

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS

United Kingdom (1030)

In accordance with Decision **46 COM 7B.17** of the World Heritage Committee, the United Kingdom State Party has produced a State of Conservation Report for The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

As requested, this report is structured according to the format set out in Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines (2023)*. The clauses of the World Heritage Committee Decision are given in italics and indented. The response of the State Party is not indented and does not use italics.

1. Executive Summary

The Derwent Valley Mills is an extensive property within which many people live and work and which faces a continual range of pressures. To provide a sustainable future for these communities to live in this landscape without harming its significance and Outstanding Universal Value, opportunities must be identified where well-planned new development and adaptive reuse of buildings within settlements can be delivered. With the benefit of the Advisory Mission report, the State Party, Historic England, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Partnership and the relevant local authorities have continued to work in partnership in relation to the issues and proposals that were raised for discussion. This current State of Conservation Report demonstrates the positive progress made since the Mission. Actions taken in response to Advisory Mission Recommendations are detailed and explained where they are considered most relevant to the issues raised in the World Heritage Committee's Decision.

Several development proposals about which the Committee had expressed concerns have been brought to a positive resolution (Amber Rock, Full Street). In others the same positive trajectory is reported (Bradshaw Way, Eagle Quarter). Where it is not possible to rescind consents that have been granted, the potential to achieve sensitive resolutions in these situations with creative thinking and a strategic approach across Derby will nevertheless be explored where there is opportunity to do so through partnership working (Landmark). Acknowledging the impact that some individual schemes have had (Leonardo Hotel) has informed work and policy to enhance approaches to future assessment and decision-making, including to embed the use of heritage impact assessment (HIA). The State Party takes the issue of cumulative impact seriously and, including via advice from Historic England, supports the use of live datasets as a basis for robust and consistent assessment, informed by HIA, for each application where this may be an issue.

The State Party agrees that the current condition of the Belper Mills complex is undoubtedly a serious issue for the property. Input to the development of the scheme proposed under the live applications continues from Historic England, and from the Partnership in addition to its

separate consideration of potential development scenario options. It is hoped that the attention afforded by the Advisory Mission to this site will support continued focus on identifying a sustainable solution as soon as possible.

The State Party welcomes continued discussion regarding the potential to improve and enhance the management of the property including through coordination of the various local authorities, review of its management plan, the articulation of its attributes, and supporting development of policy and guidance.

The State Party remains committed to the undertakings through which it continues to meet its obligations of reporting, protecting and managing the site under the Convention.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee’s Decision, paragraph by paragraph

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.61 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Thanks the State Party for the timely invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, following its recommendation, notes with concern the findings of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to face significant ascertained and potential threats, in particular as a result of development pressures and a fragmented management system, and requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory mission;*

The State Party welcomed the 2024 Advisory Mission and recognises the start of renewed constructive dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies about the property that this offered.

The submission of the State Party’s previous State of Conservation Report (05 February 2024) immediately followed the Advisory Mission. With the benefit of the Advisory Mission report, since then the State Party, Historic England, the Derwent Valley Mills WHS Partnership (DVMWHS Partnership) and the relevant local authorities have continued to work in partnership in relation to the issues and proposals that were raised for discussion. This current State of Conservation Report demonstrates the positive progress made since the Mission. It details the continuing work to implement measures to safeguard the property’s OUV surrounding issues including:

- a) The management of change within the property and its setting as a result of development, and how the need to accommodate the needs of the living communities of the Derwent Valley can be achieved sustainably without compromising the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- b) Coordinated action between all relevant parties to support the management system for the property.

Actions taken by the State Party, the DVMWHS Partnership and others that relate to the Advisory Mission report’s Recommendations are detailed and explained below where they are considered most relevant to the issues raised in the World Heritage Committee’s Decision. The Recommendations are also cross referenced in the Action Plan requested under paragraph 12 of the Committee’s Decision (Annex B).

4. Also notes that preparatory work for the Landmark project has begun and that the 'Bradshaw Way' and 'Eagle Quarter' developments in Derby as well as the 'Amber Rock Resort' proposal in Crich are still pending determination in their current form and reiterates its previous request to the State Party to reconsider the approval of the Landmark project and not to approve the implementation of the 'Bradshaw Way', 'Eagle Quarter' and 'Amber Rock' proposals in their current form in order to avoid the negative impacts they will have on the OUV of the property;

The State Party is able to report on positive progress with the Bradshaw Way, Eagle Quarter and Amber Rock proposals since the Advisory Mission and its last State of Conservation Report.

As reported on 10 January 2024 the **Amber Rock** proposals were refused consent by the local planning authority, Derbyshire County Council. Its decision reflected concerns that the proposed outline scheme had potential to result in harm to the significance of the property from within its setting.

As reported during the Advisory Mission and in the State Party's 2024 State of Conservation Report, Derby City Council was minded on the basis of their planning committee decision to grant planning consent for the **Eagle Quarter** and **Bradshaw Way** schemes. Those decisions were referred to the Secretary of State as a result of objections from Historic England in respect of harm to the property's OUV.

The State Party is informed that the applicant took this opportunity to reflect on other options across the Derbion Masterplan area and as a result is bringing forward alternative proposals that have benefitted from further pre-application discussion with Historic England and the City Council. This has included reconsideration of the heights of the proposed buildings. Historic England reports that the ICOMOS Technical Review has been considered in detail in this work.

A revised lower height scheme for the Bradshaw Way site has now been formally submitted to the City Council. The application has been validated but is awaiting submission of additional information critical to assessment of whether the revisions have fully addressed the recommendations from Historic England and ICOMOS' Technical Review. This includes revisions to update the early draft of a heritage impact assessment which was shared with Historic England at pre-application stage. It is understood that this document will shortly be submitted. Historic England has provided initial advice to the City Council and will comment further once all the necessary documentation has been submitted. It is the State Party's intention to submit a notification under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* at that stage.

It is also anticipated that a revised scheme for the Eagle Quarter site, including the adjacent Riverside component of the Derbion Masterplan (currently a car park), will shortly be submitted. Once again, it is the State Party's intention to submit a notification regarding these amended proposals once the local planning authority has received all the necessary documentation and Historic England has provided its advice.

This confirms that, in line with Recommendation 8 of the Advisory Mission and the *Operational Guidelines*, Heritage Impact Assessments, informed by UNESCO's *Guidance and*

Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022), are being undertaken for all new applications across the Derbion masterplan site.

The State Party will keep the World Heritage Committee updated as these revised schemes progress through the planning system in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, in full implementation of Recommendation 9 of the Advisory Mission.

In relation to the consented development on the **Landmark** site, as explained during the Advisory Mission and in relation to other cases where similar recommendations/requests have been made, once a consent has been granted, the only mechanism to overturn it remains the judicial review process. A time limit of 6 weeks from the date of the decision is placed on bringing a judicial review claim for a planning decision. Thereafter the decision cannot be challenged. The consent for the Landmark project was issued in August 2020 and the development has technically commenced. Notwithstanding this, Derby City Council has remained keen to explore with the developer and other parties any potential opportunities for amendments to the consented scheme and broader spatial planning solutions to address the concerns previously raised by the DVMWHS Partnership, the council's conservation officer, the World Heritage Committee and Historic England.

At the current time, the State Party understands that the City Council remains optimistic that there will be an opportunity to explore the significant redesign of the approved scheme, as part of a more comprehensive development on Derby Riverside. Historic England is advising the City Council that the consideration of any revised scheme for the Landmark site would benefit from the use of a process of heritage impact assessment as a tool to guide design development and decision-making. When there is more information available about any potential proposals, the State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Committee is updated about what the implications of such negotiations might be for the future of the Landmark site.

5. Further notes the State Party's efforts to find alternative and sustainable proposals to address the poor condition of the Belper Mills complex, and also requests that details of a revised proposal, together with the commissioned study of the proposals and the associated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any approvals that may be difficult to reverse;

Belper North and East Mills

The State Party can confirm that the overarching situation remains as explained during the Advisory Mission and as stated in its last State of Conservation Report from February 2024. The planning and listed building consent applications submitted to the local planning authority remain live, awaiting determination.

The State Party understands that, at the current time, Amber Valley Borough Council is waiting for a further iteration of the current applications to be submitted. The applicant has been made aware that the amended application will need to be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) informed by the UNESCO *Guidance and Toolkit* (also in line with Advisory Mission Recommendation 8). They are also aware of the other recommendations set out in the Advisory Mission report (in particular Recommendation 10) as this together with copies of the other information considered by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (Amber Valley Borough Council) on 22 July 2024 to inform its continued consideration of the applications.

Advice from Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership on the live applications will continue to make recommendations about how harm to OUV could be avoided and minimised, and regarding the benefits of adaptive reuse as a means to safeguard OUV. The likelihood that the currently proposed scheme and a sustainable reuse for the site would actually be delivered were the applications to be granted consent is a factor in the advice provided. Government policy states that local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred (NPPF paragraph 217).

The State Party understands from Historic England that ongoing survey work to input into options appraisals and a heritage impact assessment is underway and that this work is expected to be completed in the early part of 2025. Historic England will be providing ongoing advice jointly with the local planning authority as the revised proposals are developed. The State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Committee is updated on all of these developments as soon as there is more information available about their progress.

Belper Mills Development Masterplan

The State Party cannot require that an alternative proposal be submitted to weigh against the current undetermined applications. The current applications must be determined on their merits in accordance with relevant legislation and policy. A decision on these applications needs to be made therefore, before any alternative proposal can be considered that might seek to address the poor condition of the Belper Mills complex.

In the meantime, however, as discussed during the Advisory Mission, the DVMWHS Partnership has completed an economic development assessment of the Belper Mills site. The range of potential development scenarios in the report do not comprise a set of alternative proposals to the live planning applications. The findings of this study are intended to facilitate an informed and realistic conversation between all the relevant parties, including the owner of the complex, with a clear understanding of the potential level of conservation deficit that would need to be addressed at the site.

The State Party set out the detail of the alternative options study in a separate notification under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* submitted on 29 January 2025.

6. Regrets that the ‘Belper Lane’ development of 118 homes has been completed against the advice of ICOMOS and that the ‘Derwent Street’ development of 114 homes has almost been completed without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre and, given the significant number of developments in Belper, further requests that all developments of the Belper 2021 Neighbourhood Plan be promptly and fully notified to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any final decision, if they are likely to affect the property, its buffer zone or wider setting;

The State Party acknowledges the Committee’s position in relation to other consented and built out development in Belper, including the ‘**Belper Lane**’ development. It also notes the Committee’s concerns regarding the lack of notification for the ‘**Derwent Street**’ development.

The State Party considers that the Derwent Street scheme is illustrative of the positive impact of expert advice from Historic England and Derbyshire County Council specialists in support of Amber Valley Borough Council in the exercise of its planning functions. The development has come to a positive final scheme, as illustrated during the Advisory Mission.

Where Historic England and the Derwent Valley Mills WHS Partnership have not identified negative impacts on OUV as a result of proposed development these applications have not been referred to the World Heritage Centre under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Consequently, the State Party did not feel it was necessary to notify the World Heritage Centre on this occasion. The State Party will continue to liaise with Historic England to appropriately select both statutory documents and planning applications for notification in line with the Committee’s request and to implement Recommendation 9 of the Advisory Mission.

All three of the potential development sites under the **Belper Neighbourhood Plan** were visited during the Advisory Mission with discussion about why they were identified and where there is opportunity to improve the environs of the WHS. Of these, one has been successfully and sensitively delivered as reported in the State Party’s 2024 State of Conservation Report and as praised by the Mission. The former library originally built as a residential dwelling by the Strutts was freed up for sustainable reuse by construction of the new library which is well designed in context. The second, the former Ada Belfield care home is of no architectural merit and does not relate to any of the attributes or values of the OUV of the property. Whilst the site remains to be brought forward, consent has been granted for its redevelopment as previously reported. Only one site therefore remains to come forward for further consideration, the Babington Hospital which is about to be sold. Any redevelopment proposals will need to be accompanied by a HIA in accordance with the UNESCO *Guidance and Toolkit* and the State Party will ensure that any proposals will be notified to the World Heritage Committee.

Beyond the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the local planning authority’s development plan sets out its vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure. It also forms a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. The local planning authority is currently in the process of producing a new plan (more detail is provided in the response to paragraph 9 of the Committee’s Decision below). Under this plan, planned

residential reuse and new build will provide a route to address the development pressures experienced in Belper. This will include those experienced as a result of Amber Valley Borough Council's role as a neighbouring authority to Derby City, under the duty to cooperate to deliver housing requirements across that boundary. A planned approach to development will support careful identification of appropriate locations where there is capacity to bring forward sensitive development, as achieved to date under the Belper Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Also regrets the construction of the Leonardo Hotel Derby - Formerly Jurys Inn and the Premier Inn Derby City Centre (Cathedral Quarter) Hotel within the buffer zone of the property without notification to the World Heritage Centre and requests furthermore that the proposed extension to the latter, the so-called Full Street project, not be approved and, should a revised scheme be envisaged, that it be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any irreversible decision;

The State Party notes the Committee's position in relation to the **Leonardo Hotel** in Derby. The application for this scheme was submitted in 2007, granted permission in 2008 and built in 2009. Many changes to policy and guidance have since enhanced appreciation and assessment of the impact of developments of a similar nature. In particular, in 2012 the UK Government introduced the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF enables appropriate consideration of World Heritage Sites as part of the planning process. It must be taken into account by all local planning authorities in preparing their development plans, and is also a material consideration in all planning decisions.

In addition to national policy changes, there have been enhancements to understanding and mechanisms to monitor impacts at local level. [Monitoring views](#) were established in the WHS Management Plan in 2008, and include a view of the Silk Mill in Derby from Exeter Bridge. This is recognised as a [significant view](#) in the [Derby City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#). More recently, the [Derby City Skyline Study](#) has also enhanced appreciation of how the city's skyline and particular views contribute to the property's OUV.

Since the Advisory Mission and the State Party's submission of its last State of Conservation Report in 2024, it has also been able to report on the outcome of decision-making regarding the proposed **Full Street** project. This application, on a brownfield site, following a series of positive amendments after it was first notified, has now been granted permission. The State Party's notification under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* submitted on 29 January 2025 outlined the changes made to the previously proposed scheme and how they relate to the advice provided by the Advisory Mission. The State Party's notification also addressed misunderstandings about the nature of the existing hotel site which was built on the site of the former police headquarters which was in place when the site was inscribed, but later demolished in 2013, and is of a similar mass to that predecessor.

8. Requests moreover that an assessment be made of the cumulative impact of all projects undertaken within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone since the inscription of the property in order to establish a baseline for any individual impact assessment; and further requests that in the case of projects in the process of being decided upon, a thorough HIA based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context be undertaken against the above baseline, including the systematic evaluation of real comparisons with less impactful project alternatives, thereby adopting a precautionary approach to all new development projects and ensuring that projects are assessed for their cumulative impact on its OUV;

The State Party takes seriously the issue of cumulative impact of development within the boundary of the property and its buffer zone, and ensures that the cumulative impact of development is taken into account in both national and local decision making, both in relation to individual planning applications and under a local planning authority's strategic plan for development (Development Plan).

The State Party and Historic England advocate for a proportionate level of heritage impact assessment (HIA) for all new development projects where the OUV of the property may be affected. Local planning authorities are also required to consider the cumulative effects of proposed development, and are encouraged to take into consideration the effect of multiple small scale changes when considering the impact on OUV. Local planning authorities will be encouraged to review the scope in policy, supplementary planning documents and design codes to apply proportionate measures in this regard (Advisory Mission Recommendation 8). See response to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Decision for further details.

The State Party is aware that the DVMWHS Coordination Team and Historic England have discussed the particular requests from the Committee regarding the assessment and understanding of cumulative impacts since the property was inscribed with the local planning authorities. The focus would be on the proportionate use of HIA and ensuring that the cumulative effect of multiple small schemes is appropriately assessed, guided by supplementary planning documents, design codes and other restrictions such as within Conservation Areas. As the State Party has indicated in the State of Conservation reports for other properties, it considers it is most appropriate to address the need for assessment of cumulative impacts with live datasets rather than producing a point in time baseline. Live datasets take account of the current situation at the time of each application. They include the information already held by the local planning authority together with the information submitted in relation to each planning application that comes forward. Depending on the nature of the impacts and the scale of the proposals the local planning authority will indicate in what form it wishes to see the information and to visualise the proposed development. The information will need to be no more than is sufficient to inform assessment of the potential impact on contributing elements of the property's OUV such as its skyline and on particular views which contribute to the property's attributes of OUV, the ability to appreciate them, or to maintaining OUV overall.

Improved reference to appropriate guidance will assist in enhancing the ability to assess cumulative impact, and help to set requirements for the information to be submitted as part of applications including through the relevant local planning authorities' Development Plans. The State Party's overarching aim is to support improvements in the quality of information submitted to allow cumulative impact to be assessed in detail and for this in turn to support decision making with a clear understanding of the implications for the World Heritage Site.

A range of public sector and industry guidance is available around cumulative effects assessment. A number of specific examples of guidance are related specifically to heritage; these are summarised below.

Cumulative Impact Guidance for Heritage – National

The State Party and Historic England provide guidance on the assessment of the cumulative impact of development, including within a property's setting, under the planning system. This guidance (see below) supports consistency in the application of cumulative impact assessment within World Heritage contexts.

The protection of 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 is an important principle in development of plan policies. The UK State Party's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) makes clear that this is a necessary consideration in developing a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of World Heritage Sites (PPG Paragraph 032 Reference ID: 18a-032-20190723).

The PPG also makes clear that local planning authorities should always have regard to the possible cumulative effects arising from any existing or approved development under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This is identified as a factor in determining whether significant effects are likely as a consequence of proposed development (PPG Paragraph 024 Reference ID: 4-024-20170728).

In addition, Historic England's published good practice advice on The Setting of Heritage Assets (GPA3) advises that when assessing any application which may affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities may need to consider the implications of cumulative change. GPA3 makes clear that where the significance of a heritage asset has been compromised in the past, by unsympathetic development affecting its setting, consideration still needs to be given to whether additional change will further detract from, or can enhance, that significance. This ensures that it will accord with NPPF policies.

Under Stage 3 of GPA3's staged approach an analysis of the effects a development may have on setting and an evaluation of the resultant degree of harm or benefit to the significance of the heritage asset is made. GPA3 notes that, in some circumstances, this evaluation may need to extend to cumulative and complex impacts which may have as great an effect on heritage assets as large-scale development and which may not solely be visual (Paragraph 32). It also

notes that the combined impact of the proposed development in combination with other existing and proposed developments may not simply be the sum of the impacts of individual developments; it may be more, or less (Paragraph 36).

Historic England's Advice Note on Tall Buildings (HEAN 4) applies the same principles. The Advice Note covers the assessment of cumulative impact in general (Section 6.5), the importance of ensuring that these are minimised in the formation of tall building clusters (Section 4.15, 4.16), and of the use of visualisations in that assessment (Section 5.6).

Historic England is also continuing work on its new Advice Note on Managing Change to World Heritage Sites in England. This will provide advice regarding the implementation of guidance within UNESCO's *Guidance and Toolkit* within the English planning system and alongside other national sector advice regarding the assessment of heritage significance and impact.

Cumulative Impact Guidance for Heritage – Local

The 2020-2025 WHS Management Plan is mindful of the potential for even small actions to cumulatively erode the OUV of the World Heritage Site. It references (Section 8.2 and Part C 21.2) the need for heritage impact assessment to address cumulative impacts (as expressed by the World Heritage Committee in the *Operational Guidelines*). [Appendix 11](#) of the Plan highlights where planning inspectors have stressed the importance of resisting cumulative impacts, setting a precedent for future planning hearings and inquiries. The Plan also refers to the related guidance in the PPG (Sections 8.3, 8.6). The Management Plan is given weight in planning decisions as a material consideration. The DVMWHS Coordination Team and Historic England are continuing to advise local planning authorities to seek Heritage Impact Assessments produced in line with the UNESCO *Guidance and Toolkit* for applications in the DVMWHS, its buffer zone and the wider setting, and to incorporate such requirements within the policies of their local plans. The State Party understands from the DVMWHS Partnership that the next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan will also explicitly include this requirement amongst its policies for any new build development projects and for major reuse/repurposing projects.

9. Acknowledges that the Local Plans are currently under review, reiterates its concern that review processes do not appear to be coordinated or their potential impacts on the OUV of the property assessed cumulatively, which has led to intrusive development projects, particularly in Belper, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that all new local plans and policies affecting the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting are assessed through integrated HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that draft plans and relevant HIAs are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption;

The State Party has ensured positive actions have been taken to improve the coordination of the various local authorities, which range in size and scope across a property of this size.

As discussed during the Advisory Mission, a number of the local planning authorities with responsibility for decision making within parts of the property are in the process of reviewing and updating their Local Plans. Plan-making bodies are expected to cooperate in the development of strategic policy, and the State Party's approach ensures that the relevant local planning authorities are coordinated in development, review and update of their Local Plans.

An update to the information on the progress with those Plans is provided in the table at Annex A together with an indication of when those Plans are likely to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption.

Coordination of Local Plans between Authorities

The State Party expects plan-making bodies to cooperate in the development of strategic policy, both with each other and with other bodies, when preparing, or supporting the preparation of policies which address strategic matters. This includes those policies contained in local plans (including minerals and waste plans) and spatial development strategies.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF Paragraph 24) confirms that local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) continue to be under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. It highlights that effective strategic planning across local planning authority boundaries will play a vital and increasing role in how sustainable growth is delivered. The NPPF (Paragraph 11) also sets out that these authorities should produce, maintain, and update one or more statement of common ground, throughout the plan-making process. Such statements of common ground document where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process, and are a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries. In the case of local planning authorities, these statements also form part of the evidence required to demonstrate that they have complied with the duty to cooperate. When local planning authorities are bringing forward their local plans at different times, the statement of common ground is expected to set out how local planning authorities are bound by a statutory duty to cooperate. This duty was introduced by the [Localism Act 2011](#), and is set out in [section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#). It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribed public bodies to

engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. The duty applies equally to plan reviews and plan updates as it does to new plans. Local planning authorities need to comply with the duty to co-operate when revising their development plan documents and reviewing whether they remain up to date. Engagement with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies needs to occur before a final decision on whether to update policies in a plan is made, as such engagement may influence that decision.

Other public bodies, including Historic England as the UK Government's national heritage adviser, are also subject to the duty to cooperate. Historic England's advice highlights the need for policies to apply a consistent approach to protection and safeguarding of OUV across the property between the various authorities involved (Advisory Mission Recommendation 1).

In addition, the DVMWHS Partnership will continue to encourage Local Planning Authorities to produce revised Local Plans where required in a timely fashion including reference to the DVMWHS Management Plan and with standardised sets of policies relating to the WHS, its buffer zone and wider setting (Advisory Mission Recommendation 1).

When a local plan is submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate, an assessment will be made of whether a local planning authority has complied with the duty to cooperate and other legal requirements. The Inspector will use all available evidence including statements of common ground to determine whether the duty has been satisfied. As the duty to cooperate relates to the preparation of the plan it cannot be rectified post-submission, so if the Inspector finds that the duty has not been complied with they will recommend that the local plan is not adopted and the examination will not proceed any further.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, seeks to speed up engagement to bring forward sustainable growth. It includes provision to revoke the duty to cooperate. The requirement for local authorities to work together and with relevant consultees to achieve effective and ongoing joint working remains, with this requirement now set out more strongly in the National Planning Policy Framework. The State Party (following a change of government) will shortly bring forward legislation to further reform the planning system. This will include creating a new universal system of strategic planning for England. This will place a new duty on the East Midlands Combined County Authority to produce a spatial development strategy, to guide development across the region and inform production of individual local plans.

Notwithstanding these legislative and policy requirements for local planning authorities to work together, the State Party recognises that there is always opportunity to improve how such working relationships function in practice. It welcomed the opportunity for the Advisory Mission to bring various authorities together in discussion with a focus on the property.

New East Midlands Combined County Authority

The East Midlands Combined County Authority (<https://www.eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk/>) was formed in March 2024. A combined county authority represents a collaboration between a group of local authorities dedicated to working together to make their region a better place to live, work and invest.

Approved by the Government, combined county authorities are granted funding and decision-making powers from Westminster for their regions. Two of the four local authority areas included within this new authority have responsibility for parts of the World Heritage Site - Derby City and Derbyshire County Council. The new authority's priorities include transport, housing, the climate emergency, economic development and the visitor economy. They will deliver against their objectives by working in close partnership with local authorities and other key stakeholders, supporting collaboration.

The State Party can report that the new Mayor of the East Midlands, Claire Ward, toured the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and met with the DVMWHS Partnership in [November 2024](#). This was an important opportunity for the Partnership team to engage with the new mayor in the first year after her election in May 2024.

The Use of Heritage Impact Assessment in Plan and Policy Development

In addition to the advice outlined in the response to paragraph 8 of the Committee's Decision above, regarding the requirement for Heritage Impact Assessments as part of cumulative impact assessment, both Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership will also continue to advise local planning authorities of the need to integrate assessment through HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit into the development of their plans and policies (Advisory Mission Recommendation 2).

This approach is aligned with the State Party's own guidance ([Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 18a-032-20190723](#)) as HIA is an important tool in helping to address the key principles that the State Party expects local authorities to aim to satisfy when developing plan policies to protect and enhance World Heritage Sites and their OUV:

- 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

Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership's advice together with the planned approach to be incorporated in the revised WHS Management Plan directly addresses Recommendation

5 from the Advisory Mission. These actions will support integration of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, using the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit, into the management system at the local planning level.

Additionally, the DVM WHS Partnership is encouraging Local Planning Authorities to include relevant requirements in their validation checklists. For new developments and significant repurposing of historic buildings within the WHS and its buffer zone, a requirement for applications to demonstrate that they have been informed by a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the UNESCO 2022 *Guidance and Toolkit* is being recommended. This same recommendation is proposed for inclusion in the next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan.

10. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate a review of the management system of the property with the aim of establishing a fully functioning management system that provides for:

- a) A management authority with the legal jurisdiction and agency to ensure that the OUV of the property is safeguarded, including by coordinating the spatial and other plans of the various authorities with spatial mandates over the various sections of the property and its buffer zone and wider setting,*
- b) Legal status for the Management Plan of the property,*
- c) A legal mandate for the execution of HIAs, as prescribed by the Operational Guidelines, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*

The State Party notes the World Heritage Committee's concerns and remains committed to continued discussion regarding the potential to improve and enhance the management of the property. However, it does not agree that the property's management system is not fully functioning at the current time, or that it does not address the State Party's obligations under the Convention. The State Party was particularly keen for the Advisory Mission to see how the UK planning system, a major contributor to the property's management system, can deliver sustainable outcomes which safeguard OUV through a process of advice and refinement of schemes with active engagement from heritage consultees.

As previously reported to the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has also sought to provide additional heritage protection to that within its planning system under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which became law in October 2023. The principal heritage-related provision with direct relevance to World Heritage is that of the regard to certain heritage assets in the exercise of planning functions (Section 102). This comprises a statutory duty to give special regard when exercising planning functions to the desirability of preserving or enhancing a World Heritage Site or its setting. This duty has been introduced for the first time in England and would apply to decisions about whether to grant applications for planning permission and permission in principle brought forward under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The State Party will update the World Heritage Centre further on its plans for the implementation of this measure, which is not yet in force, once there is further information to share about the scope of planning reform that will be brought forward following the recent change of government.

Management Authority

As outlined in its response to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Decision, the various local planning authorities are required to work together in the development of spatial and other plans as well as in relation to other matters relevant to World Heritage. The State Party believes that the current national system of a tiered approach to government supports accountable decision making at local level where there is a detailed understanding of what is required both in relation to communities and the World Heritage property.

The DVMWHS Partnership's Strategic Board brings the various authorities together to advocate for the WHS and champion its purpose and objectives in their own activities. Senior

representatives from each of the relevant authorities are members of the Board. The primary functions of the Board 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 the 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 World Heritage Site.

Also as explained above, the formal Examination process conducted by the UK Government's [Planning Inspectorate](#) for Local Plans brought forward by individual authorities provides national oversight. The Planning Inspectorate is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#). Its role is to support local authorities to develop plans that fully meet local needs, to share its planning knowledge and expertise to help ensure the right development happens in the right place at the right time, and to examine whether local plans have been prepared in accordance with legal requirements and national policy. This includes considering whether the processes set out by the State Party for collaboration and coordination between authorities have been met and whether the proposed policies will safeguard the OUV of the property in accordance with its international obligations.

National Management Framework

In England two interlocking legal approaches are applied to the protection of heritage which jointly deliver on the UK's obligations under the World Heritage Convention: designation and planning policy. Whilst the overarching responsibility for those obligations lies with the UK Government, many of the protections put in place are implemented at local level by the relevant local planning authority. This same management framework is applied consistently across all the State Party's properties within England.

The State Party continues to believe that its legislation and national policy framework combine to provide a level of protection for World Heritage Sites under its planning system, including in the development of local planning policy, that fully addresses its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. It believes that the management framework it has put in place for World Heritage translates the criteria for protection into the standards set out within the legislation and policies of its regulatory framework at both national and local level (Advisory Mission Recommendation 3).

Status of Management Plans

The State Party makes clear that given their importance in helping to sustain and enhance the significance of the World Heritage Site, relevant policies in WHS Management Plans need to be taken into account in preparing development plans for the historic or natural environment (as appropriate) and in determining relevant planning applications.

Therefore, the WHS Management Plan including all its policies, objectives and action plan which are intended to actively guide consideration of change both within the property and its setting¹ (*Operational Guidelines* Paragraph 108) will be considered a material consideration under the planning process.

Once completed, Management Plans are ideally formally endorsed or adopted by the bodies that put them into effect or have the ability to affect their implementation (such as a local planning authority).

The role of the WHS Management Plan under the planning system helps to translate the property's protection criteria into local requirements so that they can be considered under the regulatory framework of planning instruments (Advisory Mission Recommendation 3).

Mandate for Execution of HIA

In the State Party's response to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Decision above, it explains how a requirement for heritage impact assessment is integrated into the development of local plans.

The Derwent Valley Mills WHS Partnership is advising local planning authorities regarding the direct use of the DVMWHS Management Plan text in policies and strategies under the relevant Local Plans across the property, including in relation to the implementation of heritage impact assessment processes. It also encourages each of the relevant Local Authorities and other corporate bodies associated with management of the property to embed the DVMWHS Management Plan objectives into their own Corporate Plans.

The next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan will explicitly require HIAs in accordance with the UNESCO toolkit, for any new build development projects and for major reuse/repurposing projects.

¹ [PPG Paragraph 034 Reference ID: 18a-034-20190723](#)

11. Further requests that in the above process:

- a) The attributes listed in the 2020-2025 Management Plan for the property be augmented to reflect more fully how they both truthfully and credibly convey the OUV of the property and how the buffer zone and the wider setting of the rural landscape support OUV,*
- b) A risk management and emergency preparedness plan for the entire World Heritage property be included;*

Attributes of OUV

The State Party, DVMWHS Partnership and Historic England all welcomed the opportunity to discuss the approach to the definition of attributes and values from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value during the Advisory Mission. The State Party can confirm that the opportunity to review these is being taken within the context of the review and update process for the WHS Management Plan (Advisory Mission Recommendation 4). This review process will also take account of the Mission recommendations in regard to how values and attributes address the rural landscape setting of the property. Therefore, in the next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan, the attributes and elements in section A will be further clarified utilising the UNESCO's Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and drawing on the forthcoming World Heritage Management Manual (Advisory Mission Recommendation 6).

Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness Plan

The DVMWHS Partnership considers that the optimum approach is to integrate the property into the risk management, emergency preparedness and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans of key partnership members - in particular the Local Authorities, and owners/managers of Key Sites under the WHS Management Plan. There will be an objective in the 2026-31 Management Plan which the DVMWHS Coordination Team will monitor, to establish where risk management and emergency preparedness plans are in place across the Partnership. The Partnership will make partner bodies aware of ICOMOS's Managing Disaster Risks guidance (2017) in support of this work. This work will be undertaken during the lifetime of the next Management Plan, i.e. by 2031. The State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Committee is kept apprised of progress in relation to this request.

12. Reiterates its grave concern that development pressures on the property, coupled with the inability of the management system to safeguard its OUV, are reaching such proportions that, if not addressed as a matter of urgency, ascertained or potential threat, as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, could be confirmed if the recommendations of the 2024 joint Advisory mission to the property are not followed;

The Derwent Valley Mills is an extensive property within which many people live and work and which faces a continual range of pressures. To provide a sustainable future for these communities to live in this landscape without harming its significance and Outstanding Universal Value, opportunities must be identified where well-planned new development and adaptive reuse of buildings within settlements can be delivered. Such developments would take account of conservation, biodiversity, access, and the economic and social interests of the local community in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They would respond positively to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills reflecting the relationship between the mills and towns which still sit in the surviving rural landscape in which they developed. The State Party remains committed to achieving sensitively planned change without causing harm to OUV supported by sound policy and guidance, and expert advice.

The Periodic Reporting submission from 2023 indicated that development pressure from housing was a negative issue within the property's setting but that this was stable rather than increasing. The same was reported in relation to commercial development.

The State Party notes the wider concerns of the Committee in relation to specific developments within the property and its setting, including the buffer zone. However, it remains of the opinion that under the UK planning system important progress has been made and continues to be made in negotiating amendments to recent schemes to reduce the harm caused, in securing sensitive proposals for important regeneration sites, and in influencing the development of local policy to further safeguard OUV.

With the benefit of the Advisory Mission report, the State Party, Historic England, the DVMWHS Partnership and the relevant local authorities have continued to work in partnership to identify where there is opportunity for enhancement and improvement.

The State Party considers that the situation has improved since the previous state of conservation reports in 2021 and 2023, and positive progress has been reported since the Advisory Mission and its 2024 report. The State Party has no reason to expect that the same positive trajectory will not continue.

The Partnership continues to provide training on how World Heritage Sites need to be considered in relation to the NPPF. In addition to this, it intends to produce a DVMWHS planning toolkit within the lifetime of the next iteration of the WHS Management Plan. This project will develop a resource for applicants, developers and planning officers to assist in enhancing understanding of the implications and requirements for seeking planning

permission and/or listed building consent within the WHS and its setting, including the buffer zone.

Historic England also continues to engage with how local policy reflects the criteria for protection of OUV, as set out in the response to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Decision.

The DVMWHS Partnership, including its partners, will promote the good conservation practice that has taken place in the DVMWHS (e.g. Darley Abbey (re-use of mills for commercial purposes), Cromford Mills (mixed commercial and office space with museum), Derby Silk Mill Museum of Making and Belper Library (new library and new housing in the old library) and Care home). These will be highlighted as examples of good conservation practice for the reuse of buildings and sustainable development where character has been maintained and the property's industrial heritage is continuing to play an important role for its communities (Advisory Mission Recommendation 11). While the repurposing of these buildings does show good practice, in some instances there are still concerns about ongoing financial sustainability. Appropriate case studies will be included in the planning toolkit which will be referenced in and which will support the next iteration of the WHS Management Plan.

The State Party strongly agrees, however, that the condition of the Belper Mills complex is an urgent and significant issue affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. It concurs with the Committee's concerns and with the need for all parties to work together to identify a much-needed long-term sustainable solution for the site. As reported in the response to paragraph 5 of the Committee's Decision above, further revisions to the proposed scheme are in progress. Both Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership will be actively involved in reviewing any proposed scheme and the information submitted including the necessary heritage impact assessment (HIA).

*13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2025, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, together with an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Advisory mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV.***

The State Party submits this report including the attached Action Plan at Annex B in response to the Committee's request.

The State Party confirms its continued commitment, for all the UK's World Heritage sites, to notifying the World Heritage Centre of any major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property under the Paragraph 172 obligation, and to continuing to submit HIAs for any new developments.

The State Party also requests a dialogue meeting with the World Heritage Centre in early 2025 in order to answer any clarifications or questions arising from this State of Conservation Report.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Derby City Design Code

Derby City Council is currently progressing development of a new [Design Guide](#) to inform the quality and design of new buildings and spaces across the city. It recognises that there are some examples of high-quality new buildings within the city centre that it can be proud of, but also that others do not live up to this standard. The proposed Design Guide aims to ensure that all new development is of high quality to raise the bar and improve the overall image of the City Centre as it evolves. It will provide clear design principles to ensure that new development is inclusive, responding appropriately to its context and prioritising sustainability in the design process.

Historic England has continued to engage in the consultation process for this document. It has highlighted in particular the importance of the wider concept of the skyline and the city's townscape. Historic England has urged the City Council to consider the relationship between heritage assets within the skyline and the opportunity of the skyline and townscape to tell the story of the birth of the Industrial Revolution in Derbyshire. The State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Committee remains updated on the progress with this document. The latest public consultation on the [draft Design Guide](#) closed on 13 January 2025. Historic England will be meeting with the City Council in February/March 2025 to discuss its representation as part of the recent consultation to support finalisation of the document. Following that discussion when there is a clearer indication of the timetable for completion of the draft Design Guide, the State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Centre is provided with a copy of the latest draft.

This work by Derby City Council addresses the policy expectation set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences. Design guides and codes can be prepared at an area-wide, neighbourhood or site-specific scale.

Cromford Mills Masterplan

The Arkwright Society is currently reviewing its Strategic Business Plan and Masterplan for Cromford Mills which will contribute to addressing the Advisory Mission's recommendations (Recommendation 14). This effort is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, acknowledging the importance of this critical document in advancing a more sustainable model for the site. An early phase of potential development relating to the Masterplan is the conservation and repurposing of the vacant four storey Building 1 into a restaurant/café, events and community venue and office space. Proposals will be informed and accompanied by HIA in accordance with the UNESCO toolkit. Historic England are providing advice on the emerging scheme and the State Party will issue a notification under Paragraph 172 in due course.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity

The State Party, based on advice from Historic England, has submitted the following notifications under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* since its last state of conservation report for the property from February 2024:

- 10 January 2025: Refusal of application for Amber Rock (Crich Quarry) ([CM6/0122/28](#))
- 29 January 2025: Submission of DVMWHS Partnership Belper Mills Alternative Options Study
- 29 January 2025: Approval of application for Cathedral One, Derby ([23/01462/FUL](#))

Awareness of the particular concerns expressed by the World Heritage Committee and in the Advisory Mission report has informed decisions about which cases should be notified subsequently.

The State Party has reported above, in the response to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Decision, on the active progression of a number of policy documents at local level which are important components of the property's management system. In some cases these would benefit from the additional advice of ICOMOS International within the prescribed timelines set for the drafting and examination of each Local Plan. The State Party therefore expects the draft policy documents included in the table at Annex A to be notified under Paragraph 172 in due course.

The State Party also expects the following proposed developments to be notified under Paragraph 172 in the near future, likely in advance of the World Heritage Committee's next meeting. It understands from Historic England that some of these are currently awaiting compilation of either full or screening/scoping Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* and following the guidance in UNESCO's *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (2022):

- Submission of revised application for Bradshaw Way, Derby (24/01738/OUT)
- Submission of revised application for Eagle Quarter and Riverside, Derby
- Redevelopment proposals for Milford Mills
- Darley Abbey footbridge proposals (Advisory Mission Recommendation 15)
- Cromford Mills Masterplan

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is content for the full State of Conservation Report to be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority

**Henry Reed
Senior International Policy Adviser
Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

**ANNEX A: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' LOCAL PLAN UPDATES WITHIN THE
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WHS JANUARY 2025**

Local Authority	Plan Name	Plan Stage	Next Steps	Notification under Paragraph 172 Operational Guidelines
Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council	Derbyshire and Derby City Minerals Local Plan to 2038	Draft Plan submitted to Secretary of State for Examination in November 2024	Examination in Public of the plan by Planning Inspectorate. A timetable is not yet available	In parallel with Examination
Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council	Derbyshire and Derby City Waste Plan to 2035	A new waste plan is being prepared	Early stages of consultation	Unclear as yet, plan is at early stage of development
Erewash Council	Local Plan Review	Examination in Public has been halted, while the Council have been asked to find additional development sites and evidence base.	Council has submitted a revised workplan to address the concerns of the Inspector following the hearings. The Inspector has not yet confirmed the Council's revised workplan. The Council anticipate hearing sessions will resume Summer 2025.	In parallel with consultation on the new material requested by the Inspector, later in 2025
Derbyshire Dales Council	Local Plan Review	Early stage Local Plan Review	Council to consult on a draft Plan	In parallel with consultation on draft Plan
Amber Valley Council	Local Plan	Submitted to Secretary of State for Examination July 2024; Examination in Public of the plan by Planning Inspectorate is ongoing		In parallel with Examination
Derby City Council	Local Plan Review	Local Plan being drafted	Awaiting initial draft Local Plan Review consultation	In parallel with consultation on draft Plan
Derby City Council	Derby City Centre Design Guide	Public consultation closed January 2025	Historic England meeting with City Council to discuss representations	Following meeting with Historic England when timetable for finalisation of draft Design Guide is known

ANNEX B: ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 2024 ADVISORY MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
(See Annex C for reference to Monitoring Indicators)

Recommendation Number	Advisory Mission Recommendation	Action	Relevant Partner(s)	DVMWHS Monitoring Indicators (where relevant)
1	Continuity in different levels of protection needs to be ensured and outdated plans replaced before gaps are used for speculative developments	Duty to Cooperate between Local Authorities to be implemented in development and review of Local Plans	All local planning authorities; State Party	ICOMOS INDICATOR 1; ICOMOS INDICATOR 18
		Statutory advice to continue to highlight the need for policies to apply a consistent approach to protection and safeguarding of OUV across the property	Historic England	
		Non-statutory advice to continue to encourage Local Planning Authorities to produce revised Local Plans where required in a timely fashion	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Non-statutory advice to continue to encourage Local Planning Authorities to include reference to the DVMWHS Management Plan in Local Plans with standardised sets of policies relating to the WHS, its buffer zone and wider setting	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Legislative and policy framework to remain up to date to ensure accountability, full and effective coverage by a development plan of a local authority's area of responsibility, and that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community	State Party	

2	The need to align housing and development pressures with the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property. Whilst the public benefit is understood, as is the fact that the site is a living place, additional consideration needs to be given to alternatives to development in order to preserve this outstanding property	Statutory and non-statutory advice to continue to highlight to local planning authorities the need to integrate assessment through HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit into the development of their plans and policies (including proposed sites for housing allocations)	Historic England; DVMWHS Partnership	
		Legislative and policy framework to remain up to date to support appropriate and proportionate assessment of impacts on World Heritage under a plan-led planning system	State Party	
3	To be effective, the DVMWHS protection criteria need to be translated into standards and become part of the regulatory framework of planning instruments at different levels, from local plans to National Development Management Policies	Legislative and policy framework to maintain provision of a level of protection for World Heritage Sites under the planning system, including in the development of local planning policy, that fully addresses the UK Government's obligations under the World Heritage Convention at both national and local level	State Party	ICOMOS INDICATOR 1; ICOMOS INDICATOR 18
		Continued exploration of options for National Development Management Policies through consultation	State Party	
		Continued maintenance of an up to date WHS Management Plan to help translate the property's protection criteria into local requirements so that they can be considered under the regulatory framework of planning instruments	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Statutory advice to local planning authorities to continue to advise	Historic England	

		regarding how the property's protection criteria can be translated into local requirements through the development of Local Plan policies		
		Engage with strategic and other key plans to ensure the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone is appropriately acknowledged and protected in accordance with UNESCO's Operational Guidelines (WHS Management Plan Objective 1.3 and associated actions)	DVMWHS Partnership	
4	The attributes as listed in the property's current Management Plan need to be reviewed to reflect those features through which the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is truthfully and credibly expressed, including the wider rural landscape setting, as these will form the basis for future conservation and management decisions	Review of the approach to defining attributes and values from the Statement of OUV to be undertaken within the context of the WHS Management Plan review and update process	DVMWHS Partnership	
		WHS Management Plan review process to consider how to enhance understanding of how the property's values and attributes address the rural landscape setting of the property	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Promote the appropriate stewardship of the relict 18th century rural setting and 'natural environment' of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone to ensure conservation of functionally linked attributes and elements, and promote biodiversity within this framework (WHS Management Plan Objective 1.8 and associated actions)	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Statutory advice to provide support in implementation of UNESCO	Historic England	

		published guidance (EOH 2.0; Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context)		
5	Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, using the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, need to be integrated into the management system, and at least at the local planning level	Statutory advice to continue to support integration of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, using the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit, into the management system at the local planning level	Historic England	
		Next iteration of DVMWHS Management Plan to explicitly require HIAs in accordance with the UNESCO toolkit, for any new build development projects and for major reuse/repurposing projects	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Legislative and policy framework to remain up to date to support appropriate and proportionate assessment of impacts on World Heritage under a plan-led planning system	State Party	
6	As the current Management Plan expires in 2025 and will need to be reviewed or updated, it would be advisable to draw on the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and the forthcoming World Heritage Management Manual	The next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan to be informed by UNESCO's Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and draw on the forthcoming World Heritage Management Manual	DVMWHS Partnership; Historic England	ICOMOS INDICATOR 7
7	A revised or updated Management Plan should include a risk management and emergency preparedness plan not only for the City of Derby, but for the whole World Heritage property, so that flood preparedness and prevention	Next iteration of the WHS Management Plan to include an objective to establish where risk management and emergency preparedness plans are in place across the Partnership	DVMWHS Partnership	ICOMOS INDICATOR 7; ICOMOS INDICATOR 43

	planning is in place, especially for the most vulnerable areas of the property.	Increase awareness of ICOMOS's Managing Disaster Risks guidance (2017)	DVMWHS Partnership	
8	Given the high number of development projects in and around the property, it would be advisable to adopt a precautionary approach and undertake HIAs for all new development projects, as even small projects, which individually would not normally require an HIA, need to be assessed against the cumulative effects on the OUV	Local planning authorities to be encouraged through both statutory and non-statutory advice to review the scope in policy, supplementary planning documents and design codes to apply proportionate measures in regard to HIA	Historic England; DVMWHS Partnership	ICOMOS INDICATOR 15
9	All ongoing or new development projects which impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and ICOMOS	The State Party to continue to liaise with Historic England to appropriately select both statutory documents and planning applications for notification in line with the Committee's request	State Party; Historic England	
10	The long history of poor conservation of certain key attributes of the property, in particular the North and East Mills at Belper, is of concern. The State Party should continue its renewed efforts to find alternative solutions to address this situation in a sustainable manner. Given the critical contribution of the Belper Mill Complex to the OUV of the property and the relevant decision of the World Heritage Committee, it is recommended that details of a revised proposal, together with the commissioned study of the proposals and the associated Heritage Impact	Listed building and planning applications to be determined in 2025 with appropriate reconsultation on emerging amendments	Amber Valley Borough Council	
		Statutory advice to assess sustainability of proposals and any amendments, impact on OUV, and likelihood of delivery under the live planning and listed building consent application within statutory timescales	Historic England	
		Annual review of risk to complex to be undertaken	Historic England (Heritage At Risk programme)	
		Due to its critical contribution to Outstanding Universal Value, assist in finding a viable and sustainable re-use	DVMWHS Partnership	

	Assessment based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any approvals that may be difficult to reverse	of the components of the Belper Mill Complex. This should contribute to the vitality of the World Heritage Site's economy and environment, and include facilities to support the World Heritage Site as a visitor destination (WHS Management Plan Objective 1.5 and associated actions)		
		Commissioned research to be shared appropriately to support determination of live applications, or to support identification of an alternative solution in the event the live planning applications do not deliver such a sustainable solution	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Any amendments and or progress with determination of live applications to be notified under Paragraph 172 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> to assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved	State Party; Historic England	
11	The positive examples of conservation in Derby (Museum of Making), Darley Abbey (re-use of mills for commercial purposes), Belper (new library and new housing in the old library) and Cromford Mills (mixed commercial and office space with museum) could be seen as exemplary models of sustainable development of the property, which the State party could propose as reference models for maintaining its character and allowing the industrial heritage to play an	Promotion of the good conservation practice that has taken place in the DVMWHS through advice and guidance	DVMWHS Partnership; Historic England	
		Appropriate case studies to be included in the planning toolkit which will be referenced in and which will support the next iteration of the WHS Management Plan	DVMWHS Partnership	

	important role for the communities			
12	It is important to continue to explore compatible development alternatives that could generate income for heritage site owners, such as the use of turbines and wheels for hydroelectric power	Task and Finish Group to be established before end of current WHS Management Plan period to address specific actions in the Plan with respect to economic development through the enhancement of hydro electric power in the valley	DVMWHS Partnership	ICOMOS INDICATOR 42
		Support, where possible and appropriate, the generation of hydro power (alongside already established locations) within the DVMWHS (WHS Management Plan ACT 3.11.2)	DVMWHS Partnership	
13	The Museum of Making suffered significant damage from the failure of the riverbanks during the heavy rains of October 2023. The Museum has now reopened, but there is still a risk of further flooding due to climate change and other possible causes. More effective protection should be ensured through the implementation of Package II of the 'River flood management scheme' (currently going through the planning process)	Package II of Our City Our River to be implemented within timescales and phasing plan agreed under consented planning application	Derby City Council Environment Agency	ICOMOS INDICATOR 43
14	Solutions need to be promoted to address the conservation issues at Cromford Mills, Building 18, which remains at risk, and Building 1, which has recently suffered render failure and requires urgent repairs	Review of Strategic Business Plan and Masterplan for Cromford Mills to be completed in 2025	Arkwright Society; Historic England; National Lottery Heritage Fund; DVMWHS Partnership	
		All proposals for Cromford Mills site to be informed and accompanied by HIA in accordance with the UNESCO toolkit	Arkwright Society; Historic England; DVMWHS Partnership	
		Cromford Mills Strategic Business	State Party;	

		Plan and Masterplan to be notified to UNESCO under Paragraph 172 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> to assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved	Historic England	
		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 (WHS Management Plan Objective 3.3 and associated actions)	DVMWHS Partnership	
15	With regard to the Darley Abbey Bridge, the issue of ownership should be resolved to ensure clarity for the conservation and longer-term management of the bridge. Any conservation project for the bridge will need to consider its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property	Consultation on potential alternative solutions with integrated heritage impact assessment to guide decision making to identify preferred option in 2025	Derby City Council; Historic England; Environment Agency; Other relevant stakeholders	
		Assist in the production of a public realm strategy for the Darley Abbey Mills site that protects its historic character and significance. This should incorporate an assessment of access via the river (WHS Management Plan Action 1.6.5)	DVMWHS Partnership	
		Roles and responsibilities in relation to finding a long term solution, and maintenance of any solution implemented, to be clarified before identification of preferred solution	All relevant stakeholders	

**ANNEX C: KEY MONITORING INDICATORS FOR DERWENT VALLEY MILLS
REPORT – Report submitted by DVMWHS Partnership**

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Key Monitoring Indicators 2024

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

The aims of such monitoring indicators are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

		<p>Undetermined: (7 FUL, 2 LBA, 1 LCO)</p> <p>Derbyshire Dales District Council Within WHS: 37 Applications approved. Determined: 14 Granted, 21 Granted Conditionally. 1 No Objection. 1 MTP. Undetermined: 0.</p> <p>Within WHS Buffer Zone: 33 Applications approved. Determined: 14 Granted, 17 Granted Conditionally, 1 Discharged in Full, 1 Discharged in Part.</p> <p>Erewash Borough Council In the World Heritage Site – One application for a new cycleway along the River Derwent. In the Buffer Zone – one agricultural prior-notification and two tree works prior-notifications.</p> <p>A38 Derby Junctions Scheme The A38 Derby Junctions Scheme is being promoted by National Highways for the grade separation of the three existing junctions on the A38 through Derby falling within Derby City (Kingsway and Markeaton Junctions) and Erewash Borough (Little Eaton Junction). The scheme was subject to a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Secretary of State for Transport that was submitted by National Highways in April 2019 and for which the Examination in Public took place between October 2019 and July 2020. Although the Secretary of State subsequently granted the DCO for the scheme in January 2021, the decision was subject to a successful legal challenge in the High Court by a climate change campaign group and the DCO was subsequently quashed. The DCO was then re-submitted by National Highways to the Secretary of State in September 2021 to address the reasons for the High Court challenge. The Secretary of State granted consent for the re-submitted DCO in August 2023 but that was then subject to a further legal challenge. A decision on the outcome of the latest legal challenge is anticipated in the summer of 2024.</p> <p>The proposed Little Eaton junction improvements impact on the DVMWHS buffer zone and include a new bridge crossing over the River Derwent and new flyover over the existing Little Eaton roundabout. Landscape and visual impacts on the OUV of the WHS were an important issue that was considered through the examination process, particularly the design of the new bridge crossing and flyover. Extensive landscape mitigation is, therefore, proposed as part of the design of the scheme.</p>
Change and Setting	9. List of physical changes within the WHS, particularly with identified iconic views, & record of any loss (ICOMOS INDICATORS 5, 6, 9 & 46)	<p>Over 40 monitoring views of the World Heritage Site were established and recognised by the Derwent Valley Partnership members in 2007/8. The establishment of a baseline reference in 2007/8 has allowed visual monitoring of these views to begin. It has been agreed this survey take place every five years, as part of the quinquennial review for the Management Plan. The latest survey took place in April 2022 and the updated Monitoring Views can be viewed at http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/about-the-derwent-valley-mills/outstanding-universal-value/monitoring-the-world-heritage-site/.</p>
USES & INTERPRETATION		
Population	10. Number of people living in WHS (ICOMOS INDICATOR 28)	<p>Latest figures are for 2020: World Heritage Site: 4,738. Buffer Zone: 30,309. Age breakdown: 0-15 WHS 587; BZ 4,860 16-29 WHS 619; BZ 4,616</p>

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

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

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

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