p> <p>Once our volunteers were trained and the surveys were completed, we sought a barn to repair. After pursuing two options that would have been repurposed for community use, we settled on a highly visible barn in an area much frequented by local walkers.</p>	
<p>Lead Organisation</p>	<p>Derbyshire County Council/ DerwentWISE Scheme Office</p>	
<p>Partners</p>	<p>Derbyshire Adult Community Education Services at the Eco Centre Landowners in Middleton Natural England</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>Middleton By Wirksworth</p>	
<p>Duration of project</p>	<p>April 2015 – March 2019 Yrs: Yr2-5</p>	
<p>Total cost of project</p> <p>Volunteer time</p> <p>In-kind time</p>	<p>£12,422</p> <p>£2,950</p> <p>£68</p>	
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 survey of barns within the Middleton- Via Gellia valley area 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 individual barns surveyed within the Middleton - Via Gellia and report compiled. Two bat surveys on an individual barn were completed.
<p>Headlines/added value</p>	<p>31 (51%) of the barns in Middleton were in Very Bad condition. A further 11 were in Poor or Poor to Fair condition. 13 were in Fair to Good condition and 6 in Good condition.</p> <p>The barns surveyed were added to the Historic Environment Record. We also conserved one barn which involved removal of pigeon waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of barns restored within the Middleton Via Gellia valley area – 1 • No. of volunteers trained in surveying skills – 11 • No. of volunteer support workshops - 4 	
<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 	

	<p>condition (and extent where appropriate) of priority sites and features, and hence to the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> • B2 An <i>increased public understanding</i> of the value of the landscape, and of the need for it to be conserved and restored • C3 <i>Improved access to information</i> about the area and its heritage • D1 The perpetuation of <i>traditional crafts</i> necessary for the maintenance of the landscape • 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 • D3 Increased <i>knowledge</i>
<p>Lessons Learnt</p>	<p>A suggestion was to spend the budget putting as many crinkly tin rooves on buildings with exposed gable ends as we could- saving those buildings. However, the costs of scaffolding and repairing roof timbers meant that tiling the roof was a relatively small additional cost. We still only had sufficient funding to repair one barn.</p> <p>In terms of project planning, sufficient time and budget needs to be allocated to allow for works to take place without disrupting nesting or hibernating wildlife- both bats and birds.</p>
<p>Any recommendations going forward</p>	<p>Ideally our work would be taken forward with a further bid for funding to rescue the vulnerable barns in the area from ruin. Potentially thorough Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust and InHeritage.</p>