Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan 2026-2031





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Front page (clockwise from top left): Aerial views of Masson Mills, Cromford Mills, Belper Mills, Darley Abbey Mills and Derby Silk Mill.



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Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001



Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan

2026-2031

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PREFACE

Derbyshire is home to the only UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage Site in the East Midlands. The creation of the modern factory in the Derwent Valley transformed the world and society. These factories, and their associated communities, enhanced by an unspoilt rural setting, are a significant asset for the region.

Stretching from Matlock Bath in the north to Derby in the south, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) saw the beginnings of the factory system which transformed economies and landscapes far beyond the valley itself. Today, the Derwent Valley is a complex living landscape, home to over 35,000 people. The sites and monuments are in a complex mosaic of ownership and management by local authorities, charities, private companies and individuals. Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List a quarter of a century ago enabled recognition and protection that no other designation could provide. Much has been achieved since then, in partnership, often supported by our hard-working volunteers.

> "...this Management Plan belongs to everyone who lives, works or is responsible for the Derwent Valley Mills and their communities. "

This plan aims to ensure that preservation, enhancement and promotion of the site is sensitively and appropriately managed. Its vision is to create a universal understanding and identity for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site as a cohesive and coherent whole. It summarises how the obligations arising from the World Heritage Convention will be met in the coming five years, building on the Government's own national policies for protection of World Heritage Properties through the planning system.

The previous iteration of the Management Plan was released just weeks into the first lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic, which created the hardest possible backdrop for development and conservation of the Site. Nevertheless, progress has been made and many actions identified then have been completed.

New challenges have arisen, particularly following what UNESCO considered to be two erroneous planning decisions which saw inappropriate development receiving planning permission within the setting of the DVMWHS, resulting in UNESCO World Heritage Centre placing the Derwent Valley Mills on a State of Conservation reporting footing, and a visit from a UNESCO Advisory Mission to see the development pressures for themselves. That reporting footing, and the resulting recommendations from the World Heritage Committee, have helped to shape this latest iteration of the Management Plan, and emboldened our efforts to ensure the best possible decisions are made to conserve and enhance the World Heritage Site.

The objectives and actions for 2026 to 2031 can be found in Section B – shaped by discussions with partners and stakeholders, these set out the five-year priorities of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, on behalf of HM Government, who are ultimately responsible for the Property. It sets a clear direction for protection, enhancement and promotion over the next five years.



Many organisations and individuals have worked to produce this document, which will shape the direction of the World Heritage Site in the years to come; but this Management Plan belongs to everyone who lives, works or is responsible for the Derwent Valley Mills and their communities. It can only operate successfully in conserving and protecting this globally significant landscape if all partners read, understand and take heed of it. If people embrace its aims and objectives, we can be assured of the best outcomes for the Derwent Valley Mills in the years ahead.

Councillor John Lawson

Chair of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Derwent Valley Mills and the surrounding landscape were inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001. The reason for this international recognition is that the valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new types of building were erected to house new technology for spinning cotton. The need to provide housing and other facilities resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial settlements.

World Heritage inscription comes with responsibilities, as laid out in the World Heritage Convention, to which HM Government is a signatory. These responsibilities require that the Derwent Valley Mills Site and its surrounding landscape is 'protected, conserved, presented and transmitted to future generations'. HM Government is responsible for ensuring an appropriate and comprehensive management system is in place to fulfil the Convention's requirements.

HM Government requires management plans to be in place for all the World Heritage Sites on its territories to fulfil its obligation to the World Heritage Convention. The Government has delegated the responsibility for the production of the DVMWHS Management Plan, and the oversight of its implementation, to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership.

The DVMWHS stretches 15 miles (24 km) along the river valley from Matlock Bath to Derby. It is in multiple ownership and protected through a variety of UK planning and conservation laws. It is also a popular destination for local people and tourists.

Being a World Heritage Site is not solely about conservation and protection. It also includes learning and engagement with the Site's Outstanding Universal Value so that its future is assured. Part of this, for the DVMWHS, is also ensuring that its components are in active use and contribute to the economic prosperity of its surrounding area.

This Management Plan addresses HM Government's commitment for an appropriate and comprehensive management system for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. It runs from 2026 until the next iteration of the Management Plan is submitted to UNESCO. It is envisaged that it will be reviewed in 2031.

Part A: The Story So Far

Part A explains the reasons for inscription, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and describes the Attributes and Elements which help us to understand its OUV. It provides a historical and geographical description of the Site and the legislative framework for its stewardship. It sets out the DVMWHS Partnership's structure and the Purpose, Vision and Aims of this iteration of the Management Plan.

The Purpose of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Inscription is to:

Maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its culture, economy, unique heritage and landscape in a sustainable manner.

The Vision for this 2026-2031 Management Plan is to:

Create and promote a local, national and international understanding and identity for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site as a cohesive and coherent whole, based on its global significance for all of humankind.

In doing this, it is essential that the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site is conserved and appreciated by all those with responsibility for its governance and stewardship.

The Aims of the Management Plan are:

Aim 1 *Protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS to ensure its transmission to future generations. Aim 1 is paramount and all other aims must not conflict with it.*

Aim 2 *Promote public awareness and engagement with the DVMWHS by presenting its Outstanding Universal Value through formal/informal learning, events, volunteering, interpretation and research.*

Aim 3 *Promote the sustainable development (Environmental, Economic and Social) of the DVMWHS to provide a world-class destination where people are proud to live, work visit and invest.*

Aim 4 *Develop an integrated and sustainable approach to meeting and promoting the transportation and accessibility needs of the DVMWHS, and its users and communities.*

Aim 5 *Monitor, protect, conserve, present and transmit the DVMWHS to the standard required by UNESCO, and encourage appropriate site-wide coordination and data gathering to support delivery of the above aims.*

Part B: Key Themes

Part B expands on the Aims above and provides objectives and actions for each. These objectives and related actions have been identified, in consultation with stakeholders, to deliver on the Plan's Purpose and Vision for the DVMWHS.

Part C: Operational Guidance

Part C sets out planning procedure for development control in the DVMWHS, and when Heritage Impact Assessments, in accordance with UNESCO's guidance, are required. A design rationale for new development is provided. Direction on the use of the DVMWHS logo is also given.

Part D: Looking Ahead

Part D briefly looks beyond 2031 and acknowledges contributions to the Management Plan.

Each Partnership organisation in consultation with the DVMWHS Coordination Team will identify the objectives from Part B they are responsible, or partly responsible, for delivering and report this to the DVMWHS Technical Group twice annually.

This Plan is not intended to be an inflexible document and it is recognised that it needs to adapt to new issues, challenges and opportunities not known at the time of writing.



The Masson Mill water tower.

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1 INTRODUCTION

World Heritage Sites are places of global significance. They are recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) through the World Heritage Convention, which has been ratified by 193 member states of the United Nations (out of 206 recognised), including HM Government.

"New research helps us to better understand and appreciate the importance, in global history, of the Derwent Valley Mills"

Article 4 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention states: "Each State Party to the Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage […] situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain."

Paragraph 4 of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2025) states: "Cultural and natural heritage is among the priceless and irreplaceable assets, not only of each nation, but of humanity as a whole. The loss, through deterioration or disappearance, of any of these most prized assets constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the people of the world. Parts of this heritage, because of their exceptional qualities, can be considered to be of "Outstanding Universal Value" and as such worthy of special protection against the dangers which increasingly threaten them."

The Operational Guidelines also say that State Parties have responsibility to 'not take any deliberate measures that directly or indirectly damage their heritage or that of another State Party to the Convention' (item h of paragraph 15).

Paragraph 108 of the Operational Guidelines stipulates that 'each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system'. On behalf of HM Government, each UK WHS fulfils this requirement through the production of quinquennial management plans. The DVMWHS Partnership coordinates the production of the DVMWHS Management Plan on behalf of HM Government.

This document sets out HM Government's requirements for the appropriate stewardship of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site on behalf of UNESCO.

Each year, new research helps us to better understand and appreciate the importance, in global history, of the Derwent Valley Mills, their communities and their valley setting.

The latest version of the Management Plan reflects this greater understanding, and because of this and with changes to the UK's management and protection regime, e.g. through the introduction of the updated National Planning Policy Framework in 2026, the 2026 Management Plan supersedes all previous management plans for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Due to a number of what have been identified by UNESCO World Heritage Centre as erroneous planning decisions, the DVMWHS was placed on a 'State of Conservation' footing by the World Heritage Centre in February 2021. As a result of this, the UK Government as State Party must provide regular updates on progress in conserving and protecting the DVMWHS's Outstanding Universal Value for consideration by the World Heritage Committee.

This process of State of Conservation reporting led to an Advisory Mission being invited by the UK Government to visit the DVMWHS in early 2024, to review the Site's management and protection regimes.

The Advisory Mission helped to shape the World Heritage Committee's recommendations to the UK Government. This review of the DVMWHS Management Plan 2026-31 has been informed by those recommendations.

2 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

To assist in the understanding of a World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value UNESCO asks all World Heritage Sites to produce a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Where these did not exist at time of inscription, Sites were asked to produce them retrospectively. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site was endorsed by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2010.

This Statement of OUV cannot be amended or changed without further endorsement by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

2.1 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Brief synthesis

Date of inscription: 2001
Criteria: ii, iv
Date of SOUV: 2010

The Derwent valley, upstream from Derby on the southern edge of the Pennines, contains a series of 18th and 19th century cotton mills and an industrial landscape of high historical and technological significance. It began with the construction of the Silk Mill in Derby in 1721 for the brothers John and Thomas Lombe, which housed machinery for throwing silk, based on an Italian design. The scale, output, and numbers of workers employed were without precedent. However, it was not until Richard Arkwright constructed a water-powered spinning mill at Cromford in 1771, and a second, larger mill in 1776-77 that the "Arkwright System" was truly established. The workers' housing associated with this and the other mills are intact and span 24km of the Derwent valley from the edge of Matlock Bath in the north nearly to the centre of Derby in the south. The four principal industrial settlements of Cromford, Belper, Milford, and Darley Abbey are articulated by the river Derwent, the waters of which provided the power to drive the cotton mills. Much of the landscape setting of the mills and the industrial communities, which was much admired in the 18th and early 19th centuries, has survived.

In terms of industrial buildings the Derwent valley mills may be considered to be sui generis in the sense that they were the first of what was to become the model for factories throughout the world in subsequent centuries.

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.

Criterion ii

Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.

The Derwent Valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new types of building were erected to house the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright in the late 18th century.

Criterion iv

Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

In the Derwent Valley for the first time there was large-scale industrial production in a hitherto rural landscape. The need to provide housing and other facilities for workers and managers resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial settlements.

Integrity

The relationship of the industrial buildings and their dependent urban settlements to the river and its tributaries and to the topography of the surrounding rural landscape has been preserved, especially in the upper reaches of the valley, virtually intact. Similarly, the interdependence of the mills and other industrial elements, such as the canals and railway, and the workers' housing, is still plainly visible. All the key attributes of the cultural landscape are within the boundaries. The distinctive form of the overall industrial landscape is vulnerable in some parts to threats from large-scale development that would impact adversely on the scale of the settlements.

Authenticity

Although some of the industrial buildings have undergone substantial alterations and additions in order to accommodate new technological and social practices, their original forms, building materials, and structural techniques are still intact and easy to discern. Restoration work on buildings that have been in a poor state of repair has been carried out following detailed research on available documentation and contemporary built architectural examples, and every effort has been made to ensure that compatible materials are used. In those cases where buildings have been lost through fire or demolition, no attempt has been made to reconstruct. The overall landscape reflects well its technological, social and economic development and the way the modern factory system developed within this rural area on the basis of water power.

Protection and management requirements

A comprehensive system of statutory control operates under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). A network of strategic planning policies is also in place to protect the site. There are thirteen Conservation Areas falling wholly or partly within the property. 848 buildings within the area are included on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest. There are also nine Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Management responsibility is shared by a number of local authorities and government agencies. The coordination mechanism is provided by the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership. This has established a close working relationship between the local authorities involved in the nominated area. This Partnership has been responsible for the preparation of a management plan for the property, most recently revised in January 2007.

2.2 Update (2026)

Although this Statement of OUV cannot be amended or changed (except by UNESCO), it is important to note that there have been changes to how the DVMWHS is protected and managed since endorsement of the SOUV in 2010.

There are now over 860 buildings included on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest, and 13 Scheduled Monuments. A Strategic Board is now responsible for managing the Partnership.

The latest revision date for the management plan has also changed, to 2031.

2.2.1 Engagement in the Management Planning Process

The previous iteration of the DVMWHS Management plan was informed by a substantial consultation process with partners and stakeholders across the DVMWHS, its buffer zone and wider surrounding area. Particular effort was given to engaging with under-served audiences and with the different communities across the Site.

Adoption of the last management plan coincided with the global Covid-19 pandemic. This significantly impacted on the delivery of the actions contained within the Management Plan. Early in the lifetime of the management plan it became clear that many of the actions identified would need to be taken forward into the next iteration. As a result the DVMWHS Strategic Board agreed that this iteration of the Management Plan would not need such a thorough review. Owing to the introduction of the State of Conservation Reporting regime the review has been greater than initially anticipated.

During preparation of this management plan the UNESCO Toolkits were considered to help review the Values, Attributes and indicative elements and Partnership organisations and community groups were consulted and engaged in this review process. Historic England guidance on World Heritage Site Management Plans was also cross-referenced.

The DVMWHS Coordination team consulted all Partnership organisations, reviewing progress against the last management plan, and receiving feedback on the management processes. The results of the consultation informed this iteration.

During its development numerous drafts of the Management Plan were circulated across the Partnership and opportunities provided for feedback and discussion through this iterative process. The final version was agreed and signed off by both the DVMWHS Technical Group and the Strategic Board.

Darley Abbey Mills and bridge, 2025





The weirs, bridge and mill chimney at Milford.

3 ATTRIBUTES OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The UNESCO concept of "Outstanding Universal Value" (OUV) can be difficult to get to grips with if one is unfamiliar with it so a brief explanation is given here.

As is evident from the preceding section, OUV is comprised of three "pillars": meeting the criteria; integrity and authenticity (cultural WHS only); and protection and management.

The criteria are those which are listed at paragraph 69 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Derwent Valley Mills satisfies criteria (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design and (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

Authenticity relates to the credibility of the evidence for meeting the criteria, for example, is what is represented on the ground an authentic representation of the historical record? Integrity relates to how much of this authentic evidence actually survives. To satisfy this pillar of OUV there has to be high levels of both authenticity and integrity, demonstrated in the case of Derwent Valley Mills by, for example the mills themselves representing the birth of the factory system, where the mills present both credible evidence and high levels of integrity in the survival of physical fabric from this historically significant period.

Taken together the criteria met and authenticity effectively comprise what in a UK context we refer to as significance, a concept which enables the identification of the relative importance of heritage assets in a local, national and international context. Where OUV differs from the concept of significance is the incorporation of protection and management as a pillar of OUV, rather than as a separate system for sustaining significance. The rationale for this is that, as the Convention requires the OUV of World Heritage Sites to be sustained in perpetuity, this must be guaranteed by including the protection and management system as an integral part of OUV rather than separate legislation and policy which can be amended over time.

For effective protection and management, it is necessary not only to have the overarching Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, but also to define the values and attributes of OUV which individually and collectively comprise OUV. For example, having clearly defined values and attributes enables the impacts of proposed changes within a WHS, and its setting, to be assessed against individual values and attributes as well as OUV as a whole. Attributes can be both tangible, for example the physical aspects of a WHS such as historic buildings and archaeological remains, and intangible, for example the concept of large-scale industrial production.

This section of the plan therefore defines the values and attributes of the OUV of the Derwent Valley Mills WHS and provides an indicative list of elements which manifest those values and their attributes.

On the following pages are the five separate Values which culminate to form the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS. Each Value is supported by lists of Attributes that encapsulate that Value, and examples of the type of Elements within the property relating to those Attributes. The wording in bold highlights the Attribute, with the additional text explaining its significance and relevance to the value it conveys.

There is then an indicative list of Elements which are actual named items representing those attributes. There is no definitive list of named elements which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS. Continuing research and discoveries help us to better understand the Derwent Valley Mills, their communities and the contribution made by their setting. To produce a definitive list would be futile as more Elements are identified, and anything missed off the list would be vulnerable.

In preparing the management plan, and following advice from the UNESCO Advisory Mission in 2024, the DVMWHS Coordination Team and Historic England reviewed the previously identified Values and Attributes, informed by the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. Following the initial compilation, the proposed lists of Values, Attributes and Elements were consulted on with the wider DVMWHS Partnership as part of the Management Plan's review process.

3.1 Value One

The Derwent Valley was the first place to see relatively large amounts of natural energy successfully harnessed to deliver the power to drive newly devised machines housed in mills producing goods of superior quality at an unprecedented rate.

Attributes

1. **Surviving elements of the development of water power**, firstly by the Lombe Brothers at the Silk Mill in Derby (1721) followed by Richard Arkwright's first spinning mill at Cromford (1771) and the larger mills which immediately followed (1776-1777), which established the "Arkwright System" and led to the development of the modern factory system, powered by water.

2. **The River Derwent, its tributaries and the waters from lead-mining works** which were harnessed to provide the power to drive the cotton mills.

Examples of Elements within the property relating to the Attributes

Watermills, water courses, mill ponds, aqueducts, culverts, weirs, leats, soughs, launders, waterwheels.

Indicative Elements (specific examples to better understand how the above value and attributes relate to sites and wider evidence across the property)

The Masson Mills (including water courses and chimney); The Cromford Mills (including water courses and culverts, mill yard, remains of the aqueduct, Second Mill and Barracks, the Manager's House and other associated buildings); Lea Mills (including water courses); The Belper North and East Mills (including water courses and culverts, mill yards, Gangway, boundary walls and associated buildings); Surviving walls and structures (including chimney) relating to the Milford Mills site; Peckwash Mill, Little Eaton; The Darley Abbey Mills (including Manager's House and other associated buildings, and chimney); Surviving arches of the original Derby Silk Mill; The Bakewell Gates outside the Silk Mill; Water courses beneath the Silk Mill site; The Masson Weir; The Bear Pit, culverts and mill pond, Cromford; The Belper Circular and Rock Weirs, and remains of the Burton Weir; the Milford Foundry and Corn Mill Weirs; Darley Abbey Weir; Slinter Mill, Via Gelia; Haarlem Mill, Wirksworth.



Belper's Mills, with community beyond.



Workers' housing on Lavender Row at Darley Abbey.

3.2 Value Two

New ways of life were created and developed in the Derwent Valley with the first modern industrial settlements. These developed from the need for people to congregate together (in factories) that were producing goods of superior quality at an unprecedented rate.

Attributes

3. **The settlements within the property, including the four principal industrial settlements of Cromford, Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey**, which are articulated by the River Derwent downstream from the edge of Matlock Bath in the north nearly to the centre of Derby.

4. **Housing for workers in the mills** on which they depended within the cultural landscape setting of the Derwent Valley. These industrial communities established a new form of cultural landscape in the Derwent Valley. This can be seen in the surviving dependent urban settlements for the millworkers, their industrial landscape and other industrial elements, such as the model farms, canals and railways.

Examples of Elements within the property relating to the Attributes

Mill workers' houses (new forms of housing built in planned campaigns), pigsties, allotments, overseers houses, mill owners houses and service buildings, mill owners parks and gardens, clergy houses, shops, chapels, churches, town houses, schools, inns, mill owners' farms, field barns, etc.



Belper's Short Rows were the first to be built by the Strutts.

Indicative Elements (specific examples to better understand how the above value and attributes relate to sites and wider evidence across the property)

Workers' housing, shops and inns on North Street, The Hill, Market Place, Water Lane and Scarthin, Cromford and their associated pig-sties and allotments; St Mary's Chapel, Cromford Primary School, The Old Vicarage, Willersley Castle, Cromford Court, Oakhill, Cromford; Field Barns, Bonsall; Workers' housing at Lea Bridge, Lea Green, Lea Holme, Lea Hurst, Pear Tree Farm; Workers' housing at Belper Lane, The Scotches, Matlock Road, Long Row, William, George and Joseph Streets, the Short Rows, Mill Street, Chevin View, Bridge Street, Derby Road, Belper and their associated pig-sties; the Strutt Farms, including Crossroads, Dalley, Wyver, Shottlegate, Swainsley, Moscow, Red Hill; Hill Tops, Makeney; Surviving walls and structures (including culverts) relating to Bridge Hill House, Belper; Belper River Gardens and Memorial Gardens; Field Row Unitarian Chapel, the old Unitarian Meeting House on Green Lane; Structures relating to Green Hall on Green Lane, Belper, and its gardens; Workers' housing, shops and inns on Sunny Hill, Well Lane, Chevin Road, Hopping Hill, Derby Road, Shaw Lane, Makeney Road and Forge Hill, Milford; the Strutt Arms Hotel, Milford; Makeney Hall and Milford House; Allestree Hall and grounds; Workers' housing and shops at Brick Row, Abbey Lane, The Square, Darley Street, New Road, Mile Ash Lane, Lavender Row at Darley Abbey; buildings and structures relating to Darley Hall; Darley Park; St Helen's House, Derby; the Arboretum, Derby.

3.3 Value Three

The Derwent Valley is where the modern factory system was developed and established. The Derwent Valley Mills provided a model for factories that was copied throughout the world in subsequent centuries.

Attributes

5. **Industrial buildings and other components in the Derwent valley which housed new technologies for spinning cotton and provided new processes for efficient production at an industrial scale** that provided a model for factories copied to other parts of the UK, Europe and North America, then throughout the world in subsequent centuries.

Examples of Elements within the property relating to the Attributes

In addition to the Elements listed under Value One, mill yards, bleach mills, tentering grounds, warehouses, barracks, counting houses, offices, chimneys; Intangible elements such as timekeeping, shift-systems, factory schools.



Cromford Mill Yard, looking towards the remains of the Second Mill

Indicative Elements (specific examples to better understand how the above value and attributes relate to sites and wider evidence across the property)

In addition to the Elements listed under Value One, the remains of the Second Mill, Cromford; The North Mill, Belper; North Street, Cromford; The Four Houses, Darley Abbey.

3.4 Value Four

The technological, social and economic development of the Derwent Valley led to the further development of industry within this cultural landscape including the introduction of new modes of transportation and utilities.

Attributes

6. **The distinctive form of the overall industrial landscape of the Derwent Valley and the interdependent relationships between the mills, other industrial elements such as the canal and railways and the worker's housing**, which demonstrate its continuing development and reflects technological, social and economic development.

Examples of Elements within the property relating to the Attributes

Canals, canal wharfs, canal bridges, canal aqueducts, winding holes, weighbridges, tramways, pumping houses for canal management, turnpike roads, toll houses, toll gateposts, railways, railway stations, railway bridges, railway cuttings, railway junctions, railway workshops, gas works, metalled roads, paved causeways, street lighting, reservoirs for domestic supply, flood bunds to protect farmland.

Indicative Elements (specific examples to better understand how the above value and attributes relate to sites and wider evidence across the property)

The Cromford Canal; the Gothic Warehouse and other canal related buildings at the wharfside, Cromford; Stephenson-built railway line, including cuttings, tunnels, bridges, between Ambergate and Derby; the truncated line between Matlock and Ambergate, including tunnels, bridges and footbridges; Cromford Station and associated buildings; the A6 turnpike road between Derby and Matlock Bath, including toll-houses; High Peak Junction workshops; Leawood Pumphouse; the Wharf Shed; Early streetlamps in Milford and Belper (including Long Row); Flood bund on the western side of the Derwent, north of Belper; Bessalone Reservoir; the Strutt Carriageway from the Gibfield Lane junction on the A6 to Bridge Hill; the Butterley Bridge across the Derwent on Belper Meadows; Early surviving road surfaces on Long Row and the Clusters, Belper, including the pavement on George Street; hand operated Water Pump on Forge Hill, Milford; Well on Well Lane, Milford.

3.5 Value Five

The Derwent Valley Mills is a 'relict' industrial landscape, arrested in time after the change from water to steam power in the 19th century moved the focus of the industry elsewhere. The relationship of the industrial buildings and their dependent urban settlements to the river and its tributaries and to the topography of the surrounding rural landscape has been preserved, especially in the upper reaches of the valley, virtually intact.

Attributes

7. **The Derwent Valley is a 'relict' industrial landscape of late 18th and early 19th century industrial development inserted in an 18th/ 19th century rural landscape setting, much admired at that time.** The buildings and infrastructure survive in their original forms, with evidence of their building materials, structural techniques, and technological, social and economic development. Similarly, the interdependence of the mills and other industrial elements, such as the canal and railway, and the workers' housing, is still plainly visible, including its relationship with the wider rural landscape. The picturesque landscape of the Derwent Valley also contained evidence of other earlier industrial activity which is seen in contrast to the new scale of industrialisation.

Examples of Elements within the property relating to the Attributes

Enclosure field boundaries, traditional 18th/19th century field patterns, ancient woodland, pastoral farmland, designed landscapes, tree plantations, pathways and channels, farms, agricultural buildings, hosiery and nail warehouses, nailshops, nailers' houses, nailmasters' houses, workshops, quarries, lead mines.

Indicative Elements (specific examples to better understand how the above value and attributes relate to sites and wider evidence across the property)

Field boundaries between communities, along the valley side, including on The Chevin; Plantation on south side of Sunny Hill, Milford; Crich Chase; Shining Cliff Woods, Ambergate; Millpond, Cromford; Millponds on the Via Gellia; Ingles Channel, Moore Channel and other traditional channels in Belper and the surrounding countryside, relating to nailers' and millworkers' supply and work routes; Strutt farms including Crossroads, Dalley, Wyver, Moscow, Chevin House, Swainsley, Redhill, and associated buildings and field patterns; Nailshop on Joseph Street, Belper; Ward's hosiery warehouse, Belper; Nailers' houses on Penn Street, St John's Road, The Butts, Belper; The Cedars, Field Lane, Belper; Roadside quarries along the A6 road between Whatstandwell and Cromford.

The relict landscape in which the mills at Belper are set.





Interior view of the Field Row Unitarian Chapel, Belper, containing the Strutt family vault.

Whilst all the necessary attributes for conveying Outstanding Universal Value lie within the 'Property Boundary', in this case a 24km long World Heritage Site, new research has increased our understanding of the OUV of the property and has identified some associated attributes and elements which lie beyond the boundary of the property, within the buffer zone and beyond. These new additions have been identified as a result of a better understanding of the DVMWHS, through research undertaken since inscription in 2001. Although these associated attributes and elements were not fully identified at the time of inscription, they support OUV and should be regarded as integral to a full understanding of the inscribed property. Effective management of the World Heritage property and its OUV must take account of them and give them due consideration.

The most significant attribute which spills out of the WHS and into the buffer zone and beyond is the relict landscape, the green 'cradle' in which the factory system was established for the first time in the 18th century. The SOUV emphasizes that the relationship of the industrial buildings and their dependent urban settlements to the river and its tributaries and to the topography of the surrounding rural landscape has been preserved. In addition, the SOUV recognises that much of the landscape setting of the mills and the industrial communities, which was much admired in the 18th and early 19th centuries, has survived and it is therefore very important this landscape is protected from, and not undermined by, spreading urbanisation. In addition, other elements outside the WHS, associated with attributes of the OUV within the property, have also been identified since 2001.

Examples of these include (but are not limited to):

- The Ice House, terracing arches and other structures relating to Bridge Hill House, Belper (Value Two)
- Housing, Belper (Value Two)
- Haarlem Mill, Wirksworth (Value Three)
- The Bessalone Reservoir, off Crich Lane, Belper (Value Four)
- Nail Shops, Belper – including Bullsmoor (Value Five)

By its very nature, this list can only be indicative. As further research takes place, our understanding of attributes and associated elements which support the OUV of the World Heritage Site deepens and expands.



The setting of the mills and town, Belper

4 THE BUFFER ZONE AND BROADER SETTING

"Wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development in order to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection."*

A World Heritage Site buffer zone, per se, does not have Outstanding Universal Value but supports Outstanding Universal Value – sometimes through a scattering of attributes that are functionally linked to the property, sometimes as an essential context that protects key views, to allow an understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value. Both reasons apply in the case of the Derwent Valley Mills Buffer Zone.

Guided by paragraph 112 of the UNESCO Operational guidance 2025, we can establish the following principle:

An integrated approach to planning and management is essential to guide the evolution of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site over time and to ensure maintenance of all aspects of its Outstanding Universal Value. This approach goes beyond the buffer zone, to include attributes which contribute to our understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value.

> "A buffer zone... supports Outstanding Universal Value – through a scattering of attributes functionally linked to the property, or as an essential context that protects key views"

The broader setting relates to the Site's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organisation, and visual relationships. It also includes related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and associations. Management of the broader setting is related to its role in supporting Outstanding Universal Value.

The description of the buffer zone and reasoning behind how it was defined can be found within the following site description.

**Paragraphs 103 and 104 of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2025).*

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE DVMWHS

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site consists of a 24km length of the lower Derwent Valley in Derbyshire in the East Midlands of England stretching from Matlock Bath in the north to Derby City Centre in the south.

It includes within its boundaries a series of historic mill complexes, river weirs and associated settlements and transport networks. It combines elements of both a relict or fossil landscape in which the evolutionary process of industrialisation came to an end, leaving significant distinguishing features visible in material form, and a living landscape with significant evidence of its further evolution over time. Due to the nature of the site, the ownerships and interests are numerous, especially within the urban areas.

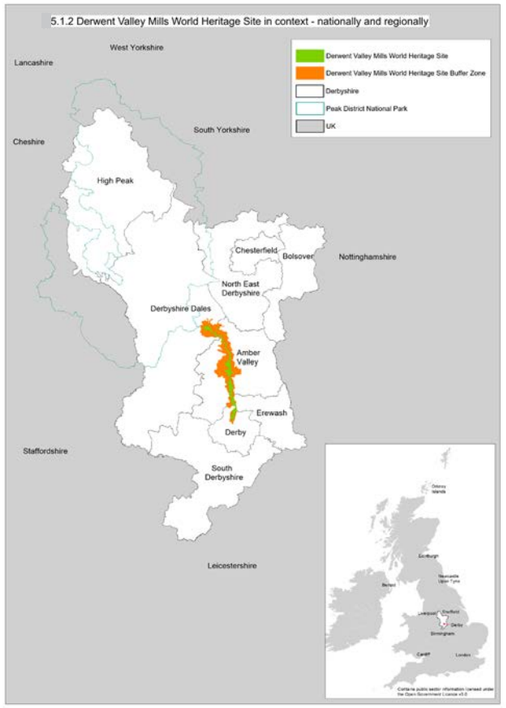
5.1 Identification of the Derwent Valley Mills

Country	Region	Property	Location
United Kingdom	Derbyshire in the East Midlands	Derwent Valley Mills	Latitude: 53.01' 13"N Longitude: 01.29' 59" W

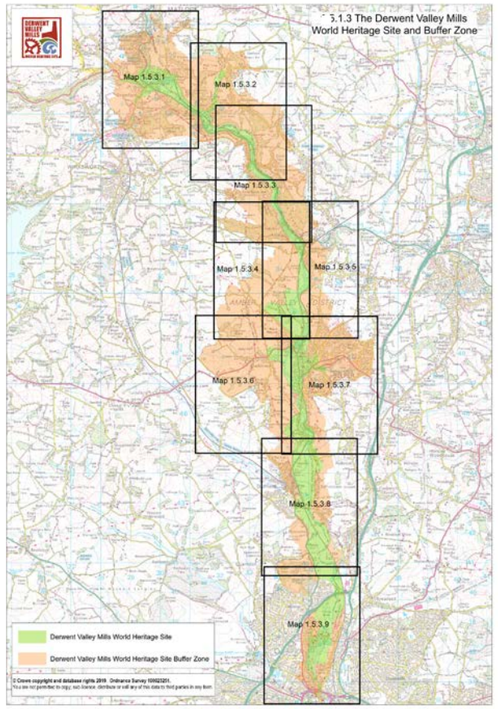
1.5.1.1 The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site in context with other UK mainland World Heritage Sites (2025)



5.1.2 The DVMWHS in context – nationally and regionally



5.1.3 The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone



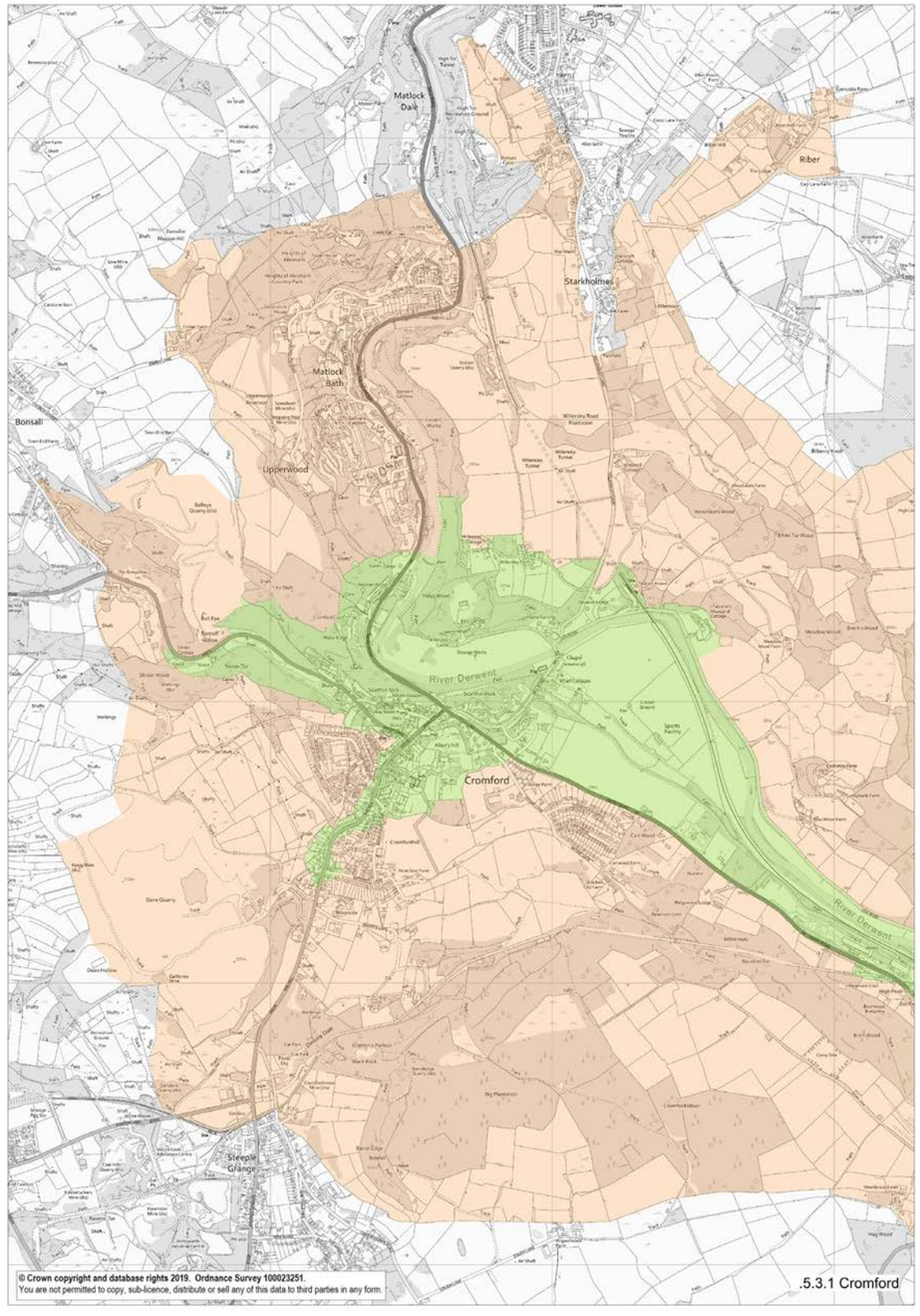
5.2 Boundary of the World Heritage Site

The boundary of the site was defined through field observation by applying the following principles:

- definition of the extant historic topography (buildings, features, landscapes) derived from, and exemplifying, the historical theme of the innovation of the textile mill and the economic and social infrastructure of the site as the 'cradle of the factory system';
- coincidence, wherever possible, with existing statutory and other formal designations within administrative areas where these are relevant to the criteria for inscription, taking account of historical ownership but omitting any contiguous zones of different character, or significant areas where the character and/or archaeological integrity has been lost or degraded;
- delineation as a single entity, without detailed outlying elements, linked by linear features where these are the defining characteristic of the historic topography and contribute to the site's outstanding universal value;
- tests of authenticity applied in relation to the historical evolution of a cultural landscape with particular regard to the archaeological integrity of form and landscape character, rather than necessarily the outward appearance of individual buildings; and
- particularly at the southern end of the WHS, the extent of the flood plain was utilised to form the WHS boundary.

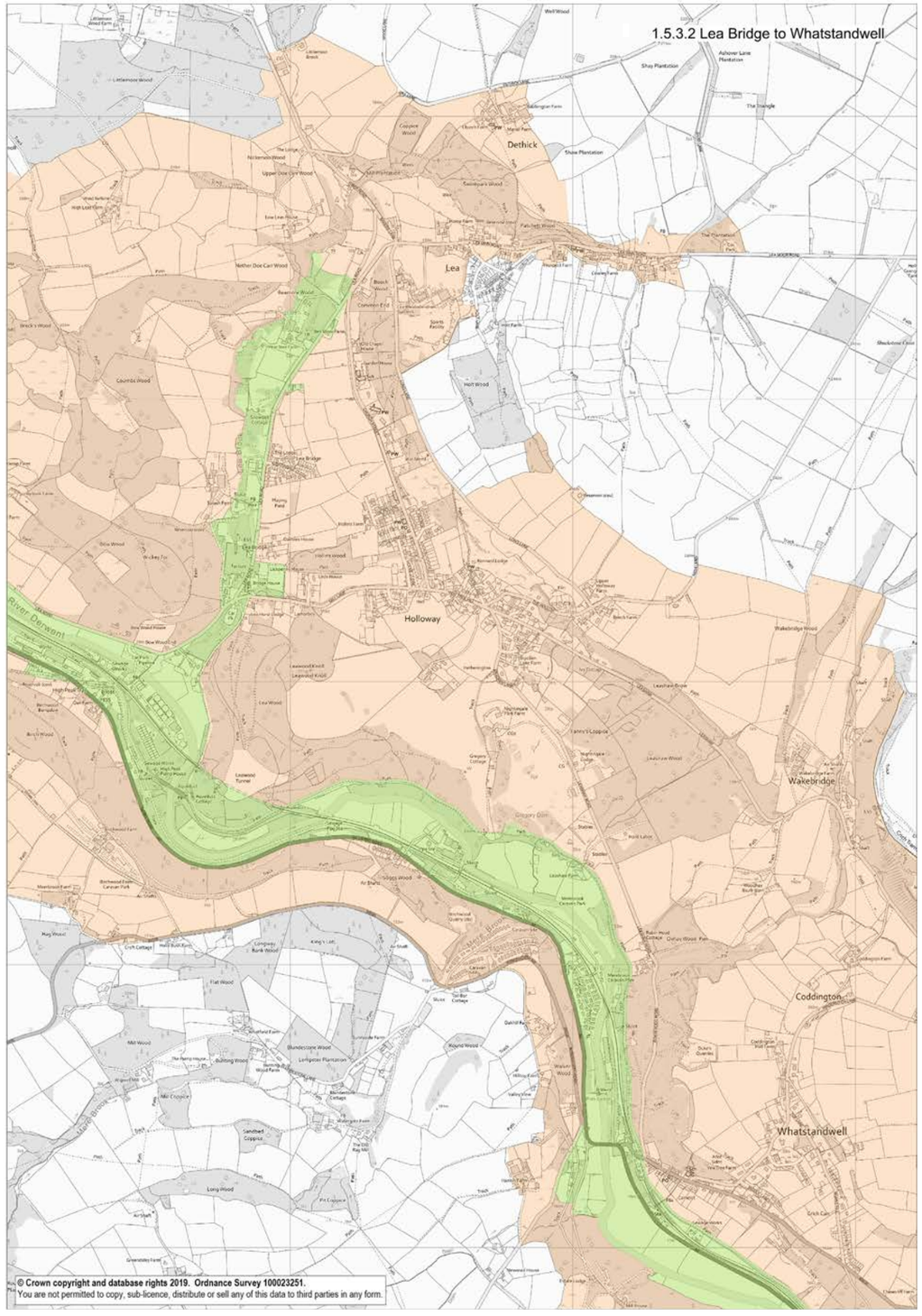
The need for a minor review of the site boundary has been identified, to provide greater clarification to the original map work of 2001, and make small adjustments where buildings or structures have been omitted or included, close to the boundary. The DVMWHS Partnership believes, with 25 years' greater understanding of the Property, there are omissions/inclusions which run contrary to the reasons for the boundary's original line.

5.3 Map descriptions (including Buffer Zone - see 5.4)



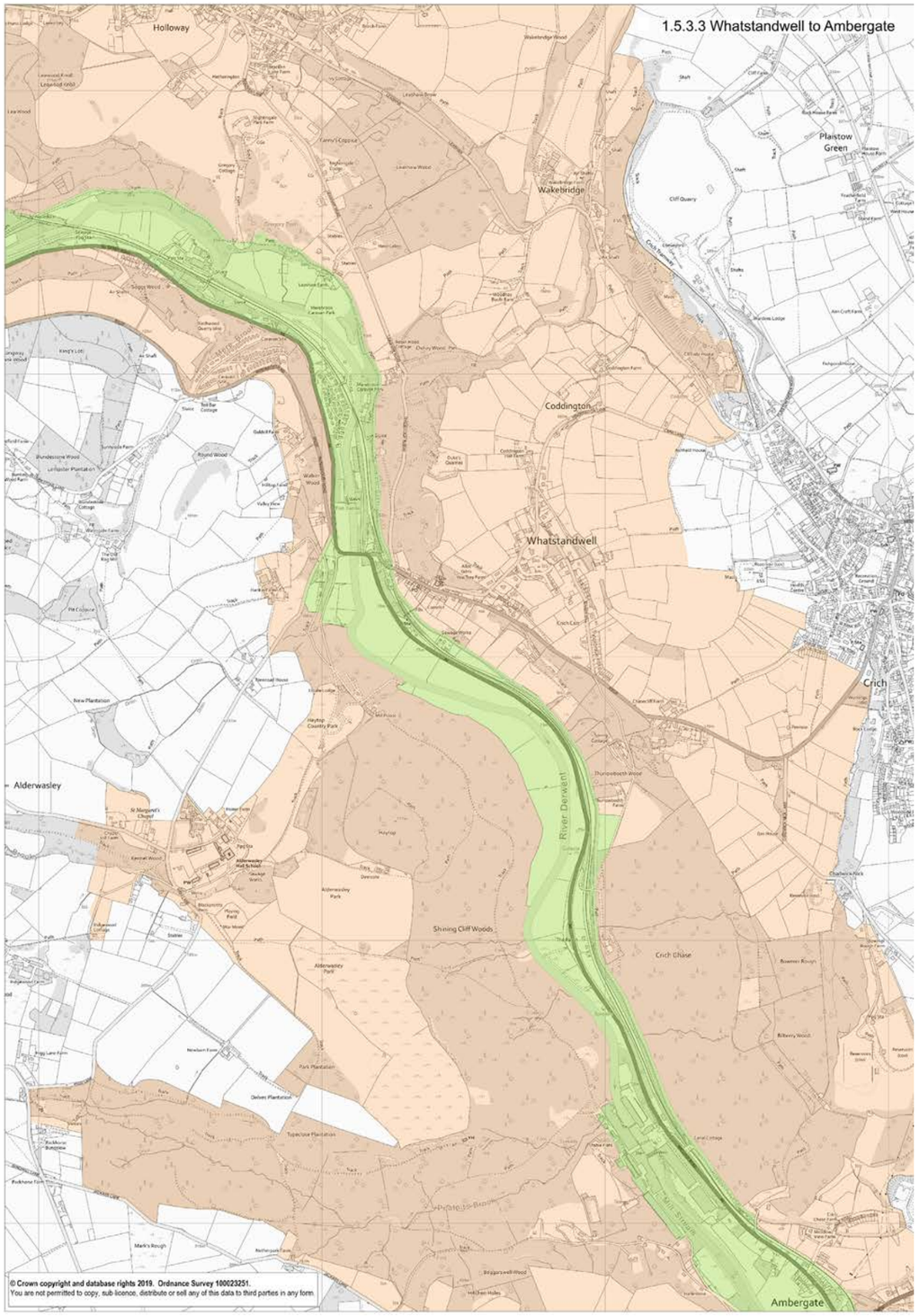
5.3.1 Cromford (Map 1)

The northern end of the site comprises the Cromford Conservation Area, which focuses on the Cromford Mills and associated water courses, Masson Mills, workers' housing, the Greyhound Hotel, the Market Place, Corn Mill, Canal Wharf and the two Arkwright family residences and grounds. The only part of the Conservation Area to be excluded is a pre- Arkwright area of settlement to the south-east.



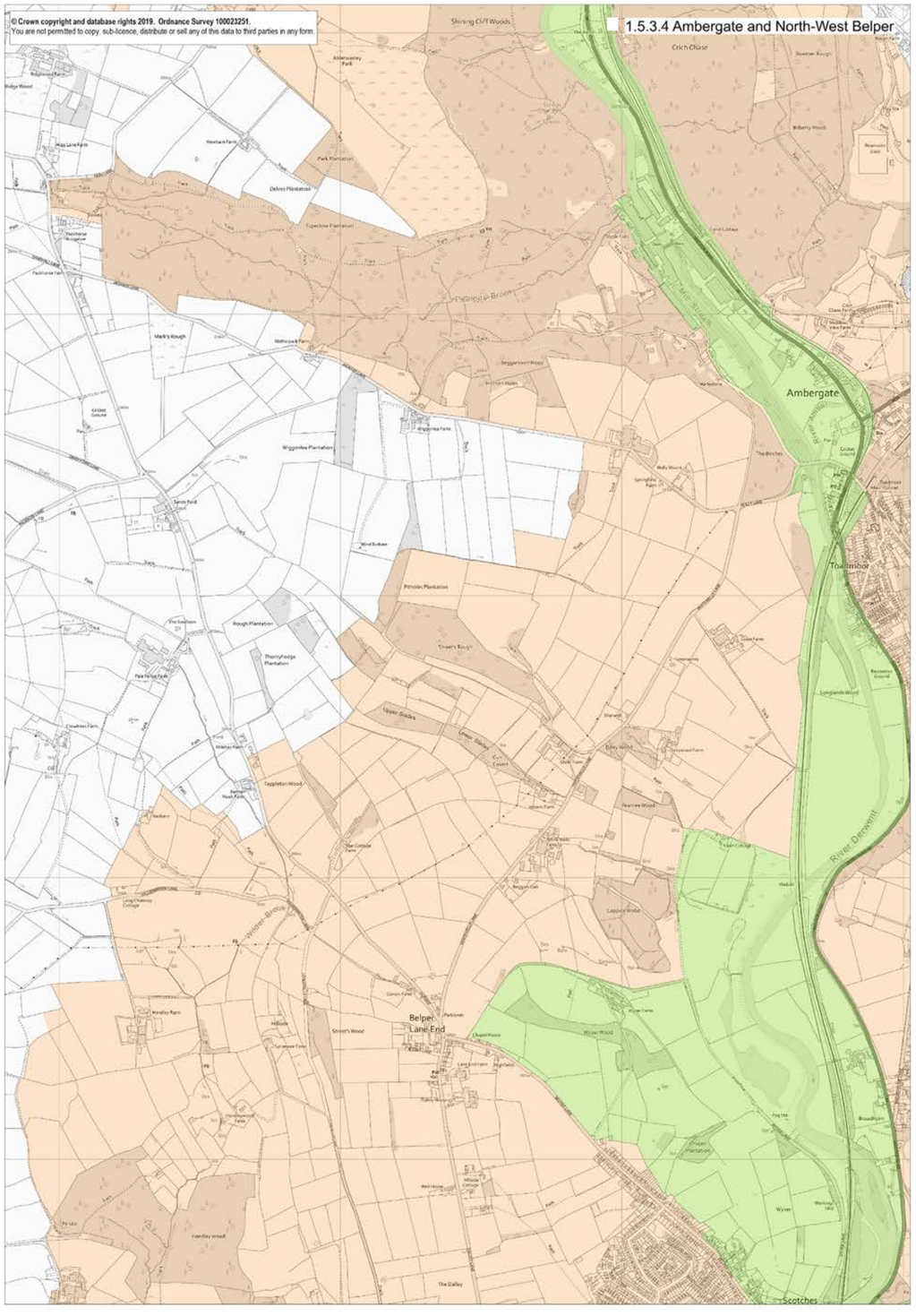
5.3.2 Lea Bridge to Whatstandwell (Map 2)

The eastern boundary follows the limits of the flood plain of the River Derwent. It is defined to the west by the Cromford Canal and a former turnpike road (now the A6). It broadens out and takes in the High Peak Junction Wharf. Further south, a short spur follows the Nightingale Arm of the canal to Lea Bridge to take in the wharf, Nightingale's mill, terraces of workers' housing and the water courses for the mills as far as Pear Tree Farm.



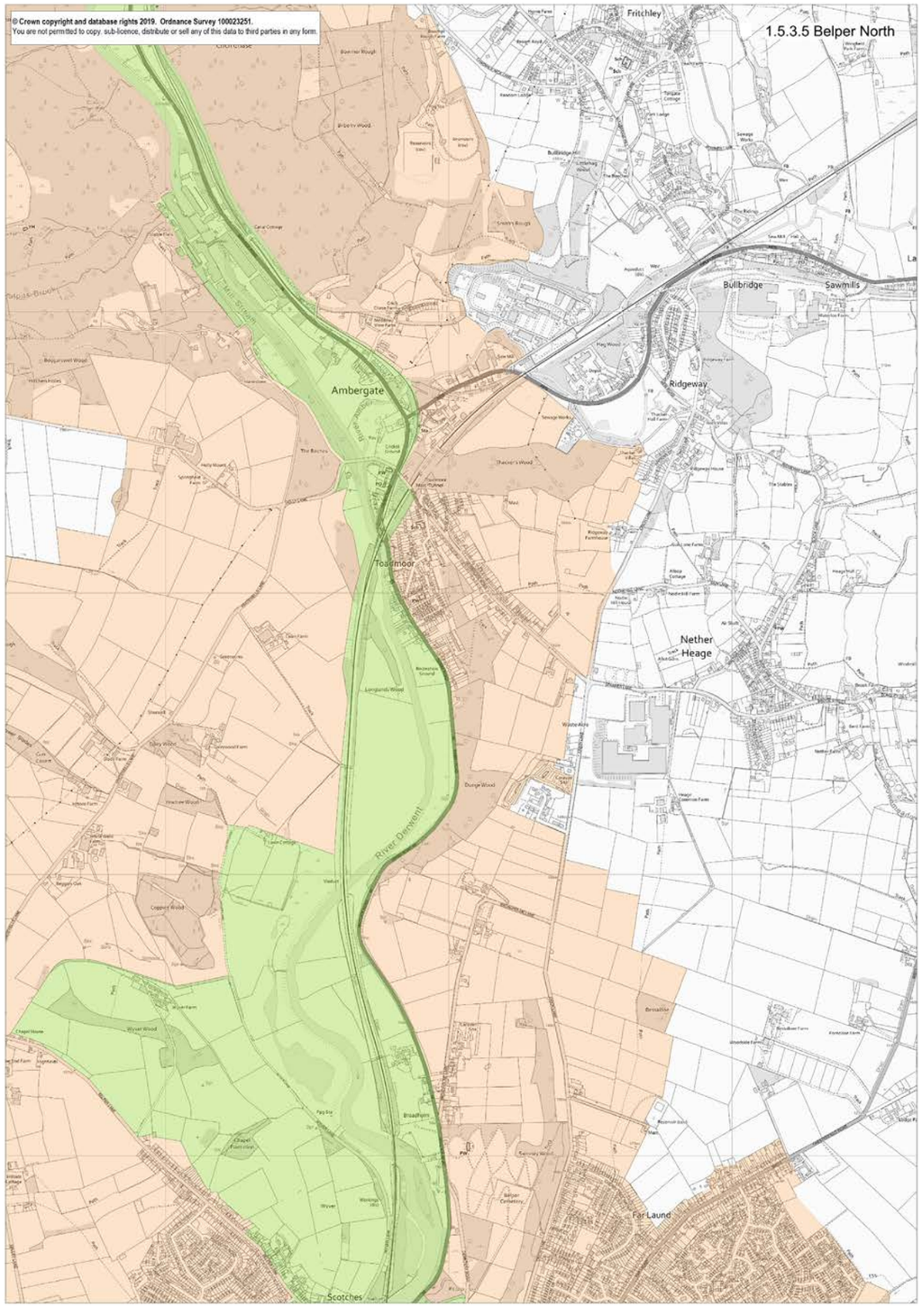
5.3.3 Whatstandwell to Ambergate (Map 3)

South of the aqueduct, as far as Ambergate, the area consists of the River Derwent, the Cromford Canal, and the former turnpike road linking Cromford to Belper and the railway line.



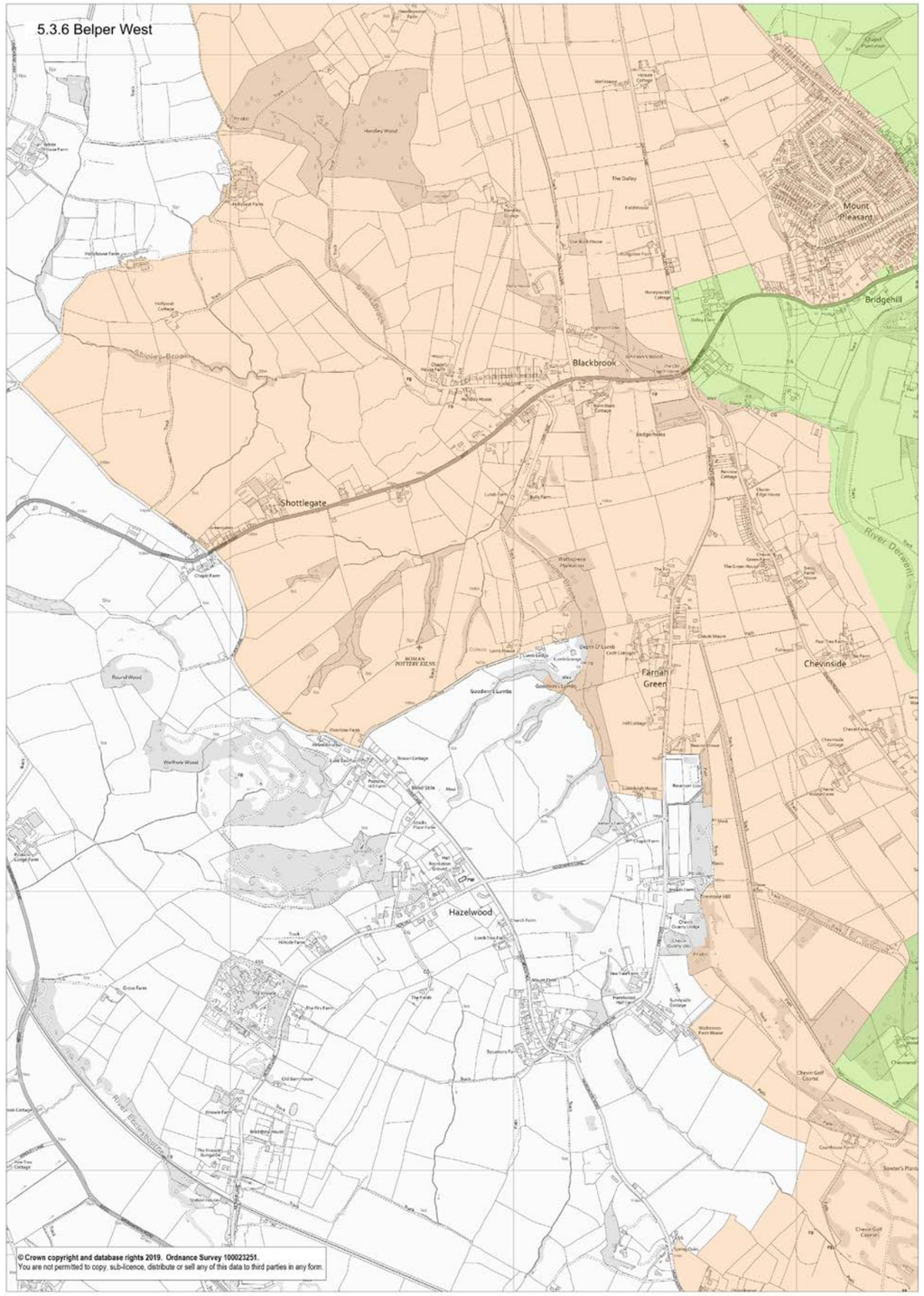
5.3.4 Ambergate and North-West Belper (Map 4)

At Ambergate, the boundary takes in the site of an iron foundry and forge that supplied castings to the cotton mills and the railway bridges over the highway and the River Derwent.



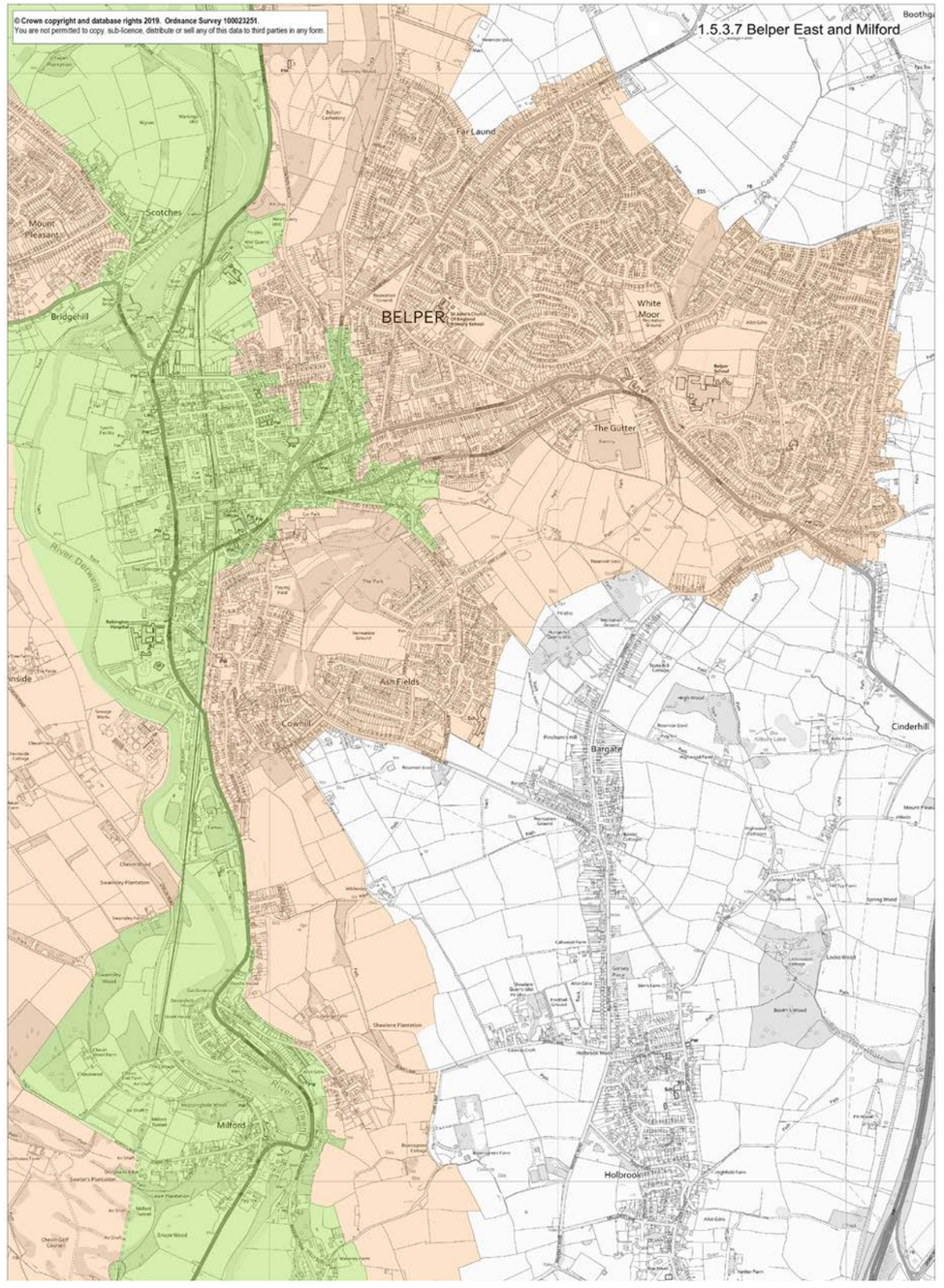
5.3.5 Belper North (Map 5)

The boundaries are formed by the River Derwent and its flood plain to the west and the A6 road to the east until the Belper Conservation Area is reached. Strutt's Wyver Farm lies in the west of the area.



5.3.6 Belper West (Map 6)

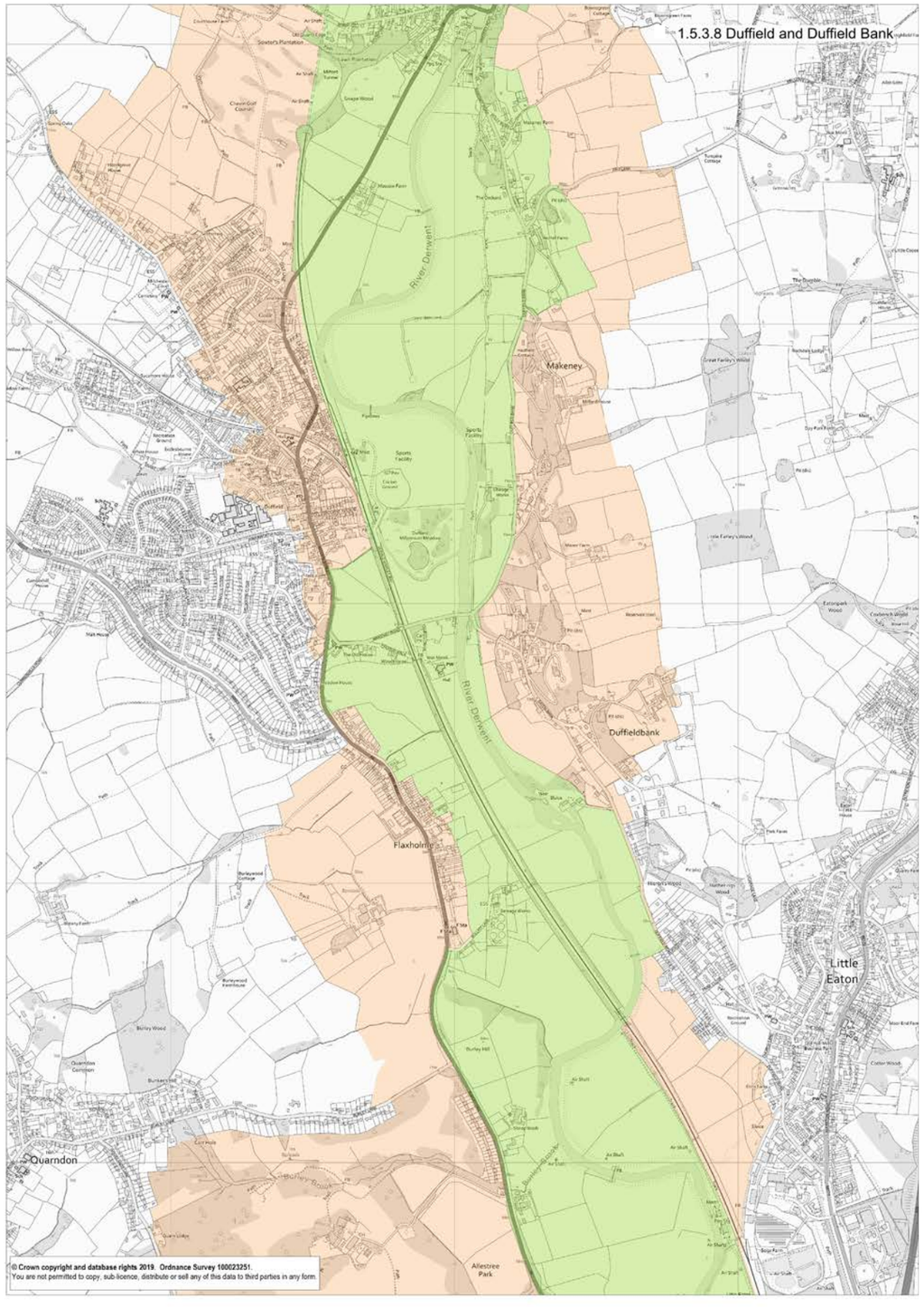
The site incorporates Strutt's Dalley and Crossroads Farms. The Buffer Zone extends out to another Strutt farm, Shottlegate.



5.3.7 Belper East and Milford (Map 7)

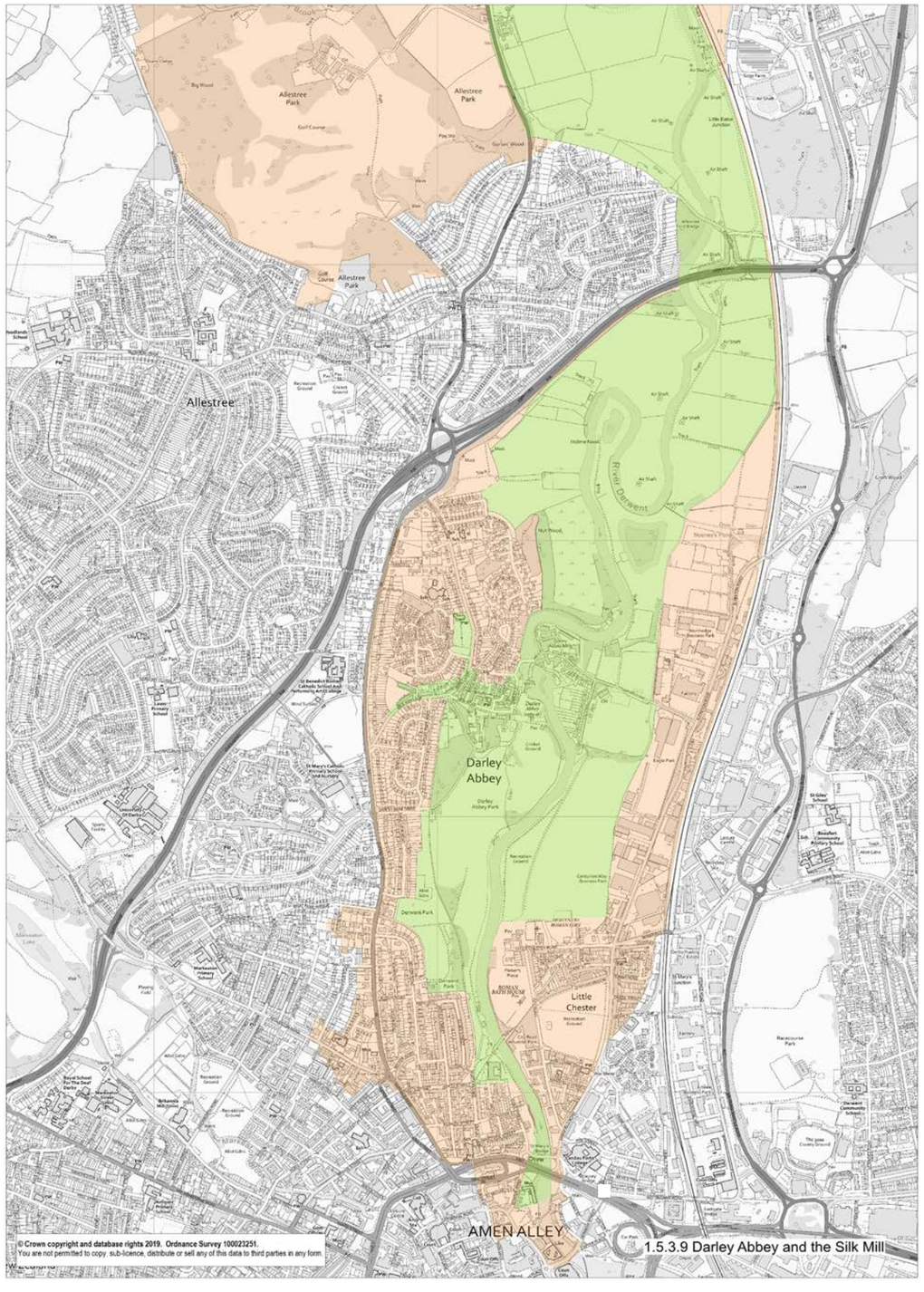
The site incorporates the Belper and Milford Conservation Area[2] except for the remnant of the medieval deer park in the south-east corner, which is omitted. To the south, the river and its flood plain, the railway and the former Derby-Chesterfield turnpike road, now the A6, contain the area as far as Milford, where the Conservation Area forms the site boundary apart from a minor extension to the west to include the ground above Milford tunnel.

[2] The Belper Conservation Area and the Milford Conservation Area were extended on 16 July 2003, with land in between the two designated areas being included, thereby forming one single designation - The Belper and Milford Conservation Area.



5.3.8 Duffield and Duffield Bank (Map 8)

The boundary follows the flood plain of the River Derwent to the east and keeps close to the road and railway line to the west. The roadside development at Duffield is excluded. The flood plain includes Peckwash Paper Mill at Little Eaton.



5.3.9 Darley Abbey and the Silk Mill (Map 9)

The whole of the Darley Abbey Conservation Area is included, with an extension to the north to incorporate St Matthew's Church. All the Evans' mill complex and factory village are within the site. The river plain forms the eastern boundary, with Darley Abbey Park to the west, formerly part of the Evans' estate. From Darley Abbey the site narrows as it enters Derby. The River Derwent flood plain to the east and Derwent Park to the west form the boundaries until the river alone carries the site to its southern extremity, Derby Silk Mill.



The Cromford Canal - within the relict landscape

5.4 The Buffer Zone

The Buffer Zone has been defined in order to protect the site from development that would damage its setting. Some attributes that relate to the primary significance of the site are included. Wherever possible, boundaries of existing protected areas (e.g. Conservation Areas and Green Belt) have been adopted. The Landscape Character Assessment for Derbyshire also informed the definition of the buffer zone.

The boundary of the Buffer Zone is generally clearly evident on the ground by virtue of easily identifiable features, such as field boundaries, watercourses or roads. In the north, where the relief of the topography is marked, a skyline to skyline approach has been adopted.

In the Belper area the Buffer Zone encompasses, to the west, the historic farmland of the Strutts. To the east, where the ground rises, the limits of the settlement and the green belt boundary have been used. To the south the Buffer Zone is defined by field boundaries just below the skyline.

At Duffield, the Buffer Zone comprises the Duffield Conservation Area to the west and, to the east, the rising ground of Duffield Bank and Eaton Bank, including Eaton Bank Conservation Area. Further south the landscaped park of Allestree Hall, the former home of William Evans, provides the Buffer Zone on the western side.

At Darley Abbey, the Buffer Zone consists of the rising land up to the A6 and A38 roads to the west and the land abutting the River Derwent's flood plain up to the railway to the east. Further south it includes the Strutt's Park Conservation Area, the Chester Green Conservation Area, part of the River Derwent immediately south of the site and Derby Cathedral.

It should be noted that the Buffer Zone does not and cannot incorporate the complete setting of the World Heritage Site, which is wider. Development within the broader setting will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis as to impacts on Outstanding Universal Value, particularly if they are of a large scale, either in number or height of buildings or structures (e.g. wind turbines), or exceptionally tall relative to their context (the latter being a particular concern at the southern end of the World Heritage Site, within the setting of the Derby Silk Mill).

The Buffer Zone does include attributes which are functionally linked to the World Heritage Site, particularly the relict landscape, 'arrested in time' (see 3.5), and give an essential context in which the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value can be understood.



The Belper Mills from Bridge Hill House, c.1844

5.5 Historic Context of the Site

The eighteenth century witnessed a fundamental restructuring of economic organisation within society, resulting in the major landmark in human history that came to be known as the 'Industrial Revolution'. Amongst its many innovations was the successful harnessing of relatively large amounts of natural energy to deliver the mechanical power needed to drive machines housed in mills producing goods at an unprecedented rate.

The first stages in the establishment of this new system, the factory system, occurred in the Derwent Valley. At its southern end is the Lombe brothers' Silk Mill in Derby which, when it opened in 1721, brought to England technology developed in Italy which enabled silk to be thrown on machines driven by waterpower. This important step towards full-scale factory production did not on its own trigger rapid or widespread economic investment in mechanised production, but its influence on the later developments in the cotton industry which took place a few miles to the north, at Cromford, is now widely recognised.

It was Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mill that provided the true blueprint for factory production. Arkwright's system was copied widely in many parts of Britain and, soon after, across the globe.

The structures that housed the new industry and its workforce, and the landscape created around them, remain. Overall, the degree to which early mill sites in the area have survived is remarkable. The value of Cromford in the World Heritage Site is further enhanced by the survival of the settlement that was constructed contemporaneously with the industrial buildings, to accommodate the mill workers. Cromford was relatively remote and sparsely populated, and Arkwright could only obtain the young people he required for his labour force if he provided houses for their parents. In Cromford, there emerged a new kind of industrial community that was copied and developed in the other Derwent Valley settlements.

Arkwright's activities stimulated a surge of industrial growth in the Derwent Valley. His close association with the entrepreneurs Jedediah Strutt, Thomas Evans and Peter Nightingale set in train a series of important developments along the valley. All were successful industrialists, whose economic interests extended well beyond cotton manufacturing.

They were also enlightened employers who displayed a strong sense of responsibility for their workforce, their dependants and for the communities that came into being to serve the new industrial system. As such, the developments at Belper, beginning in 1776, at Milford from 1781, and Darley Abbey from 1782, provided early models for the creation of industrial communities.

Today, the housing and infrastructure in these settlements, which were brought into being by the same economic and industrial opportunities and constraints as Cromford, offer unique possibilities for comparison and analysis. In each case, there has been a high degree of survival and the number of houses of an early date, the range of the house types and the extent of the community infrastructure, are the components of an archive of bricks and mortar of unparalleled importance. Nowhere outside the Derwent Valley does the physical evidence of the early factory community survive in such abundance.

The manufacture of cotton thread continued to prosper in the Derwent Valley through the nineteenth century at a level that was sufficient to maintain the mills and their communities. Some extensions were built, especially after the formation of the English Sewing Cotton Company in 1897, e.g. at Masson Mill and at Belper, with the construction of the East Mill. Survival depended upon specialisation and the manufacture of sewing thread for industrial and domestic purposes replaced their earliest function as spinning mills.

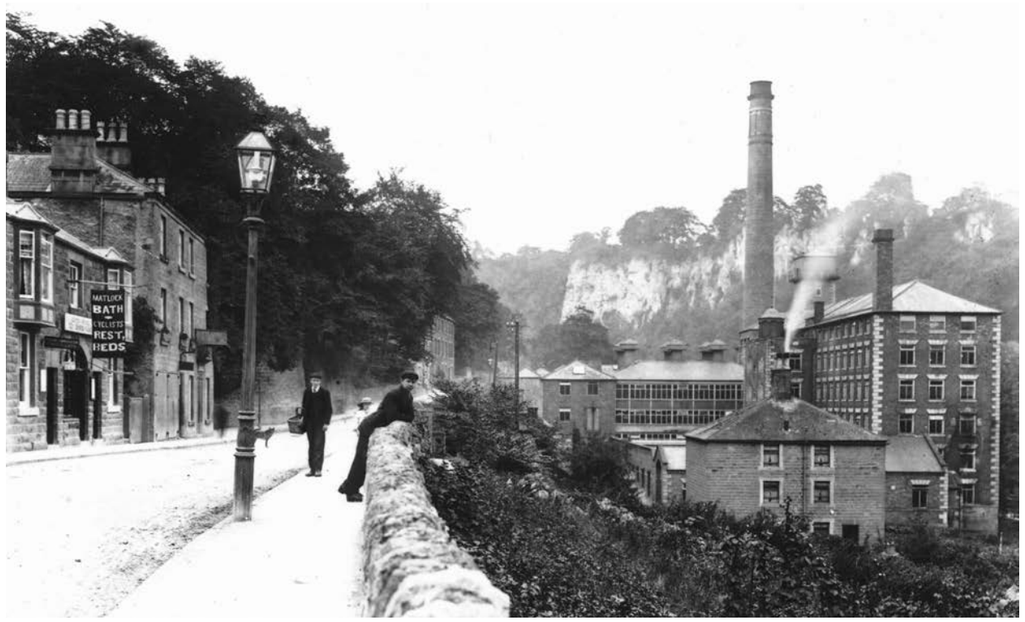
"The mills and the community infrastructure have survived within a largely unaltered landscape. "

Redirection of production to domestic sewing thread maintained the mills until the 1980s (Belper) and 1990s (Masson and Milford).

As the heart of the textile industry moved to Lancashire and Cheshire, the Derwent Valley became a relative backwater. This was particularly the case at Cromford, where a combination of topographical constraints and inaccessibility limited the possibility for growth.

Had the Derwent Valley rather than Manchester become 'Cottonopolis', there would have been a serious risk of these earlier settlements being over- run and their monuments lost, overwhelmed in the name of economic development.

As it was, though, Derby itself remained a market and mill town until the second half of the 19th century when the railway industry led to a second phase of industrial expansion. Further industrial growth and escalating urbanisation did not engulf the valley north of Derby. The original late 18th and early 19th century mills and the community infrastructure have survived within a largely unaltered landscape. The cultural landscape created by the factory system remains substantially intact.



Masson Mills, c.1910

5.6 Cultural Landscape

In 1992 the World Heritage Convention became the first international legal instrument to recognise and protect cultural landscapes, adopting guidelines concerning their inclusion in the World Heritage List.

Although the Derwent Valley Mills was not inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001 as a 'cultural landscape', it displays many of the characteristics of this category.

A prerequisite for the protection and enhancement of the site's 'cultural landscape' is an understanding of what is meant by that term and also what constitutes the nature and qualities of this particular cultural landscape.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has defined cultural landscapes as "representing the combined works of nature and man"*. Of course very few landscapes in the world, and certainly in the United Kingdom, are not of this nature. But it is a useful term to describe the lower Derwent Valley, whose character is very much determined by the way men and women have sustained themselves and their families by the production of goods through harnessing the river's power, by the mining and processing of minerals from the underlying rocks, by the management of woodland and by cultivation of the soil.

The document which nominated the site to UNESCO explains how the landscape's particular character is the result of "arrested urbanisation". Whereas the urbanisation continued unabated in Lancashire, following the initial revolutionary phase of industrial innovation, in the Derwent Valley growth was much reduced in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The whole of the World Heritage Site is a relict landscape where the natural relief and flora has been extensively modified by human intervention, the evidence for which is sometimes obvious, but often not.

For most of the length of the site the presence of the river itself is the constant factor. Above the riverside meadows, within the wider buffer zone of the World Heritage Site, the landscapes of the Peak Fringe are diverse and contrasting. The majority of the buffer zone is defined by the organic landscape of wooded slopes and valleys.

**From Article One of the World Heritage Convention*



View of St Mary's Church from Church Walk, Cromford

5.6.1 Landscape Character

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, as the name suggests, falls completely within the valley of the River Derwent. With steep, wooded valley sides in the north, the flood plain broadens towards Duffield, with the Derwent meandering throughout it. In the north, smaller fast-flowing brooks were dammed to harness water-power for the textile mills.

This early industrialisation was largely arrested due to competition elsewhere, so that land-use has remained predominantly pastoral with mixed stock rearing and rough grazing, and some mixed farming with occasional arable fields where topography allows.

Woodland is well represented, with extensive ancient semi-natural woodland occupying steep valley sides and smaller woodlands elsewhere.

Towards Derby the heavy soils and the vulnerability of the river meadows to flooding led to the early abandonment of arable farming, leaving evidence of medieval ridge and furrow around Duffield and Allestree. At Duffield ornamental parkland extends into the landscape and generally the proximity of Derby becomes progressively more apparent. The expansion of Derby is slowly introducing urban fringe activities into an otherwise agricultural landscape. Beyond Darley Abbey the riverside meadows lose all semblance of nature, being manicured into parkland and playing fields until they are contained between urban development within the city centre.

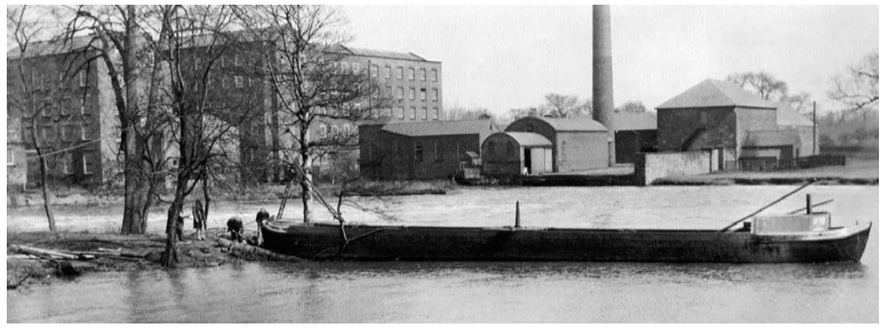
5.6.2 Archaeology and Early History

The Derwent Valley links the Trent Valley with the uplands of the carboniferous limestone and gritstone moors of the Peak District. The long-standing historic importance of the Derwent is indicated by its name being of Celtic origin. The Romans established a fort, Derventio, at Little Chester, a kilometre north of the present city centre of Derby. It became the hub of a road network, enabling it to become a market and administrative centre.

Throughout the Middle Ages the lower Derwent Valley remained a quiet provincial backwater. The only monastic foundation was at Darley Abbey. Gradually, the exploitation of local natural resources resulted in the development of modest industrial activities, especially cloth-making, metal smelting and casting. Derby became a centre for these activities and, by the 18th Century, formed part of the East Midlands 'textiles triangle', which included Nottingham and Leicester. Economic development in the Derwent Valley itself, though, was inhibited throughout this period by poor transport links.



'Remains of Darley Abbey' - illustration, 1869



A barge on the Derwent at Darley Abbey (early 20th century).

5.6.3 The Industrial Revolution and the Valley's architectural heritage

In this remote area an industrial economy emerged and flourished. The River Derwent and its tributaries were crucial in providing the waterpower that underpinned the growth of textile manufacture and the various metal, paper and mineral based industries which were colonising the Valley.

Gradually, communications improved, through the construction of turnpike roads and, more emphatically, through the opening of the Cromford, Erewash and Derby Canals, which linked the area to the national transport system. The area for which the canal provided transportation was much greater than the canal corridor, being extended by a network of rail tramways. These were horse drawn.

In 1826 an Act of Parliament made possible construction of the Cromford and High Peak Railway which linked the canal to Whaley Bridge and the northwest of England.

On elevated causeways above the flood plain runs the railway which ultimately superseded the canal, with the riverside road, now the A6, which largely follows the line of two turnpike roads connecting Cromford, Belper and Derby. These braided lines of transportation form the spine of the World Heritage Site and constitute one of the most important elements of the cultural landscape. Views of the site obtained from the road and the railway line are of particular importance.

This sequential experience of views, travelling north to south or vice versa, is what constitutes for most visitors, and even residents, their principal experience of the site.

The sustained economic investment in industrial development between the 1770s and the middle of the 19th Century changed the face of the lower Derwent Valley. Around long-established hamlets and small villages new settlements emerged. None was more successful than Belper, which grew to a size of such economic importance that it superseded Wirksworth, traditionally the area's second town. After the 1830s, the new Poor Law Union established its workhouse and administrative offices, and Belper became in effect the seat of local government for a wide area.

Derby, unassailably the county town, retained its market and administrative function, but added from an early date a strong industrial and commercial base. The town's wealth and self-confidence found expression in the elegant Georgian and Regency houses, some of which survive, around the Cathedral and the Silk Mill.

Further north in the Valley, the same industrial and landed wealth bequeathed a clutch of imposing and comfortable houses constructed by the businessmen, professionals, landowners and, above all, the new industrial and commercial entrepreneurs.

Of those that have survived, Willersley Castle, Sir Richard Arkwright's family mansion, is the most opulent and notable example. However, such houses and their estates and the large farms often associated with them are not the Valley's principal architectural legacy of its industrial past. This distinction belongs to the mills, their millponds, weirs and watercourses and to the millworkers' cottages that accompany them.



A freight train crossing the viaduct at Ambergate in March 1930, shortly before a second bridge was built over the A6 road.



Stephenson's Tower and Tunnel at Milford in 1975.

The terraces and groups of houses in the Derwent Valley factory settlements are not the work of known architects but they exhibit a superior quality of design which derives both from local vernacular tradition and from an appreciation of Georgian style and proportions.

The buildings and structures related to the Cromford Canal and the North Midland and the Manchester, Matlock, Buxton, and Midlands Junction railways, are examples of some of the earliest architecture of the new modes of transport in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, which served the Valley's industrial complexes. The North Midland Railway engineering structures also provide the finest surviving examples of the Stephensons' influence on railway construction.

Growth of the cotton mill communities in the early years of the 19th century generated the building of schools, chapels and churches and, later in the century and early in the 20th century, other community facilities, such as the district workhouse, public baths, a police house, a cemetery and public parks. Many of the new facilities were initiated and financed in whole or in part by the mill owners. Complimentary industries also flourished, including hosiery/ framework knitting.

Some of the most arresting farmsteads in this landscape are those built by the Strutts, who employed innovative building techniques developed for the construction of their mills and highly organised modes of processing feed and animal waste, which influenced the layout and appearance of the farm complexes.

Because of the slowing of urbanisation in the valley by the end of the 19th century, the setting of many of the buildings was largely preserved. In many cases the building's architectural heritage is enhanced by landscape setting and in Cromford and Matlock Bath by the dramatic and picturesque scenery of the Matlock Gorge.

5.6.4 Geology

The geology of this part of the Derwent Valley consists mostly of rocks from the Carboniferous Series. In the north, around Cromford and Matlock Bath, the hard, resistant carboniferous limestone produces rugged upland scenery through which the River Derwent carves a dramatic narrow gorge. The limestone rock in this vicinity is faulted and folded and contains bands of volcanic basalt and mineralised veins which are the source of ores of lead, zinc, barium and fluorine.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth century the limestone gorge between Matlock and Cromford was admired for its picturesque and "sublime" qualities. The choice of design for Masson Mill demonstrated a desire to honour these qualities. Even though it has lost some of its wild grandeur the gorge continues to attract visitors by virtue of its drama and beauty. Views into and out of the site are particularly important at this northern extremity.

Further south the carboniferous limestone is overlain by millstone grit of the same series which consists of fairly soft shales interspersed with hard layers of coarse sandstone grit locally known as gritstone. Gritstone outcrops on both sides of the Derwent as far south as Little Eaton provide steep-sided hills and create a well-defined, enclosed valley. The gritstones are a source of high-quality building stone.

Just north of Derby the Carboniferous Series is abruptly replaced at the surface by the Triassic Sandstone Series, mainly soft marlstones and harder red or pink sandstones. The latter produce a distinct low ridge to the west of Darley Abbey.

There are five Regionally Important Geological Sites, identified in Local Plans for protection.



Aqueduct Cottage on the Cromford Canal

5.6.5 Ecology

The northern end of the World Heritage Site lies within the White Peak Natural Area with the distinctive Carboniferous limestone features mentioned above. The underlying geology and soils here have given rise to rich habitats for wildlife, particularly in woodlands found in the steep sided ravines. Two such woodlands, Slinter Wood and Hagg Wood, are located within the World Heritage Site, and are both within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These woodlands are two of the best examples of ancient ash woodland on limestone in Derbyshire and, together with metallophyte (metal tolerant plant) communities, support a number of scarce plants of national importance. The low-fertility grasslands on carboniferous limestone include the Rose End Meadows SSSI in the buffer zone to the north of Cromford.

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent Natural Area encompasses the rest of the World Heritage Site to the south. The gritstone provides acidic soils and the steep valley sides, with the Derwent's liability to flood, create a complex of habitats. The woodlands, primarily oak and birch with flushed wetland areas, are of particular importance. Shining Cliff Woods, in the buffer zone to the west, is also a SSSI.

Grassland is the dominant habitat throughout the WHS, particularly from just north of Belper where the valley floor widens southwards. Riverside grasslands are extensive, but little remains of the former traditional lowland, the unimproved hay meadows. The Derwent is an important habitat, flowing the length of the World Heritage Site with adjacent marshes and wet grassland. The Cromford Canal, and some of its towpath, is a SSSI.

Sixteen Wildlife Sites are identified by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as either wholly or partly within the WHS. These are identified in Local Strategic Plans for protection.

As a result of the Environment Act 2021, Derbyshire County Council has adopted a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the county of Derbyshire. Within the DVMWHS, the LNRS encourages biodiversity that is appropriate to the relict landscape and which supports the Site's Outstanding Universal Value. The LNRS also promotes the establishment of natural capital upstream of the World Heritage Site, that supports eco-system services that help to attenuate flooding.

5.6.6 Landscape

The Industrial Revolution inevitably brought about many changes. Textile mills and industrial settlements, waterpower systems, turnpike roads and canals and, later, railways, all changed the landscape. Farming was intensified through the adaptation of mass production techniques developed in the mills. The River Derwent was tamed – up to a point – by engineering works, and woodlands were reduced and quarries dug into hillsides to provide building materials. Even so, by the middle of the 19th century, with the exception of Derby, and to a lesser extent Belper, this had become an area of 'arrested urbanisation'. As a result, most of this stretch of the Derwent Valley retains a rural or semi- rural appearance. Most of the hills, particularly the steeper slopes, remain wooded; in some cases the woodland characteristics have been influenced by past management associated with local industries e.g. Crich Chase where ancient coppiced oaks are a legacy of white coal making for lead smelting which dates back to the 16th century, possibly earlier.

Some sections of the valley, particularly between Ambergate and Cromford, are almost entirely rural in character. Much of the surviving elaborate waterpower infrastructure of ponds, weirs and leats for the mills now provides tranquil aquatic habitats, as does the stretch of the canal running south from Cromford to Ambergate. Quarries are now disused and have merged into the natural landscape to form habitats of a distinctive variety. The same is true of the spoil heaps of abandoned lead workings on the northern edge of the area, which support rare species of plants tolerant to the otherwise toxic ground conditions.

This stretch of the Derwent Valley contains a large number of protected areas of landscape and wildlife habitats. Most of the rural area of the valley north of Milford is classified as a Special Landscape Area in the statutory local plans, which is the highest quality of landscape that is designated in Derbyshire outside the Peak District National Park.

Some of the 'rural' landscape within the valley is the direct result of the mill owners preserving but also adjusting and shaping their surroundings, so it better worked for their industrial purposes but also retained or established attractive views from their homes.

For example, at Belper, whilst the town faced away from the river, the water meadows were utilised by George Benson Strutt to create a parkland setting to the house he built for himself on the hillside above the mills in 1793. Later a private carriage drive was created through this parkland to make the most of the riverside setting.

The fortitude of these pioneer industrialists, to create a landscape which worked for them, is now so embedded as to be misconstrued as a 'natural landscape'. This shaping of the valley is an important contributory factor to the nature of the landscape today, and its contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills.

Later philanthropic activity by George Herbert Strutt, the great-great-grandson of Jedediah Strutt, saw the creation of Belper River Gardens as a recreational space and attraction for the residents of Belper and the wider region. This garden is now included on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and has a Grade II listing.

The Belper cemetery, although not developed by the Strutts, once established, became the resting place for the family. Indeed, some earlier members of the family were re-interred in the cemetery to encourage greater acceptance of the cemetery by Belper residents.

The cemetery was laid out by William Barron, who was a prominent landscape designer/gardener from Scotland who relocated to Derbyshire in the first half of the 19th century. It is included as a Grade II* entry on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Leawood Pumphouse on the Cromford Canal



5.6.7 Complementary Cultural Stories

The landscape in and surrounding the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone contains many complementary or associated stories which relate to the core narrative of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value. These, not exclusively, include early tourism spa developments at Matlock Bath; the home of renowned Victorian nurse Florence Nightingale; the development of framework knitting in the Belper area; the development of early industries using the power of the river such as lead smelting and iron forges; the ironworks developed by the Butterley Company near Ripley; and railway expansion and the arrival of Rolls-Royce at Derby. The Derwent Valley Mills sit within an area of Derbyshire which is rich in industrial heritage and value.



Lea Hurst, home to Florence Nightingale

5.7 Economic Development

5.7.1 Transport developments

The economic development of the area was originally based upon local natural resources: agricultural (especially wool and dairy), mineral (especially lead, iron-stone, limestone, gritstone, coal and clay) and waterpower, from the Derwent and its tributaries. Derby has been an important communications centre since Roman times, but the valley northwards, up into the Peak District, suffered from inadequate communications until the early 19th Century. Only the establishment of textile mill complexes brought significant communications improvements. Even then, the building of turnpikes was sporadic, leaving parts of the valley inaccessible.

Derby had good links to the River Trent and the national canal network, via the Erewash, Cromford and Derby Canals (including navigation on the river Derwent between the Derby Canal and Darley Abbey) and this played a major part in the valley's industrialisation. The north-south road link between Cromford and Belper provided by the turnpike of 1817/18 (the present A6) transformed communications in the valley. Railway penetration of the valley, thanks to the North Midland line linking Derby to Ambergate and beyond as early as 1840, made slower progress further north in the valley. This was extended north through Matlock Bath in 1849. In the 1860s a through route was completed, via Buxton, to Manchester. By then the Derwent Valley had ceased to be at the forefront of industrial progress.



Tollhouse on the turnpike road junction by Milford Bridge (19th century)

Some of the workers at Smedley's Mill in Lea Bridge (c.1900)



5.7.2 Nineteenth Century Developments and Growth of Tourism

Throughout the 19th Century, textile manufacturing remained the largest single economic activity in the area, but within the valley different patterns of economic development were experienced. Derby continued to grow and diversify, benefiting from the railway boom of the mid-nineteenth century, when it became a key centre in the developing rail network and in the manufacture of locomotives and rolling stock. By the end of the century engineering in the town had overtaken textiles in importance. At the same time Derby thrived as the county town, though never challenged Nottingham as the regional centre.

To the north, a different form of economic growth flourished. Matlock Bath grew as a spa resort for an elite clientele but developed as a day out destination of regional significance for both tourists and day visitors who, from 1849, were brought to the settlement in increasing numbers by the rail link to Derby and other major towns. Matlock Bath, with its hotels and guest houses, refreshment, and entertainment facilities, was well placed to receive and accommodate these visitors and experienced steady growth as a result.

Cromford, immediately to the south, was drawn into this tourist boom only to a minor extent. Visitors from Matlock Bath walked through the grounds of Willersley Castle, and enjoyed the beautiful Via Gellia, but the village did not develop a tourist infrastructure. It remained an industrial settlement with Arkwright's mills at Matlock Bath and Smedley's Mill at Lea Bridge providing much of the employment, supplemented towards the end of the century by the growth of quarrying and mineral workings in Wirksworth, Middleton and Hopton.

Further south, Belper enjoyed buoyant economic and population growth. Textile and hosiery manufacture, pioneered there by the Strutts, Wards and Brettles, prospered, but there were also engineering and iron-founding. The long local tradition in nail-making flourished until about 1870 when machine-made nails superseded the hand-forged product. The coalfield, to the east of the town, also brought employment and accelerated growth. By the end of the century Belper emerged with an unusually diverse manufacturing economy for its size. This included the rejuvenation of the mills, provided by the formation of the English Sewing Cotton Company.

Even as late as 1835, Andrew Ure in his *The Philosophy of Manufactures* described the special nature of the setting of the Strutt mills at Belper and Milford in the Derwent Valley, compared to industrial sites elsewhere. On pages 343 and 344, talking of the Strutt mills in Belper, he states: *The mills there, plainly elegant, built also of stone, as well as their other mills at Millford (sic), three miles lower down the river, are driven altogether by eighteen magnificent water- wheels, possessing the power of 600 horses [...] As no steam engines are employed, this manufacturing village has quite the picturesque air of an Italian scene, with its river, over-hanging woods and distant range of hills.*

5.7.3 Twentieth Century Developments: Derby

Darley Abbey remained a centre of textile manufacturing but its role as a commuter centre for Derby grew inexorably from the 1930s. This development has increased pressure on open land, including the allotments once provided by the mill owners to encourage their workers in feeding their families.

Throughout the 20th Century, Derby retained a healthily diverse economy. Textile manufacturing remained important, with synthetic fabrics playing an increasingly important role. Engineering, in many forms, has been the city's major strength, especially following the development of Rolls Royce's aero-engine division and the opening of the Toyota motor car plant on the south-western edge of the city. Chemicals, ceramics and food processing have also prospered, and remain important. Derby has been, and remains, pre-eminently a manufacturing city.

In the latter half of the 20th Century the service sector provided a growing proportion of the employment market in Derby and its city region. Tourism never played a prominent part, but the final quarter of the last century saw the growth of a greater pride in the city's heritage and care for its environment. Progressive pedestrianisation of the city centre has made it more pleasant to visit, and the extension of Conservation Area status to the historic core has ensured protection and scope for enhancement of the city's heritage. The Silk Mill, on the banks of the River Derwent, at the southern end of the World Heritage Site, is now a 'Museum of Making' which celebrates the city's industrial heritage and long history of entrepreneurial spirit, engaging people as the southern gateway to the DVMWHS.



The Museum of Making in Derby's Silk Mill

5.7.4 Twentieth Century Developments: Cromford and Matlock Bath

The rest of the lower Derwent Valley saw substantial economic changes in the twentieth century. Matlock Bath retained its role as a day resort. It has acquired new attractions including a theme park and a cable car, which continue to attract visitors. At Masson Mill, the original Arkwright Mill has been refurbished as a working textile museum and continues to produce hydroelectricity to power the site and beyond.

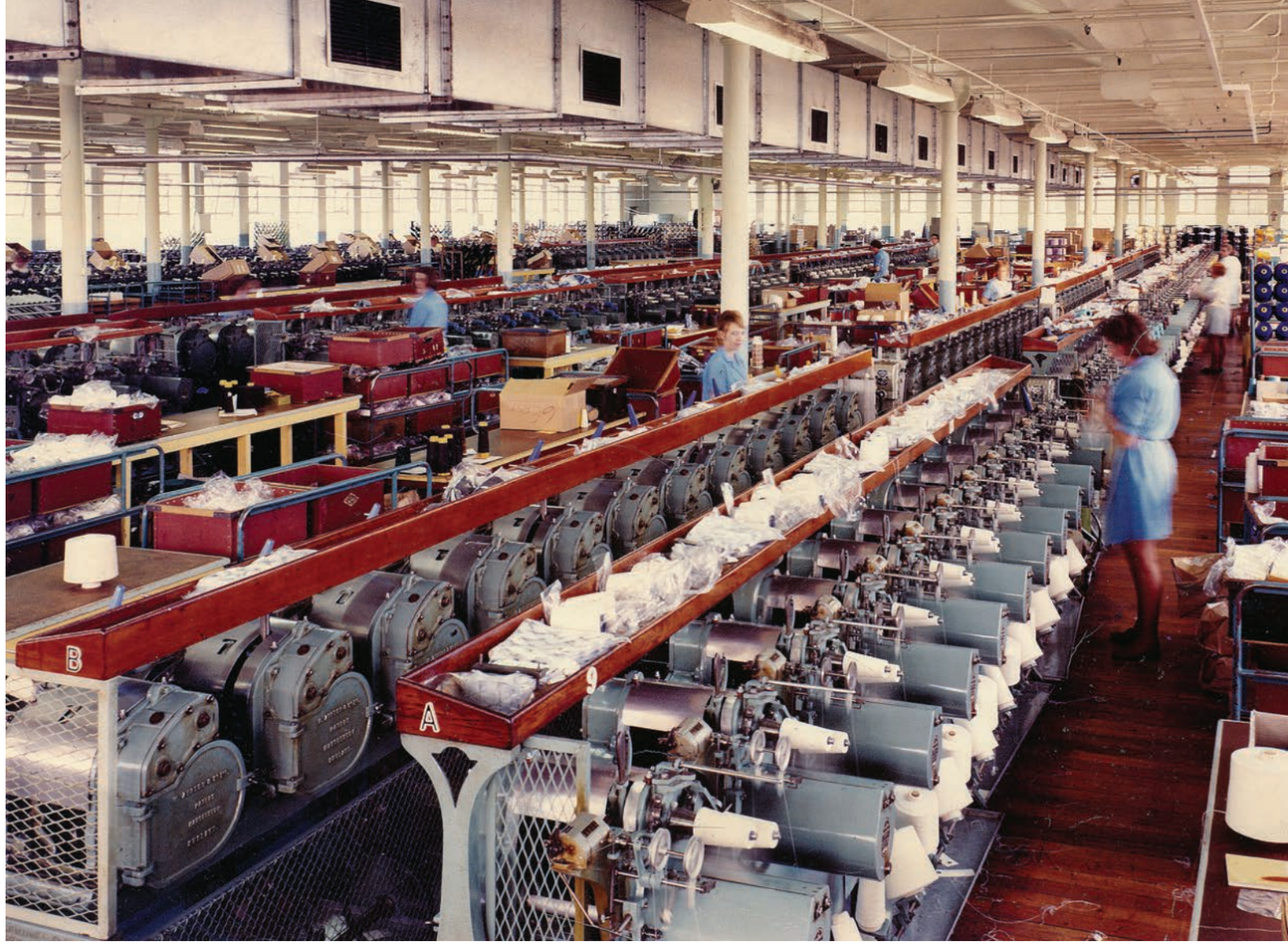
In Cromford, the mills had ceased textile production c.1885. By the 1920s, it was back in full occupation, split between the manufacturing of colour pigment and a laundry. By 1979, with increasingly stringent health and safety regulations, the site was no longer suitable for chemical processes and, heavily contaminated and with the buildings in poor condition, it was put on the market. To prevent the site being broken up and sold piecemeal and the buildings destroyed, it was purchased by the Arkwright Society. Over the years, many buildings have been brought back into economic use, made accessible for the public and the site decontaminated. The mills now make a substantial contribution to employment provision in Cromford, with a visitor centre gateway for the World Heritage Site. Water power has been harnessed again at Cromford Mills generating hydroelectricity for the site.

The Arkwright family home, Willersley Castle, became an hotel and conference centre. The pleasure grounds and park that surround the castle are included on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It is now a residential adventure centre for children.

Mineral extraction has been an important economic activity around Cromford throughout its history, first through lead mining and subsequently in quarrying. By the middle of the nineteenth century, lead mining had ceased to be a significant influence, but a mining museum survives at Matlock Bath. The quarrying of limestone is a major local industry. Areas to the west of Cromford have been heavily quarried. This has provided jobs in the locality although it also creates environmental problems, especially with the movement of large lorries carrying aggregates. These have particularly affected the village of Cromford.

Cromford village in 2025





Inside the East Mill , Belper, before closure in 1986

5.7.5 Twentieth Century Developments: Ambergate to Milford

Ambergate, Belper and Milford saw continued economic evolution in the 20th century. Textile manufacturing experienced a prolonged contraction but other sectors, especially engineering, chemicals and food processing, remained buoyant.

At Ambergate, the former Hurt-owned iron forges attracted the development of a wireworks, one of the first industrial sites in the UK to be powered by hydro.

Belper was badly hit for a time in the 1980s by the closure of English Sewing Cotton's operation at East Mill, but the overall economy of the town proved robust enough to absorb this loss in a relatively short time. Since then, other manufacturing firms have re-located out of the town. Textile manufacture in Belper finally came to an end in 2016 with the closure of Courtaulds on the former West Mill site. A grant-funded Townscape Heritage Initiative enabled a number of shopfronts in the town to be restored at the beginning of the 21st century, contributing to the town winning the Government's Great British High Street Competition in 2014 and again in 2019.

The textile mill complexes at Milford and Darley Abbey underwent considerable change in the 20th century, with some demolition and replacement by modern structures at Milford and further industrial development at Darley Abbey, which has now been fully re-energised with the creation of business units and a wedding venue within the mill buildings.

Perhaps the most important economic change affecting these settlements is the extent to which they have been drawn into the economic and employment ambit of the city of Derby. By the end of the 20th century, they were all functioning as commuter settlements, as the traditional industrial nature in the valley bottom waned. Belper and Milford, in particular have experienced this change, with residential satellite communities for Derby reusing former employment sites.

The former mill sites at Belper and Milford (as at Masson) continue to harness the power of the river and supply the National Grid with Hydro Electric Power.

As with Derby, tourism has so far played a small part in the economy south of Cromford and until recently there was no tourism infrastructure. A modest start has now been made, with walking tours in Belper relating to the World Heritage Site stories, and eating establishments within the Darley Abbey Mills complex.

6 COLLECTIONS

Although traditionally artefacts and archives relating to a World Heritage Site have not been seen as part of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), UNESCO has, in recent years, accepted the value and importance of collections in helping to tell the stories, and provide evidence which helps us to showcase its authenticity.

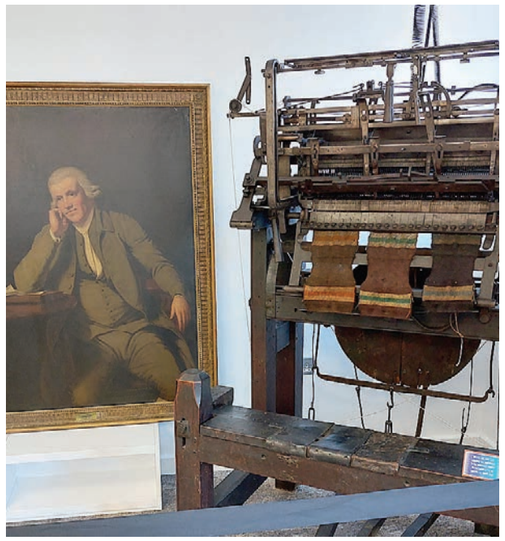
The Derwent Valley Mills are blessed with an extensive collection of artefacts and archives which enrich their story and inspire both local people and visitors to understand and appreciate their significance in world history. Dispersed across a wide variety of institutions in the Derwent Valley and beyond, these items help us to interpret and animate the history of the world's first factories.

Recognising and appreciating the value of these collections, the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership has supported the work done to conserve, extend and document material relating to the World Heritage Site, through its own Collections Working Group.

Examples of material acquired since inscription onto the World Heritage List in 2001, can be found in the publication Enlightenment! Derbyshire Setting the Pace in the 18th century, (Derbyshire County Council, 2013), the catalogue of a National Lottery Heritage Fund strategic collecting programme which was supported by many other public and private trusts.

It is important to recognise there is a wide spectrum of elements linking to the attributes which contribute to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, e.g. pre-18th century archaeology. Museums, libraries and archives also hold collections of intangible heritage such as oral history testimony and transcriptions.

Collections feature within the DVMWHS Research Framework (ed. David Knight, DVMWHS, 2016), aiding in the interpretation of all of the eleven Strategic Research Objectives. The Framework records the following local institutions holding collections as being central to the telling of the DVMWHS story (* denotes accredited museum within the Arts Council accreditation scheme): The Arkwright Society; Bakewell Old House Museum*; Belper Historical Society; Belper North Mill Trust; Chatsworth House; Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery*; Crich Tramway Village*; Friends of Cromford Canal; Darley Abbey Historical Group; Derby Local Studies and Family History Library; Derby Museums*; Derbyshire Archaeological Society; Derbyshire Historic Environment Record; Derbyshire's Museum Service*; Derbyshire Record Office; Little Chester Heritage Centre; Masson Mills; Midland Railway Trust; Peak District Lead Mining Museum*; John Smedley Ltd Archive.



Jedidiah Strutt portrait and framework knitting machine with Strutt's patented Derby Rib, in Belper Library

In addition, there is material relating to the DVMWHS in national collections, (e.g. British Library) other regional collections (e.g. Manchester Museums and Galleries, Oxford University) and collections in the USA (e.g. Yale Centre for British Art and Columbia University).

These collections are globally significant in detailing the story of the Derwent Valley Mills. The World Heritage Site Partnership recognises their importance and the need to ensure they are secure, properly cared for and available for this and future generations to appreciate and study in order that a greater understanding of the mills and their communities is reached.

7 CURRENT REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is the only World Heritage Site within the East Midlands. It is situated in the county of Derbyshire, within the East Midlands Combined County Authority, which was created in 2024. The World Heritage Site falls within the administrative boundaries of Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Erewash Borough Council.

The UK Government requires all of its World Heritage Sites to produce management plans to fulfil UNESCO's requirements for a management system. It is therefore expected that all of the above agencies need to acknowledge the DVMWHS Management Plan as part of their plans.

8 WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION ADDRESSED THROUGH LEGISLATION AND THE UK PLANNING SYSTEM

8.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

There is no specific legislation in the UK relating to consent for work to World Heritage Sites. Changes within World Heritage Sites are controlled through the Planning and various natural/heritage consent systems. Notwithstanding this, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, which received Royal Assent in October 2023, includes provision to give World Heritage Sites statutory status ensuring they enjoy the same protection under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as listed buildings and conservation areas (along with other designated heritage assets such as scheduled monuments).

Chapter three of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act relates to Heritage, and paragraph 102 includes provision to insert new text, after section 58A in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The new Section 58B would require a 'Duty of regard to certain heritage assets in granting permissions'. This would require special regard to be given to the desirability of preserving or enhancing an asset or its setting. A World Heritage Site – in its entirety – is listed as a relevant asset, with its significance under this Act relating specifically to its Outstanding Universal Value.

A further new addition to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 coming out of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act are 'Street Vote Development Orders', a process granting planning permission in relation to a particular street area for development. Importantly, World Heritage Sites and their buffer zones are 'excluded areas' where Street Vote Development Orders are not permitted.

The New Levelling Up and Regeneration Act also includes provision for information about World Heritage Sites to be recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER). HERs are a repository for all historic environment information relating to, or generated by, the planning system. Derbyshire's HER, for all local planning authorities in Derbyshire, including Derby City Council, is hosted by Derbyshire County Council.

At the time of publication these provisions are not yet in force.

8.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

World Heritage Sites are defined as designated heritage assets in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012, revised 2018, 2019, 2023 , 2024 and 2026 (NPPF). The NPPF has replaced previous policy guidance. Its underlying principle is to enable the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (NPPF Chapter 4). It sets out detailed policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including World Heritage Sites, through plan-making and decision-making.

World Heritage Properties are referred to in the National Planning Policy Framework and in this guidance as 'World Heritage Sites' and are defined as designated heritage assets in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The importance of conserving heritage assets is recognised in the NPPF as one of three objectives in achieving sustainable development (Chapter 1 Paragraph 18) – i.e. 'to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment'.

The revised NPPF clearly sets out that World Heritage Sites are assets of the highest significance. Indeed, at the beginning of Chapter 20 of the revised NPPF states: "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".

Within this chapter it states that heritage assets "are an irreplaceable resource". This resource, if lost within a World Heritage Site, can lead to the Site being placed on UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger List, and if the damage is not reversed, can lead to deletion from the World Heritage List.

Policy HE4- paragraph 2 outlines that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (including from development within its setting) should have a clear and convincing justification

Policy HE6, paragraph 1 adds that "substantial weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential effects amounts to a positive effect, harm, substantial harm, or total loss of its significance".

Paragraph 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework states ' Where a development proposal would harm the significance of a designated heritage asset the effect on the asset and its significance should be weighed against any public benefits resulting from the proposal'.

Paragraph 6 goes on to say ' Development which would cause substantial harm to, or the total loss of, the significance



The new tearooms in Belper River Gardens, from Wyver Lane

of grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; while development which would cause substantial harm to, or the total loss of, assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional'

Policy HE8 relates specifically to World Heritage Sites. Paragraph 1 says that 'To secure the long-term future of World Heritage Site and support the conservation of their significance and Outstanding Universal Value, development proposals that affect a World Heritage Site should:'

a. Be designed in a way which pays particular regard to the significance and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site (including any contribution made by its setting including any buffer zone);

b. Retain and conserve buildings and other features which make a positive contribution to the significance and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site where possible;

c. Have regard to the World Heritage Site management plan; and

d. Be supported by an assessment of the impact, including any potential cumulative impact, on the significance and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. This should be informed by appropriate information such as visual impact assessments and natural environment, archaeological or historical data.

Paragraph 2 notes that not all elements of a World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Nevertheless, overall, the WHS represents an asset of very high value.

Local harm should not be under-rated when considering the effect on the WHS as a whole. It should not lie below that of a similar effect on a much smaller world heritage site, otherwise such reasoning could lead to the proliferation of similar harm throughout the WHS*.

Paragraph 2 goes on to say that 'Where a development proposal would result in the loss of a building or other element which contributes to the significance or Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site, the assessment of impact should take into account the significance and the contribution made to Outstanding Universal Value by the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the World Heritage Site as a whole, and the effects of this considered in accordance with policies HE5 and HE6'.

Paragraph 3 states that 'Proposals that conserve those elements of a World Heritage Site or its setting, including any buffer zone, that make a positive contribution to it or which better reveal its significance, should be supported'.

From this criteria, it is clear that planning authorities must assess an application's ability to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, against negative impacts to heritage assets of the highest recognised significance. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. This assessment can best be done through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (see 8.3).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) touches on this methodology in Policy HE5- Assessing effects on heritage assets, paragraph 1: "Development proposals affecting heritage assets should be accompanied by an assessment of the significance of the assets affected (including any contribution made by their setting) and of the potential effect of the proposal on their significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is necessary to understand the potential effect of the proposal on their significance'.

However, this is now expanded further in Policy HE8 paragraph 1 (d) in relation to World Heritage Sites.

It has to be stated that the current UK planning legislation does not fully align with the terminology set out by UNESCO, or provide the level of protection UNESCO wishes to see. Any level of harm is still harm and UNESCO will be concerned about any action that impacts on Outstanding Universal Value. This is particularly the case where small actions cumulatively erode the OUV of the World Heritage Site.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Planning Practice Guidance (see 8.4 below) paragraph 31 explains the differences in terminology between UK legislation and UNESCO's: "The international policies concerning World Heritage Sites use different terminology to that in the National Planning Policy Framework. World Heritage Sites are inscribed for their 'Outstanding Universal Value' and each World Heritage Site has defined its 'attributes and components' the tangible remains, visual and cultural links that embody that value. The cultural heritage within the description of the Outstanding Universal Value will be part of the World Heritage Site's heritage significance and National Planning Policy Framework policies will apply to the Outstanding Universal Value as they do to any other heritage significance they hold. As the National Planning Policy Framework makes clear, the significance of the designated heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting."

Local planning authorities need to have policies in their local plans that reference their commitment to the WHS and its management plan. Policy HE2 within the National Planning Policy Framework refers to plan making within World Heritage Sites.

The current Local Plans are listed in Appendix 7 and it is expected that any future revisions of Local Plans will be submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre with a supporting Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with UNESCO toolkits.

**Taken from paragraph 36 of the report by Inspector Alan Novitzky BArch(Hons) MA(RCA) PhD RIBA dismissing a planning appeal at Darley Abbey for residential development in the buffer zone (appeal references APP/C1055/W/15/3137935 and APP/C1055/W/15/3141117) in July 2016.*

8.3 Heritage Impact Assessments

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee wishes to ensure Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity, for development proposals within World Heritage Sites and their buffer zones, to ensure that any potential negative impacts on Outstanding Universal Value are avoided. Ideally, HIAs should be the starting point when considering a development project in a World Heritage Site.

HIAs need to be in accordance with the ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment methodology, which can be found at ***https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/***. A guidance note by Historic England is available at ***https://historicengland.org.uk/content/documents/advice/he-briefing-unesco-guidance-toolkit-hia-2022***.

HIAs are needed in assessing projects, including an assessment of cumulative impacts, and these need to be submitted with a planning application. The application needs to show how the design of a scheme has evolved in response to the HIA.

In Section C, there is operational guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments.

8.4 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Planning Practice Guidance

HM Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was published in November 2016, and most recently updated in December 2024. The Historic Environment category of this Guidance provides direction on how World Heritage Sites need to be considered within the National Planning Policy Framework.

It states: "The Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site, set out in a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, indicates its importance as a heritage asset of the highest significance to be taken into account by:

- the relevant authorities in plan-making, determining planning and related consent applications (including listed building consent, scheduled monument consent, development consent orders and Transport and Works Act Orders)
- and, where relevant, by the Secretary of State in determining such cases on appeal or following call in."

The international policies concerning World Heritage Sites use different terminology to that in the National Planning Policy Framework. World Heritage Sites are inscribed for their 'Outstanding Universal Value' and each World Heritage Site has defined its 'attributes and components': the tangible remains, visual and cultural links that embody that value. The cultural heritage within the description of the Outstanding Universal Value will be part of the World Heritage Site's heritage significance and National Planning Policy Framework policies will apply to the Outstanding Universal Value as they do to any other heritage significance they hold.

As the National Planning Policy Framework makes clear, the significance of the designated heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, plans, at all levels should conserve the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity (where relevant for cultural or 'mixed' sites) of each World Heritage Site and its setting, including any buffer zone or equivalent. World Heritage Sites are designated heritage assets of the highest significance. Appropriate policies for the protection and sustainable use of World Heritage Sites, including enhancement where appropriate, need to be considered in relevant plans. These policies will need to take account of international and national requirements as well as specific local circumstances.

When developing plan policies to protect and enhance World Heritage Sites and their Outstanding Universal Value, plan-



Aerial view of Belper town centre and the mills

making bodies should aim to satisfy the following principles:

- Protecting the World Heritage Site and its setting, including any buffer zone, from inappropriate development
- Striking a balance between the needs of conservation, biodiversity, access, the interests of the local community, the public benefits of a development and the sustainable economic use of the World Heritage Site in its setting, including any buffer zone
- Protecting a World Heritage Site and its setting from the effect of changes which are relatively minor but which, on a cumulative basis, could have a significant effect
- Enhancing the World Heritage Site and its setting where appropriate and possible, through positive management
- Protecting the World Heritage Site and its setting from climate change but ensuring that mitigation and adaptation is not at the expense of integrity or authenticity

Local planning authorities whose area covers either the World Heritage Site itself or all or part of its setting need to take these principles and the resultant policies into account when making decisions on applications.

The UNESCO Operational Guidelines seek protection of "the immediate setting" of each World Heritage Site, of "important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the Property" and suggest designation of a buffer zone wherever this may be necessary. A buffer zone is defined as an area surrounding the World Heritage Site which has complementary legal restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the World Heritage Site. The buffer zone forms part of the setting of the World Heritage Site. The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Buffer Zone was identified and agreed as the immediate setting to the World Heritage Site by UNESCO at the time of inscription.

Proposals to add or amend buffer zones following inscription are submitted by the UK Government for approval by the World Heritage Committee who will consider and adopt the proposals as appropriate. Minor changes to give greater clarification to the boundaries for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its buffer zone are being considered by the DVMWHS Partnership.

The buffer zone is only the immediate setting of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, and longer views to and from the WHS also need to be considered in the development of relevant plan policies.

This management plan contains both long term and day to day actions to protect, conserve and present the Site. For the structure of the DVMWHS Partnership see Section 10.1

Applicants proposing change that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of a World Heritage Site through development within the Site or affecting its setting (including any buffer zone or equivalent) need to submit sufficient information with their applications to enable assessment of the potential impact on Outstanding Universal Value. This may include visual impact assessments, archaeological data and/or historical information. In many cases this will form part of an Environment Statement. Applicants may find it helpful to use the approach set out in the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (***https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/***) and Historic England's guidance on setting and views. As highlighted above, in Section 8.2, if an application is deemed to negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, then it will require clear and convincing justification. As World Heritage Sites are heritage assets of the highest significance akin to Grade I listed buildings and scheduled monuments, this is a very high threshold.

The UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention ask governments to inform the World Heritage Committee at an early stage of proposals that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site and "before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value is fully preserved". Therefore, local planning authorities should consult Historic England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport at an early stage and preferably pre-application about any development proposals which may affect the World Heritage Site, its buffer zone or its wider setting.

Local planning authorities should inform the World Heritage Site Coordination Team of any development proposals which they believe may have an adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity, authenticity and significance of the World Heritage Site, its buffer zone or wider setting and consult them during the application process.

Local planning authorities are required to consult the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government before approving any planning application to which Historic England maintains an objection and which would have an adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity, authenticity and significance of the World Heritage Site or its setting. The Secretary of State then has the discretion as to whether to call-in the application for his/her own determination. Further information on the Secretary of State's involvement in deciding an application can be found in the 'Determining a planning application section' of the guidance (***https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance***).

World Heritage Sites are defined as article 2(3) land in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. This means that certain permitted development rights are restricted within the Site. Local planning authorities can restrict further development by using article 4 and article 5 (minerals operations) directions under the 2015 Order.

8.5 Statutory Controls

A comprehensive system of statutory control operates under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).

A network of strategic planning policies is also in place to protect the Property and its setting. There are 13 Conservation Areas falling wholly or partly within it. 859 buildings within the Property and Buffer Zone are included on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest. There are also 13 Scheduled Monuments.

8.6 Procedure for reporting on development that may impact on Outstanding Universal Value

Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention states: "The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorise in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

"Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved."

If a local planning authority is considering an application for a major restoration or new construction project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site then, in accordance with the above paragraph, this needs to be notified to Historic England's Head of International Strategy and the Senior International Heritage Policy Adviser at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) at the earliest possible occasion. They will then decide whether to inform UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

The above is especially important where the major restoration or new construction project may negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.

8.7 Appeal Decisions

In recent years a number of Planning Appeals have taken place in the Derwent Valley Mills and other World Heritage Sites, which have been refused on World Heritage grounds, or World Heritage issues have been major considerations as part of a refusal.

Often, the impact on the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value has constituted, in NPPF terms, 'less than substantial harm'. In the majority of cases this has been sufficient to dismiss appeals as World Heritage Sites are heritage assets of the highest significance. There has also been an acknowledgement by HM Inspectors that the incremental impact of 'less than substantial harm' could, in certain cases, accrue into substantial harm (this is supported by HM Government's Planning Practice Guidance, which endorses the principle of protecting a World Heritage Site from the effect of changes which are relatively minor but which, on a cumulative basis, could have a significant effect).

Appendix 6 sets out the parts of the inspectors' statements that the World Heritage Site Partnership believes are informative precedents that help set the context in which planning applications need to be considered. Headings have been provided to indicate themes.

8.8 State of Conservation Reporting

In 2021, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre placed the Derwent Valley Mills on a State of Conservation reporting footing. This occurred due to planning approvals being granted for schemes that had been highlighted by ICOMOS International, on behalf of UNESCO, as negatively impacting on the Site's OUV.

Planning decisions can impact on the World Heritage Site and ultimately cause it to be placed on UNESCO's 'In Danger' list. State of Conservation reporting is the first signal of concerns that could lead to such a decision. In the Derwent Valley, this was brought in because two applications received planning approval despite concerns raised by UNESCO, and after the World Heritage Site Partnership, Historic England and the Planning Authority's own historic environment advisor all identified that the proposals would negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value.

In light of these issues, all local planning authorities responsible for the appropriate stewardship of the DVMWHS need to be fully aware and understand the need to protect and conserve the World Heritage Site, its Outstanding Universal Value and the values, attributes and elements which manifest this OUV.

The UK Government now has to provide regular State of Conservation reports which respond to the concerns raised by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. This process is designed to assure the World Heritage Committee that progress is being made in successfully resolving the issues that have been raised.

Both the applications which instigated the DVMWHS being placed on the State of Conservation Report footing involved impacts on the setting of the World Heritage Site. Incremental erosion of the setting has been identified by planning inspectors as unacceptable and the cumulative impact of such development could amount to substantial harm.

The World Heritage Centre Advisory Mission met stakeholders and visited key sites within the DVMWHS





8.8.1 World Heritage Centre Mission, 2024

The process of State of Conservation reporting led to a World Heritage Centre Advisory Mission being invited by the UK Government to visit the DVMWHS in early 2024, to review the Site's management and protection regimes. A report by the Mission, including recommendations, was considered by the World Heritage Committee in Delhi in July 2024.

8.8.2 World Heritage Committee recommendations

Following the Mission, The World Heritage Committee, provided recommendations to the UK Government as State Party, which have informed this iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan. The UK Government and the DVMWHS Partnership will show how they are responding to the recommendations, through the State of Conservation reporting regime. Appendix 3 includes the latest recommendations from the World Heritage Committee.

During the lifetime of this management plan the Partnership and the UK Government will need to respond to any updates to the World Heritage Committee recommendations.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT & EMERGENCY DISASTER PLANNING

UNESCO requires that all World Heritage Sites have climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in place by 2030. This is also reflected in recommendation 11b from the World Heritage Committee in 2024, that in a review of the management system of the property, "risk management and emergency preparedness plan for the entire World Heritage property be included."

Some disaster plans and risk registers already exist for the key sites within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, but it is essential that all sites are prepared. To ensure a co-ordinated response to disasters, access to those plans needs to be made available to the DVMWHS Coordination Team. In order to address UNESCO's and the World Heritage Committee's requirements, the DVMWHS Partnership will request all key sites and governmental authorities have appropriate risk management strategies in place that identify risks for the DVMWHS. The Partnership will then hold a collated register that links to these documents, including review dates for each.

For mill sites and other structures on or close to the banks of the River Derwent, flooding is likely to prove an increasing threat, both in terms of frequency and scale, so it is vital such plans prepare for possible severe flooding incidents, to help avoid the worst impacts of flooding and to minimise recovery times.

The Historic England report Future Climate and Environmental Change Within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site can be accessed at ***https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15750***

10 THE DVMWHS PARTNERSHIP: GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

Statutory administration for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is shared by a number of local authorities and government agencies.

Since the previous iteration of the Management Plan, the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has been formed, which is led by an elected regional mayor. The combined authority covers Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derbyshire and Derby, and therefore the entirety of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site falls within its boundary. Regeneration money from Central Government for the region – particularly in relation to transport, housing, skills and adult education, net-zero, economic development and visitor economy – will now be passed through and prioritised by EMCCA.

An understanding of how the new combined authority will impact and influence the management of the DVMWHS is currently developing. The Management Plan provides the co-ordination mechanism for the administration of the Site by the local authorities and government agencies. The DVMWHS has been identified as a key area within EMCCA's emerging Spatial Vision.

Representation from EMCCA has been sought for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership's Strategic Board and Technical Group, to reflect these changes in regional governance.

Approximately two-thirds of the key properties, and the overwhelming majority of other buildings, are privately owned. It is therefore important that private owners are engaged with and, where appropriate, help deliver the Management Plan's aims and objectives.

The DVMWHS Partnership is responsible for overseeing the production of the Management Plan and for coordinating its implementation on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

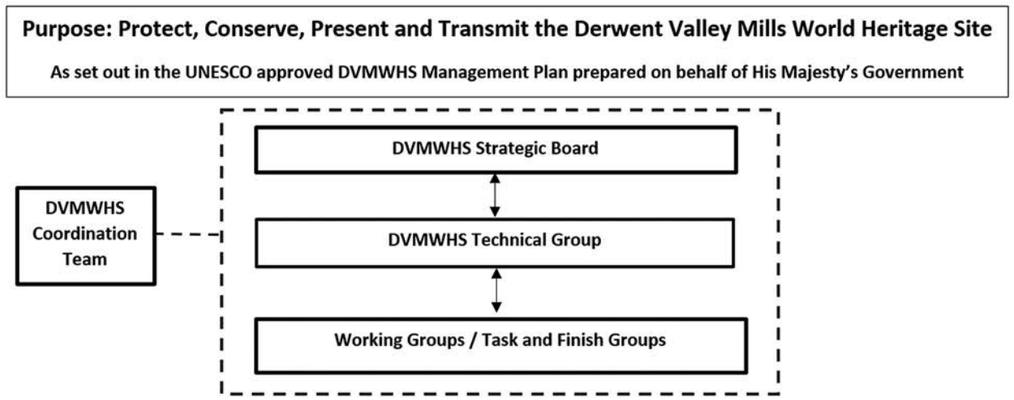
The Partnership is a coalition of interested bodies that is formally represented via the management structure identified on the next page.

The DVMWHS Partnership has a Strategic Board that sets the strategic direction of the DVMWHS within the scope of the Site's Inscription. Its duty is to;

- Endeavour to secure sufficient resource to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of Site;
- Ensure the production of a Management Plan for the World Heritage Site; and
- Monitor the delivery of the actions identified in the Management Plan.

The Technical Group is focussed on the management of the DVMWHS and coordinates operational changes and developments within it. It is composed of the officers from local authorities and public agencies, staff of private businesses and representatives of community organisations and trusts from within the DVMWHS Partnership that are responsible for delivery of actions within the Management Plan.

10.1 Governance



The diagram above shows the operational structure of the DVMWHS Partnership. The purpose of the Management Plan is to protect, conserve, present and transmit the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site for future generations. The overall governance of the of the Partnership is provided by the Strategic Board. Below this sits the DVMWHS Technical Group, this group are responsible for the management and ownership of key partnership organisations and are the delivery agents for the objectives and actions within the management plan.

Working Groups and task and finish groups include representation from across the partnership and communities designed to work on specific key themes, projects or aspects of the management plan where collaboration is most impactful. The DVMWHS Coordination Team supports each level of operations including direct delivery of elements of the management plan, leading working groups and task and finish groups, servicing the administrative functions of the Strategic Board and Technical Groups and monitoring progress against the management plan.

10.1.1 The Strategic Board

Overall governance of the Partnership will be provided by the Strategic Board.

The primary functions of governance in this context are:

- Foresight:
  - to hold the purpose, values and culture of the partnership and ensure it is commensurate with UNESCO.
- Strategy:
  - to ensure the Management Plan is in place and being delivered to fulfil HM Government's commitment to UNESCO.
- Management:
  - To ensure the structures and resources required to deliver the Management Plan are in place.
- Accountability:
  - to the wider partnership, DCMS and UNESCO for the delivery of the commitments set out in the Nomination Document, delivery of the Management Plan and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site.

The membership of the Strategic Board is comprised of senior representatives (CEOs, Leaders, Senior Managers) from:

- The Local Authorities responsible for stewardship of the DVMWHS and its buffer zone.
- EMCCA (East Midlands Combined County Authority)
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire
- Visit Derby
- Historic England
- Natural England
- University of Derby
- Arts Council England
- 'Green' business

Strategic Board members are expected to be advocates of the DVMWHS and champion its purpose and objectives (see Section 11 and Part B).

10.2 Management

10.2.1 The Technical Group

A Technical Group has been established to bring together officers of partner local authorities and public agencies, staff of partner private businesses and representatives of partner community organisations, who are individually and collectively responsible for the delivery of actions identified in the Management Plan.

The purpose of the group is to share, coordinate and report on progress with respect to the delivery of actions.

This group also identifies resourcing gaps and other challenges and opportunities in respect to the Management Plan's delivery so they can be highlighted to the Strategic Board.

It meets twice a year, in February/March and September and reports to the Strategic Board.

Membership of the Technical Group is comprised of staff and officers involved in the delivery of Management Plan actions and any associated projects or programmes of work that are relevant to Management Plan delivery.

This, not exclusively, includes:

- Local Authority Officers
  - Promotion/economic regeneration
  - Transport
  - Conservation
- EMCCA
- Key Destination Sites (staff and/or trustees)
- Significant DVMWHS related enterprises/ operators
  - e.g. Birdswood, Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service
- The Derwent Valley Trust
- Town and Parish Councils
- Community Rail Partnership and other transport groups
- Community representatives and volunteers
- Environment and sustainability representatives
  - Natural England
  - Environment Agency
  - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Historic England
- ICOMOS UK
- Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust
- DVMWHS Educational Trust
- Learning and education organisations
- Health and wellbeing organisations

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Forum enables discussion on important topics and networking



10.2.2 Working Groups

In addition to the Technical Group the following working groups have been established:

- Conservation and Planning
- Development and Tourism
- Learning
- Research
- Collections

Task and finish groups are established to address specific actions in the Management Plan, as and when they are needed. For example, during the course of the last Management Plan, a finite group was set up as a steering group to progress a study into the financial standing of different development scenarios relating to the development of the Belper Mills complex.

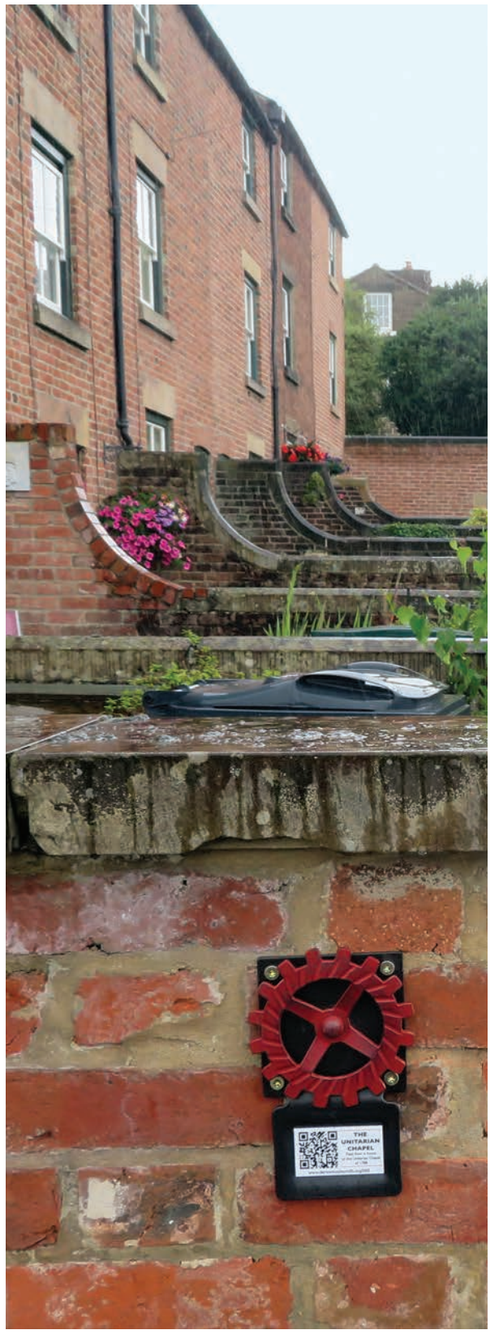
10.2.3 DVMWHS Forum

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Forum provides a voice and mechanism for the widest range of interested partners. It gives them the opportunity to engage with the World Heritage Site and network with partners. It will meet twice during the lifetime of this Management Plan.

10.3 Delivery

10.3.1 Actions

Delivery of the Management Plan is a collective endeavour delivered by a large number of partners as outlined in Part B.



QR-code heritage trail in Belper, using bespoke waterwheel plaques

10.3.2 Coordination

Coordination of the delivery of the Management Plan is undertaken by a core team consisting of:

- 2.7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) DVMWHS Co-ordinators

In addition to the delivery of a number of key actions in the Action Plan they are also responsible for the support of:

- The Strategic Board
- The Technical Group
- The following groups:
  - Conservation and Planning
  - Development and Tourism
  - Learning
  - Research
  - Collections
- The Partnership Forum

The team is managed by the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design at Derbyshire County Council and hosted by Derbyshire County Council.

Additional coordinator resource is required for full delivery of the Management Plan and to appropriately address UNESCO's requirements, and the recommendations which have come forward from the World Heritage Committee through the State of Conservation reporting regime which began in 2022. Key partners also need to meet the commitments that they made in the Inscription Document in order to support delivery of the management plan.

10.4 Funding and resources

The coordination team is currently funded by financial contributions from Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council. However financial contributions have decreased since 2015/16. Up until 2020, this reduction equated to 38%. During the lifetime of the previous iteration of the Management Plan, a further 47% reduction to the core funding of the team has been made between the funding partners, excluding Derbyshire Dales District Council. Fortunately, the DVMWHS Partnership's reserve was sufficiently robust to bridge this reduction until March 2028. However, from April 2028 additional funding will need to be found if the coordination team's present staffing levels are to be maintained.

Additional in-kind support is provided by Derbyshire County Council. This consists of:

- Time that the Head of Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service allocates to the World Heritage Site e.g. Coordination Team management, Management Plan development and appearing as expert witness at planning appeals.
- Conservation, planning, and landscape advice from officers within the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service.

The current levels of resource are not sufficient to deliver the commitments of this Management Plan. Additional financial resources will be required to provide further coordinator resource to deliver the Management Plan, particularly objectives related to learning and engagement.

As identified by the 2024 World Heritage Centre Advisory Mission, the management of the DVMWHS can appear fragmented. This situation is exacerbated, not just by insufficient resource within the coordination team, but also by reduced resource and staffing across the Partnership.

Page 158 of the DVMWHS Nomination Document (2001) sets out the commitment made by the Partnership members towards staffing at the time of inscription: "The authorities and agencies engaged with the nomination are committed to continued co-operation and collaboration to provide an effective professional, technical and administrative regime for fulfilling the objectives outlined in the Management Plan." It continues: "A substantial commitment of staff resources to prepare the nomination has been made by Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, the district councils and English Heritage [now Historic England]. Each are committed to the continuing provision of staff time and financial resources to ensure the good stewardship of the nominated site."

The commitments HM Government made to UNESCO in the Nomination Document still stand.



Workshop for DVMWHS researchers at the Strutts Centre, Belper

10.5 Local Government Restructure

Within the time period covered by this management plan, the composition of government covering local planning authorities in Derbyshire is to be restructured.

It is not yet clear what the exact form of the restructure will be, however, it is likely that there will be two unitary authorities that cover the geography of Derbyshire and that the DVMWHS will be split across these two authorities. This represents a significant reduction and simplification in the number of authorities responsible for the planning and listed building consent systems for the World Heritage Site.

As part of the restructure, it is essential that the World Heritage Site is appropriately considered and resourced, ideally to meet the commitment that the current authorities made in the Nomination Document.

11 THE DVMWHS PURPOSE, VISION AND KEY AIMS

The Purpose of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Inscription is to:

Maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its culture, economy, unique heritage and landscape in a sustainable manner.

The Vision for this 2026-2031 Management Plan is to:

Develop and promote a local, national and international understanding and identity for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site as a cohesive and coherent whole, based on its global significance for all of humankind.

The objectives and actions set out beneath each of the aims below in Part Two of this Plan have been identified to deliver the DVMWHS's purpose and the Vision of this Plan.

The Aims of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership are set out on the right. Aim 1 is paramount and all other aims must not conflict with it.

1. **Conservation and Planning –** Protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS to ensure its transmission to future generations.
2. **Engagement -** Promote public awareness and engagement with the DVMWHS by presenting its Outstanding Universal Value through formal/informal learning, volunteering, events, interpretation and encouraging research.
3. **Development and Tourism -** Promote the sustainable development (Environmental, Economic and Social) of the DVMWHS to provide a world-class destination where people are proud to live, work, visit and invest.
4. **Transport and Accessibility –** Develop an integrated and sustainable approach to meeting and promoting the transportation and accessibility needs of the DVMWHS and its users.
5. **Monitoring and Resources –** Provide sufficient resource and monitoring for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to the standard required by UNESCO, and encourage appropriate site-wide data gathering to support the delivery of the above aims.

12 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goals were established by the United Nations in 2016. These goals are the blueprint to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges humankind faces, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The United Nations wish to attain these goals by 2030.

The DVMWHS Management Plan will further the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives contained within it have been 'mapped' against these goals, highlighted in Section B.

More information at https://www.un.org/ sustainabledevelopment/ sustainable-development-goals/





B KEY THEMES

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The new waterwheel at Cromford Mills

‘State of Conservation’ footing for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

In 2021, UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre placed the Derwent Valley Mills on a State of Conservation reporting footing. This occurred due to planning approvals being granted for schemes that had been highlighted by ICOMOS International, on behalf of UNESCO, as negatively impacting on the Site’s OUV.

The UK Government now has to provide periodic State of Conservation reports which respond to the concerns raised by UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee. This process is designed to assure the World Heritage Committee that progress is being made in successfully resolving the issues that have been raised.

The process of State of Conservation reporting led to a World Heritage Centre Advisory Mission being invited by the UK Government to visit the DVMWHS in early 2024, to review the Site’s management and protection regimes. The Mission was shown the DVMWHS and it met with representatives from across the DVMWHS Partnership, including local planning authorities, key site managers and owners, community groups and volunteers.

Following the Mission, The World Heritage Committee provided recommendations to the UK Government as State Party, which have informed this iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan. The UK Government and the DVMWHS Partnership will show how they are responding to the recommendations, through the State of Conservation reporting regime. Appendix 3 includes the latest recommendations from the World Heritage Committee. During the lifetime of this management plan the Partnership and the UK Government will need to respond to any updates to the World Heritage Committee recommendations.

The following aims, objectives and actions have been informed by the World Heritage Committee recommendations and set out how the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site will deliver its vision.

Aim 01 Protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS to ensure its transmission to future generations

Aim 01 is paramount and all other aims cannot conflict with it

Context

Aim 1, **Conservation and Planning**, is paramount and the objectives and actions should be read in conjunction with section 8 in Part A which outlines how World Heritage protection is addressed through legislation and the UK Planning and Listed Building consent systems. Actions taken should also be in line with the Operational Guidance provided in Section C, specifically the Statement of Planning Procedure for Development Management, Heritage Impact Assessment requirements and the Design Rationale.

Unfortunately, where alterations to Elements do not constitute development, and therefore do not require planning permission, and the Element is not included on the Secretary of State’s statutory list of historically and architecturally important buildings, there is limited control or scope to protect these Elements from harm. An example of this may be where fixtures and fittings within a building contribute to the World Heritage Site’s Outstanding Universal Value but the building is not Listed. In this instance alterations could take place that damage or destroy those fixtures and fittings without the need for planning permission or listed building consent.

The Partnership encourages owners and developers to appropriately steward and protect any Element that contributes towards the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS and refer closely to the recommendations of UNESCO World Heritage Committee as provided in Appendix 3.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026-31

OBJ 1.1

Through the implementation of the Statement of Planning Procedure, ensure that development in the WHS and its Buffer Zone or setting does not negatively impact on its OUV. New development should contribute to the economic and social vitality of the WHS. This is not a balance judgement. Any development that can be seen to negatively impact on the WHS, its Buffer Zone and wider setting, therefore impacting negatively on the OUV, should not be granted permission.

ACT 1.1.1 Review the Statement of Planning Procedure for Development Management in Section 3c as National Planning Policy changes or is updated.

ACT 1.1.2 Historic England and the DVMWHS Coordination Team will highlight the existing guidance that is in place on accumulative impacts in World Heritage Sites as part of training for planners and planning committee members, and through the responses to planning and listed building consent applications.

OBJ 1.2

Deliver, assist and promote training that aids an understanding of the DVMWHS’s OUV and its protection, conservation and enhancement.

ACT 1.2.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to deliver training sessions twice within the life of the management plan, open to all relevant officers and planning committee members and others dealing with applications that affect the WHS.

ACT 1.2.2 DVMWHS Coordination team to create a toolkit and training video for scheme promoters and developers to understand the WHS’s OUV and implications for development including the need for Heritage Impact Assessments. Ensure this ‘signposts’ building owners and managers to appropriately trained heritage and traditional skilled professionals and operatives, to support the appropriate conservation and maintenance of their assets. This could include supporting Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust in any training initiatives as well as using its crafts register.

Belper’s East and North Mills



OBJ 1.3

Engage with strategic and other key plans to ensure the WHS and its Buffer Zone is appropriately acknowledged and protected in accordance with UNESCO's Operational Guidelines.

ACT 1.3.1 Owners of key strategic plans, (such as local development plans, transport plans, highway network management plan, environmental strategies, economic strategies, corporate plans, neighbourhood plans etc.) to ensure appropriate and timely updating to adequately protect the DVMWHS. These should be shared with the DVMWHS Partnership who will engage as resources allow to ensure that the DVMWHS OUV is appropriately recognised and protected. With regards to local development plans this needs to include reviewing Green Belt boundaries and other designations to appropriately protect the DVMWHS OUV.

ACT 1.3.2 Owners of key strategic plans (as above) should ensure that their development is informed by a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the UNESCO Toolkit.

ACT 1.3.3 Encourage parties that are undertaking initiatives that do not require planning permission to ensure their actions do not inadvertently negatively impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.3.4 DVMWHS Coordination Team and key partners to produce a planning toolkit. This toolkit will explain how applicants and planning officers will need to consider the WHS through the planning process (see 1.2.2).

ACT 1.3.5 The local planning authorities are encouraged to produce Supplementary Planning Documents for the area of the DVMWHS for which they are responsible

OBJ 1.4

Promote appropriate conservation and protection of heritage assets, relevant to the OUV, in the DVMWHS, its Buffer Zone and wider setting.

ACT 1.4.1 Ensure that when the Derbyshire Historic Building Trust 'Heritage at Risk' project is complete, that the identified key buildings, structures and areas at risk, are incorporated into the DVMWHS 'at risk' list held on the DVMWHS website.

ACT 1.4.2 Partners and owners to work, together where appropriate, to take action on buildings, structures and areas that are on the Historic England and the DVMWHS Heritage at Risk Lists to enable them to be removed as adequate protection and conservation has been achieved.

ACT 1.4.3 Through the planning system promote appropriate active use of buildings, structures and areas within the DVMWHS so that they are appropriately conserved and contribute to the vitality of the WHS. Uses that negatively impact on OUV will be resisted by the Local Planning Authorities.

ACT 1.4.4 DVMWHS Partnership to encourage, support and lobby funding partners to re-establish conservation grant schemes for the communities of the DVMWHS, to ensure continuing repairs and restoration.

ACT 1.4.5 Where ownership of an attribute or element of the WHS is unknown, the DVMWHS Partnership to work to identify bodies to pro-actively carry out its maintenance.

ACT 1.4.6 Encourage organisations to review and lobby for appropriate legislation that will protect Elements of Attributes which do not meet the current listing criteria, particularly interior fixtures and fittings which contribute towards the significance of that Element.

ACT 1.4.7 Derbyshire Dales District Council to investigate the option of enacting an Article Four direction for Cromford Conservation Area, working with Cromford Parish Council to protect its character and appearance as Arkwright's principle industrial settlement.

OBJ 1.5

Through the planning system ensure the Partnership engages to secure an appropriate scheme which conserves and protects the Belper Mills Complex in a scheme that acknowledges and enables engagement with the OUV of the DVMWHS. (See Aim 3 Development and Tourism around ensuring a key visitor destination is developed).

ACT 1.5.1 DVMWHS Partnership to monitor and engage with all listed building and planning applications and work with scheme promoters wherever possible.



The Belper Mill Complex and River Gardens from the Derwent

OBJ 1.6

Promote the appropriate safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage associated with the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.6.1 Encourage partners, developers and owners to protect place and street names that are associated with the DVMWHS and its OUV.

ACT 1.6.2 Encourage partners, developers and owners to implement naming protocols that are appropriate to the past and link places to the DVMWHS and its OUV.

OBJ 1.7

Promote public realm projects that enhance the OUV of the WHS by restoring lost features and conserving eroded or damaged features.

ACT 1.7.1Establish a consensus for the produced draft of the public realm scheme for Mill Road/Lane at Cromford that facilitates the reinstatement of the aqueduct to Arkwright's first mill and pedestrian movement across Mill Road/Lane between the Cromford Mill site and the canal wharf, integrating high vehicle warning signs, vehicle turning and the removal of modern highway signage/lining.

ACT 1.7.2 Seek to establish funding sources for the public realm improvement scheme for North Street, Cromford, which reinstates the street's historic paving.

ACT 1.7.3 DVMWHS Coordination team to assist the Belper Cluster Heritage Group to realise an appropriate public realm improvement scheme that protects the historic character and significance of the area.

ACT 1.7.4 Review the public realm and open space strategy for Darley Abbey Mills as the options for the new bridge are developed.

ACT 1.7.5 DVMWHS Partnership to engage with the owners of Willersley Castle to encourage and support the implementation of the recommendations in the Willersley Castle Registered Park and Garden Grounds Landscape Conservation Management Plan.

ACT 1.7.6 DVMWHS Partnership organisations to seek funding to maintain tree management of areas where 'restoring the view' work took place during the DerwentWISE programme (2014 – 2018) and identify other iconic views and establish appropriate tree maintenance schedules.

OBJ 1.8

Promote the appropriate stewardship of the physical movement and transport network of the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone. (See also Aim 4 Transport and Accessibility).

ACT 1.8.1 Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council as the highways authorities to ensure that modern highway interventions (such as line-marking and signage) and light pollution in the DVMWHS and Buffer Zone are minimised where it will adversely impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.8.2 DVMWHS Coordination team will engage with any future Midland Mainline Electrification Scheme to ensure that it does not negatively impact on the OUV of the WHS.

OBJ 1.9

Promote the appropriate stewardship of the relict 18th century rural setting and 'natural environment' of the DVMWHS and Buffer Zone to ensure conservation of functionally linked Attributes and to promote biodiversity within this framework.

ACT 1.9.1 Use the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy combined with the DVMWHS Statement of OUV to ensure action is taken which promotes biodiversity and appropriately stewards the relict landscape of the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.9.2 The WHS Partnership will support and encourage appropriate initiatives for up-stream, i.e. outside the WHS, natural flood mitigation measures. It will also support flood mitigation measures within the WHS that do not impact on its OUV. It is important that new development does not negatively impact on the flood resilience of the WHS. Local Planning Authorities to encourage off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (delivered through the planning system for developments in the DVMWHS) that supports ecosystem services that help mitigate the occurrence of flood events as well as contributing to nature recovery.



Greyhound Pond at Cromford

OBJ 1.10

Ensure owners and partners have plans in place to operate sustainably and accommodate unexpected change, such as natural disasters.

ACT 1.10.1 Key site owners and partners to establish appropriate 'disaster plans' including for flood and fire.

ACT 1.10.2 In line with UNESCO recommendations key partners and sites to commission and use studies and research to create and implement 'Disaster, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation' strategies to be in place for their organisation by 2030, including using ICOMOS's Managing Disaster Risks guidance (2017).

ACT 1.10.3 Work with Public Health bodies to utilise the UK Health Security Agency's Adverse Weather and Health Plan and action cards to ensure plans are in place and activated to protect staff, volunteers and visitors from the health effects of adverse weather including hot weather, cold weather and flooding.

ACT 1.10.4 All DVMWHS Partnership organisations to seek to incorporate sustainability at all levels of their operations relating to the DVMWHS and Buffer Zone.

OBJ 1.11

Ensure appropriate protection of the significant water management systems in the Derwent Valley.

ACT 1.11.1 Historic England to review the listings of the weirs and associated water management structures within the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.11.2 DVMWHS Partnership to encourage the owners of the weirs and water management structures to understand their liabilities for maintenance, have an action plan for on-going care, have disaster planning in place in the result of failure and support applications for grant funding to restore those structures.

ACT 1.11.3 DVMWHS coordination team will support the Environment Agency and others in the investigation of the opportunities for waterpower production and fish passage at the historic weirs if these allow for enhanced conservation and do not impact negatively on the OUV of the WHS. Initiatives that jointly promote up-river migration and the production of hydroelectricity will receive the most support.

ACT 1.11.4 DVMWHS coordination team and partners to encourage landowners, managers, regulatory bodies and international organisations to promote recognition at a local, national and international level of the significance of the historic water management systems in the DVMWHS and the need to protect them. This should include using research findings to better inform future water management.



Aerial view of the Weirs at Milford

OBJ 1.12

Ensure appropriate protection of the significant agricultural buildings in the Derwent Valley.

ACT 1.12.1 Historic England to review the listings of the farms and associated agricultural structures within the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.12.2 DVMWHS Partnership to encourage the owners of the farms and associated agricultural structures to understand their liabilities for maintenance and restoration and have an action plan for on-going care including seeking grant funding where required.

ACT 1.12.3 DVMWHS Coordination team to support the owners of Crossroads Farm in securing a viable future for Crossroads Farm which recognises and enhances its contribution to the OUV of the DVMWHS.

ACT 1.12.4 As research better informs how farming and agricultural structures were managed historically, this information will be shared with owners and managers of the historic farms and agricultural structures.

OBJ 1.13

Review the boundaries of the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone.

ACT 1.13.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to liaise with Historic England around timings to submit minor changes to the boundaries of the DVMWHS boundaries and Buffer Zone to the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for adoption.

Aim 02 Promote public awareness and engagement with the DVMWHS by presenting its Outstanding Universal Value through formal/informal learning, events, volunteering, interpretation and research.

Context

The DVMWHS has enormous value as a resource for engagement. The Property is an adaptable, valuable resource and can act as a source of inspiration and connection, providing a sense of place and an understanding of human achievement which still influences our everyday life.

This aim encourages a holistic focus on communicating and transmitting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site. All of the sites and organisations within the Partnership have their own contributions towards the OUV and/or stories of the Derwent Valley Mills.

It is recognised that some sites have dedicated engagement staff and some rely on volunteers – others have no dedicated engagement role. Although engagement can contribute to economic and development aims e.g. tourism, it is the intrinsic importance of transmission and understanding that is paramount, as identified in Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention.

A group visiting Leawood Pumphouse on the Cromford Canal



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026-31

OBJ 2.1

Communicate and develop a wider, and more thorough, understanding of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value.

ACT 2.1.1 **Formal learning:** Key sites and organisations to develop, deliver and maintain a core formal learning offer for a wide range of ages, abilities and curriculum areas including creativity, employability and pride in place. This should be available across the DVMWHS communicating the key stories and OUV and include pre and post visit opportunities.

ACT 2.1.2 **Formal learning, training:** DVMWHS Coordination team to deliver training for engagement staff, site staff and volunteers focusing on the DVMWHS stories and OUV at least twice within the life of the management plan.

ACT 2.1.3 **Informal learning:** Key Partners and organisations to develop informal learning strategies to deliver and maintain informal learning opportunities (to include young families, older families, adults, independent young people etc.) This should include site tours, visitor centre or museum visits, informal learning events, talks, activities and self-led tours that are inclusive and accessible to all as well as pre and post visit opportunities.

ACT 2.1.4 **Learning and Engagement Projects:** Key Partners and Organisations supported by the DVMWHS Coordination team to seek opportunities for jointly delivered learning and engagement projects. These should focus on links between the DVMWHS and its communities, to other WHS sites nationally and internationally, with the key stories of OUV, enslavement, women's roles, best practice in conservation etc.

ACT 2.1.5 **Events:** Key Partners and Organisations to collaborate and maximise partnership efforts to deliver events which creatively tell the story of the DVMWHS, its OUV and Unique selling points. This should include significant anniversaries relating to the DVMWHS or 'Georgian Derbyshire' themes e.g. 2026; 250th anniversary of the first mill at Belper, 300th anniversary of Jedidiah Strutt's birth and 25 years of inscription as a World Heritage Site.

ACT 2.1.6 **STEM:** Promote activity through the DVMWHS to engage people with the unique culture and heritage of the DVMWHS through STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths).

ACT 2.1.7 **Arts:** Key sites and organisations to include arts activities in their strategic plans to enable engagement inspired by the innovation and making of the DVMWHS. These could include artists in residence, time-limited installations and ephemeral works in the public realm (including performances) which maximise audience participation and help to tell the story of the DVMWHS and its OUV, including more challenging aspects (e.g. cotton sourced from enslaved people).

ACT2.1.8 **Media:** Key Organisations and sites to promote the DVMWHS and its OUV to broadcast media, film, literature, performance and the wider creative industries, to encourage them to share the stories with wider national and international audiences.

ACT 2.1.9 **Champions:** DVMWHS Strategic Board to identify and approach champions and patrons who can utilise their high-level profiles to share the story of the DVMWHS, and act as advocates.

ACT 2.1.10 **Wellbeing:** Key sites and organisations to use the DVMWHS including its relict landscape setting to provide opportunities to improve health, well-being, inclusion and accessibility for visitors, volunteers, staff and communities.

ACT 2.1.11 **Partnership Forum:** DVMWHS Coordination team to convene two Partnership Forums within the life of the management plan to share knowledge and engage with the management plan, to include training on the OUV of the WHS for management structures (including Strategic Board), organisations, communities, trustees, directors and staff.



Members of the Legacy Makers group with new interpretation at the Darley Abbey Mills site. This was informed by their research into the use of enslaved workers at plantations which provided cotton for the Derwent Valley Mills.

OBJ 2.2

Recognise and promote the value and importance of collections in helping to tell the stories which relate to the DVMWHS and its OUV.

ACT 2.2.1 DVMWHS Partners and Collections Group to support the acquisition, monitoring, preservation and access to collections for research and engagement which enhances understanding and transmission of the DVMWHS and its OUV responding to threats in security or care if identified.

ACT 2.2.2 Review the DVMWHS Collections Policy and ensure individual collecting organisations align with it; including promoting and encouraging people to come forward and donate, to appropriate collections within or relating to the DVMWHS, artefacts which help in the understanding and appreciation of the Site's OUV.

OBJ 2.3

Encourage, develop, direct and share research, in accordance with the DVMWHS Research Framework, to ensure a deeper, accurate and developing understanding of the OUV and stories relating to the WHS.

ACT 2.3.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to maintain the online form for capturing new research and continue to refer those developing engagement, learning, interpretation and events to the DVMWHS research website area and the DVMWHS Research Framework wiki.

ACT 2.3.2 DVMWHS Research and Collections groups to deliver two events or activities within the life of the management plan; these should encourage the use of, and contribution to the research framework and the wiki across universities, researchers, local interest groups etc. and foster links with other regional frameworks on the Historic England Research Platform.

ACT 2.3.3 DVMWHS Educational Trust and other partners to disseminate knowledge about the entirety of the Derwent Valley Mills, their communities and its Outstanding Universal Value (this may include publications).

ACT 2.3.4 DVMWHS Research and Collections Groups to consider intangible heritage in relation to the Derwent Valley Mills and its Outstanding Universal Value, and identify a process, with appropriate citations, whereby the intangible heritage of the DVMWHS can start to be recorded for inclusion in future iterations of the DVMWHS Management Plan.

OBJ 2.4

DVMWHS Partnership to collaborate to ensure the interpretation of key stories, values and attributes, relating to the DVMWHS are clearly and accurately communicated by key sites and organisations.

ACT 2.4.1 DVMWHS Coordination Team to encourage the use of the agreed texts and the values and attributes as outlined in the DVMWHS Management Plan are used to for key communication and interpretation across the site.

ACT 2.4.2 Working collaboratively all partners to ensure interpretative material is submitted and properly evaluated in line with the procedure set out in Section 22 to ensure accuracy, appropriateness and consistency in the telling of the stories pertaining to the DVMWHS and its OUV.

ACT 2.4.3 DVMWHS Partnership to maintain and encourage use of the wayfinding schemes at Darley Abbey, Milford, Belper and Cromford which link to public transport hubs and strategic car parks. DVMWHS coordination team to work with partners to provide more wayfinding material when possible.

ACT 2.4.4 Key sites and organisations to maximise opportunities, where appropriate, that enable a greater use of digital technology to deliver engagement.

ACT 2.4.5 DVMWHS Coordination Team and Derbyshire Countryside Services to explore and secure funding to replace old interpretation on the Cromford Canal, High Peak Junction and High Peak Trail telling the DVMWHS heritage story of these sites and surrounding area.

ACT 2.4.6 DVMWHS coordination team to provide, where and when resources allow, support and knowledge for heritage interpretation, conservation, restoration and learning projects within the wider valley and sub-region, to ensure related heritage areas and attractions in the vicinity can benefit from proximity and connections to the DVMWHS and its OUV and work for the wider collective benefit of the county.

OBJ 2.5

Continue to expand and support the culture and heritage volunteering community and increase the volunteer numbers across the DVMWHS.

ACT 2.5.1 DVMWHS coordination team to encourage all key sites and organisations to clearly outline their range of volunteering opportunities and encourage a diversity of involvement. Promote these opportunities across the WHS including on the DVMWHS website and social media.

ACT 2.5.2 DVMWHS Coordination team to deliver opportunities for volunteers to help better understand, communicate, promote, protect and conserve the DVMWHS to enhance the volunteer experience.

ACT 2.5.3 Key sites and organisations to maximise opportunities to recognise, celebrate and award the significant contribution that volunteers make to the on-going engagement, maintenance and protection of the DVMWHS.

ACT 2.5.4 Key Sites and organisations to provide opportunities and facilities to support the benefits of volunteering including the health and well-being of volunteers.



School tour at Masson Mills

Aim 03 Promote the sustainable development (environmental, economic and social) of the DVMWHS to provide a world-class destination where people are proud to live, work visit and invest.

Context

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, the birthplace of the factory system, saw pioneer industrialists innovate and invent technologies that changed the world. As part of protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting the World Heritage Site's culture and economy, a central strand of the Development and Tourism Aim is to create an environment that attracts and supports creative industries. The innovations of the valley's pioneering industrialists act as an exemplar for the creative industries operating with and within the World Heritage Site today.

The repurposing of historic buildings in the World Heritage Site to provide space for creative industries both supplies opportunities for individuals and companies to relocate to the Derwent Valley and to enrich the World Heritage Site's cultural offer.

For the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to flourish, it needs to be identifiable as a distinct tourism destination, recognised for the significance of its industrial and cultural heritage, and for its unique landscape and natural features. There is a need to achieve a sustainable approach to tourism development in the DVMWHS, through balanced development of sites, strategic marketing, and effective pro-active visitor management. The desired outcome of this work is for an increase in the contribution made by tourism to the economy of the Derwent Valley.

As well as a tourist destination, the World Heritage Site offers great opportunities for other developments/enterprises that will help enhance the area's vibrancy and vitality.



A passenger train in Stephenson's Cutting at Belper

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026-31

OBJ 3.1

DVMWHS Partnership to work with the East Midlands County Combined Authority, owners and operators of key sites, organisations and key funding bodies to create a Development Framework for the DVMWHS to ensure the appropriate restoration, development and regeneration of the DVMWHS and the surrounding area to maximise its economic contribution to Derbyshire and the East Midlands and support local communities, business and sustainable development.

ACT 3.1.1 DVMWHS Partnership to seek support from EMCCA and DVMWHS Local Authorities for the creation of a DVMWHS Development Framework.

OBJ 3.2

Identify the scale and scope of the repurposing and development of the Belper Mills Complex including a visitor offer.

ACT 3.2.1 The DVMWHS Partnership should prioritise the earliest possible start of works to restore and regenerate the entire Belper Mills Complex (North, East and West Mills).

ACT 3.2.2 DVMWHS Coordination team to work with EMCCA, AVBC, DCC, site owners and key partners to use the results of the Belper Mills World Heritage Matters project and visitor centre study to ensure that the restoration of the Belper Mills Complex includes a World Heritage Site Visitor Centre which has a long term, viable and sustainable future.

OBJ 3.3

Start the next phase of development at Cromford Mills, bringing more buildings in the complex into active use, in order to secure the financial future of the site and the charity.

ACT 3.3.1 Arkwright Society to deliver its Masterplan for Cromford Mills. This will include working with key partners to achieve a public realm environmental improvement scheme for Mill Lane and the reinstatement of the aqueduct. Ensure that Masterplan actions are included in the proposed Development Framework.

ACT 3.3.2 DVMWHS Coordination team to assist the Arkwright Society in securing funding and the appropriate permissions for the next phase of the Masterplan.

OBJ 3.4

Keep key sites and locations across the DVMWHS in use, maintained and with appropriate public access.

ACT 3.4.1 Owners and managers of key sites and attractions to explore what appropriate public access and use will be to ensure sustainable long-term uses, including sites such as Masson Mills, Darley Abbey Mills, Willersley Castle, Derby Museums and the historic mill communities.



The Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill

OBJ 3.5

Support Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service in sustainably increasing income streams for Cromford Canal and the High Peak Junction complex, including the workshops, wharf shed and Leawood Pumphouse in order to provide additional funding to protect, conserve and manage these significant Elements of the World Heritage Site.

ACT 3.5.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to support Derbyshire Countryside Services in seeking funding to restore and renovate the High Peak Junction Wharf Shed and other associated Countryside Services buildings to increase income streams to facilitate the protection and management of Cromford Canal, High Peak Junction and Leawood Pumphouse.

ACT 3.5.2 DVMWHS Partnership to support Derbyshire Countryside Services and The Friends of Cromford Canal to secure funding to conserve and protect the Cromford Canal to ensure it can continue to be enjoyed.

ACT 3.5.3 DVMWHS Partnership to support Derbyshire County Council as owner and Navigation Authority to maintain on going access to the water for a variety of craft including the Friends of Cromford Canal trip boat.

ACT 3.5.4 DVMWHS Partnership and Derbyshire Countryside Services to seek funding to increase accessibility and engagement at High Peak Junction, Leawood Pumphouse and associated features to further enhance and develop the visitor offer.

OBJ 3.6

Improve the visitor experience in the Southern Hub by connecting the Darley Abbey Mills, the village and Derby city.

ACT 3.6.1 Derby City Council and DVMWHS Partnership to use feasibility study outcomes to work together to secure a long-term solution to the connecting bridge between Darley Abbey village over the River Derwent onto the Darley Abbey Mills complex.

ACT 3.6.2 Investigate the creation of an embarkation point at Darley Abbey for the Derby River Boat which does not impact on the listed weirs.

OBJ 3.7

Support John Smedley Ltd to ensure the continuation of the Lea Mills site as working textile factory and visitor destination.

ACT 3.7.1 Support John Smedley Ltd and the John Smedley Archive Charitable Trust (JSACT) in the production of a masterplan, ensuring its continuity as a working mill, with an enhanced contribution as an appropriately interpreted attraction (with exhibition space) in a cohesive DVMWHS.

ACT 3.7.2 Assist John Smedley Ltd and the JSACT in assembling consents, and funding, where applicable, to deliver the masterplan.

ACT 3.7.3 Assist John Smedley Ltd and the JSACT and their partners (such as the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust), regarding the continuity of the intangible heritage of knitwear, by helping to record and pass on traditional craftsmanship to the next generation of skilled workers (producing luxury, fine gauge, knitted garments) and engaging the wider public with an understanding of this heritage.



The footbridge at John Smedley

DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM



Milford from Bridge View

OBJ 3.8

The DVMWHS Partnership to encourage appropriate sustainable development and regeneration of the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone to maximise its economic contribution to Derbyshire and the East Midlands.

ACT 3.8.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to work with partners and local businesses to update and deliver Ambassador schemes on a rolling programme across locations.

ACT 3.8.2 Work with partners to attract and support appropriate sustainable business growth in the DVMWHS.

ACT 3.8.3 Explore the viability of extending a seasonal route from the platform at Cromford Railway Station over the railway bridge to provide a foot and cycle link through Cromford Meadows to the mills and the village.

ACT 3.8.4 Encourage investigations into eco-friendly alternatives for power on the Derwent Valley Railway Line and for buses in the Derwent Valley.

The Flying Scotsman passes through Belper





Snow at Cromford Mills

OBJ 3.9

Facilitate visitors to move and explore the visitor attractions across the DVMWHS.

ACT 3.9.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to maintain the visitor focus on the DVMWHS website including pre-visit information.

ACT 3.8.2 Key sites and organisations to seek opportunities for strengthening and developing the southern, central and northern hubs of the DVMWHS to promote it as a coherent tourist destination.

ACT 3.8.3 Cultural Packages: Develop activities, with partners, that will help attract a more diverse range of audiences to visit the DVMWHS. This might include investigating the viability of appropriately 'branded' sports, food, drink, tours and cultural experience packages and events to encourage new users to the DVMWHS.

OBJ 3.10

Jointly produce, with the key destination sites, the LVEP (Local Visitor Economy Partnership) and the appropriate local authority officers, an over-arching communications and marketing strategy for international, national and local visitors, residents and businesses.

ACT 3.10.1 Use audience research and baseline data established through EMCCA & VPDD to produce appropriate and focused marketing materials for visitors and residents, to encourage them to visit, use and understand the WHS and its components.

ACT 3.10.2 DVMWHS Development and Tourism Group and Destination Management Organisations to coordinate regular training to ensure implementation of the DVMWHS logo, branding and creative style (in accordance with operational guidance in Part C of the management plan). Ensure awareness and use of the Spirit of Place toolkit and deliver joint social media promotions which focus on OUV and DVMWHS stories at key events or points of the year supporting partners and communities.

ACT 3.10.3 Key Sites and Organisations to work with the DVMWHS coordination team to contribute to an annual newsletter (see monitoring section), social media output, website content, visitor guides, promotional material and marketing which presents, promotes and encourages good understanding, stewardship and support of the DVMWHS.

ACT 3.10.4 DVMWHS coordination team to update, as required, the DVMWHS Visitor Guide and other marketing and communications material for distribution via the DVMWHS website and seek funding to produce in print for distribution within and beyond the World Heritage Site.

ACT 3.10.5 Key Sites and organisations to work with Destination Management Organisations and other partners to continue and enhance opportunities for joint ticketing to encourage the visitor attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the WHS.

DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

OBJ 3.11

Support organisations, such as the Derwent Valley Trust, in developing walking, cycling, wheeling and waterway leisure routes through and beyond the DVMWHS.

ACT 3.11.1 Encourage the development of business cases, route, land ownership investigation, relevant permissions and assembly of funding for an off-road cycle route through the DVMWHS connecting to other cycle networks north and south of the WHS. Infrastructure should include e-bike charging and secure bike storage at attractions.

ACT 3.11.2 Derwent Valley Trust to continue to develop the feasibility of a paddle route along the River Derwent and its associated economic enhancements.

OBJ 3.12

Promote the use of water power as a 'green' energy source for the modern age that draws inspiration from the valley's pioneer industrialists in the 1700s. This will directly link the DVMWHS's past to 21st century requirements.

ACT 3.12.1 Key Sites and organisations to encourage studies, interpretation, walks and talks which explore how the low-carbon, water powered factories of the Derwent Valley contribute to ongoing environmental sustainability

ACT 3.12.2 DVMWHS Partnership to support where possible the generation of hydro power (alongside already established locations) within the DVMWHS.

ACT 3.12.3 Key partners and organisations to ensure the sustainable story of the mills is understood and told, including; How using water, as opposed to steam, to generate power is clearly understood and how this compares with modern-day green energy consumption. The innovative local food supply production and supply systems developed to feed growing communities. How the beautiful relict 18th century landscape 'green cradle', into which the factory system was inserted can be appreciated today as it was at the height of cotton manufacture.

The Circular Weir and Mills at Belper



Aim 04 Develop an integrated and sustainable approach to meeting and promoting the transportation and accessibility needs of the DVMWHS, and its users and communities.

Context

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has good public transport links. It has a rail service that runs from Derby in the south to Matlock in the north, stopping at Duffield, Belper, Ambergate, Whatstandwell, Cromford and Matlock Bath. It also has frequent bus services that run along the A6, the main distributor road running through the DVMWHS.

Due to the geography and historic development of the valley, there is potential to cause unwanted congestion on the road network as visitors arrive by car. It is therefore important to encourage use of public transport both to move around the Site and also, ideally, when travelling to the Site.

It is important to promote up-to-the-minute public transport information at all the key destination sites, to assist movement through the Site, as well as from strategic car parking locations around and through the Site.

Due to the historic nature of the Site, work is required to improve access for all. Where this cannot be achieved without negatively impacting on the Site's historic significance or Outstanding Universal Value, other means of access need to be explored. It is important to promote awareness of the facilities that are available through the World Heritage Site so that individuals and groups with special requirements can easily plan their visits.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026-31

OBJ 4.1

Promote, in conjunction with the Community Rail Partnership (CRP), the development and use of the Derwent Valley Line.

ACT 4.1.1 DVMWHS Coordination Team and Derwent Valley Line CRP to encourage all WHS partners to promote greater use of the Derwent Valley Line to local people and visitors by including information in their publicity material and on site.

ACT 4.1.2 Key Sites and attractions to ensure their events encourage greater public use of the railway stations in the DVMWHS, especially where they help evoke a connection to their historic past and the OUV of the DVMWHS

ACT 4.1.3 World Heritage Site partners to promote the discounts available for groups and families to travel along the Derwent Valley Line, particularly for school groups.

ACT 4.1.4 DVMWHS Coordination Team to work with partners to assist visitors in moving between the railway stations and the attractions.

ACT 4.1.5 Key Organisations and partners to promote the use of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway to encourage movement around the DVMWHS's wider environs.

OBJ 4.2

Work with bus operators and others to encourage greater use of bus services across the WHS site and the Derwent Valley more generally.

ACT 4.2.1 DVMWHS Coordination team to encourage bus operators to include marketing of the WHS in their publicity.

ACT 4.2.2 Key Sites and organisations to promote travel by bus, and the use of timetables, as a way to reach their attraction and move on to other key locations, and organisations to explore discounts targeted at those arriving by bus.

ACT 4.2.3 Bus operators and DCC to continue to expand the coverage of the electronic Real Time Information bus stop sign network to include more locations and bus services along the Derwent Valley.

ACT 4.2.4 DVMWHS coordination team to work with Trent Barton bus company to have the DVMWHS highlighted, both at stops and through on-bus commentary, to raise awareness for passengers of the World Heritage Site, to encourage visits.

OBJ 4.3

Support the coordination of public transport information to provide the best possible options, experience and ease for residents and visitors to move through the DVMWHS.

ACT 4.3.1 Support and signpost the provision of up-to-the-minute multi-modal transport information for visitors and residents to assist sustainable movement through the DVMWHS.



Public transport information totem on King Street, Belper

OBJ 4.4

Encourage the development of cycling options for exploring the DVMWHS.

ACT 4.4.1 DVMWHS Coordination Team to work with other partners (e.g. Derwent Valley Trust and Derbyshire County Council) to promote the existing cycle routes in the DVMWHS and encourage the development of new routes that do not impact on its OUV or adversely impact on other existing user routes.

ACT 4.4.2 DVMWHS Partners to explore the viability of an e-bike scheme across the WHS, particularly between key attractions and transport hubs (see also Development and Tourism Obj 3.9).

OBJ 4.5

Ensure off-road routes through the DVMWHS are suitably maintained by owners to encourage exploration of the DVMWHS on foot.

ACT 4.5.1 Derbyshire County Council Public Rights of Way, Derwent Valley Trust, local users and other partners to collaborate to review, maintain and ensure signposting on existing public rights of way (including the Derwent Valley Heritage Way) with a view to promoting a cohesive offer.

ACT 4.5.2 Local users to use the Derbyshire County Council Public Rights of Way reporting facility (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/reportit) to identify where public rights of way in the DVMWHS have access, condition or signposting issues. Or to use the add or amend facility at: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights-of-way/add-or-amend-a-right-of-way/add-or-amend-a-right-of-way.aspx if historic Rights of Way are identified and not recorded.

OBJ 4.6

Support the improvement of access for all, so that everyone can enjoy the DVMWHS. This includes getting to and around the DVMWHS, and its sites and attractions.

ACT 4.6.1 Key Sites and organisations to continue to audit and improve accessibility for all, including; provision of information on websites, identification of additional facilities needed and funding secured to provide them e.g. changing places toilets, quiet rooms/times etc.

ACT 4.6.2 Rail partners to secure funding to deliver the proposals made following the accessibility audits to the Derwent Valley Line stations.

ACT 4.6.3 Key sites and organisations to maintain and develop information about the facilities and support available so people with access and specific needs can plan their visits. To include where all-terrain scooters are available for hire in the DVMWHS.

OBJ 4.7

Identify strategic car and coach parking locations in and around the WHS and encourage movement from these locations either by foot, cycle or public transport.

ACT 4.7.1 Key destinations sites to understand coach and car parking requirements and work with Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council transport and highway officers to identify strategic locations for car and coach parking in and around the WHS to develop and promote to visitors and coach operators.

ACT 4.7.2 DVMWHS Partners and Local Authority Transport team to encourage the introduction of electric car charging points at the strategic car parking locations. Encourage installation of rapid chargers within council owned car parks in the DVMWHS area. Encourage privately owned car parks within the DVMWHS area to seek their own agreements with charge point operators. It would be particularly appropriate if these car charging points are linked to the production of hydro electricity from the River Derwent.



EV charging points at Field Lane Car Park, Belper

Aim 05

Monitor, protect, conserve, present and transmit the DVMWHS to the standard required by UNESCO, and encourage appropriate site-wide coordination and data gathering to support the delivery of the above aims.

Context

Signatories to the World Heritage Convention (in the case of the UK, HM Government), have an obligation to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of their World Heritage Sites is being maintained and interpreted to the public. To show to UNESCO that this work is taking place, monitoring is required and adequate resource needs to be provided.

In 2007, in an attempt to create a degree of quantifiable measurements for success at UK World Heritage Sites, a series of generic indicators were produced by ICOMOS, from which a set of 21 monitoring indicators have been established for the Derwent Valley Mills, tailored to the specific attributes of the Property.

In addition there are a series of 50 monitoring views which are assessed every five years as part of the Management Plan review.

These views are representative and do not infer that other views within the DVMWHS and buffer zone are less significant.

UNESCO operates a 'Periodic Review' regime for all World Heritage Sites. The last round took place in Europe in 2023. The findings of the Review's self-assessment, against set criteria, have informed the development of this Management Plan.



Belper's listed Grade I North Mill

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR 2026-31

OBJ 5.1

Secure long-term, sustainable funding for a DVMWHS coordination team of a scale appropriate to monitor, coordinate and support delivery of the aims of the DVMWHS management plan.

ACT 5.1.1 The current DVMWHS Coordination team staffing of 2.7 full time equivalent coordinators (full time Heritage and Development and 0.7 FTE engagement)are only funded until March 2028. The DVMWHS Partnership are to seek and secure funding beyond this to ensure there is an appropriate staffing capacity to support the ongoing management, monitoring, delivery and coordination of the conservation and planning, tourism and development, transport and accessibility and monitoring actions.

ACT 5.1.2 DVMWHS Partnership to seek and secure additional core funding to ensure the DVMWHS Coordination Team has appropriate staffing capacity to enable an appropriate level of monitoring and delivery of the engagement objectives and actions, in accordance with the UK Governments commitments to UNESCO.

ACT 5.1.3 DVMWHS Strategic Board and Coordination team to monitor and respond to the potential funding, delivery, monitoring and coordination impacts if, and when, they happen.

OBJ 5.2

As the form of Derbyshire's Local Government restructure develops, use the UNESCO Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 to inform how the DVMWHS Partnership's mechanisms are governed, structured, resourced and managed.

ACT 5.2.1 The DVMWHS Partnership will use Tool 4 from UNESCO Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit to assesses whether the roles and responsibilities of partners within the DVMWHS are clearly defined, whether there is effective coordination and collaboration between partners, and the level of engagement and participation of rights-holders in the management of the property.

ACT 5.2.2 The DVMWHS Partnership will use Tool 7 from UNESCO Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit to assesses whether current human, financial, material and technological resources are adequate to effectively manage the property.

ACT 5.2.3 The DVMWHS Partnership will use Tool 8 from UNESCO Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit to review the current management processes and check whether these are being implemented according to good practice and desired standards.

OBJ 5.3

Deliver an appropriate level of monitoring for the DVMWHS, to satisfy the requirements of UNESCO and HM Government.

ACT 5.3.1 All DVMWHS Partners to collect and collate information and submit to the DVMWHS coordination team to enable the compilation of KPIs for Historic England, Department for Culture Media and Sport and UNESCO and for monitoring of progress against the management plan via the DVMWHS Technical Group.

ACT 5.3.2 DVMWHS Coordination team to quinquennially, review and update the DVMWHS Monitoring Views - next due in 2027.

ACT 5.3.3 DVMWHS coordination team to work with key partners and organisations to produce an annual DVMWHS newsletter including communicating key elements of OUV for residents and surrounding communities for electronic distribution via the DVMWHS website and email subscribers list. (see also Aim 3 Development and Tourism)

ACT 5.3.4 Meet any other reasonable requests for monitoring information made by UNESCO, ICOMOS, DCMS, Historic England or other partners including state of conservation reporting and periodic review if applicable during the lifetime of this management plan

ACT 5.3.5 Approximately half way through the lifespan of this management plan the DVMWHS Partnership will use Tool 9 from UNESCO Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit to assesses progress in implementing the management plan, subsidiary plans and relevant work programmes.

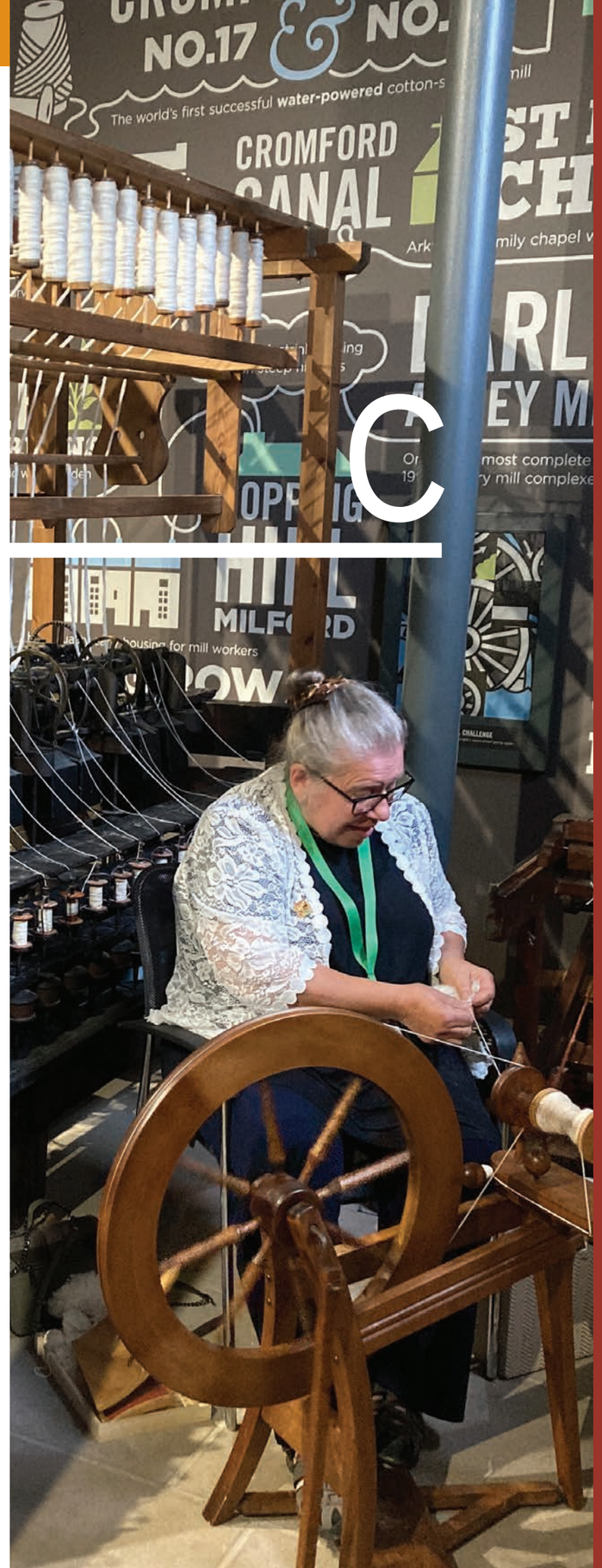
OBJ 5.4

Coordinate key attractions to record visitor information.

ACT 5.4.1 Sites, organisations and partners to use the agreed DVMWHS format to collect core visitor and engagement data, and share this with the DVMWHS Coordination team, in line with legal requirements. Use this information to inform future initiatives, targeted promotions and improve opportunities and diversity of audiences and visitors.



New interpretation outside Milford School



Spinning demonstration in the Cromford Mills Visitor Centre

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OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

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18 STATEMENT OF PLANNING PROCEDURE FOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

18.1 Local planning authorities are responsible for determining planning applications relating to the area of the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone within their administration boundary. The World Heritage Site Partnership is not a statutory consultee and does not expect to be routinely asked for comment.

18.2 Following the UNESCO Mission to the DVMWHS in 2024, and the subsequent recommendations from the World Heritage Committee (July 2024), it is clear that UNESCO would like to see Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in accordance with its toolkit, submitted as part of applications relating to the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone. It is important that an application shows how it has been informed by the HIA process. See section 19.

18.3 If a local planning authority, with responsibility for part of the DVMWHS or its Buffer Zone, formally wishes for advice relating to an application, then it can seek this from the DVMWHS Coordination Team. To do this, the local planning authority will need to submit the application details, with their reasons for seeking the advice of the Coordination Team. Local planning authorities should not routinely send through a planning application without an indication as to why they are seeking the advice of the WHS Coordination Team. It should be remembered that the Coordination Team has limited resources. The Coordination Team may consult Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service. If this is the case, the amount of time the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service utilises in reviewing the application will be taken from the capped 74 hours detailed in 18.13.

18.4 The DVMWHS Coordination Team may identify, or be informed by partners, such as Historic England, that proposals in an application have potential to negatively impact on the OUV of the WHS. Where these applications are identified, the DVMWHS Coordination Team will submit a response to the local planning authority within the allocated consultation period, or later by agreement with the local planning authority.

18.5 Any comments the DVMWHS Coordination Team submits to a local planning authority will be validated by the DVMWHS Partnership Conservation and Planning Group. 'Planning applications for consideration' will be a standing item on the Group's agenda.

18.6 Where an application is particularly contentious, and there is no scheduled meeting of the Conservation and Planning Group before the application is due to be determined, the DVMWHS Coordination Team's response will be circulated for review and validation by the Group members.

18.7 Where the Conservation and Planning Group wishes to amend a response this will be communicated to the relevant local planning authority.

18.8 The Conservation and Planning Group meets four times a year to discuss conservation and planning matters in the WHS and its buffer zone. Its membership consists of representatives of the following bodies:

- Conservation and/or planning officers from each of the planning authorities with responsibility for part of the DVMWHS and Buffer Zone;
- Local Planning Authorities' Conservation Area advisory forums, where they exist;
- The Regional Branch of the Royal Institute of British Architects;
- ICOMOS-UK;
- Historic England (Regional and International Teams); and
- Appropriate local representatives with specialist knowledge.

As Historic England are a statutory consultee, they neither endorse nor validate the planning consultation comments produced on behalf of the DVMWHS Partnership.



The relict landscape looking south towards Belper

18.9 From time-to-time, scheme promoters in the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone seek the opportunity to present their schemes to the Conservation and Planning Group. As the Partnership is not a statutory consultee, this is not an activity that will routinely be accommodated. There may be exceptional circumstances where the Conservation and Planning Group will request or consider a presentation and/or site visit from a scheme promoter/ applicant.

18.10 If the local planning authority is minded to approve an application that is likely to have a negative impact on the World Heritage Site and its OUV, then, as set out within Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 2023), it should refer the application and reasons for considering approval, to Historic England's Head of International Advice. This is especially the case where Historic England and/or the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership have highlighted the application is likely to negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. Historic England will then advise the Senior Heritage Policy Adviser at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), as to whether UNESCO's World Heritage Centre needs to be informed. DCMS will ultimately decide what is referred to UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

18.11 The DVMWHS Coordination Team is keen, subject to wider work pressures, to engage early with scheme promoters and applicants to support local planning authorities. This, ideally, should happen through the different local planning authorities' pre-application procedures.

18.12 Once the DVMWHS Coordination Team is aware that a scheme has been submitted for pre-application evaluation, or for planning permission, individual officers within the Coordination Team will only meet with applicants and scheme promoters if the local planning authority's planning officer dealing with the submission is present.

18.13 From time to time the DVMWHS Coordination Team will seek support from Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service with regards to detailed archaeological, built conservation, architectural, landscape or ecological advice in relation to supporting local planning authorities in their discussions with planning applicants and scheme promoters. The accumulative total for this advice, for all local planning authorities combined, will be capped at 74 hours annually.

18.14 To assist local planning authorities in discussions about design proposals in the World Heritage Site, the Management Plan includes an indicative Design Rationale (see Section 20, page 80).

18.15 Within the lifetime of this Management Plan, the DVMWHS Coordination Team intends to produce an online planning toolkit to assist planners and applicants to understand how the DVMWHS needs to be considered within the planning process.

19 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

19.1 Local planning authorities should insist on applicants who are submitting proposals within the DVMWHS, its Buffer Zone and – where development is likely to be impactful – in the wider landscape setting, to include a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022). Ideally this should be for all proposals, but especially for any applications that impact on DVMWHS Elements (see Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, page 10). The toolkit can be found at ***https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/***.

19.2 There may be cases where small development proposals do not necessitate a HIA in accordance with the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit. It should be presumed that a UNESCO-compliant HIA is required, however for smaller applications with clearly no impact on OUV, the local planning authority may decide one is not needed. This is at the local planning authority's discretion.

19.3 All planning applications within the World Heritage Site, its Buffer Zone, or its wider setting, where there is potential for impacts, should undertake a screening exercise, as guided by the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (***https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/***). This will identify whether a Heritage Impact Assessment is required. This does not need to be a complicated process and should always be proportionate in relation to the scale and nature of the proposal. Ideally, this screening should be undertaken in conversation with the relevant local planning authority, prior to application.

19.4 The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership recommends that local planning authorities include the requirement of a Heritage Impact Assessment, carried out using the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit, in their list of validatory documents for development within the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone.

19.5 UNESCO also requires that where development plans and policies (including Local Plans) may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS, a Heritage Impact Assessment, in accordance with the UNESCO Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, is needed to inform their development.

20 DESIGN RATIONALE

20.1 The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership is not anti-development. The Partnership seeks to encourage developers to aspire to a higher quality of development appropriate to its location. The DVMWHS Partnership is supportive of the right quality development in the correct location in the DVMWHS, its Buffer Zone and the wider setting.

20.2 As highlighted by the National Planning Policy Framework, not all elements of a World Heritage Site (WHS) will necessarily contribute to its significance. Where development within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone will enhance and better reveal its significance and not impact negatively on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), it will be treated favourably.

20.3 World Heritage Sites are 'Inscribed' because of their OUV. Each WHS has a Statement of OUV (SOUV). The DVMWHS SOUV was endorsed by UNESCO in 2010 and can be found in Part One of the Management Plan (see 2.1). Appending the SOUV is a list of Values, Attributes and Elements. Values accumulatively give greater definition to the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List. Attributes are the keystones that build to constitute Outstanding Universal Value and Elements are the 'things' that manifest those Attributes, either on the ground or in our minds. Proposals that negatively impact on an Attribute or Element that relates to the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS should be refused.

20.4 For development that does not impact negatively on the OUV of the DVMWHS, it is important that its design quality is high, as defined in the paragraphs below. While there may be instances where facsimile, or even pastiche, may be appropriate, these are likely to be very, very unusual for new developments.

20.5 New development should not dilute the 'authenticity' of the DVMWHS. This is a requirement of UNESCO. New development that is 'dressed-up' as, or unnecessarily copies, historic development weakens the authenticity of the WHS and its Buffer Zone. Instead, new development should complement its context and be 'of its time'.



Belper from The Chevin

20.6 A good way of assisting development to harmonise with its context is to use locally distinct and natural materials in combination with modern materials that have good sustainability credentials. Lookalike materials, such as concrete moulded to give an impression of stone or timber 'effect' windows and doors, are not appropriate.

20.7 Development in the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone should take its cues from the mass and layouts of buildings in its surroundings and respond in an appropriate contemporary manner. Sometimes this may be to adapt the surrounding precedent so it fulfils modern user requirements; other times the approach may be to develop something that is in contrast.

20.8 What is needed is a clear articulation of the design approach in the Design and Access Statement, setting out clearly why it is an appropriate design response. Ultimately, new development needs to be appropriate to its setting and not dilute the historic authenticity of the World Heritage Site.

20.9 As per Aim 1 of the Management Plan under Action 1.9.2 "it is important that new development does not negatively impact on the flood resilience of the World Heritage Site". Rainwater runoff from a development site should be attenuated on site. Often the features facilitating attenuation can be used to help deliver attractive characterful development.

20.10 Developments that also incorporate renewable technologies, such as neighbourhood heating systems, solar power and/or hydroelectricity, will be viewed favourably so long as they do not negatively impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone.

20.11 Developers and scheme promoters should ensure that development proposals are in accordance with current best practice design guidance and national and local design codes and guidance (see Appendix 7). This includes documents and material such as HM Government's National Design Guide (***www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide***) and ***www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Ztu6YFwZA5w***.

20.12 A developer or scheme promoter can ask, through the Local Planning Authority, if it is in agreement, for design advice from the DVMWHS Coordination Team who will seek support from Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service. Any time taken giving design advice by the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service will be deducted from the 74 hours highlighted in paragraph 18.13 of the Statement of Planning Procedure for Development Control. This advice will be copied to the relevant Local Planning Authority officer. If a meeting is required then the relevant Local Planning Authority officer will need to be present.

20.13 Where there is uncertainty as to whether a scheme is of sufficient design quality for the DVMWHS and its Buffer Zone, it is suggested that the Local Planning Authority should ask the developer or scheme promoter to submit the proposals to Design:Midlands – the Midlands Design Review organisation (***www.designmidlands.org***) for an independent assessment.

21 USE OF THE DVMWHS LOGO

Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001

21.1 As is the case with many World Heritage Sites, there are two logos used to promote and communicate the Derwent Valley Mills WHS. The first (on the left – the 'UNESCO DVMWHS' logo) is provided by UNESCO and incorporates the organisation's logo and symbols, and its use is restricted. The second (on the right – the 'Partnership DVMWHS' logo) was created by the DVMWHS Partnership and can be used in a wider number of scenarios, although still under scrutiny by the DVMWHS Coordination Team to ensure appropriate use.

21.2 **The UNESCO DVMWHS logo**

This logo includes 'The Temple' – based on the Greek Parthenon temple, it is the emblem of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The font for the UNESCO lettering is based on the Futura typeface, in which all letters occupy the same space, thus conveying the value of equality which is at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. The Patrimonio Mundial emblem on the right of the logo represents 'World Heritage'. This identifies properties inscribed by UNESCO onto the World Heritage List.

21.3 Paragraphs 276 to 278 of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines (2025) explain the principles and authorisation procedures on the use of the UNESCO World Heritage Emblem, which forms part of the UNESCO DVMWHS logo. Any requests for use of the World Heritage Emblem must be sent via the Coordination Team to the UK National Commission for UNESCO, who can liaise with the World Heritage Centre on behalf of the applicant. The Logo should be used to highlight or promote elements and/or content that relate to the Outstanding Universal Value or stories of the World Heritage Site.

21.4 UNESCO expect their logo to be used whenever appropriate, as this is the 'topline' brand for all World Heritage Sites. It ensures branding consistency for World Heritage across the globe. However, it cannot be used where it could be construed to be endorsing a profit-making business or individual, so there will be instances in which the Partnership DVMWHS Logo can be used where the UNESCO DVMWHS Logo use is prohibited or inappropriate. It is not legitimate for commercial entities to use the UNESCO emblem on their material to show their support for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The Partnership DVMWHS logo

21.5 This logo includes illustrations of a mill, waterwheel, rural landscape and water – representations of the key elements relating to the Derwent Valley Mills WHS and its Outstanding Universal Value. This logo should be utilised for all projects and activities substantially associated with the World Heritage Site, where use of the first component would be deemed inappropriate by UNESCO. See 21.9 on how to seek permission to use the Partnership DVMWHS Logo.

21.6 A decision to approve the use of the Partnership DVMWHS Logo is linked strongly to the quality and content of the product with which it is to be associated, not on the volume of products to be marketed, or the financial return expected. The main criterion for approval is the educational, scientific, cultural or artistic value of the proposed product relating to World Heritage principles and values (to protect, conserve, present and transmit the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS, as set out in Article Four of the World Heritage Convention), and its contribution in underpinning those principles and values.

21.7 The control of the copyright for the Partnership DVMWHS Logo resides with the Partnership. As the DVMWHS Partnership is a coalition of bodies and organisations, the copyright is held by the host organisation, which is currently Derbyshire County Council. The copyright for the DVMWHS Logo will move to any future host organisation or to the DVMWHS Partnership if it were to become an independent legally constituted entity.

21.8 The DVMWHS Coordination Team holds the master copies of the logo. Copies of these, with guidelines for its use, will be issued once authorisation has been obtained. Only these master copies are to be used whenever permission is granted.

21.9 Authorisation for logo use

21.9.1 A request for authorisation to use the Partnership DVMWHS logo should be sought from the DVMWHS Coordination Team. In the first instance, they will provide a digital copy of the branding guidelines. It is expected that use of the logo will align with the guidelines. The request should then include:

- a general description of the purpose for using the DVMWHS logo including the duration of its use;
- an outline of how the purpose aligns with 21.3, 21.5 and/or 21.6;
- a detailed description and/or illustration of how the logo will be used.

21.9.2 The DVMWHS Coordination Team will use its reasonable endeavours to issue permission to use the DVMWHS Logo within 14 working days of a request submission. If for any reason this cannot be achieved the Coordination Team will inform the applicant and issue a reason for the delay. Reasons for delay could range from insufficient information to needing to refer the decision to the DVMWHS Strategic Board.

21.9.3 Where the logo is for use on a publication relating to the DVMWHS, the content of this publication needs to be assessed in accordance with the Evaluation Process for Interpretative Material (see Section 22 below) prior to endorsement. This will need an evaluation period of eight weeks, and publishers need to consider this period of time when setting out timetables for publication.

21.10 Other considerations

21.10.1 If the Partnership DVMWHS Logo is to be used for solely commercial purposes, albeit for the benefit of raising the DVMWHS's profile, then a licence agreement may need to be entered into, which will also cover any financial implications.

21.10.2 The DVMWHS Partnership reserves the right to withdraw permission for use of the logo where its use could damage the reputation of the World Heritage Site; where the quality of the associated product has reduced; where the DVMWHS Logo has been used inappropriately; or where there is a conflict with the DVMWHS Partnership's own intention to utilise the DVMWHS Logo. An example of the latter would be if an entity or partner organisation is producing a certain type of merchandise, utilising the DVMWHS Logo, under agreement with the DVMWHS Partnership, and the Partnership then decides that it wants to procure this type of merchandise itself. If this were the case, the DVMWHS Partnership would agree with the authorised 'entity' a suitable notice period to cease using the DVMWHS Logo.

21.10.3 Once permission for the use of the DVMWHS Logo has been granted by the DVMWHS Coordination Team, then other statutory consents still need to be obtained.

22 EVALUATION PROCESS FOR INTERPRETATIVE MATERIAL

22.1 This process has been created to promote accuracy and encourage integrity in published work relating to the DVMWHS and ensure the review process is as expeditious as possible.

22.2 A site, organisation or individual should submit their work to the DVMWHS Coordination Team (via **dvmwhs@derbyshire.gov.uk**) with at least eight weeks' notice prior to when they require sign-off for the project from the DVMWHS Partnership.[1] The work submitted should be sent to the DVMWHS Coordination Team in an appropriate digital format which clearly outlines the purpose and context for any text. It may be possible to send large files via WeTransfer. Please liaise with the Coordination Team to ensure they can keep to the timetable.

22.3 The Coordination Team will select the appropriate research experts and sends the work to them for review. These experts will have four weeks to reply with their comments. These comments will relate to factual accuracy and grammar/spell checking. The comments should ensure the reputation and integrity of the DVMWHS is maintained. Constructive comments on style and content, including reference to the DVMWHS Branding Guidelines and Interpretation Strategy, can be made, but not imposed. Various sites, organisations and individuals may choose to use alternative branding and style for their pieces depending on the purpose or audience.

22.4 The Coordination Team sends on the comments to the site, organisation or individual, which then has two weeks to re-draft and assimilate the comments into their work and resubmit this to the Coordination Team.

22.5 The Coordination Team then has two weeks to cross check the re-submitted work and make a decision as to whether these have been incorporated adequately. The Coordination Team then confirms to the site, organisation or individual whether their work is now acceptable for publication. Any piece of work which has been reviewed through this process and approved will be entitled to use the official DVMWHS Logo. All DVMWHS destinations will be encouraged to use the DVMWHS branding and style.

22.6 If it is deemed that comments have not been incorporated and the accuracy, reputation and integrity of the DVMWHS is at stake if the work were to be published, the Coordination Team will disavow or disclaim the publication, stating which elements are in dispute and recommend that the site, organisation or individual does not make the items public. Use of the DVMWHS Logo will be prohibited.

22.7 In the event of a dispute, where authors of the work and the Coordination Team cannot reach an agreement within this timescale, the matter will be referred to the WHS Strategic Board via its Chair.

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[1]For very complex or large projects e.g. a book the DVMWHS team will contact the applicant to negotiate and agree a deadline period longer than two months.



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LOOKING AHEAD

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The East and North Mills at Belper

23 LOOKING AHEAD

There will be changes within the lifetime of this Management Plan which will impact on its delivery. Not least of these is the local government reorganisation for Derbyshire that may take place within the lifetime of this management plan. As part of this review, it is essential that the DVMWHS Coordination Team and the broader resourcing of the stewardship and control mechanisms for the Site, are appropriately considered.

Funding to the region now comes through the East Midlands Combined County Authority. This relatively new upper-tier mayoral authority has an emerging spatial plan for the region, which includes, as one of its priority areas, the DVMWHS. As this vision develops, it is hoped it will become clearer as to the level of funding that may be available for projects and initiatives within the DVMWHS. It is hoped that the Partnership can be involved in developing this vision which may have a significant impact on the level of activity in the DVMWHS going forward. The DVMWHS Partnership has been promoting the need for a Development Framework for the Site. This Development Framework, or Spatial Investment Plan, needs to be more than just a series of capital projects; it also needs to include governance plans and ephemeral activities that can shape engagement with the Site. These may include such initiatives as a new Public Arts Strategy and exploring ways of providing better connections between key sites, such as Cromford Mill and Masson Mills. It is hoped that the developed Spatial Vision will provide this Framework.

The Partnership hopes over time that, in combination with the activities of our State Party (the UK Government), any emerging new governance model and additional funding can reassure UNESCO that the appropriate stewardship and protection of the World Heritage Site is taking place, and that this will facilitate the DVMWHS being removed from a State of Conservation reporting footing.

The above developments, combined with the Objectives and Actions in this Management Plan, will hopefully ensure the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the DVMWHS to and for future generations.

23.1 Beyond 2031

This Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site 2026 – 2031 is clearly ambitious. UNESCO's requirements for World Heritage Sites need to be addressed as part of any prioritisation of the objectives and actions in Section Two.

Any actions within this management plan that are not implemented in its five-year lifespan will be considered for inclusion in the following management plan. Some actions during the lifetime of the plan may become obsolete. Further areas of work will be identified over the coming five years and will be considered for inclusion, in addition to any objectives and/or actions that are carried over, in the next iteration of the Management Plan.



Arkwright's first mill at Cromford - newly re-roofed in 2025

24 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The DVMWHS Partnership is grateful to all the individuals and organisations who contributed to the development of the Management Plan and took part in the consultation process that helped inform its content. It would particularly like to thank the following:

- Members of the bodies within the DVMWHS Partnership: the Strategic Board, the Conservation and Planning Group, the Research Group, the Collections Group, the Development and Tourism Group, the Learning Group;
- The local authorities on which the Partnership relies for revenue funding and officer support: Derbyshire County Council (particularly the Conservation Heritage and Design Service), Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Erewash Borough Council;
- The communities within or close to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone, who engage in the work to provide appropriate stewardship of the DVMWHS;
- The DVMWHS Coordination Team and supporting officers for compiling the Management Plan;
- Those people and organisations who provided images for this publication: Adrian Farmer BEM, Georgina Greaves, Visit Peak District and Derbyshire, Derbyshire Record Office, Belper Historical Society;
- The Arkwright Society, Belper Town Council and Derbyshire County Council for provision of spaces in which work on the Management was progressed.

25 LIST OF APPENDICES*

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Appendix 2: Statutory and Other Designations

Appendix 3: UNESCO World Heritage Committee Recommendations

Appendix 4: Strategic Board and Technical Group Terms of Reference

Appendix 5: DVMWHS Monitoring Views 2022

Appendix 6: Relevant Appeal Decisions

Appendix 7: Relevant Local Plans, Strategies and Policies

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*All appendices can be found in the Management Plan section of the **www.derwentvalleymills.org** website.



A school group visits Leawood Pumphouse on the Cromford Canal



An undated 19th century plan of the Belper mills held in the Derbyshire Record Office (D1564-98).