

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Key Monitoring Indicators 2024

World Heritage Sites have an obligation to ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value is being maintained over time and interpreted to the public. To achieve this, monitoring indicators have been put in place, tailored to the specific values of each World Heritage Site. The data supports the periodic report compiled for UNESCO.

The aims of such monitoring indicators are:

- to assess the state of preservation & interpretation of the site in a given year and measure change over time (recording)
- to provide detailed data to the site managers so that they can improve the protection, interpretation and management of the site (informed action)

The information collected for the indicators is used to help measure impact against the World Heritage Site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2010.

That Statement of Outstanding Universal Value reads: *The cultural landscape of the Derwent valley was where the modern factory system was developed and established, to accommodate the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright and new processes for efficient production. The insertion of industrial establishments into a rural landscape necessitated the construction of housing for the workers in the mills, and the resulting settlements created an exceptional industrial landscape. The change from water to steam power in the 19th century moved the focus of the industry elsewhere and thus the main attributes of this remarkable cultural landscape were arrested in time.*

All UK World Heritage Sites have been encouraged to base their own key indicators on an extensive list of generic indicators compiled by ICOMOS UK. The DVMWHS Partnership has selected the indicators relevant to this site and agreed responsibilities for each indicator with key stakeholders.

The information gathered this year will be helpful in providing any further information which may be required by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee now that a State of Conservation reporting regime was introduced for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site in 2022.

The following indicators cover the period **1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**.

| Theme | Indicator | Assessment |
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| CONSERVATION | | |
| Protection | 1. Size of the WHS (ICOMOS INDICATOR 16) | The DVMWHS covers 1228.7 hectares. There have been no changes to the boundary in the period covered. |
| | 2. Existence of a buffer zone (ICOMOS INDICATOR 17) | A buffer zone for the DVMWHS does exist and has been in place since inscription in December 2001. There have been no changes to the boundary in the period covered. The buffer zone covers 4362.7 hectares. |
| | 3. WHS Policy in the Planning Development Framework (ICOMOS INDICATOR 1) | The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent on 26th October 2023 and sets out the Government's proposals to speed up the Local Plan making process, with a requirement for Local Plans to be prepared in 30 months. Currently, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 allows departures from a planning authority's development plan in determining a planning application where material considerations indicate that the departure is warranted. The Act modifies this provision and provides that determinations must be made in accordance with the development plan and national development management policies unless material considerations "strongly indicate" otherwise. The same weight will be given to other types of plans, including neighbourhood plans prepared by local communities. |

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| | | <p>Local planning authorities will have a new power in the Act to prepare ‘supplementary plans’, where policies for specific sites or groups of sites need to be prepared. Although the ‘duty to cooperate’ contained in existing legislation is being repealed, the Act enables groups of authorities to collaborate to produce a voluntary spatial development strategy, where they wish to provide strategic planning policies for issues that cut across their areas.</p> <p>The Act requires all local planning authorities to have a design code in place covering their entire area. The area-wide design codes will act as a framework guiding more detailed design codes for specific areas or sites and led either by the local planning authority, neighbourhood planning groups or by developers as part of planning applications. There are also measures in the Act described as strengthening the role of the planning system in protecting the historic environment. Designated heritage assets, including World Heritage Sites, will be afforded the same statutory protection in the planning system as listed buildings and conservation areas. Heritage protection policies are one of a number of issues that apply in most areas which will be set out nationally. The Act proposes that these will be contained in a suite of National Development Management Policies to be published by Government for further consultation.</p> <p>Now that Act is in place, there will be a key role for the WHS Partnership to work with the relevant local planning authorities across the designated WHS area to ensure that the DVMWHS and Buffer Zone are appropriately defined and designated as a Protected Area in their new style Local Plans. There will also be a role for the partnership to ensure that Local Design Codes appropriately take into consideration the importance of the OUV of the WHS and its Buffer Zone. Furthermore, it will be important for the WHS Partnership to provide comment on any consultation that may be published by the new Government on National Development Management Policies that will include policies for World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Although the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill received Royal Assent on 26th October 2023, it is not clear at the time of writing whether the new Government (following the General Election in July 2024), will take forward any of the provisions in the Act. In the Kings Speech on 17 July 2024, it was announced that the new Government would publish a new Bill, which would set out its proposed reforms to the planning system through a Planning and Infrastructure Bill.</p> <p>To support the passage of the Bill through Parliament, in December 2023 the Government published a revised National Planning Policy framework. Section 16 of the Framework contains policies for Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. Paragraph 195, in particular, states that:</p> <p><i>Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.</i></p> <p>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</p> <p>District and borough councils are responsible for preparing plans</p> |
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| | | <p>and policies for the development and use of land (excluding minerals and waste) in their administrative areas. Derbyshire County Council prepares local planning policies for minerals and waste development, using the 'National Planning Policy for Waste' (16 October 2014) for waste matters. Local planning authorities prepare their Local Plans and determine planning applications in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and regularly updated online Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>MINERALS AND WASTE PLANS</p> <p>Derbyshire County Council prepares local planning policies for minerals and waste development, using the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance, and the updated national waste planning policy, 'National Planning Policy for Waste' (16 October 2014) which replaced 'Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management' as the national planning policy for waste in England.</p> <p>The Derby and Derbyshire Minerals and Waste Local Plans contain policies which protect interests of acknowledged environmental importance, including the World Heritage Site. These plans are currently being reviewed, particularly to update them to take account of the revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. A public consultation on the Derby and Derbyshire Draft Minerals Plan took place between 2 March and 26 April 2022. A further consultation on the Derby and Derbyshire Pre-Submission Draft Minerals Local Plan took place between 7th March and 2nd May 2023. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2024, with an Examination in Public of the Plan likely to take place in the Spring of 2025. Consultation on an Issues and Options Waste Local Plan is anticipated in the Spring of 2025.</p> |
| | 4. Planning guidance for development in the WHS (ICOMOS INDICATOR 18) | <p>In October 2021, responding to concerns by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre over planning decisions in the DVMWHS, three training sessions were offered to officers and councillors with responsibility for planning decisions and recommendations across each of the authorities covering the DVMWHS. In January 2024, these training sessions were extensively updated and revised, and delivered through Microsoft Teams. For those unable to attend the sessions, a link to a video version of the presentation was made available and can be found at https://youtu.be/Ow3htWv07mY. The training draws on guidance from the current DVMWHS Management Plan. Local planning authorities have been encouraged to use the training video when inducting new councillors and planning officers.</p> <p>From 2010 to 2021, Derbyshire Local Planning Authorities carried out reviews of their Local Plans, with the majority of Local Plans adopted and providing an up-to-date context for development. In the meantime, authorities which did not have such plans "saved" all relevant (old) Local Plan policies that were needed to determine planning applications and guide development. Since around 2021, most Local Planning Authorities in the county have commenced work on further new reviews of their Local Plans with revised plan timescales of around 2039/40.</p> <p>The World Heritage Site is covered by policies in the Local Plans for the five planning authorities: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council.</p> <p>Derbyshire Dales</p> |

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| | | <p>The Examination in Public of the Draft Local Plan took place in Summer 2017. The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was formally adopted by Council on 17 December 2017.</p> <p>Policy PD2: Protecting the Historic Environment, seeks to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. This will take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and will ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the character of the built and historic environment. The policy indicates that particular protection will be given to designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings including the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Derbyshire Dales District Council has adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) relating to: The Conversion of Farm Buildings (revised and re-adopted - 2019); Shop Fronts & Commercial Properties (revised and re-adopted - 2019); and Landscape Character (adopted – 2007).</p> <p>In early 2021, Derbyshire Dales District Council commenced a review of its Local Plan. On 23 June 2021, the District Council published its Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, which seeks to identify key social, economic and environmental issues that will need to be addressed in the Local Plan Review. Reference is made in Chapter 17: Heritage, to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and the aims of the WHS Management Plan, as important considerations which will need to be taken account of in preparation of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p>In July 2021 Derbyshire Dales District Council adopted a 'Climate Change' supplementary planning document.</p> <p>Amber Valley</p> <p>The saved policies of the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan (2006) includes a policy relating to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, its buffer zone and Management Plan (policy EN29). Policy EN7 also relates to landscape character areas and includes reference to the presence and pattern of historic landscape features. Policy EN32 states that planning permission will not be granted for development proposals that would have an adverse impact on the landscape character of a registered Historic Park and Garden or its setting.</p> <p>Amber Valley Borough Council has adopted Supplementary Planning Documents on Residential Development (which includes extensions and the conversion of farm buildings), Shop Fronts and Advertisements, Listed Buildings and Buildings in Conservation Areas and Development and Recreational Open Space. A Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Brief for land between the A6 and the river Derwent has also been adopted by the Borough Council.</p> <p>A new Amber Valley Borough Local Plan which included a specific policy relating to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site was prepared and was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 2 March 2018. An Examination in Public took place in June 2018 but was suspended by the Inspector pending further work by Amber Valley Borough Council, particularly the need to carry out a strategic Green Belt Review of the Borough. Following the completion of a Green Belt Review, the Council published a Green Belt Amendments & Additional</p> |
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| | | <p>Site Allocations document in March 2019, for public consultation. Following the receipt of representations, the Council resolved in May 2019 to withdraw the Submission Local Plan. A proposed indicative programme and timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan through to adoption was agreed by the Council in November 2019 and this was subsequently confirmed in January 2020. This programme and timescale were subsequently refreshed by the Borough Council in June 2021. On 8 July 2021, Amber Valley Borough Council published Alternative Strategy Options for Housing and Economic Growth as a first key stage of preparation of the new Local Plan.</p> <p>Following the receipt and consideration of representations, on 15 July 2022, the Borough Council published a Preferred Spatial Strategy for Housing and Economic Growth up to 2039, together with draft policies which reflect that strategy, along with some other draft policies relating to other specific issues.</p> <p>On 1 March 2023, the Borough Council then agreed the policies to be included in a Pre-Submission Local Plan, together with a refreshed programme and timetable, including a revised target for adoption by June 2024. Officers were also given delegated authority to agree the detailed format and content of the Pre-Submission Local Plan and other documents, prior to publication.</p> <p>The agreed policies include an up-to-date policy in relation to the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone to reflect current national policy, as set out in the NPPF. Minor amendments to the wording of the policy, as agreed on 1 March 2023, will be made prior to publication, following engagement with the World Heritage Site Partnership.</p> <p>Derby</p> <p>The Derby City Local Plan Part 1 (DCLP1) - was adopted in January 2017. The DCLP1 contains policies specifically relating to the DVMWHS as well as the preservation and enhancement of heritage assets more generally. The Plan also contains a policy specifically relating to the Darley Abbey Mills Complex to help guide sensitive regeneration. These include CP20 (Historic Environment), AC9 (DVMWHS) and AC10 (Darley Abbey Mills).</p> <p>Since the adoption of the DCLP1, the Government introduced a requirement for Local Authorities to review their Local Plans within five years of adoption. The Council carried out a review of policies in 2021 to assess whether they remain consistent with national policies and whether there have been any significant changes in circumstances. A report was taken to Council Cabinet in December 2021 concluding that the only area where existing planning policies are no longer consistent with national policy are those dealing with meeting housing requirements, reflecting changes to the Government's standard methodology. This inconsistency on its own indicates that a new Local Plan is needed. Cabinet subsequently authorised work to commence on preparing a new Local Plan.</p> <p>In early 2024 a survey was carried out to get feedback on the key issues and priorities to be addressed by the new Local Plan. Over 500 responses were received, and they are being analysed to help inform the development of a draft Plan.</p> <p>The change to the housing requirement figure also affects decision making on planning applications. Now that the DCLP1 is beyond its</p> |
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| | | <p>5-year review date, there is a need to use the standard methodology housing requirement figure, rather than the current Local Plan target, to calculate the 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites. Given the significant increase, the Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5-year supply. As well as necessitating an update to policies, not having a 5-year supply means invoking the presumption in favour of sustainable development or ‘tilted balance’ in terms of determining planning applications.</p> <p>Following publication of the Council’s City Centre ‘Ambition’ document in 2022, the Council commissioned consultants to produce City Centre Design Guidance. The guidance has been informed by other work such as the Tall Buildings Study and the City Skyline & Significant Views Assessment. There is an intention to consult on a draft of the guidance later in 2024, before seeking Cabinet endorsement (subject to consultation responses) for the guidance to be a material consideration in decision making.</p> <p>Erewash</p> <p>The Erewash Core Strategy (Local Plan) was adopted on 6 March 2014. In addition to the strategic policies from the development above, the Borough Council continues to protect the character and appearance of the extent of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site that falls within its boundaries. Specifically, Saved Policy EV19 demonstrates the planning circumstances in which development will be deemed acceptable within the WHS area as identified through the Council’s policies map, whilst also siting key factors which require consideration when planning proposals for this part of the Borough are received (visual impact, traffic generation, scale of design, construction material, loss of historic landscape/cultural heritage and impacts on the wider environment).</p> <p>A number of other local policy instruments exist which, both individually and collectively, help to protect the WHS from inappropriate forms of development that if approved would threaten to harm its character and/or setting. Most notably, the WHS also corresponds with Erewash’s designated Green Belt (see Policy 3 of the adopted Erewash Core Strategy), offering the WHS strong policy protection that sees many forms of development considered acceptable in non-GB locations to be viewed as inappropriate by the Borough Council.</p> <p>In addition to the protection afforded to the WHS through its inclusion within the Erewash Green Belt, a number of other policies are in place to help preserve the characteristics of the WHS. Of note, these include Core Strategy Policy 10: Design & Enhancing Local Identity, Policy 11: The Historic Environment and Policy 13: Culture, Sport & Tourism. The WHS given its proximity to the River Derwent also supports a number of water-based ecological assets helping to maintain a thriving and diverse biodiversity within its extent inside Erewash, and Policy 17: Biodiversity provides protection to such assets.</p> <p>A range of more Development Control-orientated policies can be found throughout the Saved Policies document. Policies such as H12: Quality & Design (of Residential Development), EV5: Conservation Areas (Rigga Bank CA is located wholly within the extent of the WHS, whilst a small element of the Little Eaton CA is also situated within the area defined by EV19) and EV6 & EV7</p> |
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| | | <p>establish the Borough Council's approach to development affecting Listed Buildings and Buildings of Local Interest.</p> <p>Erewash Borough Council commenced a review of its Adopted Core Strategy (Local Plan) in 2019, which is being carried out concurrently with Local Plan Reviews being undertaken by the other local planning authorities in the Greater Nottingham Housing Market Area. As a first key stage in preparation of the Core Strategy Review, in January 2020, Erewash Borough Council published its Erewash Core Strategy Options for Growth for consultation. This was followed by a further consultation in March 2021 on its Erewash Core Strategy Revised Options for Growth. Consultation on the Submission draft was launched in January 2022, with the draft Erewash Core Strategy Review being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in November 2022. The Core Strategy Review Hearings concluded in June 2024, after the period covered in this report.</p> <p>National guidance</p> <p>The Government published its revised National Planning Policy Framework in December 2023, which is supported by associated online Planning Practice Guidance, as part of its reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment, and to promote sustainable growth. The online Planning Practice Guidance is updated on an ongoing basis as needed.</p> <p>The historic environment section includes policies for World Heritage Sites. These are highlighted as being of the highest significance as heritage assets, which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value and that such assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. The revised Framework reaffirms that Heritage Impact Assessments are good practice, and changes to World Heritage Attributes must only be in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The Framework requires that, when considering the impact of proposed development on the significance of designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Where a proposed development would lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.</p> <p>Specifically in respect of World Heritage Sites, paragraph 212 requires that local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.</p> <p>Paragraph 213 also emphasises that not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm</p> |
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| | | <p>under paragraph 207 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 208, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.</p> <p>The revised Framework provides greater emphasis on creating safe, beautiful and sustainable developments of high-quality design.</p> <p>There is a clear emphasis in the Framework on improving the design quality of new developments. Local authorities will now be required to produce local design codes or guides with the intention of creating well-designed, beautiful and safe places. Significant weight should now be given to development which reflects local and government design guidance and policy and development not well designed should be refused.</p> <p>There will be a presumption in favour of sustainable development with a requirement that "all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects". There will be an emphasis on the use of trees in new developments (both tree-lined and in wider green spaces) with a long-term maintenance requirement also introduced.</p> |
| | 5. Designations (ICOMOS INDICATOR 19) | <p>There are 370 Listed properties in the WHS which are comprised of over 860 individual homes, businesses and structures. There are 13 Scheduled Monuments and 812 Monument records (records of other heritage assets) on the Historic Environment Record. The percentage of the WHS protected by designations (including Scheduled Monuments; Conservation Areas; Local Wildlife Sites; Special Protection Areas; Special Areas of Conservation; Ramsar sites; National Nature Reserves; Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Local Nature Reserves) is 55.1%. The percentage of the buffer zone covered by the same designations is 36.4%.</p> |
| Condition of site | 6. List and number of cultural features in poor condition (ICOMOS INDICATOR 2) | <p>A condition survey of key features based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS, including fixed point photography, has been achieved. It has been agreed this survey take place every five years, as part of the quinquennial review for the Management Plan. The latest survey was in April 2022.</p> <p>Buildings at Risk A general air of relative prosperity throughout the settlements of the World Heritage Site obscures several instances of significant buildings seriously at risk from neglect and under-use.</p> <p><u>Amber Valley</u> Due to the addition of Belper's East Mill, there are 9 buildings at risk in the Borough that lie within the World Heritage Site, 3 of which are also on the Historic England 'Register of Heritage at Risk' (grade I and II* listed). The North Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper is the earliest example of a completely iron framed mill in the world and is currently in poor condition. Applications for full planning permission and Listed Building Consent for a mixed-use development, including conversion of the iconic East Mill to 117 apartments, were submitted in October 2018; the application is pending and has not been determined. An offer of grant assistance from the WHS-focused NLHF/ACE</p> |

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| | | <p>Great Place Scheme was offered to the owners of the Mill site, for a fully costed condition survey and repairs schedule. The planning applications are on-going. Following further and ongoing negotiations a revised submission is expected.</p> <p>Substantial repairs have been completed to the Former Canal Lengthman's Cottage, by Cromford Canal.</p> <p>Following a partial roof collapse, at the end of 2021, work has commenced to convert the former Fuchs warehouse (once occupied by Dalton and Co. Ltd. Silkolene Lubricants, Derby Road) to apartments. It remains one of the 9 buildings at risk, in the WHS until the project is complete. The project has stalled but additional information from the agent is anticipated.</p> <p>The current mixed use of De Bradelei Mills (Mills occupied by George Brettle and Co Ltd Chapel Street), is the subject of a change of use application to an apartment style hotel to the upper floors of part of the complex. The De Bradelei Mills application is still being reviewed, in liaison with the applicant, and further extensive information is being sought on a number of aspects.</p> <p>The owner of Pottery Methodist Chapel is still developing plans for an application for the re-development of the site. The Authority (Enforcement) is still in regular contact with the owner, to monitor progress. Substantial clearance works were previously carried out, internally, and the owner had also purchased a strip of land adjacent to the rear of the property to facilitate better access.</p> <p><u>Derby</u></p> <p>There are a number of buildings at risk in the City that lie within the World Heritage Site.</p> <p>A number of these are included within 3 entries on the Historic England 'Register of Heritage at Risk' (grade I and II* listed) which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Darley Abbey Mills (South complex) Long Mill and West Mill - roof and general repairs have been completed to Long Mill. It is to remain on the list until necessary repairs have been carried out on all buildings within this entry where needed. ▪ Darley Abbey Mills (North complex) North Mill, Engine House and Boiler House, ▪ Darley Abbey Mills (North Complex) preparation building, cottage, workshop & cart sheds. Old Lane, Darley Abbey. <p>Within the buffer zone there was one entry on the Historic England National List; Allestree Hall. The park, former golf course, is now part of a rewilding project with Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Work is underway to investigate future possible uses for the Hall to support the rewilding project. This may include bids for National Lottery Heritage funding. The building is currently not occupied, and condition of the building is currently being reassessed.</p> <p><u>Derbyshire Dales</u></p> <p>Planning permission and listed building consent have expired for the reinstatement of the Cromford Mill Aqueduct (valid until end of 2010). Whilst discussions have taken place with the Arkwright Society, the District Council and Derbyshire County Council, reinstatement is being delayed by the requirements of the Highway Authority. Discussions are intermittently being undertaken with the Arkwright Society, Historic England and Derbyshire County Council Highways Authority.</p> <p>At the end of March 2024, Derbyshire Dales District Council had one</p> |
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| | | <p>entry within the WHS included on the Historic England 'Register of Heritage at Risk' which includes: Buildings 1, 18 & 26, & Aqueduct, Cromford Mill, Mill Road (Grade I).</p> <p><u>Erewash</u> Erewash does not have any entries on the Buildings at Risk register which relate to buildings within the DVMWHS.</p> |
| | 7. List and condition of natural features within the WHS (ICOMOS INDICATORS 3 & 4) | <p><u>Woodland</u> There are 1169 ha of woodland of all types and all sizes in the WHS and the Buffer Zone. Area of ancient woodland is 555.39ha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of ancient semi-natural woodland (excluding plantation on ancient woodland site) is 403.3 ha of which 220 ha is known to be managed positively. • The area of PAWS is 152.07 ha of which 65.5 ha is managed. <p><u>Grassland</u> The total area of semi-natural grassland in the WHS and the Buffer Zone is 311 ha. This figure includes semi-improved and unimproved grassland (whereas before semi-improved was excluded) Of which –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 138.8 ha lowland dry acid grassland (priority habitat). • 5.53 ha lowland calcareous grassland (priority habitat). • 159.5 ha lowland meadow (priority habitat). • 9.5 ha Lowland Fen (priority habitat). • 1.99 ha Purple Moor-grass and rush-pasture (priority habitat). <p>This represents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.25% of the total Ancient Woodland in Derbyshire • 18.28% of lowland acid grassland in Derbyshire (outside Peak District National Park) • 1.27% of calcareous grassland in Derbyshire (outside Peak District National Park) • 8.74% of lowland meadow in Derbyshire (outside Peak District National Park) • 6.57% of lowland fen • 6.50% of Purple Moor-grass and rush-pasture |
| Development pressure | 8. Number of planning applications in the WHS (ICOMOS INDICATOR 15) | <p>Amber Valley Borough Council Total number of applications in the WHS =126; Permitted – 96; Refused – 7; Withdrawn – 15; Application returned – 8.</p> <p>Total number of application site in the Buffer Zone = 197. Permitted – 157; Refused – 11; Withdrawn – 16; Application returned – 12; Dismissed = 1.</p> <p>Derby City Council Within WHS: 23 Applications received – 18 determined, 4 undetermined. 1 Withdrawn. Determined: 15 Granted Conditionally (4 FUL apps, 10 LBA, 1 CAT - Trees in CA). 3 Raise No Objection (CAT) Undetermined: (2 FUL, 2 LBA)</p> <p>Within WHS Buffer : 93 Applications received – 81 Determined, 10 Undetermined, 2 Withdrawn. Determined: 68 Granted Conditionally (39 FUL, 8 TPO, 6 LBA Consents, 2 CLPD - Certificate of lawful Proposed development, 2 ADV, 7 CAT, 3 Non-material amendment (NONM), 1 Certificate of lawful Existing development). 8 Refused (1 ADV, 7 FUL, 1 CLPD); 4 Raise No Objection (4 CAT); 1 Raise Objection (CAT).</p> |

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| | | <p>30-44 WHS 879; BZ 5,288</p> <p>45-64 WHS 1515; BZ 9,041</p> <p>Retirement Age WHS 1138; BZ 6,504</p> |
| Tourism | 11. Number profile and satisfaction of visitors to the WHS (ICOMOS INDICATORS 8 & 10) | <p>In 2023-2024 the recorded visitors for Middleton Top, High Peak Junction, Leawood Pumphouse, Birdswood, Strutt's North Mill, Belper River Gardens, Cromford Mill, John Smedley's, Masson Mill, Derby Museums (Museum of Making, Museum and Art Gallery and Pickford's House) and the Georgian Derbyshire Festival were 504,912.</p> <p>The figures are increasing each year following the pandemic but are not yet at the levels of 2019 as more attractions are now open across the DVMWHS.</p> <p>The Museum of Making was closed for 3 months following flooding in October 2023, so this impacted on the visitor figures for the period.</p> |
| | 12. Economic impact (ICOMOS INDICATORS 12 & 14) | <p>For the period covered by this report at Cromford Mills 10 new businesses located to the mill complex, 6 new co-workers during this period, and 9 new virtual tenants. In Darley Abbey Mills 2 new businesses located to the mill complex and created 4 new jobs. In the Amber Valley area of the DVMWHS, 48 businesses were supported over the year through Vision Derbyshire, 142 businesses engaged with D2N2, there were also 4 shop front grants and 1 business start-up grant. The data collected by AVBC is different to previous years as the focus has changed since the end of the pandemic. The value of secondary spend in the DVMWHS was worth £12,405,189 (this is calculated on visitor numbers using the Economic Value of the Independent Museum Sector: Toolkit)</p> |
| | 13. Local Community Involvement (ICOMOS INDICATOR 37) | <p>Community groups which support one or more of the aims of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site include: The Arkwright Society; Friends of Cromford Canal; Belper Historical Society; Belper North Mill Trust and Volunteers; Darley Abbey Community Association; Darley Abbey Society; Friends of Belper River Gardens; Friends of Darley Open Spaces; Belper Clusters Group, Belper Neighbourhood Plan Group, Darley Abbey Historical Group, Milford and Makeney Community Group and The Belper Strutts Society.</p> <p>There are usually about 80 active volunteers helping at the key mill sites. This reduced significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic and is only slowly recovering during the time covered by this report. Over the year 25,353 volunteer hours were recorded from Strutt's North Mill, Cromford Mill and Derby Museums, Friends of Cromford Canal and Leawood Pumphouse. The volunteer hours are now increasing as more of the attractions are open and running more regularly.</p> <p>Community engagement projects are diverse and manifold across the site. Some are aligned closely with the work of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site team; others involve the work of partners but take place within the World Heritage Site itself and help promote the site. Examples are wide-ranging and include; community groups being heavily involved in consultation relating to the Belper Mills World Heritage Matters Project helping to create a sustainable and viable alternative plan for the Belper Mills and a community Christmas tree festival at Cromford Mills.</p> <p>Work is underway to refresh and deliver the Ambassador schemes at Belper and Darley Abbey with the plan to expand this for a new scheme in Cromford in 2024/5.</p> |
| Education and | 14. Educational resources and activities | <p>The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) education and promotion continued throughout this period with significant</p> |

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| Promotion | (ICOMOS INDICATOR 11) | <p>changes across a lot of the sites and organisations.</p> <p>The DVMWHS Learning Group met throughout the year both online and in person sharing best practice and monitoring progress against the Engagement aim of DVMWHS management plan. The DVMWHS central coordinating team does not have its own learning or engagement coordinator but the new DVMWHS Assistant Coordinator is delivering some educational and promotional work.</p> <p>DVMWHS Coordination Team Education and Promotional Delivery: In depth public consultation with specific community groups and widescale online promotion and surveying took place relating to the Belper Mills, World Heritage Matters project looking to create an alternative, sustainable future plan for the Belper Mill complex.</p> <p>School presentations about the DVMWHS took place at 2 schools and activity loan boxes went out to 3 schools to take part in creative learning activities linked to the DVMWHS. Family events were delivered in Summer 2023 at High Peak Junction “Treemendous Trees” focusing on the relict landscape of the DVMWHS. Support was provided to develop, train and induct new education specific and visitor focused staff at Cromford Mills, Masson Mills and Belper North Mill.</p> <p>50 people attended a fully booked research conference “Research as a Resource” relating to the DVMWHS in November 2023. This shared research findings on a wide range of themes and topics and how they can be used as a resource to inspire new educational walks, talks, events and arts.</p> <p>Wayfinding schemes with interpretation boards and waterwheel plaques all featuring QR codes with links to heritage information were launched in Darley Abbey, Milford and Belper. These heritage trails help to guide visitors and educate on the DVMWHS highlighting key heritage features of the settlements.</p> <p>The DVMWHS Newsletter was collated and issued in December 2023. Social media from the DVMWHS Meta and X channels shared information about events and activities, how to visit but also educational content on reasons for UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription and our Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>Georgian Derbyshire Festival: Derbyshire in the Georgian Era was a place of wonder, of surprises and innovations – a place which attracted the attention of the rich and provided better homes for workers. In the valley of the River Derwent, water was put to work to power the world’s first factories. Further north, the stark, beautiful landscapes of the Peak District and health-giving waters brought the county’s first tourists to Buxton and Matlock Bath.</p> <p>To celebrate this fascinating era, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust and Bakewell Old House Museum worked together to provide 47 public events and activities over three weekends in September and October 2023 to raise the profile of Derbyshire’s contribution to world history at that time. In total 1872 participants took place in a wide-ranging programme of walks, talks, events, creative workshops and a Georgian Ball.</p> <p>Enslavement Acknowledgement, Diversity and Representation:</p> |
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| | | <p>“Standing in this place” is a Heritage Project by sculptor Rachel Carter in collaboration with the Legacy Makers. It highlights the contributions and connections between white mill workers and black enslaved women uprooted to the Americas, showing how their stories and histories are connected by cotton, sorrow, strength and resilience. Community work, maquettes, videos and objects were threaded through one of the floors of the Derby Silk Mill Museum of Making to exhibit and share the research and collaboration towards the production of this sculpture. An accompanying “Speak her name” textiles exhibition also took place at Artcore in Derby. Preparations are underway to combine this work and tour to Masson Mills in 2024 showcasing this important story and exhibition.</p> <p>Cromford Mills: School visits Schools April 2023- August 2023 = 24 (1186 children) Schools sept 2023- Dec 2023= 23 (918 children) Schools Jan 2024- March 2024 = 24 (990 children) From April 2023 to March 2024, Cromford Mills welcomed a total of 71 school visits across the year, which ranged from EYFS to University and also includes several international virtual tours. This means that approximately 3,100 students were able to access Education at Cromford Mills and be introduced to or expand their knowledge of the DVMWHS. Our most popular programme by far is Children of the Mills, with approximately 35 school choosing this day for their visit. This is an immersive day where children dress up and imagine how it might be to work at Cromford Mills as a child during Richard Arkwright’s time.</p> <p>During the 2023 summer holidays we had a ‘Play Through the Ages’ activity room, with free activities related to Cromford Mills and the wider DVMWHS to encourage families to spend more time at the site. We held an October Half Term Trail ‘Autumn Explorers’, which was slightly dampened by the flooding in October but made a nice addition to the site. Our events team also created well attended activities for the February half term and Easter weekend, which involved vintage games and a ‘Hide and Beak’ duck hunt. We are hoping to develop our informal offer over the 2024 summer holidays and beyond. We held our annual community Christmas Tree Festival, where we welcomed 11 community groups from performing arts centres to primary schools to Morris dancers. We have also welcomed several groups such as Brownies and Scouts to run bespoke sessions such as pond dipping, Christmas Crafts and Textile Activities.</p> <p>In March 2023, we welcomed students from the University of Derby to create installations around the site, which enhanced the visitor offer and made an interesting and exciting addition to the site. We have also had our brand-new waterwheel installed! Alongside this we have run water powered centred activities and pushed our Wonderful Waterwheels educational programme for schools. Cromford Mills also had the exciting opportunity to form a partnership with YMCA Derbyshire to build entrepreneurship skills within the residents. This helped introduce a different audience to the DVMWHS, so really enjoyed their visits to the site and were very excited by events such as Shine A Light. It was great to see the interest and enthusiasm for heritage settings grow within the participants and we are looking forward to working with them again later this year. We will also be working with YMCA Leicestershire on</p> |
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| | | <p>their project My Heritage My Future to host a placement student for 6 months. We also hosted work experience placements for two students in February to March and we will be welcoming two more students in July.</p> <p>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust: Aqueduct cottage on the Cromford Canal has been open every weekend with 2 hosts. During May at least 1210 visitors passed through the cottage where there is ample opportunity to learn about the DVMWHS. Wildlife artists have been present at the site who have helped contribute to increased footfall and bring people in to learn about the World Heritage Site. Premium and Heritage Birdwood boat trips are run along the canal facilitated by Friends of Cromford Canal. Aqueduct Cottage is included in this which again links up well to the WHS – a trip led this weekend had 40 people in attendance.</p> <p>Belper North Mill Trust : The Strutt’s North Mill team have been continuing to develop their educational offer both on site from Archway House and as part of an outreach programme. There are regular site tours and heritage walks engaging both individuals and families in the history of Belper, the mills, the Strutt family and their workers, as well as highlighting the importance of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.</p> <p>The team have engaged with the public at local fairs and events, appealing to new audiences with opportunities to take part in our activities. Our committed role in the community saw visits to libraries, special interest groups and care homes to deliver informative talks and educational workshops, which have been very well received.</p> <p>Throughout the half term holidays three different craft and games events with 210 people taking part were delivered, as well as being instrumental in a local history celebration at Milford School with a further 80 attendees, and 20 participants for the Georgian Festival. School activities continued to grow, with outreach sessions for three primary schools engaging 245 students and welcoming 80 local secondary school students to the Belper Mills site. A relationship has been developed with the Royal School for the Deaf having provided an interactive outreach programme with more planned for this year.</p> <p>As part of joint working with the Arkwright Society, the volunteers have been assisting the education team at Cromford Mills with their school visits, as well as advising on ways to build on their offer. The team are committed to developing and delivering educational sessions whenever the opportunities arise, to keep spreading the word of the importance of the history of Belper and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site</p> <p>Masson Mills: 1,393 visitors attended the newly reopened Textile Museum taking part in self-guided and guided public and privately booked tours. The first hand-sewing workshop was held in the Visitor Centre on the 28th March and that continues to run monthly. Work continues with PhD student, Sue Russel who is studying at the University of Derby using weaving as a research tool. She is studying Masson Mills and the people that have worked there, from the eighteenth century to the present. Sue is regularly weaving on a 16-shaft dual warp beam hand loom in the Visitor</p> |
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| | 15. Number of visitors to website (ICOMOS INDICATOR 35) | The www.derwentvalleymills.org website continues to be available and updated regularly providing a globally-accessible source of in-depth information about the Derwent Valley Mills. From April 2023 to March 2024 there were 41,204 sessions on the website with 78,922 page views. The DVMWHS Meta (Facebook) page has grown from 2422 to 3140 followers in the last year. The DVMWHS X (Twitter) account has gone from 5186 to 5206 followers. Both channels have daily posts highlighting events, activities, visitor opportunities and the stories and OUV of the DVMWHS. |
| Sustainable transport | 16. % of visitors arriving or travelling within the WHS by other means than car (ICOMOS INDICATOR 40) | <p>Trying to establish a percentage of people not using a car to visit and move around the WHS has proven to be difficult, as so much movement within the Site is not recorded.</p> <p>In May 2023, all Derwent Valley Line Monday to Saturday services were reinstated to/from Nottingham, providing an hourly Monday to Saturday service between Nottingham, Derby, Belper and Matlock. Sunday services also operate between Nottingham, Derby, Belper and Matlock. All these train services call at every station in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Derwent Valley Line passenger journeys have recovered to 83% of pre COVID levels. In 2023/24, compared to 2022/23 there has been an 8.7% increase in passenger journeys along the line with notable increases of 16% at Cromford and 19% at Duffield.</p> |
| Green agenda | 17. Environmental policy (ICOMOS INDICATOR 42) | <p>Derbyshire County Council commissioned a Derby, Derbyshire and Peak District National Park Renewable Energy Study on behalf of the County Council, Derby City Council, the eight district and borough councils and the Peak District National Park Authority. The study was commissioned in December 2021 and a final version of the Study completed in 2022. A key aim of the study was to provide the constituent local planning authorities in the study area with essential evidence to inform the development of future planning policy on renewable energy and guide new renewable energy developments to the most suitable locations in the study area, taking into account key policy and environmental constraints, which includes the World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Units of electricity produced by hydropower from turbines at the mill sites in the DVMWHS, between April 2023 and March 2024 are as follows: Milford - 1066 MWh Belper - 1622 MWh Masson – 744 MWh Total – 3432 MWh</p> <p>A general offset in CO2 emissions can be calculated using a 0.25 multiplier per MWh, this is just a rule of thumb as the UK energy mix varies over time. This gives us a figure of 858 tonnes of CO2 saved per year, an improvement on last year driven by both wet weather and operational improvements at Masson.</p> <p>A new waterwheel was installed at the Cromford Mills Complex in the winter of 2023/4, and now provides about a quarter of the overall power needs for the site.</p> <p>Support for Transition Groups continues in the DVMWHS. Transition Belper actively promotes a green agenda for the area and maintains a list of around 800 subscribers to its e-bulletins. Subscriber rates for its bulletins were maintained throughout 2023/2024 from April 2023 (834) to March 2024 (831). In addition,</p> |

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| | | <p>the Transition Belper facebook page now registers at around 1.7k followers. Transition Belper (now a community interest company) did not hold a Belper Goes Green in 2023 (having a year off) instead they held an eco-market and a music festival based around Belper Market place and the Memorial Gardens on 11 June 2023 and annual Apple Day on 15 October 2023 (both well attended). They also installed a refurbished mosaic, celebrating Historic Belper, at the Belper Railway Station.</p> |
| Climate change | 18. Number of floods (ICOMOS INDICATOR 43) | <p>Objective 1.9 of the 2020 Derwent Valley Mills WHS Management Plan states: 'Ensure owners and partners have plans in place to accommodate unexpected change, such as natural disasters and climate change'. The Environment Agency has identified significant parts of the Derwent Valley floodplain which should remain undeveloped, thereby allowing for emergency water storage capacity in the event of flooding, helping to protect more vulnerable sites within the valley. Emergency Flood Plans are in existence, which refer to the World Heritage Site under "Special Considerations". These plans are regularly reviewed by the relevant Emergency Planning Authority.</p> <p>In October 2023, as a result of Storm Babet, the river Derwent rose to unprecedented levels for recent times and enveloped the centre of Derby, flooding Cathedral Green and part of the ground floor of the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill. In recent years significant flood prevention works have been carried out by The Environment Agency and Derby City Council; these protected residential property, but not the Silk Mill, which is too close to the river to be protected in this way. A flooding event was not unanticipated and during the construction of the Museum of Making, floor levels were raised, the electrical network were placed 150 cm above floor level and the bulk of the collections were situated on the first and second floor. Notwithstanding this, over 70 cm of river water inundated the building for around 14 hours. Although the building performed well, extensive damage was caused to kitchen and workshop equipment – the Museum of Making was closed until March 2024 as a result. Belper's North Mill was also flooded as a result of the storm.</p> |
| MANAGEMENT | | |
| WHS management (All in ICOMOS INDICATOR 7) | 19. Management Plan | <p>A Management Plan does exist for the Derwent Valley Mills WHS, and shapes the work programme for the coordination team, and the partnership. It was adopted in 2002, with amendments in 2003 and again in 2007. A full review took place and was adopted in 2015. The present iteration of the Management Plan was endorsed by Historic England and DCMS, and sent on to UNESCO Centre in 2020. Work began, in the time covered by this report, on reviewing the management plan again, ready for a new iteration in 2025.</p> |
| | 20. Steering Group | <p>Management of the World Heritage Site was reviewed in 2018-2020, as part of the 2020 Management Plan revisions, and the Steering Group replaced with a new Strategic Board which is now operating.</p> |

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| | 21. Officer or WHS team | <p>Since March 2017 the coordination team has reported to the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design at Derbyshire County Council. In the time period covered by this report, there were two full-time permanent posts of Heritage and Development Co-ordinators. The part-time post of Business Services Assistant was abolished when the post holder retired in April 2022. A third post of Assistant Coordinator was created and the appointed officer in place since April 2023.</p> <p>This is a reduction in resources for the core team, which once had five full-time posts. Whilst much of the work of the team continues to be maintained, its long-term ability to provide an appropriate level of service is under strain. Further to this, at the end of the period covered by this report, a 47% cut in budget was announced by Derbyshire County Council for the WHS coordination team. Funding is now only sufficient for one officer, but the team of three can be maintained until the team's financial reserve is all used up by the end of March 2026. Unless new funding is secured by March 2026, the coordination team of one officer will not be able to meet its commitment to delivering the Management Plan.</p> |
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