

B2 Heritage At Risk

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| <p>Project Summary</p> | <p>The Heritage @ Risk project aimed to update 1000 records on the Historic Environment Record (HER) within the DerwentWISE area. To complete the task we hoped to train 100 volunteers to carry out the surveys independently. As well as providing up-to-date information on any features that might be at risk, the aim was to analyse the results for patterns that might show any clear risks to our historic environment.</p> <p>The HER is a database of heritage sites: built heritage and archaeology, and includes information about its condition. As the condition of the features listed changes, we wanted to get an up to date picture of the HER in the DerwentWISE area.</p> <p>As well as being useful for anyone interested in local history, the HER is used for planning, land management, and by the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS). Derbyshire County Council maintains the list in the DerwentWISE area. Historic England refers to the HER when it puts together its list of 'Heritage At Risk': sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.</p> | |
| <p>Lead Organisation</p> | <p>Arc Heritage and Locus Consulting</p> | |
| <p>Partners</p> | <p>Historic England Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site</p> | |
| <p>Location</p> | <p>Derwent Valley</p> | |
| <p>Duration of project</p> | <p>April 2015 – March 2019 Yrs: Yr2-5</p> | |
| <p>Total cost of project</p> | <p>£90,074</p> | |
| <p>Volunteer time In-kind time</p> | <p>£13,600 £110</p> | |
| <p>Outputs</p> | <p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide benchmark data on condition of 1,000 heritage assets. • 125 trained volunteer heritage auditors | <p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 surveys were completed on heritage assets and the data uploaded to the HER. The surveys were split almost evenly between those inside and outside the DVMWHS. 58% of surveys were of listed buildings. • 89 individual volunteers were trained over 3 years |

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| <p>Headlines/added value</p> | <p>78% of the assets surveyed were found to be ‘not at risk’. Empty buildings and archaeological sites were found to be ‘most at risk’- partly because their ‘vacant’ status automatically flagged them up as being more vulnerable. There was no statistical difference in risk level between the sites inside and outside the DVMWHS. Overall the main risk to the historic environment would seem to be gradual deterioration.</p> <p>In addition to the original outputs, a dedicated website was created for the project. This became a valuable resource for local historians and researchers who found the interface very user-friendly, allowing them to access information quickly.</p> <p>Our dedicated and self-motivated volunteers who provided us with all the data.</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> • 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 • C5 Opportunities for people in <i>areas subject to deprivation</i>, and in <i>traditionally hard to reach groups</i>, to engage with all elements of the scheme • 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>The hours the volunteers recorded are not a true representation of the time they spent on this project, as not all the time was captured. Incorporating a time sheet into the survey form might have alleviated this problem. Volunteers worked remotely, fitting surveys in when they could. To keep momentum going we organised workshops and guided walks to <u>get people together and complete more surveys</u>.</p> |
| <p>Any recommendations going forward</p> | <p>Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust have been provided with a list of the ‘at risk’ buildings which they will monitor and potentially seek to restore in the future.</p> <p>Finding resources to re-publish the map-searchable data from the website would create a useful resource – it could possibly be incorporated into the new Historic Environment Record refresh that Derbyshire County Council are considering.</p> |