

A28 River Structures Health Check

Project Summary	<p>With water power at the centre of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, the weirs and associated structures along the Derwent are essential attributes of the World Heritage Site designation. It's important for the DVMWHS to know what condition they are in and whether they, and therefore the World Heritage Site is at risk. We set out to undertake engineering surveys and monitoring of two – Rock weir in Belper and Foundry weir in Milford, but ultimately were able to extend the project to cover the key weirs along the Derwent within the World Heritage Site.</p>	
Lead Organisation	DerwentWISE Scheme Office	
Partners	<p>JBA Consulting Ltd Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Environment Agency Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Transition Belper Derwent Hydro</p>	
Location	Along the Derwent from Masson, Cromford to Darley Abbey	
Duration of project	<p>April 2017 – March 2019 Yrs:3 and 5</p>	
Total cost of project	£20,994	
Volunteer time	£1,500	
In-kind time	£8,358	
Outputs	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 survey of two weirs - the Rock Weir, Belper and Foundry Weir, Milford 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 engineering surveys and historical assessments were carried out, including the original outputs of the Rock weir in Belper and Foundry weir, Milford. Which resulted in the production of 9 reports.
Headlines/added value	<p>Additional engineering reports accompanied by Historical Assessments were created for Masson, The Bear Pit in Cromford, Ambergate, Horseshoe weir in Belper, Duck Bill weirs in Milford, & Darley Abbey.</p> <p>A group of 30 'weir watcher' volunteers were set up who attended two training days and a further on-site workshop.</p> <p>With concerns over a substantial hole in the rock weir in Belper, a report defining the scope of repairs required in order for contractors to</p>	

	<p>generate a quote was commissioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of volunteers trained in surveying skills – 30 • No. of volunteer support workshops - 1
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 • 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 • 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>
Lessons Learnt	<p>There were many considerations when undertaking this project including political and economic sensitivities, landowner access and ownership.</p>
Any recommendations going forward	<p>Any future activities need to include parties from all sectors including environmental, historical, community, private and public bodies to ensure all elements are considered.</p> <p>DVMWHS should seek to re-establish contact with Courtaulds or subsequent owners and provide appropriate support to help ensure the repair of Rock Weir.</p>