

VISITOR GUIDE

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS

WORLD HERITAGE SITE



www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit

From Spirit to Place

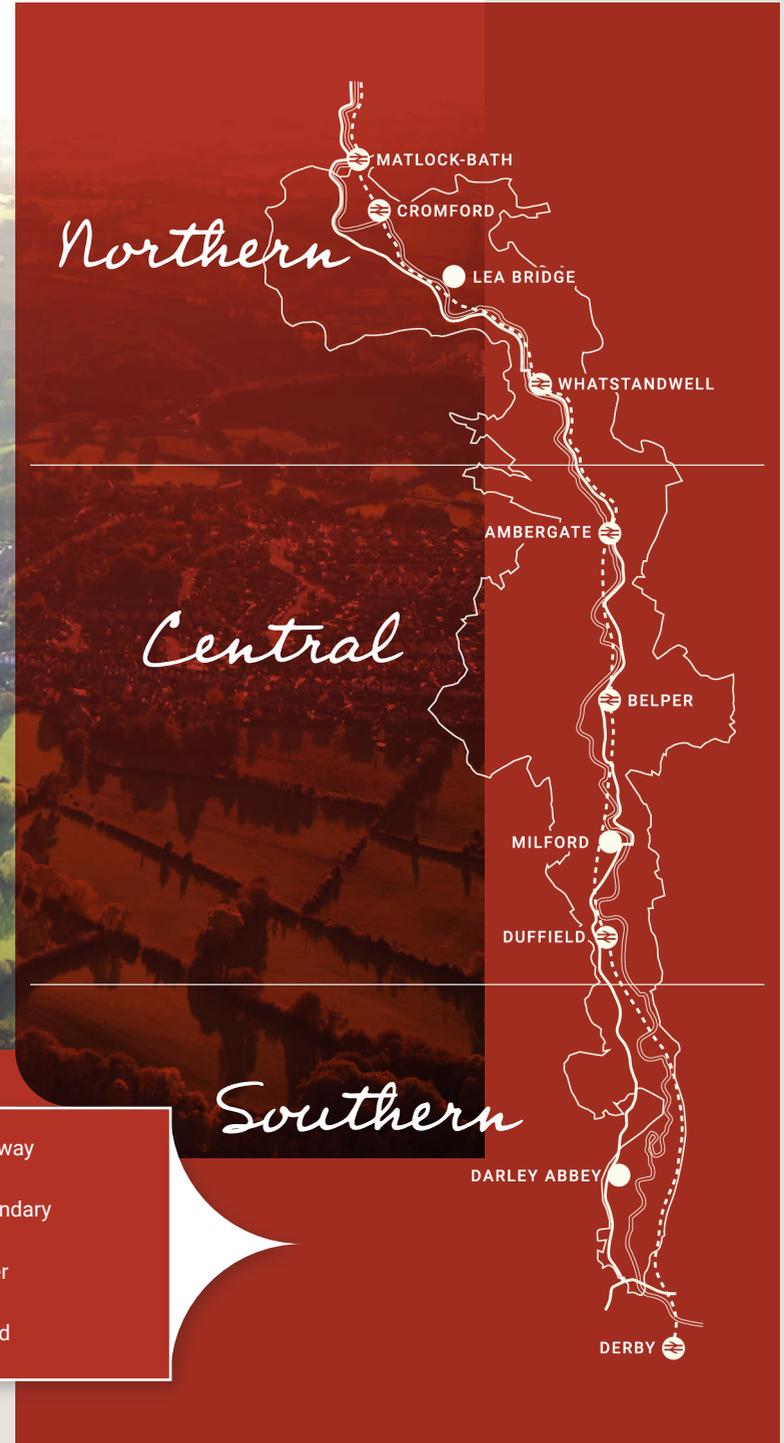
Welcome to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

This guide gives you a taste of what to discover and where to visit as you explore the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. More detailed maps and information are available from our website - www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit.

Amid breath-taking countryside in the heart of rural Derbyshire, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site follows the mighty River Derwent, which in the 18th century powered the world's first 'modern' factories, for 15 miles from Matlock Bath in the north, to the City of Derby in the south. It includes a series of historic mill complexes, river weirs, associated settlements and transport networks, all providing a fascinating insight into life at the time of the Industrial Revolution.

These icons will help you find out what facilities are available at each of our attractions -

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Toilets | Assistance Dogs |
| Wheelchair Access | Conference Facilities |
| Disabled Toilets | Tours Available |
| Audio Guide | Refreshments |
| Parking on Site | Gift Shop |



NORTHERN



This is a place of natural beauty and calm, where pioneering industrial buildings nestle in a dramatic landscape - its river and resources were once harnessed to create mills, railways, canals and new communities. Industries have come and gone, but their structures remain as testimony to the visions of Arkwright and his 18th century contemporaries who led the world with their innovations. It is a place of contrasts – of dramatic river gorge and wider valley, of natural light and factory darkness, of owner’s mansions and mill workers’ cottages, of old and new ways of labour, and of the different lives of master and worker. Where ancient industries flourished, new ideas and technologies now thrive, alongside 21st century makers and creators.

Quietly, nature has reclaimed its presence amongst the iron and stone – providing havens for wildlife and for generations of people to find peace and tranquillity amongst the imprints of the past.



*Peace and
Tranquillity*



NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Cromford Mills
- 2 Cromford Village
- 3 Masson Mills
- 4 Willersley Castle
- 5 Cromford Wharf
- 6 Cromford Canal
- 7 Birdsworth
- 8 High Peak Junction
- 9 Leawood Pumpouse
- 10 Aqueduct Cottage
- 11 John Smedley’s Mill





1 CROMFORD MILLS



Visit the birthplace of the modern factory system and the first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill established in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright. Make the most of your visit with a tour, meet Arkwright in his first mill, browse a variety of independent shops and enjoy one of the best scones in Derbyshire.

2 CROMFORD VILLAGE



Take a tour of the village Sir Richard Arkwright built for his mill workers from 1776. Highlights include the Greyhound Hotel and pond, the village lock-up, pigsties and the ingenious 'Bear Pit'.

3 MASSON MILLS

Although not currently open to the public, you can't fail to see impressive Masson Mills nestling by the A6 road just north of Cromford. The oldest part, built by Richard Arkwright in 1783, is on the northern side.

4 WILLERSLEY CASTLE

Willersley Castle was the mansion built by Sir Richard Arkwright but he died before completion. It is not open to the public but you will catch glimpses from Church Walk and Cromford Bridge, or the top of Scarthin Rock.



*Scarthin Books...
One of Britain's finest
and quirkiest bookshops,
beautifully positioned
by the village pond*



Quietly, nature has reclaimed its presence amongst the iron and stone

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Middleton Top Engine House
- National Stone Centre
- Wirksworth Heritage Centre
- Peak District Mining Museum
- Heights of Abraham
- Crich Tramway Village
- Crich Stand
- Cauldwell's Mill
- Chatsworth House
- The Peak District

5 CROMFORD WHARF



Cromford Wharf is the historic terminus of Cromford Canal. Built at the end of the 18th century, the wharf still has many of its early features, including a warehouse which has been converted into a cafe with seating by the water.

6 CROMFORD CANAL



Take a walk along the banks of the canal, built in the 1790s to unlock Derbyshire's immense mineral wealth and now a rich haven for plants and wildlife. Here you may well see little grebes, dragonflies, and maybe a water vole. Heritage features include High Peak Junction, Leawood Pumphouse, Aqueduct Cottage, Wigwell aqueduct, and Gregory's tunnel. The towpath is a wonderful way of exploring the valley between Cromford and Ambergate.

7 BIRDSWOOD



A wonderful alternative to walking the towpath is 'Birdswood', the Friends of Cromford Canal trip boat, entirely run by volunteers. There are trips throughout the year. Come and enjoy a peaceful journey along the canal, introduced by a booming announcement from the Friends' President, Brian Blessed.

8 HIGH PEAK JUNCTION



A countryside visitor centre housed in one of the world's oldest surviving railway workshops, built around 1830 and restored to how they would have looked in the 1880s. An audio guide takes visitors back to the days of steam on the Cromford and High Peak Railway. Here there are refreshments and further information on the surrounding area.

9 LEAWOOD PUMPHOUSE



This magnificent steam pump engine of 1849 is still capable of lifting 4 tonnes of water from the River Derwent to the Cromford Canal in each stroke. Run by a dedicated team of volunteers, it's open certain weekends in the summer.

10 AQUEDUCT COTTAGE

Aqueduct Cottage is one of Derbyshire's hidden gems. Located on the Cromford Canal, it was originally built as a "lengthman's cottage" in 1802 by Peter Nightingale, Florence's great uncle. Recently restored, with help from local volunteers, the charming cottage is now a visitor information centre for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

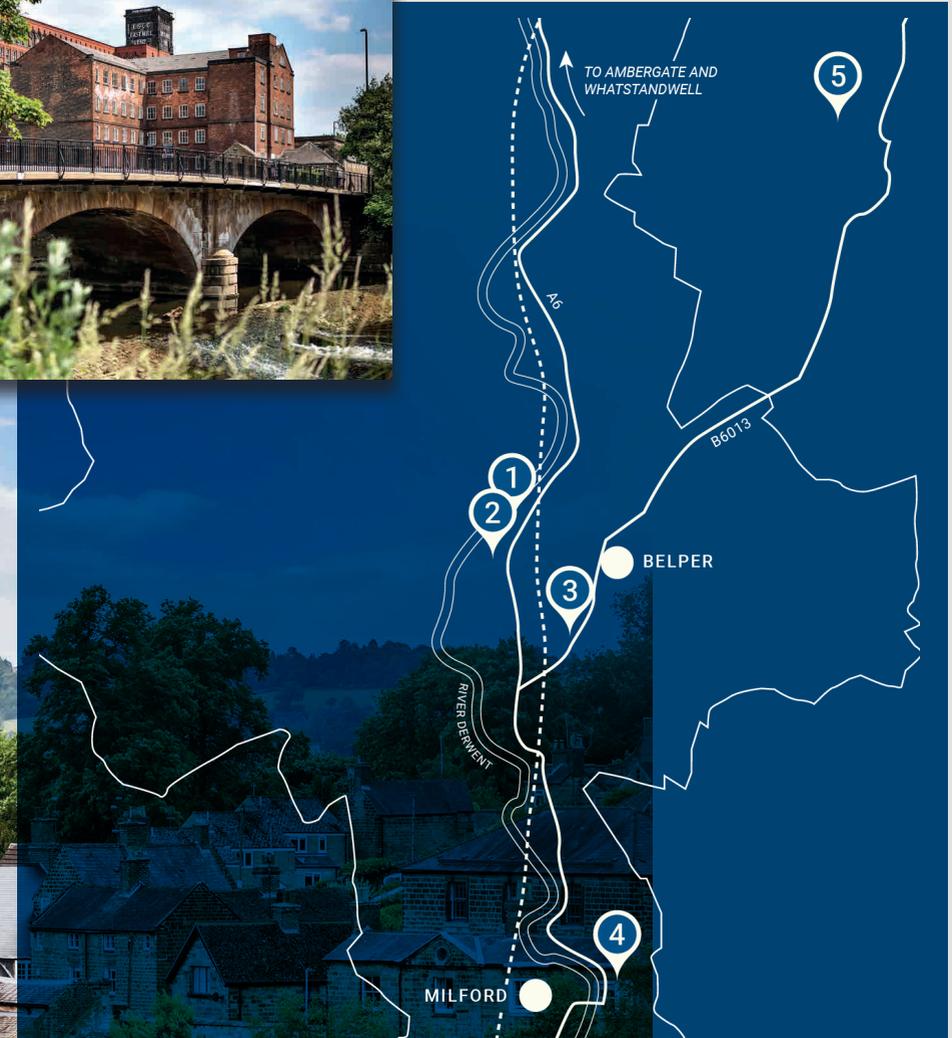
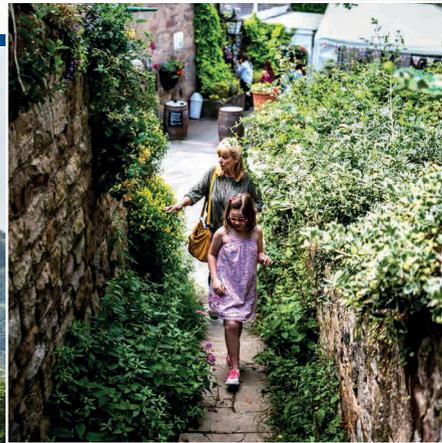
11 JOHN SMEDLEY'S MILL



John Smedley are creators of The World's Finest Knitwear. Since 1784, the mill at Lea Bridge is where they have crafted their luxury knitwear. Rooted in history and designed to last, their iconic styles and contemporary collections can be found in the Factory Shop, open 7 days a week.

CENTRAL

This is an area of friendly and welcoming communities, home to people with a strong sense of place and a deep pride in their heritage. With a tradition of entrepreneurs, creatives and independent traders, these are vibrant towns and villages which celebrate their history and community spirit through festivals of arts, music and food. Here, the Strutt family created new industrial communities in a pastoral landscape, much of which still remains. The legacy of these pioneers is everywhere to be seen – in stone-built mills, weirs, workers’ cottages, allotments and public buildings – their revolutionary ideas reaching out across the globe. Today, the community’s connection with landscape is strong. This place of wide valley views, rolling hills and a river which constantly shifts its mood – from powerful to serene - provides havens for wildlife and a sense of awe for the many who visit.



- CENTRAL HIGHLIGHTS**
- 1 Belper River Gardens
 - 2 Strutt's North Mill
 - 3 Belper Town Centre
 - 4 Milford
 - 5 Heage Windmill

Friendly and Welcoming Communities

THE LEGACY OF PIONEERS

Is Everywhere to be Seen



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- St John's Chapel
- Denby Pottery
- Midland Railway Centre
- White Peak Distillery
- Great British Car Journey
- Shipley Country Park

1 BELPER RIVER GARDENS



Enjoy the stunning views and riverside promenade of the gardens that have been offering a tranquil setting for over 100 years. Adjacent to Strutt's historic mills the flat and easy access offer a beautiful garden featuring a central bandstand, formal gardens with ducks on the mill leat pond, children's play area, river boating and a delightful riverside tea room.

2 STRUTT'S NORTH MILL



Come and explore inside this pioneering iron framed, 'fire-proof' cotton mill to discover how Jedidiah Strutt helped introduce mechanised cotton spinning to the heart of the Derwent Valley, sparking the Industrial Revolution and transforming Belper into the world's first cotton mill town. Free guided tours are included in the admission price, with a gift shop available on site.

3 BELPER TOWN CENTRE



There's lots to do and see in this historic town, twice winner in the Great British High Street Awards. Look for the World Heritage Site logo in shop windows and ambassadors with badges who can tell you what to see and do during your visit. Walk the streets of the community built by the Strutt family for mill workers from the 1780s. See the terraced housing, a nail maker's workshop and more. Group tours can be booked at Strutt's North Mill.

4 MILFORD

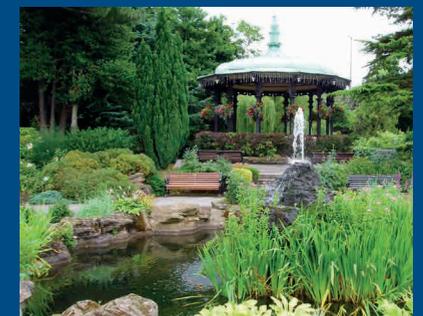


Discover the cottages, churches, pubs, school and the remains of the cotton and bleach works that were built to serve the Strutt industrial community from 1781.

5 HEAGE WINDMILL



With spectacular views towards the World Heritage Site, the windmill was lovingly restored in 2002 and looks as good as when first built in 1797. It is the only working six-sailed stone tower windmill in England.



SOUTHERN

This is a place of ancient settlements, natural beauty, making and Enlightenment. It is the birthplace of the modern factory, in a city which has been a powerhouse of creativity and manufacturing for over 300 years - where new ideas and technologies follow in the footsteps of pioneers who transformed the industrial world with their ingenuity and vision.

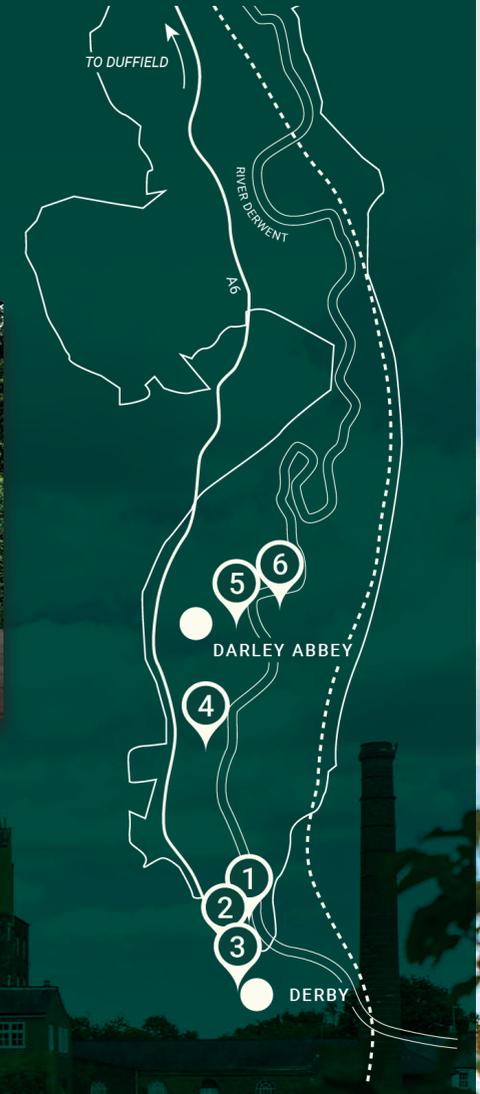
It is the site of an ancient community, rich in legends and a gateway to the open countryside of the north, where the Derwent once powered a model industrial village of mills and homes – now transformed, cherished by its residents and thriving with new businesses and entrepreneurs.

The river's rushing waters which once powered the mills widen and slow in this place. It is a serene haven for wildlife alongside Darley Park - a peaceful green breathing space for the city, ever changing with the seasons and loved by generations who have joined here to celebrate nature and life through music and song.



SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

1. Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill
2. Derby Cathedral
3. Derby Museum and Art Gallery
4. Darley Park
5. Darley Abbey
6. Darley Abbey Mills



Rich in Legend

1

MUSEUM OF MAKING AT DERBY SILK MILL



Celebrating the area's rich history of innovation, the Museum of Making is a contemporary space telling Derby's 300-year history of making to inspire new creativity. Designed and made by the people and industries of Derby with exhibits, workshops, activities and events, there's something here for everyone.

2

DERBY CATHEDRAL



The Cathedral Church of All Saints was founded in 943, and holds many important monuments of Derbyshire's past. Treasures include the tomb of Bess of Hardwick, a memorial to Florence Nightingale and the impressive wrought iron screen by Robert Bakewell.

3

DERBY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



At the Museum and Art Gallery, the works of Joseph Wright of Derby are the crown jewels of the collections. Wright's paintings and sketches embody a spirit of discovery, stimulated by the 18th century Enlightenment. He painted scenes of science, experimentation and exploration as well as enlightened men of industry and learning.

4

DARLEY PARK



Enjoy the open space of unspoilt parkland, once part of the Evans family estate, with fine views of Derby. Pause for refreshments on the terrace before exploring the national hydrangea collection in the former walled garden.

5

DARLEY ABBEY



Within walking distance of Derby city centre is the factory village of Darley Abbey, created by the Evans family from the 1780s onwards and including St Matthew's Church. Darley Abbey was once the location of a religious community in medieval times.

6

DARLEY ABBEY MILLS



Darley Abbey contains the most complete 18th century cotton mill complex in the world, built by the Evans family. Nestling by a picturesque weir and with views of the River Derwent, the many buildings have found new uses now, including cafés with seating on the riverbank, and a wedding venue.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Derby Riverboat
- Pickford's House
- Derby Gaol
- Markeaton Park
- Royal Crown Derby
- Kedleston Hall
- Elvaston Castle

Powerhouse of Creativity



GET INSPIRED



ACCESS TO ALL

Due to the historic nature of the World Heritage Site and the requirements to carry out improvements which do not negatively impact the World Heritage Site, there is still some way for us to go to say that we really have Access for All to all areas. But we are working on it! And there have been many improvements to some of the sites over the last few years.

On our website you can find detailed information to help you plan your visits to each area so that you and your family, whatever their access needs, can know what to expect, and can fully enjoy your visit to the World Heritage Site in a safe and relaxed way.



GET ACTIVE!

Walking, cycling, jogging, horse-riding, canoeing, climbing – whatever your age and fitness level, there are plenty of ways to GET ACTIVE whilst you enjoy the Derwent Valley and discover more about its history, culture and wonderful natural landscape.

You can download some of many leaflets which detail the delightful walks around the area from our website, or pick them up from any of the sites.



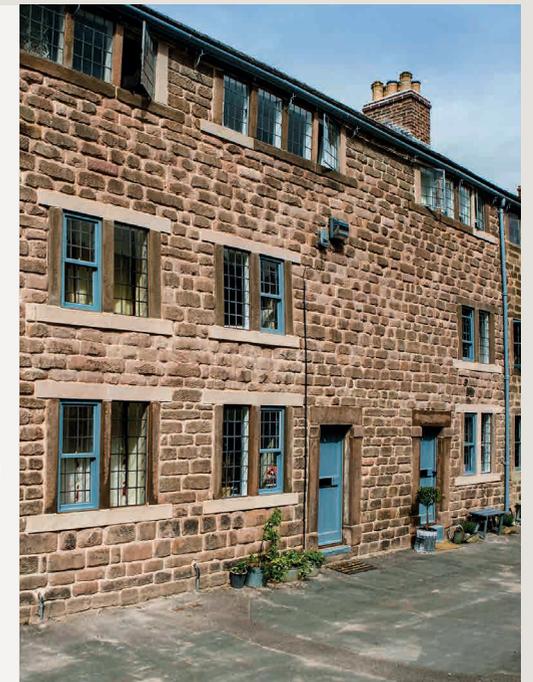
EVENTS

With a diverse range of craft markets, food festivals, carnivals and seasonal events throughout the year, there's always something happening in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



PLACES TO STAY

With so much to see and do, you'll want to stay longer than a day. Discover a unique choice of self-catering accommodation, including cosy cottages, friendly B&Bs and guest houses as well as luxury log cabins and local campsites. Find a range of places to stay at visitpeakdistrict.com.



HOW TO GET HERE

BY BUS

National Express operate regular coach services to Derby from around the UK.
Call 08717 818181 or visit: www.nationalexpress.com.

Regular bus services to destinations within the World Heritage Site include:

TransPeak (TP), an hourly, daily, limited stop service between Derby, Belper, Cromford and Buxton with some services to/from Manchester and the 6.1 between Derby, Belper, Cromford and Matlock via Wirksworth.

More frequent services operate between Derby and Belper.
For bus times, call: 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses.

Use the East Midlands Journey Planner to help plan your journey - visit www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk

BY TRAIN

Derby is well served by the national rail network. East Midlands Trains operate regular train services from Nottingham and Derby along the Derwent Valley Line to Matlock, serving all local stations including Belper and Cromford.
<https://derwentvalleyline.org.uk>

For train times, call National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

TOURIST INFORMATION

www.visitpeakdistrict.com

Derby

Riverside Chambers,
Full St, Derby DE1 3AF
Tel: 01332 643411
E-mail: tourism@derby.gov.uk
www.visitderby.co.uk

Belper

Derwent Valley Visitor Centre
Strutt's North Mill
Belper DE56 1YD
Tel: 01773 880474
E-mail: tourism@ambervalley.gov.uk

Matlock Bath

The Peak District Mining Museum
Matlock Bath DE4 3NR
Tel: 01629 583834
E-mail: tourism@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk



**VISIT
PEAK DISTRICT
& DERBYSHIRE**