



**Dearne Valley**  
Landscape  
Partnership

---

# **Landscape Conservation Action Plan**

January 2014

Supported by  
 **The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**IMPLEMENTATION VERSION**



## Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	2
1. UNDERSTANDING THE DEARNE VALLEY .....	8
1.1 The Landscape Character .....	8
1.2 The Heritage of the Dearne Valley .....	22
1.3 The History and Development of the Area .....	30
1.4 Context .....	44
1.5 Management information .....	47
2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	59
2.1 Introduction .....	59
2.2 Statement of Significance .....	59
2.3 Significance and the Landscape Character Assessment.....	60
2.4 The Impact of Industry .....	60
2.5 The Landscape .....	61
2.6 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.....	61
2.7 How the Landscape has Been Shaped .....	62
2.8 Archaeological, Built and Industrial Heritage.....	62
2.9 Historical Significance .....	64
2.10 Cultural and Human Significance .....	64
2.11 Importance to Local Communities .....	65
3. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES .....	66
3.1 Introduction .....	66
3.2 Landscape Character Types: Risks and Opportunities .....	66
3.3 The Archaeological, Built and Industrial Heritage.....	74
3.4 The Participation of the Community .....	75
3.5 Increased Visitors Numbers .....	76
3.6 The Economy, Resources and Funding .....	76
3.7 Management and Maintenance .....	77
3.8 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour .....	77
3.9 Climate Change .....	77
3.10 Development and Planning Pressure .....	78
3.11 Partnership.....	78
3.12 Risks from each of the consultants reports .....	79
4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	81



4.1	Introduction .....	81
4.2	The Vision .....	82
4.3	HLF Aims and Objectives .....	83
4.4	DVLP Aims and Objectives .....	83
4.5	Themes .....	85
4.6	Programme Overview .....	86
4.7	Climate Change and Effects on the Environment .....	87
4.8	Management and Maintenance .....	87
4.9	Standards and Ethos .....	87
4.10	Management .....	88
4.11	Managing Information.....	88
4.12	Consultant Support .....	88
4.13	Heritage Audit.....	89
4.14	Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy .....	89
4.15	Interpretation Strategy .....	89
4.16	Communication and Branding .....	91
4.17	Audience Development Plan and Engagement Strategy.....	92
4.18	Environmental and Biodiversity Review .....	93
4.19	Volunteering and Training Strategy .....	93
4.20	Signage and Wayfinding Guide.....	93
4.21	Building Review and Condition Survey .....	94
5.	SCHEME PLAN AND COSTS .....	95
5.1	Introduction .....	95
5.2	Project Selection and Development Process .....	95
5.3	Programme Changes .....	95
5.4	DVLP Programme .....	96
HD1:	ARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY OF THE DEARNE .....	97
HD2:	PROTECTING KEY SITES.....	102
HD2.1:	Barnsley Main: Marking Mining: .....	103
HD2.2:	Glassby Arch.....	109
HD2.3:	Hemingfield Colliery .....	113
HD2.4:	Hoyland Lowe Stand.....	118
ED3:	SURVEYING THE DEARNE .....	122
ED4:	CREATING AND MANAGING SITES MORE EFFECTIVELY .....	128
ED5:	RECONNECTING THE RIVER DEARNE.....	133



DD6:	PROMOTING THE DEARNE.....	137
DD7:	EXPLORING THE DEARNE.....	141
DD8:	SIGNPOSTING THE DEARNE.....	146
DD9:	ART OF THE DEARNE.....	153
SD10:	DVLP GRANTS PROGRAMME.....	156
SD11:	DEVELOPING CAPACITY.....	158
SD12:	LEARNING FROM THE DEARNE.....	161
5.5	DELIVERING THE DVLP .....	168
6.	SUSTAINABILITY .....	172
6.1	Approach .....	172
6.2	Exit Strategy .....	172
6.3	Project Sustainability .....	172
6.4	Partnership Sustainability .....	173
6.5	Reviewing Progress .....	173
6.6	Learning from the DVLP.....	173
7.	EVALUATION.....	174
8.	ADOPTION AND REVIEW.....	176
	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	177

Photo credits: Christopher Sedgewick, Timm Cleasby, Richard King, WEA, Swinton Lock Activity Centre and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Document template and front cover: The Cafeteria



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*“People have lived in the beautiful and secluded valley around the River Dearne for thousands of years, shaping and adapting the landscape, leaving fascinating traces of their lives as each generation faced new challenges”.*



The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP) builds on over 10 years of work by a wide range of partners in the Dearne Valley area of South Yorkshire. It is an area of approximately 177 km<sup>2</sup> covering parts of the boroughs of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.

The Dearne Valley is rich in industrial heritage, valuable biodiversity, beautiful landscapes and strong communities. The landscape, geology and geography mean it has been at the heart of industrial development over thousands of years. Just as the landscape created the opportunity for industry, so industry shaped the area. Coal mining, glassworks and ironworks have had a huge impact on the landscape and the communities that live in the Dearne. This has been both positive and negative but it remains an area that is still undergoing change. The Dearne Valley is an area though that is ripe for discovery, with a chance for people in the area and visitors outside the area to learn and experience more about it. The DVLP can play a central part in this

discovery and help “Reveal the Hidden Dearne”.

The DVLP’s intensive development phase has brought together the elements contained within this Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP). A range of research has been commissioned that shows the richness of the built heritage, the varied biodiversity and the enthusiasm of the people of the area. The clear threats facing the heritage and environment of the area have been identified with approaches developed to address them. Through this research and widespread consultation the DVLP now has an established identity and a clear way forward for its five year implementation phase.



The DVLP will work with local groups in restoring and protecting listed buildings and key environmental sites. The impact and importance of industry on the landscape will be highlighted through a range of surveys and community projects. Grants will be provided to supported local community groups in helping deliver the aims and objectives of the DVLP. Projects will be supported across the area with an emphasis on developing sustainable skills and activities so that the DVLP has an impact beyond its lifetime. What is clear to all involved is that the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership is an exciting and innovative opportunity for the Dearne Valley that will have a long term impact.



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND**

As the name would suggest the Dearne Valley is the area defined by the valley through which the River Dearne flows. It sits within the eastern edge of the Pennines in South Yorkshire, covering parts of the metropolitan boroughs of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. It is a semi-rural landscape with a wealth of historic buildings, culture, archaeology, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.

It is an area of great contrasts and great potential. The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP) aims to “Reveal the Hidden Dearne” - with its wealth of heritage and environmental features - to more people. The DVLP builds on over 10 years work within the Dearne Valley initiated by the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership.

The Dearne Valley is close to the A1(M), M18 and M1 motorways with a good network of railway stations providing easy connections to Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, Sheffield and Leeds. It is ideally placed as a centre for learning, recreation, leisure and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment.

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) has been written by Richard King the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Development Officer. He was employed by Barnsley Council who are the lead partner for the landscape partnership. He is part of the Arts, Museums and Archives Services of the Council, who have a track record of success in securing a range of HLF and other funding for projects across Barnsley. Richard King was responsible for developing the successful round 1 application (submitted February 2012), when part of the Remaking Barnsley Team of Barnsley Council. He was subsequently successful in being employed as the development officer for the landscape partnership from April 2013. During the development phase he met with over 80

organisations to discuss the DVLP and received over 230 project proposals. Ten consultant teams were appointed to carry out research during the development phase, producing a series of reports and strategies that accompany the LCAP. The meetings, project proposals and research were distilled in order to create a coherent and deliverable action plan that reflects the needs, opportunities and potential that are within the Dearne Valley.



### **PLAN AUTHOR**

Richard King has qualifications in architecture and urban design and has considerable experience in economic regeneration, arts development, public art, public realm, historic building restoration, community development and funding bids. He has worked on large scale economic programmes such as the Single Regeneration Budget and European Regional Development Fund, both in programme management and direct project delivery. He has experience in the arts working as an arts officer and for a public art agency. In previous roles he managed the HLF funded Cultural Industries Quarter Townscape Heritage Initiative in Sheffield and led on major public realm schemes in Wakefield.



## **AIM OF THE LCAP**

This document is primarily aimed at meeting the requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the LCAP in providing a strategic framework for the area and a clear vision to take the DVLP forward.

It is intended though to be a practical, working document that is used throughout the implementation phase of the DVLP. It will establish the approach of the landscape partnership against which all projects will be delivered. It will act as the central reference point for everything and it will be against this that the success of the DVLP is judged. It follows the format suggested by the HLF for an LCAP, but at its heart this document is about the Dearne Valley and what the DVLP is going to do to contribute to the future of the Dearne.

The content is based on over 10 years of activity in the area. In particular, the research, discussions and thinking that has taken place since January 2012 in developing the DVLP.

The LCAP aims to be as readable as possible and is supported by a wealth of documents that sit behind it. These documents have been summarised in Section 4 but to understand the depth of research and thinking behind the LCAP it is recommended that these documents are also read.

## **PARTICIPATION & CONSULTATION**

Details of all the consultation meetings and consultees are contained within Appendix 1. This has ranged from face to face meetings, group meetings, presentations and emails. At the early stages of the development phase an introduction to the DVLP was produced and used as the basis for starting discussions and promoting the scheme. A copy is contained within Appendix 2.

It was decided not to hold formal public consultation meetings as it was felt one to one meetings with groups and individuals would

be more meaningful and constructive. Whilst time consuming, they provided the opportunity to explain in detail about the DVLP and learn more about individuals and organisations across the Dearne. This ranged from PowerPoint presentations to 25+ people through to one-to-one chats in museums.



Not only has this approach generated a huge range of project ideas it has also provided significant information about the area, how people feel about it and what they want to see. It has had the added advantage of leading to details of the DVLP being passed between organisations leading to a much broader “web” of contacts. The “web” will be built on during the implementation phase. Being active and going out to meet people means that the Development Officer has already built up a wealth of contacts and raised the profile of the DVLP.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

The work was overseen by the partner organisations, identified in Round 1 and they were updated and involved on a regular basis to ensure that the DVLP was progressing in a way that all organisations involved were happy with. The Partnership has been formalised since Round 1 and a new agreement adopted (Appendix 3).

All the consultants appointed to carry out work have undertaken consultation in some form or another - whether this has been chatting to birdwatchers in nature reserves, all the way through to formal surveys across the Dearne.

It is hoped that the breadth of participation and consultation is demonstrated through the range of organisations and individuals that have been involved in discussions or project development.



### THE VISION

“People have lived in the beautiful and secluded valley around the River Dearne for thousands of years, shaping and adapting the landscape, leaving fascinating traces of their lives as each generation faced new challenges.”

By aiming to “Reveal the Hidden Dearne”, the DVLP will help create a sustainable future for the area, economically, socially and environmentally. The DVLP can provide cohesion to a fragmented area, providing a common thread running through the range of

projects and initiatives across the valley. The DVLP will work in partnership to protect, restore and enhance the built heritage, natural environment and biodiversity.

There can be few areas of the UK where industry has shaped the landscape more than the Dearne. The DVLP will reconnect people with the wealth of industrial heritage, unique landscapes, significant environmental features, leisure opportunities and economic potential within the Dearne Valley. Many are not accessible or apparent to enough people. It will raise awareness of the area’s significance, allow local communities to become actively involved in shaping it, increase their understanding of what makes it so special and encourage more people to benefit from the Dearne’s built and natural assets.

Ultimately all the work of the DVLP is contributing to the Heritage Lottery Fund’s four outcomes for landscape partnerships:

- A Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character
- B Increasing community participation in local heritage
- C Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage
- D Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills

In the Round 1 application the following were established as the main objectives of the DVLP to reflect the HLF outcomes:

- Conserve, protect and enhance the built, natural and cultural heritage that makes up the unique landscape of the Dearne Valley.
- Enable the community to celebrate the immense value of the Dearne’s heritage, by working with them and other organisations.



- Increase the community's understanding, use and enjoyment of the existing natural and built heritage by increasing access opportunities and interpretation.
- Boost the economic prosperity of the Dearne by making it a place where people want to live, work and visit, building on the sense of place as a positive, forward looking and innovative community
- Support the local community through providing a range of training, skills and volunteering opportunities.
- Develop a sustainable partnership, with the local community at its centre, to ensure a lasting legacy for the DVLPP and a viable future for the Dearne's unique heritage assets.

As a result of the development phase a series of themes became apparent that have shaped the development of the projects within the overall programme, they are:

1. **Cultural Heritage of the Dearne:** This theme will focus on the archaeology and built heritage of the Dearne, highlighting the legacy of what remains. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the physical heritage. There will be encouragement for increased involvement from and understanding within the community, helping protect the heritage for the future.
2. **Environmental Heritage of the Dearne:** This theme will focus on the rivers, landscape, biodiversity and geology of the Dearne. It will highlight how they have shaped the place and its people. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the environment. There will be encouragement to increase the involvement and understanding of the community, helping protect the environment for the future.

3. **Discovering the Dearne:** This theme will aim to make local people and visitors more aware of the opportunities there are in the Dearne. It will use the arts to engage with people to collect and celebrate the stories of the Dearne. It will encourage more people to visit the area, providing more information about what is in the area and making it easier for people to move around and find their way. There will be a focus on strengthening the connections within the Dearne both the physical links (particularly around the River Dearne) but also in people's perceptions.
4. **Strengthening the Dearne:** This theme will support the communities of the Dearne through volunteering, training, grants, networks and capacity building. It will aim to help people play an active part in their local community.

Running through these themes will be the ideas of discovery, revelation, celebration, understanding, sharing, engagement, protection, sustainability, exploration, enhancement, support and strengthening.

The overall programme therefore has a clear vision, outcomes, objectives and themes against which all the work of the landscape partnership is contributing towards. These themes are expanded upon in later sections along with full details of individual projects.



### KEY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

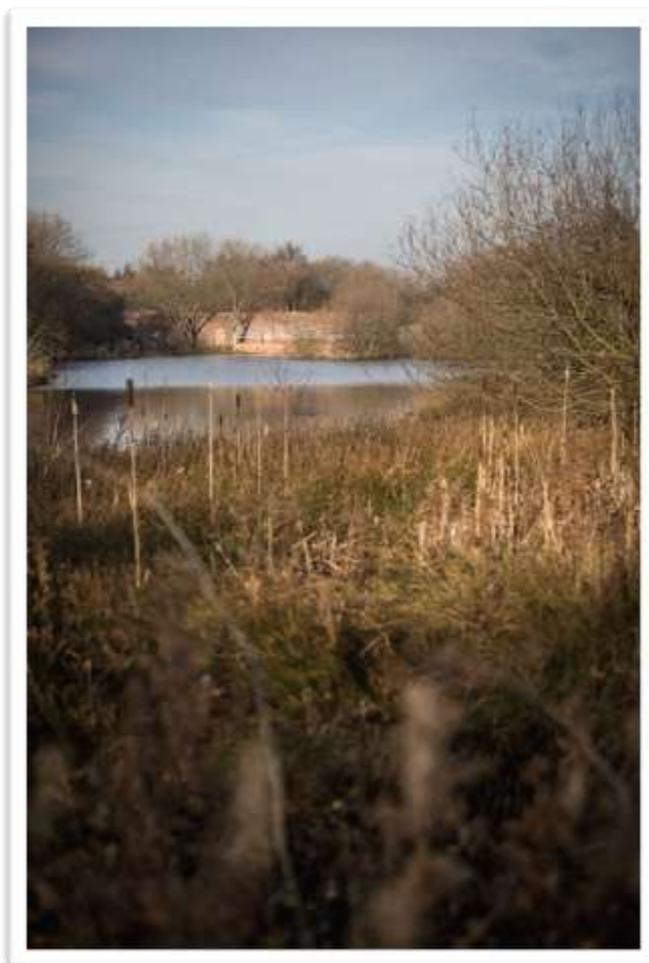
There are a range of documents sitting behind this LCAP which have informed and shaped the DVLP. Some of these were commissioned directly for the landscape partnership, others are existing documents. These documents will be referred to throughout the LCAP but full copies are provided in support of the LCAP.

- Dearne Valley Green Heart Interpretation Study
- Dearne Valley Green Heart Landscape Character Assessment
- Dearne Valley Green Heart Biodiversity: Phase 1 Habitat Mapping / Species Mapping
- DVLP: Signage and Wayfinding Guide
- DVLP: Audience Development Plan and Community Engagement Strategy
- DVLP: Environmental and Biodiversity Review
- DVLP: Communications Strategy
- DVLP: Heritage Audit
- DVLP: Interpretation Strategy
- DVLP: Branding Guidelines
- DVLP: Skills and Training Review and Strategy
- DVLP: Building Conditions Survey
- DVLP: Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE NAME

During the development phase of the DVLP it was agreed that the name of the landscape partnership used at Phase 1 would be altered from the Dearne Valley Green Heart Landscape Partnership (DVGHLP) to the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP). This was as a result of the wide ranging consultation but particularly the work on branding and communication. The

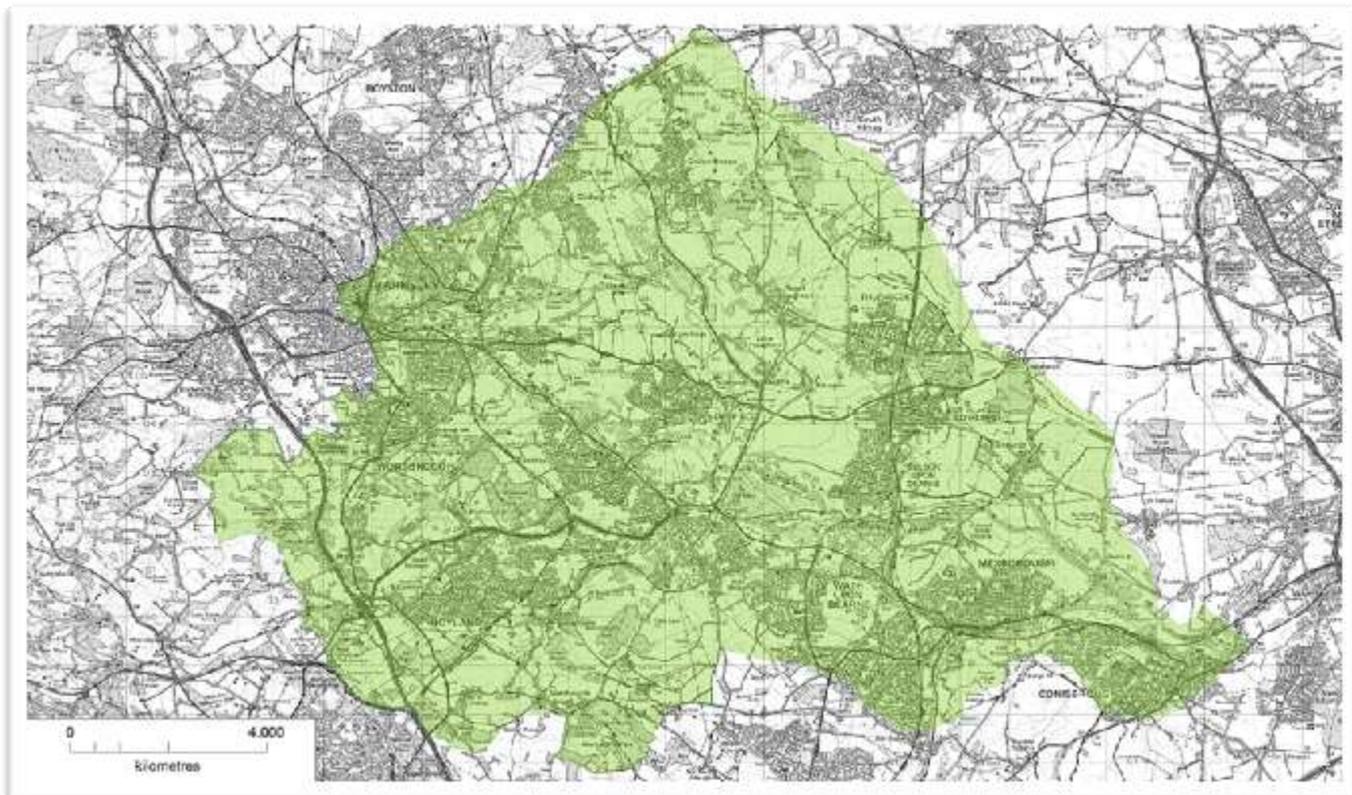
removal of “Green Heart” is intended to lead to greater clarity in relation to the other organisations and activities in the area. It is also more manageable in terms of introducing and communicating the landscape partnership.



### THE AREA

The DVLP area remains largely unchanged from Round 1. The boundary was originally chosen to directly reflect that of the designation of the Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area a complementary, but independent project, focusing on environmental improvements in the Dearne Valley.





As result of the consultations during the development period three adjustments to the boundary were identified. These have clear heritage benefits and were opportunities not to be missed in contributing to the DVLP. Full details are provided within the LCAP but they are:

- Wentworth Woodhouse
- Wentworth Castle
- Experience Barnsley

The revised boundary is shown above and a copy provided in Appendix 4.

### **GAPS AND LIMITATIONS**

Despite the amount of research, consultation and discussions that have taken place to develop the DVLP and the LCAP it has to be accepted that there will be omissions and gaps.

Every effort has been made though to speak to as many people as possible, to read as

many documents as possible and to carry out as much research as possible.

The feedback from all the partners involved demonstrates that they feel this is a robust and exciting programme that will enhance the Dearne Valley and have a significant legacy.

The research carried out so far demonstrates the wealth of environmental and heritage assets in the area - for example the Heritage Audit identifying 704 listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and listed landscapes. This surprised many people.

Using the Heritage Audit as an example, by listing all these sites it has asked more questions. What condition they are in? What do they mean to people? How we can learn more?

It is these further gaps in knowledge across the heritage and environment created by “digging below the surface” that the DVLP aims to find the answers to over the next 5 years.



## **1. UNDERSTANDING THE DEARNE VALLEY**

*Many elements of this section are extracted directly from the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) produced by Fiona Fyfe Associates for the RSPB / Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership in February 2012. This was to support the development of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP). A full copy of the LCA is provided in support of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP).*

*Other elements are extracted directly from the Heritage Audit produced by ArcHeritage on behalf of the DVLP during the development phase. A full copy of that document is also provided in support of the LCAP.*

The European Landscape Convention defines 'landscape' as "An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors". A holistic approach to landscape is a key principle of the thinking behind the European Landscape Convention, which acknowledges:

- That landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity...
- That landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures...
- That the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality...

- That developments... planning... and infrastructure... are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes.
- That the landscape is a key element of individual and social wellbeing and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone...

### **1.1 The Landscape Character**

The Dearne Valley is an excellent example of an 'everyday' formerly industrialised landscape which nevertheless contains rich cultural heritage, biodiversity, recreational use and has an important role as the daily surroundings for its resident population. The qualities of its landscapes are currently threatened by changes and developments, but at the same time there are opportunities to enhance and protect these qualities.

**The Area** - The Dearne Valley is in the eastern Pennine foothills of South Yorkshire, between the towns of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster. The Valley follows the River Dearne and is a semi-rural landscape. It covers three local authority areas, with parts sitting within both the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions. The Dearne Valley is close to the A1(M), M18 and M1 motorways with a good network of railway stations providing easy connections to Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, Sheffield and Leeds. It is ideally placed as a centre for learning, recreation, leisure and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment.

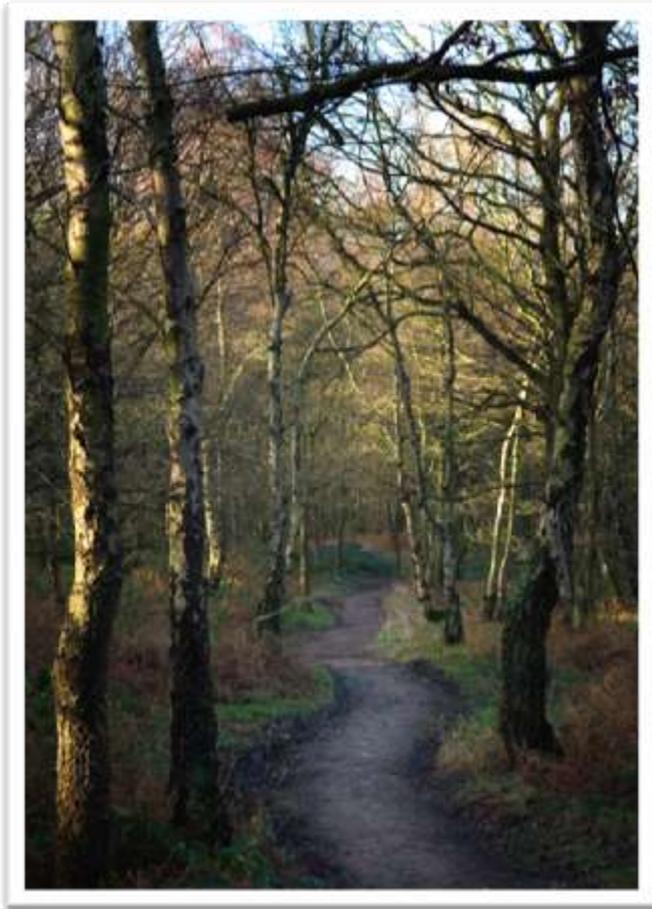
The DVLP area is defined by the valley through which the River Dearne flows. The Valley extends from Elsecar Heritage Centre

***People have lived in the beautiful and secluded Valley around the River Dearne for thousands of years, shaping and adapting the landscape, leaving fascinating traces of their lives as each generation faced new challenges.***



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

in the west, skirts the southern boundary of Barnsley, before sweeping in a south-easterly direction to Conisbrough in the east. As a consequence, it encompasses the Rivers Dearne and Dove, historic buildings, mining villages, woodlands, grasslands and a string of wetland jewels, with the RSPB Old Moor and wetland nature reserves at its heart. RSPB Old Moor attracts over 100,000 visitors each year, with 3,500 school children benefiting from its education and outreach programme.



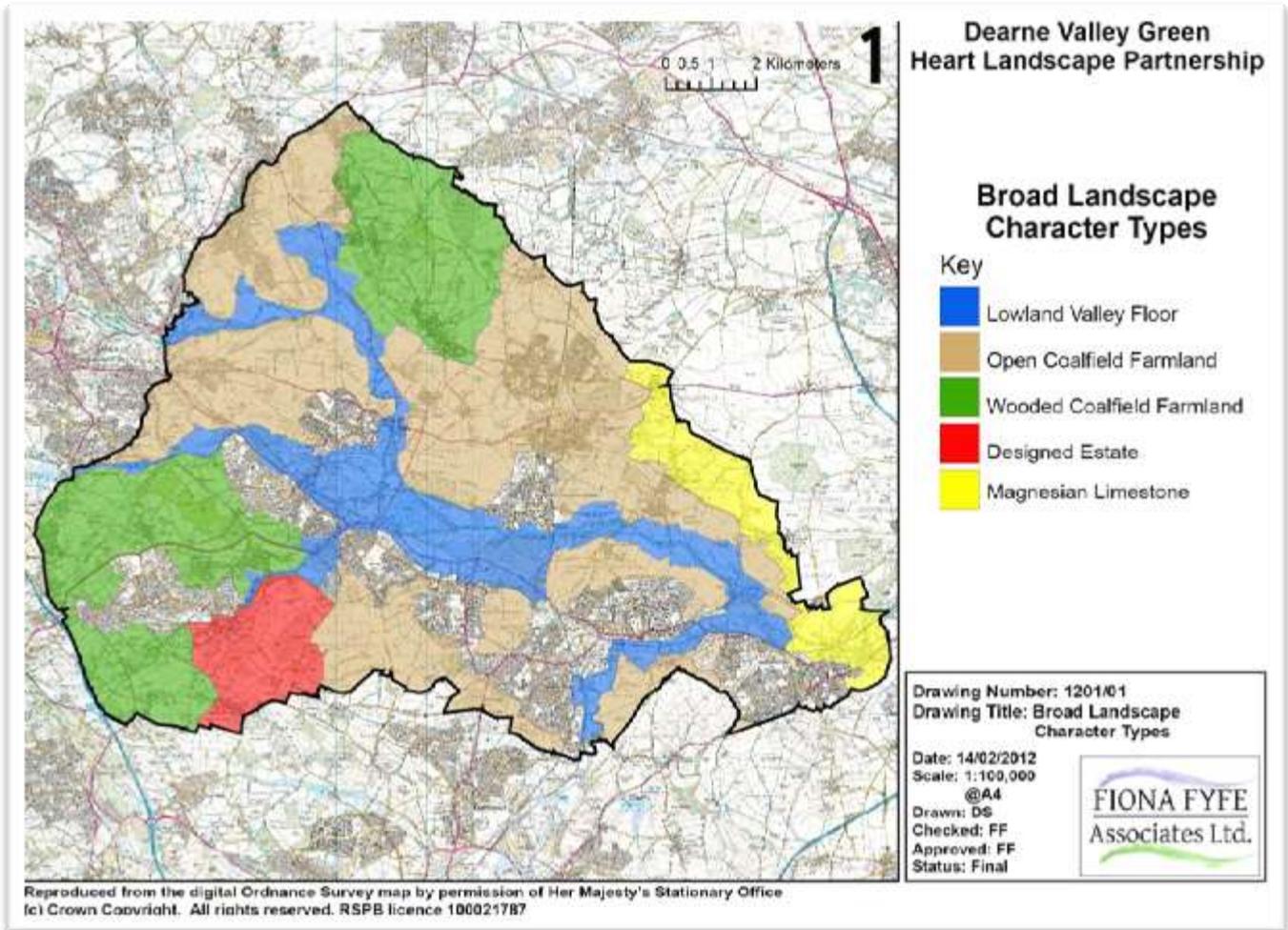
Further downstream, the waters join the River Don and Don Gorge near Sprotbrough and Conisbrough, featuring both the Conisbrough Viaduct and Conisbrough Castle. The latter is featured in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* and casts a dramatic shadow over the area. Sprotbrough Viaduct, now part of the Sustrans Cycle Network, and formerly part of the LNER rail network, dramatically spans the Don Gorge and provides a

spectacular southern gateway to the Dearne Valley.

Landscape Character Assessment - A Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) was commissioned from Fiona Fyfe Associates and this was completed in February 2012. The key characteristics of the Dearne Valley identified within it can be summarised as follows

- Widespread evidence of industrial activity including mine buildings, former spoil tips and iron and steel plants.
- Complex mix of built-up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open country.
- Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented and downgraded landscapes.
- Substantial areas of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use.
- Small, fragmented remains of pre-industrial landscape and semi-natural vegetation, including many areas of woodland, river valley habitats, subsidence flashes and other relict habitats.
- Ever-present urban influences from major cities, smaller industrial towns and mining villages.
- Widespread influence of transport routes including canal, road, and rail, with ribbon developments emphasising the urban influence in the landscape.
- Rolling landforms with hills, escarpments and broad valleys.
- Local variations in landscape character reflecting underlying geology.
- Strong cultural identity arising from history of coal mining and other heavy industry.





The landscapes within these Landscape Character Areas are comprised of several Landscape Character Types (LCTs). LCTs can be regarded as the ‘building blocks’ of the landscape. Natural England defines them as:

*Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur...in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topology, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern. (CA and SNH, 2002, 2.8)*

*In local authority or similar assessments, the emphasis is on the identification of smaller scale, more fine-grained LCTs, which represent more local patterns of character*

*and contribute strongly to a more local ‘sense of place’.* (CA and SNH, 2002, 6.15)

This Dearne Valley Landscape Character Assessment has identified five LCTs in the Dearne Valley, namely:

- Lowland Valley Floor
- Open Coalfield Farmland
- Wooded Coalfield Farmland
- Designed Estate
- Magnesian Limestone



## **LOWLAND VALLEY FLOOR**

**Location and Context** – The lowland valley floor landscape character type (LCT) covers the low-lying land alongside the rivers Dearne, Dove, Don, and their larger tributaries, plus the Elsecar branch of the Barnsley Canal. This LCT runs close to the historic settlements of Wombwell, Brampton, Darfield, Bolton-Upon-Deerne, Wath-upon-Deerne, Mexborough, Conisbrough and Swinton.

### **Key Characteristics** –

Sediment deposited by the rivers creates fertile soils and a flat topography which is prone to seasonal flooding.

- Rivers are generally slow and meandering, although the canals and engineered channels are straighter.
- Pools of open water occur in natural and artificially-created wetlands and washlands, and in canal basins and reservoirs. Wetland sites (often with a high biodiversity and recreational value) occur along the valleys like beads on a string.
- The natural vegetation is wetland and wet woodland, although drainage has allowed arable and pastoral agriculture on the valley floor.
- Very few historic settlements, although very recently large-scale industrial/service units and residential development has occurred in the valley floor e.g. around Manvers.
- Place names e.g. ‘ings’ reflect historic land uses.
- Historic roads cross valleys rather than running along them. However, canals, railways and modern roads follow the valley floors.

- High recreational value of wetland nature reserves and trails along former railway lines.
- Historic features include Monk Bretton Priory, stone bridges, Worsbrough Mill, historic drainage patterns and field systems.
- Industrial heritage is generally associated with transport, including canals (and their associated locks and basins), mills, railway lines, former sidings, bridges and old stations. The brickworks at Parkhill are also within this LCT. ‘Flashes’ caused by mining subsidence also occur on the valley floors.
- Huge changes have occurred in recent years, resulting in significant built development, and wetland creation and restoration.

**Historic Landscape Character** - The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation shows a variety of historic landscape patterns within the Lowland Valley Floor. In summary, the LCT includes: Wetland Enclosure; Agglomerated Enclosure; Surveyed Enclosure; Private Parkland; Sub-rural Fringe; Extractive; Industrial; Post-industrial

**Perceptual and Special Qualities** – The different land uses within the Lowland Valley Floor LCT enable a varied experience as one passes along it. Despite its proximity to settlement and development, much of the Lowland Valley Floor LCT has a remarkable sense of peace and detachment. The numerous wetlands (many of them nature reserves) which are connected by the trails along former railway lines are like oases, and feel far removed from the towns which surround them. The shallow topography of the river valleys enable big skies and a sense of space to be experienced. In many parts of the Lowland Valley Floor LCT it is also possible to experience tranquillity and a



refreshing sense of being close to nature and in contact with wildlife. Just to the north of the DVLP area is the working Lowland Valley Floor landscape associated with Royston Coking Works. The Lowland Valley Floor is a highly dynamic landscape, physically (in terms of the constantly changing fluvial processes and the ‘flashes’ caused by mining subsidence) but also in terms of its evolution and development.

### **Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites -**

There are a variety of natural and cultural sites within the Lowland Valley Floor LCT, reflecting the area’s pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial heritage. It has an important role in terms of recreation and the socio-economic improvement of the area. Sites with an existing or potential heritage value include:

- Connections to Barnsley Main Pit Head.
- Monk Bretton Priory (Scheduled Monument).
- Worsbrough Mill and Country Park.
- Parkhill Brickworks.
- Carlton Bleachworks.
- Historic stone bridges.
- Long distance trails along disused railway lines, including the Trans Pennine Trail and the Dearne Valley Trail, Barnsley Boundary Walk and Rotherham Boundary Walk; Occasional surviving railway buildings e.g. Wath Station.
- The flagship RSPB Reserve at Old Moor (incorporating RSPB offices, visitor centre, café, education centre and bike hire facility), plus further Nature Reserves at Barnsley Dearne Valley Park, Broomhill Flash, Old Denaby, Edderthorpe Ings, Carlton Marsh, Parkhill and a new reserve at

Adwick Bridge currently under construction.

- Denaby Ings is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, designated for its mosaic of open water, reed, swamp and neutral grassland, which the Dearne Valley once contained in abundance. It is one of the most diverse wetlands in the County.
- Manvers Boat Club.

### **Forces for Change and Threats to the Landscape**

- Past loss of wetland habitats and grazing marsh as a result of drainage for agriculture and subsequent industrial development.
- Past channelling and artificial control of watercourses, reducing the flood holding capacity of the area.
- Past creation of washlands for flood control, and mining subsidence creating shallow ‘flashes’.
- Neglect/ loss of pre-industrial and early industrial heritage, for example canal features, watermills etc.
- A loss of local distinctiveness, resulting from redevelopment of former mining sites with large-scale commercial and residential building. These new developments have no sense of connection with the surroundings, history or cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Large-scale and visually intrusive industrial and commercial developments on the valley floors, particularly around Manvers.
- A loss of physical and cultural connection with the rivers, and fragmentation of the landscape by new transport routes.



- Vandalism, particularly at easily-accessible sites such as Monk Bretton Priory.
- Future potential impacts of climate change, including increased flood risk, and changes in plant and animal species.

**Opportunities** – Please see the supporting Landscape Character Assessment for the full list of opportunities. These have been distilled and integrated into the Aims and Objectives Section.

### OPEN COALFIELDS FARMLAND

**Location and Context** – The open coalfields farmland is the most extensive of the landscape character types (LCTs) in the DVLP Area, covering land in the north, centre and south.

Key Characteristics:

- Undulating landform on sandstone and shale geology, creating gently sloping valley sides and rounded ridges.
- Generally occurs on land of medium height, between approx. 30m and 80m above sea level.
- Few watercourses or areas of open water, although some meandering streams flow into the Dearne system.
- Trees and woodland generally limited to field boundaries, small woodland blocks (e.g. Wath Wood) and woodland planted on landscaped spoil tips.
- Productive agricultural land, predominantly in arable use.
- Fields generally relatively large and regular in shape, reflecting the historic prevalence of common open-field farming in this area.

- Hedgerow field boundaries often trimmed or gappy, but occasionally higher and sometimes with hedgerow trees. Stone walls occur in some parts of this LCT.
- Former mines, and restored spoil tips, with angular topography and recent planting are a distinctive feature of the landscape.
- A few nucleated historic rural settlements such as Old Denaby and Adwick- Upon-Deerne, and some surviving historic farm buildings.
- Extensive 20th Century development associated with pit villages (e.g. Cudworth, Thurnscoe) built on high land and very prominent in the landscape, often forming skyline features.
- Distinctive built heritage of pit villages including housing, schools, institutes and chapels.
- Views of major roads add a dynamic element to the landscape.
- Visually-prominent lines of pylons.

**Historic Landscape Character** - The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation shows a variety of historic landscape patterns within the Open Coalfield Farmland. The LCT includes: Surveyed enclosure; Agglomerated enclosure; nucleated rural settlements; Early-mid 20th Century private suburbs (Harlington); Industrial settlements planned industrial settlements; late 20th Century replanned centres (Goldthorpe); Extractive; Post-industrial

**Perceptual and Special Qualities** - This is an open landscape, with a sense of space and long views. It also provides the setting for many of the Lowland Valley Floor landscapes. Despite its exposed feel, this is a well-settled landscape, and settlements are an important



component of views and of its sense of place. This is particularly noticeable in the northern and western parts of the LCT, which have views towards Barnsley. There are also strong visual connections from settlements out into the Open Coalfield Farmland. There are contrasts between natural and man-made landscape elements (between natural and planted woodland, for example, and between shallow natural slopes and steeper spoil tips) which add to the interest and complexity of the landscape. The sites of former collieries and their associated spoil tips (e.g. Cudworth Common, Houghton Main, Darfield Main) are prominent and distinctive features in the landscape.

### Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites

- Roman Ridge' earthwork (Scheduled Monument) to the south of Swinton.
- Grimethorpe Hall - a Listed 17th Century building in a derelict condition.
- The site of Swinton Racecourse (marked as 'Training Ground' on 1840 maps).
- Maurice Dobson Museum and Heritage Centre in nearby Darfield.
- Site of Rockingham Pottery works south of Swinton, with surviving kiln (Scheduled Monument).
- Historic farms, agricultural buildings and undeveloped rural villages e.g. Old Denaby, Billingley (Conservation Area) and Adwick- Upon-Deerne.
- The surviving buildings in the pit villages (housing, pubs, chapels etc) parks and sports grounds contribute to the heritage and cultural identity of the area.
- Disused railway lines (some used as trails).

- Grave of 19th century reformist and poet Ebenezer Elliot in nearby Darfield Churchyard.
- Restored industrial sites and spoil tips with recreational access (e.g. Phoenix Park)
- Heavy anti- aircraft gun site at Bolton- Upon- Dearne (Scheduled Monument) which provided defence against airborne attacks on the South Yorkshire coalfields and industry. Its position in a shallow east-facing valley gave good views of approaching German bombers – though it was never used. It is currently in a poor state of repair with no official public access.
- Local Nature reserve adjacent to urban centres at Creighton Woods (Swinton), and accessible woodland at Wath Wood.

### Forces for Change and Threats to the Landscape

- Past increased intensity of arable farming, resulting in hedgerow loss, fragmentation of habitats and reduced biodiversity.
- Past settlement expansion, which created abrupt settlement edges and an awkward relationship between settlements and countryside. Although there are strong visual connections between settlements and countryside, physical access is limited.
- Large scale structures affecting views e.g. commercial buildings in valley floors.
- Visual impacts of renewable energy schemes (e.g. biomass crops, wind turbines).
- Recent loss of settlement distinctiveness as a result of economic



decline and insensitive new development.

- Neglect of historic built features (e.g. Grimethorpe Hall and anti-aircraft gun site at Bolton-Upon-Deerne) and agricultural buildings.
- Pressure for further residential and commercial development (including linear development) causing isolation and marginalisation of farmland, and loss of open character.
- Fly tipping and degradation in the quality of the landscape, particularly around settlements, resulting in a neglected 'urban fringe' character.
- Potential impacts of climate change, e.g. flooding, changes in crops, changes in woodland species composition.
- Agri-environmental grant schemes for land management are a positive force for change.

**Opportunities** – Please see the supporting Landscape Character Assessment for the full list of opportunities. These have been distilled and integrated into the Aims and Objectives Section.

## **WOODED COALFIELD FARMLAND**

**Location and Context** – The wooded coalfield farmland landscape character type (LCT) occurs in two locations in the DVGHP Area: to the east of Grimethorpe in the northern part of the area, and in the south-west of the area, around Hoyland. It is generally associated with the more elevated land.

### **Key Characteristics:**

- Underlying sandstone and shale 'coal measures' geology. Rolling landform containing steeper slopes and the areas of highest relief (up to 130m above sea level).

- Occasional streams (often tree-lined) which flow into the Dearne river system.
- Extensive tree cover and large woodland blocks, including Wombwell Wood, Howell Wood and West Haigh Wood. Also smaller copses, shelterbelts, mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- A mixture of arable and pastoral land uses, within fields which are generally smaller and more irregularly shaped than those of the Open Coalfield Farmland.
- Woodlands, streams, hedgerows and field boundaries provide valuable semi natural habitats.
- Historic features visible within the landscape include ancient woodlands, commons and fields.
- Archaeological sites from various periods, often associated with woodland.
- Settlement generally limited to scattered farms and to 20th Century pit villages such as Grimethorpe. The towns of Hoyland and Wombwell also sit within this LCT.
- Visual impacts of industrial heritage (mines, tips etc) and of major road corridors which run through and adjacent to this LCT.
- An historic landscape with a strong sense of time-depth.
- Influences of the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate to the south of Hoyland.

**Historic Landscape Character** - The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation shows a variety of historic landscape patterns within the Wooded Coalfield Farmland. The LCT includes: Assorted enclosure; Agglomerated enclosure;



Surveyed enclosure; Planned industrial settlements (Grimethorpe); Early-mid 20th Century private suburbs (Harley)

**Perceptual and Special Qualities** - This landscape contains many historic features such as woodlands, commons and field boundaries. It has a strong sense of time-depth, and the trees and woodlands also give it a strong texture. They also create an increased sense of enclosure and intimacy over much of the LCT, although there are some long views, especially from higher land. More recent colliery restorations have added to the woodland cover, providing further variation in the landscape. Seasonal changes in vegetation colour ensure that the landscape provides a varied backdrop in views from lower land.

Despite the presence of settlement and transport routes, much of the landscape feels remote and tranquil, particularly in the south. Sites such as Wombwell Wood and West Haigh Wood have a very special sense of detachment from the modern world around them. However, other parts of the Wooded Coalfield Farmland (e.g. around Hoyland) have a strong visual connection between settlement and countryside, and a much more settled character. There are also localised strong influences from former mining, such as Grimethorpe- Park Springs Colliery.

**Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites** - Despite later mining developments, many historic landscape features remain, including:

- Archaeological sites including Romano-British settlement (Scheduled Monument), and ancient wood banks in Wombwell Woods, and a medieval enclosure in West Haigh Wood. There is also the site of an old iron works at Smithley.
- Historic farms and settlements, e.g. Moated site to east of Grimethorpe (Scheduled Monument). Conservation

Areas exist at Worsbrough, Darfield and Brierley.

- Surviving woodland patterns are evidence of ancient assarting (clearance of woodlands to make fields on a piecemeal basis).
- The largest woodlands are accessible by the public. West Haigh Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and part is Common Land, Howell Wood is a Country Park and Wombwell Wood is a Nature Reserve and also a focus for school and community projects (e.g. the e-wood project).
- The surviving buildings in the pit villages (housing, pubs, chapels etc) contribute to the heritage and cultural identity of the area.
- Carlton Main brickworks, near Grimethorpe, geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

### **Forces for Change and Threats to the Landscape**

- Past and recent settlement expansion, which is visually intrusive in the landscape, but often has limited physical access to it.
- Past loss/ damage to woodland through quarrying, mining, tipping, clearance for agriculture etc.
- Fragmentation of semi-natural habitats by development and roads.
- Recent loss of settlement distinctiveness as a result of economic decline and insensitive new development.
- Loss of character of traditional buildings due to replacement of windows, conversion from original use, etc.
- Pressure for further residential and commercial development.



- Fly tipping and degradation in the quality of the landscape, particularly around settlements, resulting in a neglected 'urban fringe' character.
- Conversion of agricultural land to pony paddocks around settlements, resulting in fragmentation of the agricultural landscape.
- Renewable energy sources, e.g. biomass crops and wind turbines.
- Potential demand of former quarries for landfill.
- Potential impacts of climate change, e.g. changes in woodland species composition, arable crops, growing seasons etc.

**Opportunities** – Please see the supporting Landscape Character Assessment for the full list of opportunities. These have been distilled and integrated into the Aims and Objectives Section.

### DESIGNED ESTATE

**Location and Context** – The designed estate landscape character type (LCT) covers a small area in the south of the DVLP Area. It is strongly associated with the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate and includes land at Rainborough Park, King's Wood, Wentworth village and Elsecar.

### Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating but relatively high landform underlain by sandstone and shale (coal measures) geology.
- Small meandering streams and the top part of the Elsecar branch of the Dearne and Dove Canal, which follows a natural valley. Open water includes small estate ponds, the Elsecar Canal reservoir and Canal Basin.
- Extensive tree and woodland cover, including deciduous woodland blocks

(with rides), game cover, shelterbelts, and avenues, particularly alongside the B6090.

- Primarily arable agriculture, although some parkland areas (around Rainborough Park) under permanent pasture.
- Field boundaries include hedgerows (generally well managed) and distinctive estate-influenced stone walls, particularly around Wentworth.
- Semi-natural habitats include woodlands, hedgerows, open water, Elsecar Canal and its margins.
- Past and continuing influence of the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate (owned by the Fitzwilliams).
- Designed landmarks and follies contribute to framed views, including Hooper Stand tower, 'The Needles' Eye' and the spire of Wentworth church.
- A concentration of well-preserved historic industrial features (including a rare Newcomen Engine) at Elsecar, and also a complex of industrial workshops and a brewery at Wentworth.
- Settlement consists of scattered farms, and the designed estate villages of Wentworth and Elsecar.
- Glimpsed long views to larger settlements (e.g. Hoyland) on the skyline.

**Historic Landscape Character** - The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation shows a variety of historic landscape patterns within the Designed Estate LCT. In summary, the LCT includes: Assarted enclosure; Agglomerated enclosure; Surveyed enclosure; Nucleated rural settlements (Wentworth); Industrial (Elsecar).



**Perceptual and Special Qualities** - This is an attractive, well-managed and serene landscape with many designed views and buildings which create a series of changing vistas. The estate influence is particularly apparent in and around the village of Wentworth, which is still owned by the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate. All doors are painted 'Wentworth Green' and all signage is in the Estate's style. This consistency and uniformity adds to the distinctiveness of the area. The industrial heritage of the Dearne Valley is exceptionally well preserved at Elsecar Industrial Heritage Centre and the associated estate village, which provides a strong link to the past.

**Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites** - There is a concentration of cultural sites within this relatively small area, several of which are popular local destinations:

- Industrial Heritage Centre at Elsecar, where the survival and preservation of an extensive area of industrial buildings allows a valuable glimpse into the industrial past of the Dearne Valley.
  - Surviving Industrial Estate village of Elsecar (Conservation Area), constructed by the Fitzwilliam family of Wentworth Woodhouse and including cottages, church, school, park (with bandstand), flour mill, etc.
  - The only Newcomen engine to survive in situ, used to pump water from the mine at Elsecar from 1795- 1923.
  - Surviving rural Estate village of Wentworth (Conservation Area) with cottages, church, pubs, brewery etc.
  - Heritage and canal with surviving basin, locks and towpath.
  - Craft workshops and auction house in the former Wentworth workshops and forge.
- Elsecar reservoir Local Nature Reserve is a popular informal recreation and fishing location.
  - Trans Pennine Trail runs through the area.

### **Forces for Change and Threats to the Landscape**

- Past mining, the influences of which are still apparent in the landscape, particularly in the northern part of the LCT.
- Past construction of lines of pylons across the landscape, which affect designed vistas.
- Past neglect of Elsecar branch of the Dearne and Dove Canal.
- Neglect of rare in-situ Newcomen pumping engine at Elsecar. (Currently being addressed by Lottery funding bid).
- Limited access to the landscape as a result of private ownership.
- Threat of loss of architectural integrity of occupied historic buildings due to incremental changes such as window replacement.
- Potential landscape changes as a result of renewable energy schemes, e.g. biomass planting, wind turbines etc.
- Potential future threat of a change in landownership or estate management affecting the character and management of the landscape and of Wentworth village.
- Potential threat of climate change, affecting crop choice, growing patterns, woodland species composition etc.

**Opportunities** – Please see the supporting Landscape Character Assessment for the full list of opportunities. These have been distilled



and integrated into the Aims and Objectives Section.

## **MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE**

**Location and Context** – The Magnesian limestone landscape character type (LCT) is located the south-east corner of the DVGHP Area. It includes the area underlain by Magnesian limestone, and adjacent areas which are strongly influenced by the limestone geology in terms of landform and buildings. This LCT is part of a much larger LCT which extends well beyond the boundary of the DVLPA Area.

### **Key Characteristics:**

- Underlain by Magnesian Dolomitic limestone, which can be seen on the surface in cliffs, quarries and in buildings.
- Dramatic topography, including Barnburgh Cliff (the edge of the limestone scarp) and Sprotbrough Gorge (where the River Don passes through the limestone scarp).
- Extensive areas of steep woodland on the gorge sides and along Barnburgh cliff. The woodland also merges with parkland trees around Hickleton and High Melton.
- Limited agriculture within this part of the LCT, although there is some arable farming in large, regular hedged fields around Cadeby.
- The railway viaduct across Sprotbrough Gorge is a dramatic and distinctive structure.
- Strong influence of past and ongoing large-scale limestone quarrying around Cadeby.
- Rural villages of High Melton, Barnburgh and Hickleton contain churches and vernacular buildings of local stone. Prominent square church towers are skyline landmarks.

- Strong Estate influence (parkland, country houses, estate churches and villages), particularly around High Melton and Hickleton
- Very little modern built development or evidence of mining (outside Sprotbrough Gorge).
- The wooded cliff creates a backdrop and skyline for the Lowland Valley Floor and Open Coalfield Farmland LCTs in the eastern part of the area.

**Historic Landscape Character** - The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation shows a variety of historic landscape patterns within the Magnesian Limestone LCT. Includes: Private parkland; Agglomerated enclosure; Wetland enclosure (valley floor Sprotbrough Gorge); Extractive

**Perceptual and Special Qualities** - Despite its steep topography, the Magnesian Limestone LCT is has a gentle, affluent quality created by the estate-influenced parklands, woodlands, walls and picturesque villages. The effect is particularly striking because of the contrast with the adjacent Open Coalfield Farmland with its large arable fields and mining settlements.

Nevertheless there are strong visual connections between the limestone and adjacent LCTs, with the long wooded Limestone scarp forming the backdrop to views from surrounding lower land. The elevation of the Magnesian Limestone LCT creates long views westwards over the Open Coalfield Farmland and Lowland Valley Floor, and gives it a sense of space.

The dramatic topography of Sprotbrough Gorge is highlighted by the magnificent railway viaduct which spans it. Views west from the viaduct are of Conisbrough and the Dearne Valley, with Conisbrough Castle and steep woodlands prominent features. Views east, whilst still dramatic, are strongly influenced by Cadeby quarry and reclaimed mining spoil on the northern valley side.



### **Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites -**

Despite the small size of the Magnesian Limestone LCT, there are several cultural sites which reflect the area's social and industrial history.

- Sprotbrough Gorge and railway viaduct.
- Magnificent views towards Conisbrough Castle (Scheduled Monument).
- Valley-floor industrial transport features: railway line and canal towpath.
- Designed Estate parkland at High Melton and Hickleton surrounding Country Houses. The grounds of Melton Hall include an Ice House and the site of Wildthorpe Medieval Village (both Scheduled Monuments). Hickleton Park is Listed Grade II on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens)
- Attractive rural villages, largely built out of local limestone. Barnburgh contains a high number of vernacular agricultural buildings. Hickleton has more of an estate character, with estate cottages and an elaborate church. Hickleton, Barnburgh and High Melton all contain Conservation Areas.
- Cadeby Quarry and Edlington Brick Pits are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their limestone geology. Sprotbrough Gorge is designated an SSSI for its calcareous woodland (wych elm, ash and sycamore), and also its valley floor wetland and limestone grassland (just outside the DVGHP Area).
- Sprotbrough Flash Nature Reserve is to the east of this LCT, and can be reached from it along the old towpath beside the River Don.

### **Forces for Change and Threats to the Landscape**

- Past and ongoing quarrying of limestone at Cadeby has a major landscape and visual impact.
- Past intensification of arable farming leading to loss of habitats such as hedgerows.
- Pylons between Barnburgh and High Melton, and the wind turbines east of Hickleton are prominent vertical features in the landscape.
- Fly tipping and litter creates a localised untidy and degraded appearance to the landscape.
- Pressure for new housing development in villages could reduce the character and quality of the existing built environment.
- Loss of character of vernacular agricultural buildings due to conversion to housing.
- Potential future impacts of climate change, e.g. increased flood risk, changes in woodland species composition, changes in arable crop choice, growing seasons etc.

**Opportunities** – Please see the supporting Landscape Character Assessment for the full list of opportunities. These have been distilled and integrated into the Aims and Objectives Section.



### Justification of the Boundary

The boundary for the DVLP has been refined and adjusted through the development phase.

The boundary approved at Stage 1 was based on that developed by the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership over a number of years. This was adopted as the boundary for the Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area (see section 1.5 Management Information for further details of the DVGH NIA). At Stage 1 it was proposed to use this boundary as the starting point for the DVLP and to review it during the development phase. This was to look at whether it could or should be adjusted to bring in any other key sites, landscapes or assets that would positively contribute to the landscape partnership. There have been relatively few adjustments and these are minor and reflect the opportunities offered by bringing the locations into the DVLP.

The central justification for the boundary remains that it follows that of the complementary Nature Improvement Area. This ensures greater co-ordination, allows for joint working, makes it easier in explaining both schemes and maximises the impact. The chosen NIA boundary reflects what has become accepted by the three local authorities, the communities and organisations within the area as a defined area. It encompasses the key environmental, residential and heritage sites. At the western side the clear barrier is the M1, across which there is an immediate and distinctive change in terms of landscape. The other boundaries reflect the landscape character and follow where needed the local authority ward boundaries to provide an “edge”.

The logic and justification of the DVLP following the NIA boundary was accepted by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) at round 1. Through the development phase HLF also acknowledged if there was suitable justification for adjusting the boundaries then these would be considered. During the

development phase, as a result of further research, discussions and project development, three locations have been identified to adjust the boundary. The revised boundary is included in Appendix 4. The three additional locations and their justification are listed below:

- Wentworth Woodhouse and the Village of Wentworth – A Grade 1 listed building, with the longest country house façade in Europe. It was the home of the Marquesses of Rockingham and the Earls Fitzwilliam. The influence of the Fitzwilliams’ is seen throughout the area in terms of place names, the development of Wentworth and Elescar, the wealth, coalmining, ironmaking, the communities and the social history. Wentworth Woodhouse has emerged (since the development of the stage 1 bid) as a key visitor destination that can act as an anchor point for the rest of the area. It has been in private ownership for the last 15 years and the current intention is to transfer elements into an independent trust. The boundary follows the edge of the estate.
- Wentworth Castle – A Grade 1 listed country house and the only listed landscape in South Yorkshire. It developed as a result of a family feud with the family that owned Wentworth Woodhouse and became the family seat for the Earls of Strafford. It has been in the ownership of a charitable trust since 2001. The unique conservatory was recently refurbished and this has added to the visitor attraction. It is a key visitor destination in South Yorkshire and provides another gateway for visitors into the area. The boundary has also been adjusted between the two sites to take in the historic landscape, rich with industrial heritage and a key



walking route between the two sites. The boundary follows the edge of the estate.

- Experience Barnsley – The recently opened museum of Barnsley that had over 130,000 visitors in its year of operation. The majority of the collection was donated by local people and charts the social, political, industrial and historical development of the area. It also houses the archive centre for the Borough, which will be a huge resource for the work of the DVLP. The exhibition spaces, learning lab and meeting rooms also provide an outlet and resources for the work of the DVLP. The boundary has been extended to include the footprint of the building.



### 1.2 The Heritage of the Dearne Valley

**Biodiversity** – The Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership undertook a Phase 1 Habitat and Species Mapping exercise in September 2011. This has been integrated into the work of the DVLP and this section is extracted from that document. A full version of the document is provided in support of the LCAP.

Over the centuries natural habitats have been changed by human intervention. In particular much of the Dearne's original woodlands have been lost and scrub- grassland habitats

cultivated. The Dearne Valley in particular has probably seen the greatest changes from having a natural habitat of a clean-flowing river, with oxbows, willow carr, swamp and grazed seasonal flood meadows to a polluted industrial area and now back to a river of reasonable quality supporting Otter, Eel and Brown Trout. The wider Dearne Valley landscape has historical links with Romans, Anglo- Saxons, Vikings and the Normans and much of the land was cleared of woodland and farmed with many new hamlets and villages emerging. The period of the Second World War saw the biggest change to the landscape with more land being ploughed and the advancement of opencast and deep coal mining in the area. However, small pockets of natural habitat remained and still do to this day. Recently, there have been man-made changes from industrial land back to semi-natural habitats again throughout the Dearne Valley and the associated wildlife has once again become diverse and abundant. Species groups that make the Dearne Valley their home have been recorded and mapped.

The aim of the Phase 1 survey was to gather a record of all semi-natural habitats throughout the Dearne Valley which will then be useful to planners and conservationists in determining which sites deserve consideration for protection as SSSI, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves.

As a starting point, Phase 1 Habitat maps were obtained from Natural England. These were from the early 1980s. The period of these 1980s maps presented a much different landscape throughout most of the Dearne Valley to what exists at the present time with a lot of coal mining activity then. There were a number of deep mines and areas of spoil heap which formed much of the central Dearne Valley landscape but a lot of the surrounding rural landscape had changed very little.

To bring the landscape and habitat changes up to date, current Barnsley MBC maps, OS maps, new road systems maps, new industrial



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

buildings and linking re-landscaped areas were put onto a new DVGH Phase 1 Habitat map. A recent Local Wildlife Sites survey also provided additional and up to date information for some key parts of the new DVGH map.

The final update was to visit various parts of the Dearne Valley area and make any changes necessary to the 1980s mapped habitats, including land use.

Over the years since the early 1980s Phase 1 Habitat Survey some new habitats have been created artificially but also there are habitats which have self-recovered since the past industrial period and small areas of original habitat which existed throughout the industrial period of the Dearne Valley. These main Phase 1 Habitats are identified and highlighted in 64 individual map tiles. Rather than replicate the details of all 64 tiles, please refer to the accompanying document.

To complement the Phase 1 Habitat mapping, groups of species were selected to show recent abundance of these within the Dearne Valley.



The following groups of species were highlighted as being the most important within the area: Bats, Butterflies, Herptiles (reptiles and amphibians), Mammals (excluding Bats) and Bird species. These also include Schedule 1 species, UKBAP species and Red List species. To be a meaningful exercise, only records within the area from

the past 5 years were selected for the above species groups as some habitats have changed, some species are declining and some new species are occurring.

Plants were not included because there has been a recent survey and a Plant Atlas of South Yorkshire produced which covers in detail each 1 km<sup>2</sup> of South Yorkshire.

Barnsley Bird Study Group has recently produced a Breeding Bird Atlas which covers all the Barnsley Recording area and this overlaps into the other Borough's so this was a very useful up to date source of invaluable information. There are a remarkable 8 Schedule species and 17 UKBAP and Red List bird species found within the DVGH area.

**Summary** - Many years ago there would have been varied landscape of natural habitats and species of flora and fauna. This changed gradually over the period of history through man's expansion in this area up to the turmoil of the industrial period. Farming has also had a big part to play in this change from being labour intensive to the modern mechanised period of today.

Over the period of time species have been lost, some have survived and new species have emerged. The causes to the changes to the populations of various species is very complex with no particular item of blame but a whole mixture of landscape and habitat change, a national shift of some populations, perhaps climate change and the introduction of alien species.

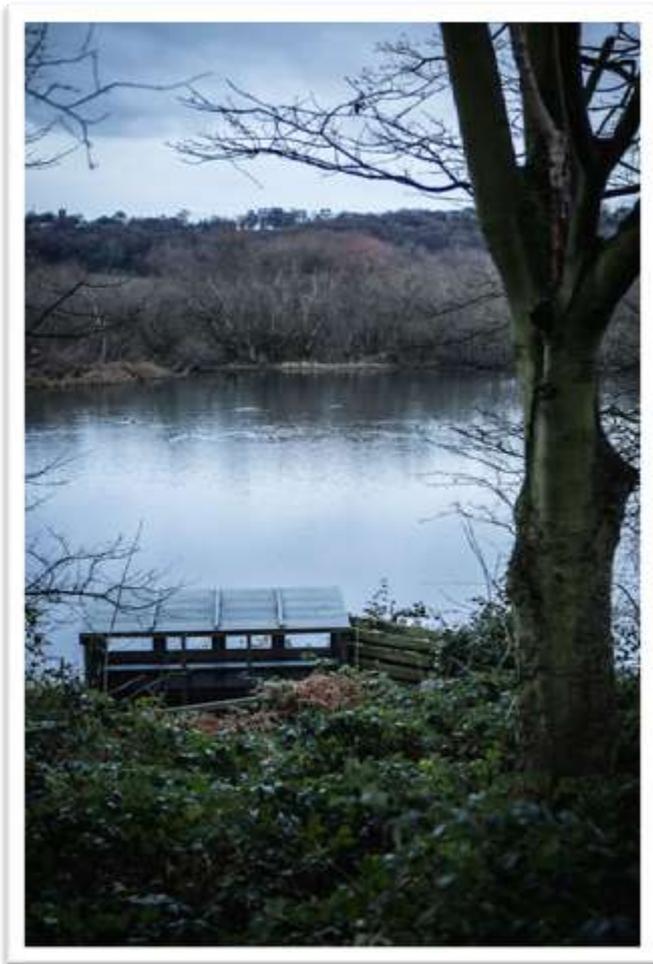
Habitats can survive though and regenerate but the biggest changes and those most beneficial to wildlife have been from human intervention through recent re-landscaping of the central Dearne Valley and other post-industrial sites within the area. Remarkably many species have survived and although isolated in some cases they continue to survive and maintain small populations. Other species have taken advantage of the recent landscape changes and habitat creation to increase their populations and



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

other new species have arrived to hopefully start new generations.

There are currently several bat species which occur within the area and of these Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus* are the species most at risk and are UKBAP priority species. As well as the three species most at risk other bat species have declined within the area in the past but now there are many new created habitats which support insect life for bats to feed on.



UKBAP mammals other than bats that occur in the area are Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*, Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus*, Otter *Lutra lutra*, Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris* and Western European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*. These species need more survey work and in particular Harvest Mouse to see

if there are other habitats that hold small populations of this fragile species. Otters need safe holts in quiet habitats for them to become established and Water Voles require additional off-river ponds creating as a habitat which Mink may not visit.

The UKBAP butterflies, Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*, White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrrium w-album*, Wall Lasiommata *megeera* and Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* require habitats maintaining and new habitats creating for survival and expansion. UKBAP Herptiles were probably once more abundant but have now become rather rare, local or in some areas non-existent but Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, Adder *Vipera berus* and Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* are the four species from the five which require habitat management and creation to save them from further decline and regional extinction. There are about 95 breeding bird species that occur in the area with some species quite scarce and isolated but others abundant and expanding. Within the area much of the work of the RSPB and the Garganey Trust is focused on maintaining and expanding populations of these bird species which are threatened within the UK and at the same time indirectly helping other species.

**Buildings** – The Dearne Valley contains a huge range of buildings and structures from all eras – from roman remains all the way through to modern industrial sheds for logistics. The quality and amount of the built heritage belies the perceptions that some have of the area as a post-industrial landscape. The scale of this built heritage is clearly shown in the heritage audit commissioned to support the LCAP.

There are 14 conservation areas, 15 scheduled ancient monuments, over 249 listed buildings and over 50 landscapes classed as having special value, including one registered park/garden. Additionally, the South Yorkshire Sites & Monuments Record records



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

over 600 sites, buildings and findspots of archaeological interest within the area.

The gazetteer produced for the heritage audit shows 704 listed buildings, archaeological sites, historic structures, scheduled ancient monuments and listed landscapes.



Many of these buildings relate to the Dearne's industrial heritage but it should be noted that whilst the coal industry was important to the Dearne and has had a major impact, it is not the only industry. There has been a tradition of other industries through the area, including significant glassworks, ironworks and brickworks as well as smaller manufacturing such as tinsplate toys and mitre footballs, which went from the Dearne to around the world.

To give a sense of the wealth of built heritage it is worth highlighting some of the buildings.

These select few though cannot do justice to the huge range and sheer quality of heritage within the Dearne.

Monk Bretton Priory – in the west of the Dearne on the edge of Barnsley town centre. A Cluniac priory founded 1153-55. There are extensive remains dating from the 12th to the 15th centuries. Of the main cloistral buildings, only the west and south ranges stand high, but the footings of the remainder of the buildings are exposed. Geophysical survey shows the potential for further structures on the site.

Hemingfield Colliery, Hoyland Nether - Sunk in 1842-47 for Earl Fitzwilliam. It has a stone engine house with a gabled roof and a flat-roofed stone building now a house. Small concrete headgears remain from recent use as pumping pit.

Conisbrough Castle - a medieval castle with a shell keep surrounded by an enclosure wall overlooking the narrow valley and the River Don. The castle fell into disuse in the fifteenth century and was already beyond repair by the reign of Henry VIII.

Church of St. John and St. Mary Magdalene, Lockwood Road, Goldthorpe - Built 1914-1916 by A.Y. Nutt. Reputed to be the first reinforced concrete church in the country. It is in a simplified Italianate style. An early experiment in ferro-concrete construction and the tower forms a notable landmark.

Grimethorpe Hall, Grimethorpe, Brierley - Built c.1670 for Robert Seaton. Altered in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. This English-bond red brick with ashlar sandstone dressings, rear elevation has herringbone-punched coursed, squared sandstone.

Elsecar Colliery Newcomen-type engine. A Newcomen-type atmospheric beam engine used to pump water from Elsecar Colliery. This is the only engine of its type anywhere in the world still in situ. It was built in 1795 and was last used in the 1930s.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

Hickleton Hall. A country house, now a Sue Ryder Home. Built in 1745-48 by James Paine for Godfrey Wentworth. Enlarged c.1775 and altered 1857-60.

Glassby Arch – A stone arch sited in the garden of Fern Villa, Church Street, Mexborough. It was constructed c.1859 by Robert Glassby, stone mason and later sculptor. Considered to be of national significance.

Hoyland Lowe Stand Folly, Barnsley. Off the north-west side of Hawshaw Lane. A tower, built c.1750 for the 1st Marquis of Rockingham. It has been suggested the tower was used as a look-out for hunting.

Further details of the built heritage are covered in the landscape character assessment along with the history and development of the area.

**Archaeology** – The work carried out through the heritage audit has shown the sheer quantity and quality of the archaeology within the Dearne Valley. It has also shown how much more there is to learn. The sites are spread across the area and illustrate the development of the area indicated in later sections.

What the audit has clearly demonstrated is the significant amount of prehistoric and Romano-British sites, with evidence of industry throughout the eras. This ranges from early bell pits in Wombwell Woods, all the way through to the remains of glassworks and brickworks. There are remnants of tramways and railways from the 1830s to link collieries. At Houndhill there are remains from 1640 of a Royalist Garrison and then at Bolton there are remains of a World War 2 anti-aircraft gun battery.

Throughout the area there is evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British field boundaries and the footprint of Wombwell Woods remains virtually unchanged since these times. There is evidence of Bronze Age barrows and medieval earthworks across the area, with

crop marks giving glimpses of the further discoveries to be made.



The 2014 exhibition at Experience Barnsley – “The Romans are Coming!” brought together a number of finds from across the Dearne and showed the scale of Roman settlements through the area. A copy of an illustration from the exhibition is included on the next page. This shows the potential to learn more about the level of occupation, the timing of development and the impact on the area. The noted Barnsley born archaeologist Professor Joann Fletcher even believes there could be evidence of mummified remains in the area as a result of the spread of the practice across from North Africa to Europe with the Romans. This claim received national media attention.

The audit has brought together for the first time in one place details of all the sites in one document. It has also clearly identified an approach to take with learning more through the use of both professional archaeologist and working with local communities.





**Designed Landscapes** – The landscape character assessment identified only one small location in the south of the DVLP area that contained a designed landscape. With the extension of the boundary to include both Wentworth Castle and Wentworth Woodhouse there are now two locations for these types of landscapes.

The impact of the Wentworth Woodhouse estate is particularly apparent both within its grounds and the villages of Wentworth and Elsecar. When viewed from within the house it is clear how the estate was shaped and managed with controlled vistas, objects and follies placed in the landscape. The grounds were designed by Humphrey Repton and whilst the estate has now been split, the scale and ambition is still clearly evident. The influence of the Fitzwilliams is also evident in the model village approaches of Elsecar and Wentworth which were created to house those in employment at the house, the ironworks and the mines.

Wentworth Castle is the only Grade 1 listed landscape in South Yorkshire. There is a combination of a deer park, formally laid out gardens, rolling landscapes, controlled vistas, avenues of trees and a recently refurbished historic and unique conservatory.

**Earth and Industrial Heritage**

**Geology** - The landform, ecology, land use and traditional industries of the Dearne Valley have largely been dictated by the underlying rocks.

The majority of the area is underlain by layers of Carboniferous sandstone and shale which are known as the ‘coal measures’, because of the rich seams of coal which occur between the layers of sandstone. In the river valleys, a layer of fertile alluvial deposits, sand and gravel lies over the coal measures. These have been deposited by the rivers.

In the south-east corner of the area Magnesian limestone is visible. This rock is younger than the Carboniferous coal



measures, and sits on top of them. The edge of the limestone forms a dramatic scarp known as Barnburgh Cliff.

Both the sandstone of the coal measures and the dolomitic limestone are good for building and the Dearne Valley is full of stone quarries, ranging from small, ancient disused quarries to the huge Cadeby limestone quarry, where extraction continues today.

**Landform** - The overall landform of the Dearne Valley is a series of gently rounded ridges of hard sandstone, interspersed with valleys where the softer shale rocks have been eroded.

The valley of the river Dearne runs roughly northwest to south-east, and is fed by several tributaries. The valley floors are generally wide and flat, particularly where they are associated with extensive deposits of alluvium.

The highest land is found in the north-east and south-west of the area, where the land rises to over 100m above sea level.

The landform of the limestone in the south-east of the area is much more dramatic, with a steep cliff running along the scarp between Cadeby and Hickleton. Where the river Don flows through the limestone at Sprotbrough (just after its confluence with the river Dearne) it has created a deep gorge, which is emphasised by the magnificent railway viaduct which crosses it (now part of the Trans Pennine trail).

Man-made topography resulting from stone and mineral extraction also has a strong influence on the landform of the Dearne valley. There are many quarries, spoil tips (now re-shaped, with flat tops and sloping sides) and areas of valley-floor subsidence, as well as canals, railway embankments and areas levelled for use as sidings or mines.

**Soils and Ecology** - The variations in geology and landform in the Dearne Valley

result in a variety of growing conditions, favouring different types of vegetation. Prior to drainage, the valley floors would have flooded on an annual basis, supporting wetlands, wet woodlands and their associated wildlife. The alluvial soils are generally fertile, and many were drained for agricultural use.

The ridges of sandstone contain brown earth soils, which are also relatively fertile and suitable for arable farming. They naturally support oak-birch woodland (and occasional patches of heath) and still today much of the ancient semi-natural woodland in the Dearne Valley occurs on the sandstone.

The shale valleys are less fertile, containing heavy soils which often need improving by drainage before they can be used for arable agriculture. They naturally support oak woodland with bracken, bramble and bluebell understorey.

On the limestone, soils are base-rich (i.e. alkaline) brown calcareous earths, giving rise to ash-maple woodland. This has survived on the scarp slopes and gorge sides which are too steep to plough.

**Cultural and Artistic** - The Dearne Valley has been and continues to be an area of change, an area whose landscape directly affects the economy and the community. Once you scratch below the surface, the depth of cultural activity becomes apparent.

Whilst born in Lancashire, Ted Hughes moved to Mexborough aged seven. The wildlife and landscapes of the area had a major influence on his early life and inspired much of his early poetry.

In contemporary terms, Ian MacMillan, the Bard of Barnsley, lives in Darfield and as well as broadcasting on Radio 3 and 4 and travelling nationwide he is actively involved in the arts across the Dearne.

Sir Walter Scott's historical novel *Ivanhoe* is based in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire with 'Coningsburgh' clearly



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

based on the village and castle of Conisbrough.

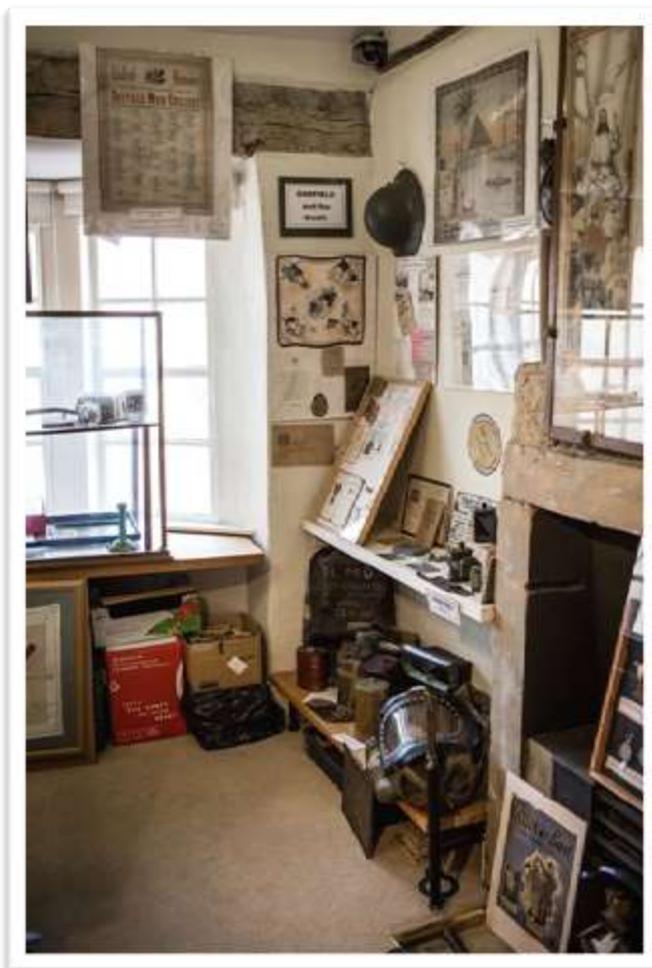
The Dearne has been the location for a number of films and television series over the years. Perhaps most famously, *Kes*, which was filmed throughout the area. The book on which it was based (*A Kestrel for a Knave*) marks its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since publication during the lifetime of the DVLDP in 2018. The village of Grimley in *Brassed Off* was a clear reference to Grimethorpe and it was used extensively as a location for filming. The soundtrack also featured the internationally famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. This demonstrates another of the cultural traditions in the Dearne of brass bands and music. The area is still being used for filming today and during November 2013 Wentworth Woodhouse was a location for the filming of BBC adaptation of the book “Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell” screened in 2014.

Due to the strong mining heritage there was also at the peak of the industry a large number of Working Men’s Clubs and Miner’s Welfares which provided well loved venues within the villages across the area, some of which survive today.

The Dearne contains the Maurice Dobson museum in Darfield, which celebrates life in and around the village. The Dearne Playhouse at Goldthorpe is a 365 seat theatre and has audiences of over 50,000 year to its mainly amateur productions. There are also the Playhouse and Operatic Centre in Wombwell, regularly used for amateur performances. The Majestic Suite in Mexborough, a former cinema, is also tentatively being considered for restoration to create an arts and heritage centre. The Maurice Dobson Museum now has the records for the Darfield Amateur Dramatic Society which it is assessing and cataloguing.

There is a range of sporting activity, from cricket clubs formed as part of life around the mines, to the re-use of former industrial land to create a water sports centre. From football

clubs both professional at Barnsley FC and amateur at Swinton FC to greyhound racing at Highgate track near Thurnscoe. In 2013 the Maurice Dobson Museum was gifted the archives of a local press reporter dating back to the 1930s. These are an invaluable resource (21 volumes) on sporting life in the Dearne.



**Intangible Heritage** – As with many areas the place names of the Dearne have been shaped by the landscape. Ings is the Old Norse word for water meadows and marshes. The area is dotted with “Ings” - Rabbit Ings, Wombwell Ings and Denaby Ings as well as various Ings Roads and Ings Lanes. The Monk Bretton name is derived from the “farmstead of Britons”. Wentworth was “Wintra’s enclosure”. Wombwell was “Wamba’s spring or stream”. Worsbrough was “Wyrc or Wirc’s stronghold”. Darfield was “open land frequented by deer”. The



number of place names ending in borough, burgh and brough demonstrates the history of fortified enclosures. Even when not considering the origins of place names many of the names in the area have a local, regional and possibly national resonance due to their association with mining, particularly as a result of the miner's strike of 1984. Name such as Houghton Main, Wath, Manvers, Hickleton Main, Cadeby & Denaby and Cortonwood, even for those not from the area bring immediate associations. Linked to this, the Oaks Colliery at Stairfoot, was the scene of the biggest mining disaster in English history with over 360 people dying in 1866 – the 150th anniversary is in 2016. The name Fitzwilliam is also prevalent across the area as a result of Wentworth Woodhouse, the wealth generated, the villages created and the relative paternalism show by the Fitzwilliam family.

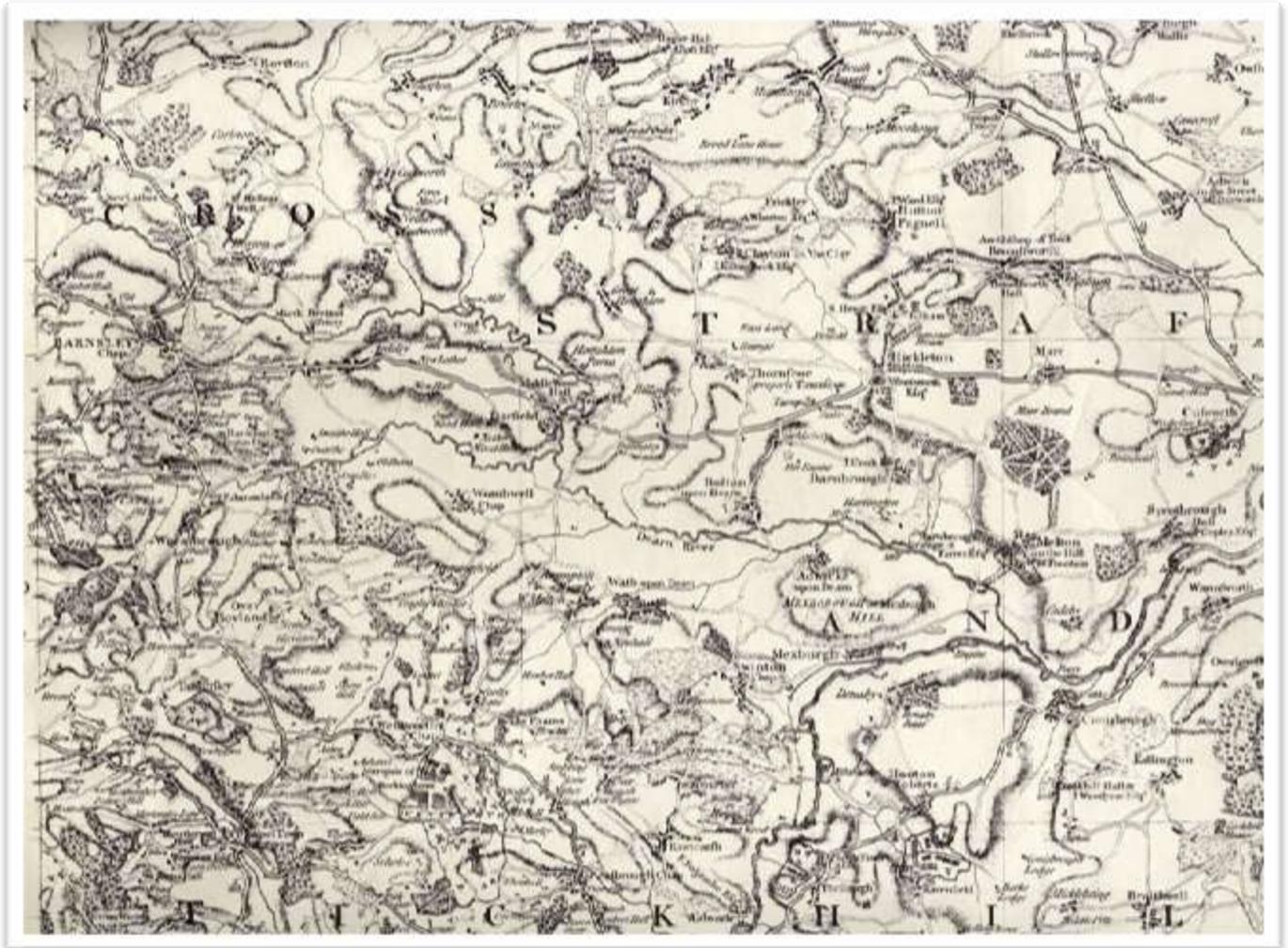
The development phase of the DVLDP has only hinted at the level of stories, oral history, traditions and heritage that there are within the Dearne. There is a strength of community to the area, influenced directly by the landscape but particularly by the mining industry.

### **1.3 The History and Development of the Area**

At the heart of the history and development of the area is the River Dearne. It is from this that the landscape, industry, economy and communities of the Dearne Valley spring.

One of the earliest maps, known as the Jeffreys map, was produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is shown on the next page. This clearly shows development of the area at that stage.



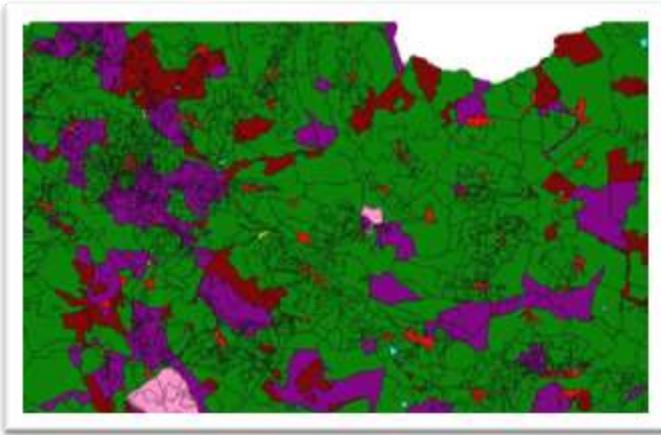


**South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation** – The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation had an ambitious aim of using digital mapping as a way of recording the development and stories of South Yorkshire. The Dearne Valley area has been extracted on the following maps and are detailed below for the years 1400, 1600, 1750, 1850, 1900, 1925, 1950, 1985 and 2000. Full details and context can be found at <http://sytimescapes.org.uk>.



**The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

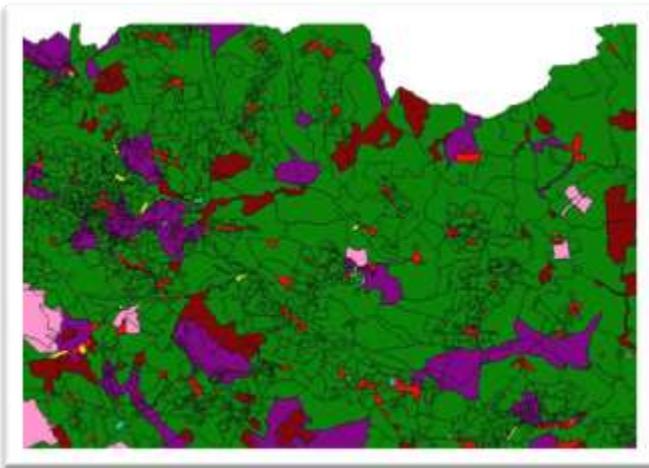
1400



1850



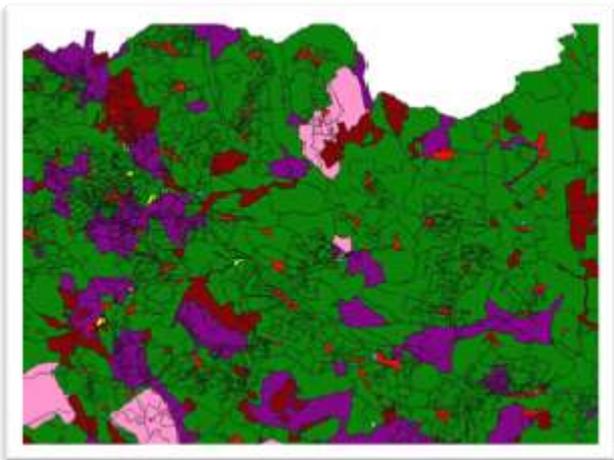
1600



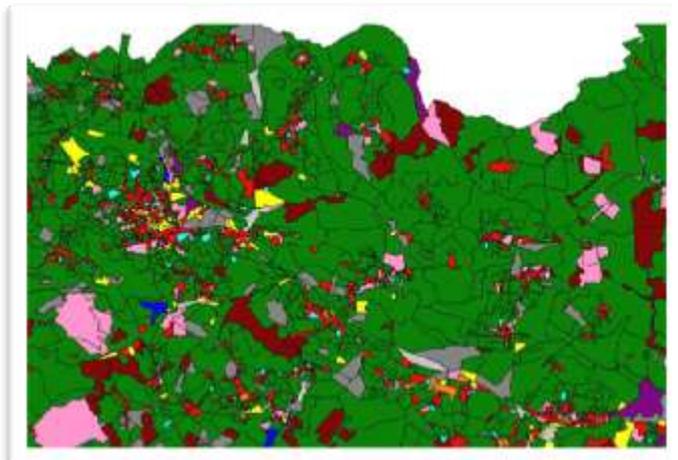
1900



1750



1925

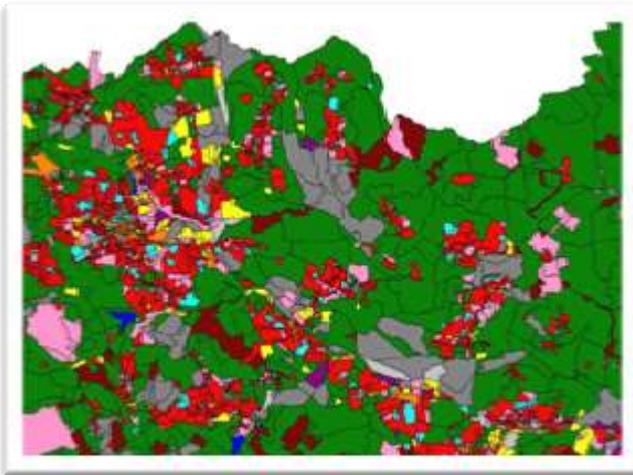


**The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

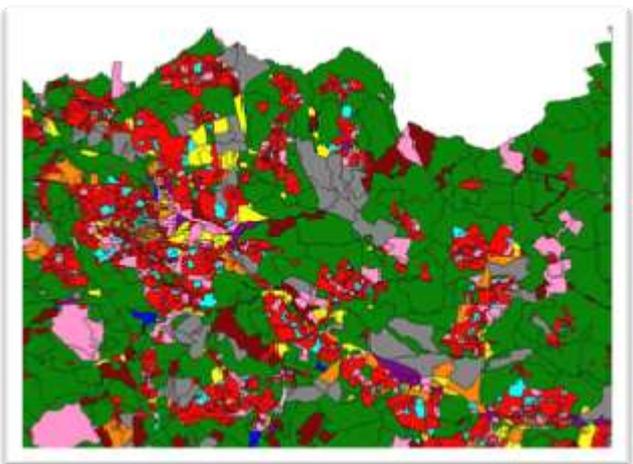
1950



1985



2000



**Prehistoric and Roman** - The earliest man-made features in the Dearne Valley landscape appear to be the linear earthworks known as 'Roman Ridge' which run close to the southern boundaries of Wath Upon Dearne and Swinton. Despite their name, there is uncertainty about their precise date or purpose: they could be Iron Age, Roman or early Medieval in date, and may have been defensive structures, a routeway or a boundary defining territories. A more definite Roman feature is the earthworks of a Romano-British settlement found in Wombwell Wood.

**Medieval** - The landscape of the Dearne Valley is full of clues to its pre-industrial history. Much can be learned from the study of place names, which can help to date the origin of settlements (for example, 'thorp' is a Viking place name, whereas 'ton' is a Saxon one. Place names can also indicate former landscape features (for example, 'ley' refers to a woodland clearing, and 'ing' is the Viking word for a seasonally flooded field). Early patterns of settlement and landscape can therefore be traced through place names, as shown in the map below.

The earliest villages were located on the ridge tops and valley sides, above the floodplain. Many (such as Wombwell and Wath-Upon-Dearne) appear to have been planned villages, laid out with regular plots of houses on either side of a main road. Some of the early fabric of these villages survives- the churches at Darfield and Bolton-Upon-Dearne contain Saxon stonework.

Land below the villages, on the valley floor, would have been used for hay cropping and seasonal grazing, whilst the higher land around and behind the villages would have been used for arable agriculture, initially in large fields in which farmers were allocated their own strip. Further away from the villages (often on the highest or steepest land)

were areas of woodland (coppiced for fuel and also used for grazing) and pasture.

Major routeways utilised the Dearne Valley, including a major east-west highway between Halifax and Barnsley to London (which ran through villages including Wombwell and Wath-Upon-Dearne) and a north-south road between Rotherham and Pontefract. Stretches of these former major routes survive as lanes today, as do several stone bridges.

Other surviving medieval buildings in the Dearne Valley include religious buildings (parish churches, churchyard crosses and Monk Bretton Priory) and the defensive structure of Conisbrough castle which overlooks the river Don and Sprotbrough Gorge. There are also some early manor houses such as Grimethorpe Hall which would originally have been associated with estates, deer parks etc.

At this time industry was localised and small in scale. It included coal mining, charcoal production, iron smelting and water-powered mills.

**Eighteenth Century** - The end of the 18th Century saw a major change in the Dearne Valley landscape from rural agriculture to industrial development and mining. The discovery of rich seams of accessible coal was the catalyst for the construction of the Dearne and Dove Canal. This navigation connected Barnsley and the river Don, enabling coal and other goods to be transported to markets in Barnsley, and to the river Humber. The canal, (which had connecting branches to Elsecar and Worsbrough) was started in 1793 and completed in 1804. By 1820 it was transporting 100,000 tons of coal annually, plus stone, timber, iron and corn. Long stretches of the canal, with locks, reservoirs and basins can still be seen today.

As well as providing efficient transport of coal, the canal system also enabled the



development of other industries, including large-scale iron-smelting, glassmaking and pottery manufacture. Combined with the increased output of coal mines, this led to a rapid expansion of population and settlements.

The farming landscape also underwent a period of considerable change in the 18th century, primarily as a result of the enclosure of common land, and the change from farming in communal open fields to individual farms. Many new farms and agricultural buildings were constructed as a result of this process, giving us many of the field patterns seen today. At a similar time, large landowners such as the Fitzwilliams of Wentworth Woodhouse were laying out country estates using a naturalistic style of parkland planting, associated with grand houses and estate villages such as Wentworth and Hickleton.

**Nineteenth Century** - The 19th Century saw continued development of mining technology which enabled extraction from deeper seams and further increased the expansion of coal mining in the Dearne Valley. Associated industries, such as brick making and metal working also flourished.

The first railway in the area was constructed in 1840 between Rotherham and Normanton, and a network of lines quickly followed, with branch lines and sidings serving collieries.

The valley-side settlements expanded, often onto higher land, with terraces of houses constructed for miners and other workers. Accompanying buildings such as chapels, institutes and schools also became part of the built form of the area. However, settlements such as Grimethorpe, Cudworth, Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe and Ardsley remained agricultural hamlets.

The Fitzwilliam Family of Wentworth Woodhouse constructed the village of Elsecar on their Estate as an industrial settlement.

They provided cottages for their workers, along with a mill, church, school, park and other amenities. Residents worked in the deep colliery, ironworks and other industries. These works, plus the houses and amenities built by the Fitzwilliam family now form the Elsecar Heritage Centre and Conservation Area. Also included is the Fitzwilliam family's private railway station.

**Twentieth Century** - The 20th Century saw a huge increase in the population and industrial output of the Dearne Valley. This was a time of prosperity for the area, and had a marked effect on the landscape. Towns and villages continued to expand as mining output increased, and new collieries such as Grimethorpe were opened as deep seams were explored and extraction methods developed. Large mines and spoil tips became prominent landscape features.

The large pit villages which developed from hamlets during the 20th century are very distinctive in terms of their housing and associated buildings. Large housing estates were built, along with a distinctive urban fabric of pitheads, workshops, working men's clubs, miners' institutes, baths, band rehearsal rooms, sports facilities, parks and allotments. Shared work and leisure resulted in the development of a strong cultural identity. Many areas of 20th Century housing were developed on prominent hilltops and this, coupled with the new collieries, spoil tips and associated industrial development dramatically changed the landscape.

Valley-floor industrialisation, combined with engineering of the river banks in the mid-20th Century also resulted in a loss of visual connection with the river Dearne.

Threats to the Don Valley industries from German bombers in WW2 required the construction of air defences. The heavy anti-aircraft gunsite at Bolton-Upon-Deerne, with surviving gun emplacements and magazine, is now a Scheduled Monument. The air defences



were never actually used. Pit disaster memorials are also features of the area, acting as reminders of the dangers of mining. Barnsley Main was the site of the Oaks mining disaster, the largest in English history.

**Late Twentieth Century Onwards** - The last of the Dearne Valley collieries closed in the 1980s and 1990s, resulting in mass unemployment and social deprivation. Mine buildings, railways etc. were removed leaving a landscape which was derelict, and also lacking the features which had been distinctive landmarks for the past century. In the 1990s, the Dearne Valley received money for regeneration. Unfortunately, regeneration schemes were not always adequately thought through, with consequential loss of biodiversity and dynamism in the landscape, and the creation of new repetitive and anonymous landscapes. Large-scale industrial, retail and service buildings were constructed on low-lying areas of flat land which had previously been occupied by mines and sidings, for example at Manvers. New roads were constructed along valley floors to provide access to the new developments, but these have resulted in fragmentation of the area and a loss of pedestrian accessibility across the valleys. Most recently, large areas of brownfield land (both on valley floors and in higher villages such as Grimethorpe) are being used for residential development. This new housing uses many different architectural styles, but all contrast with the area's older housing in terms of style, scale and layout.

However, the post-mining redevelopment and cleaning-up of the area has also resulted in a considerable increase in its biodiversity. The creation of valley floor wetlands (for example at Old Moor) has enabled the re-creation of the types of wetland habitats which would have naturally occurred in the valley floor before drainage for agriculture

and industrial development. They also have an important role to play in flood amelioration. In the past 20 years the rivers have been transformed from polluted wastelands into a haven for wildlife.

These valley-floor sites are also important for recreation. Many are local nature reserves in their own right, but their biodiversity and recreational value is enhanced by the way they form chains along the valleys, linked by recreational trails which utilise the disused railway lines. The National Trans- Pennine Trail crosses the area east-west, following the Don, Dearne and Dove valleys.

Further recreational access and opportunities have been developed on former industrial sites (e.g. Dearne Valley Park - less than one mile from Barnsley Town centre) and on reclaimed spoil tips. Considerable reshaping and planting of spoil tips has occurred in recent years, enabling them to blend with the surrounding countryside, and to have a recreational role. Phoenix Park at Thurnscoe is a spoil tip which has been re-landscaped and planted as a Country Park. Pit wheels have been re-erected as semi-circular sculptures throughout the area.

Agricultural land in the Dearne Valley is also being restored. A significant proportion of the area's agricultural land is under Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship, with some under Higher Level Stewardship. These agricultural grant schemes enable farmers to manage their land to the benefit of wildlife and recreation, for example through hedgerow, pond, wetland, woodland and grassland management, and through the provision of footpaths and interpretation panels. The resulting well-managed rural landscape greatly enhances the environment of the area and gives it a cared-for character.

Green technologies have also been promoted in the Dearne Valley. Wind turbines are visible on the higher land to the east of the area, and the area has a noticeably high



proportion of buildings with solar hot water and/ or photovoltaic cells on their roofs.

**The development of settlements** - In order to provide some more detail on the wider historic development of the Dearne Valley, short “potted histories” of some of the key communities have been produced.

**Darfield** - Prehistoric activity in the Darfield area is indicated by a variety of Iron Age enclosures and field systems that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. During the Roman period, Darfield appears to have been the site of an extensive settlement that spanned both banks of the River Dearne and enclosures, field systems and coin hoards have been discovered throughout the area. Darfield’s former Roman name is unknown.

Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as ‘Dereueld’ in the 1086 Domesday survey, Darfield derives its name from the Old English place-name elements ‘deor’ and ‘feld’ and means ‘open land frequented by deer’ (Smith 1961).

While the Domesday Survey did not record a church at Darfield, an 8th- to 9th-century cross shaft incorporated into the wall of All Saints Church suggests that the area had a church during the early medieval period. An 8th-century sculpture fragment from a possible grave slab also indicates settlement in the Darfield area during this period.

Much of Darfield was granted to the monks of Monk Bretton Priory in the later medieval period, before being confiscated by the Crown at the Dissolution in the 1530s. Two mills were recorded in the area during this period. Elements of medieval buildings survive within the fabric of several later structures in the Darfield area, including timber-framed houses, farm buildings and high status dwellings. Darfield sat within a predominantly agricultural landscape throughout the post-medieval period and its commons were enclosed in 1805.

The North Midland Railway opened at Darfield in 1840 and large-scale industrial activity developed subsequently with the opening of the Low Valley Clay Works. Many Darfield men were employed at Lundhill Colliery, Wombwell, at the time of an explosion at the mine that killed 189 men and boys in 1857. The Lundhill Colliery Memorial is situated in the All Saints churchyard. Following the opening of Darfield Main Colliery in 1861, Darfield itself was dominated by the mining industry until the mine closed in 1989.

**Wombwell** - Prehistoric activity in the Wombwell area is indicated by Mesolithic and Neolithic findspots and the possible ‘henge’ in Wombwell Wood. Iron Age and Romano-British field systems and settlements are visible in several parts of the Wombwell area as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

Place-name evidence indicates early medieval activity in the area. Recorded as ‘Wanbella’ in the 1086 Domesday survey, Wombwell may derive its name from the Old English element ‘wamb’, meaning a hollow, and means the well in the hollow (Smith 1961). Following the Norman Conquest, Wombwell was granted to Ilbert de Laci, the lord of Pontefract. St. Mary’s Chapel was extant during the medieval period and remained standing in 1831, while Wombwell’s 13th-century manorial mill remained in use in the 18th century.

Wombwell does not appear to have been a market town during the medieval or early post-medieval periods, although documentary evidence indicates that the village was a prosperous rural settlement from at least the 14th century. By 1686, Wombwell was the site of a major coaching inn on the route from Halifax to London, with 24 guest beds and stabling for 20 horses (Hey 1979).

The South Yorkshire Railway opened at Wombwell in 1851 and industrial development in the area commenced with the



opening of Wombwell Main Colliery in 1855. Mitchell's Main Colliery followed in 1883 and coal-mining dominated the area until the closure of Wombwell Main in 1969.

**Brampton** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Brampton area is indicated by field systems, tracks, a lane and settlement sites that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the area to the east of Pontefract Road. Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Brantone' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Brampton derives its name from the Old English elements 'brom' and 'tun', and means 'farmstead in the broom' (Smith 1961).

The appellation 'bierlow', recorded in the area from at least 1307, derives from the Old Norse term 'byar-log', meaning 'the law of the village' and indicates that Brampton was an area where local laws had been established by mutual consent to deal with minor disputes within the village or township boundary (Smith 1961). Ironworking activity appears to have been taking place at Brampton in the early medieval period, with a possible bloomery site being worked in the early 11th century.

Following the Norman Conquest, Brampton was granted to Ilbert de Laci, the lord of Pontefract and was held by Monk Bretton Priory from the 12th century. Mills were recorded in the area from the 12th century, while upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks indicate past agricultural land use. The village was recorded as 'Brampton juxta Wath' in the 1379 Poll Tax return.

Elements of medieval buildings survive within the fabric of several later structures, including timber-framed farm buildings and high status dwellings. During the early post-medieval period, the area came into the ownership of the Wentworth family at Wentworth Woodhouse. The Needle's Eye, an 18th-century folly constructed by Thomas Watson-Wentworth, remains extant.

Coal mining was undertaken in the Brampton area during the early post-medieval period and accelerated with the opening of Brampton/Rainborough Colliery in 1819 and Cortonwood Colliery in 1838. The latter mine closed in 1850 and is not to be confused with the Brampton Coal Company's Cortonwood Colliery, which opened in 1873. Concrete Cottages, eight rows of houses on a triangular site near the pit yard, were constructed in concrete in 1882. Cortonwood Colliery remained open into the 1980s, when plans for its accelerated closure led directly to the 1984-1985 Miners Strike. Cortonwood Colliery closed in 1986.

**Wath Upon Dearne** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Wath Upon Dearne area is indicated by a variety of field systems, tracks, a lane and settlements that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the area to the east of Wath Wood Road. A bank and ditch earthwork feature now within Golden Smiths Plantation may also date from this period.

Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Wat' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Wath derives its name from the Old Norse 'vad', meaning a ford (Smith 1961). Settlement is likely to have developed in the area due to this crossing over the River Dearne. Early medieval deposits survive within the fabric of All Saints Church and a 'pre-Conquest' manor appears to have existed on the site of Thornhill Hall.

Following the Norman Conquest, Wath was granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill. All Saints Church occupies the site of a Norman church, while Wath Hall stood within a moated site in the grounds of the present-day vicarage. Vicarages have occupied this site since the early 15th century. In 1312-1313, Edward II granted a royal charter for a market and a fair to be held at Wath and the base of the Market Cross remains extant. Part of the Town Cross also survives. Three mills were recorded at Wath during the medieval period.



Several early post-medieval buildings contain elements of earlier structures, including timber-framed farm buildings, ecclesiastical buildings and high status dwellings. A post-medieval dovecote also survives. Bell pits throughout the area indicate that coal was mined at Wath during the early post-medieval period, when the area came into the ownership of the Wentworth family of Wentworth Woodhouse.

The North Midland Railway opened in Wath in 1841. Two further railway stations were constructed during the 19th century and the Wath Concentration Yard, a large marshalling yard from which coal was transported to various parts of the UK, was built in 1907. Wath was an important railway town for several decades, having three stations.

Deep coal mining commenced in the area from the 18th century and when the Dearne and Dove Canal was opened at Wath in 1804, it was used predominantly to transport coal. Wath Main Colliery was sunk in 1873, with Manvers Main Colliery following in the 1890s. The two mines were amalgamated in 1986 and closed in 1988.

**Thurnscoe** - Prehistoric activity in the Thurnscoe area is indicated by Iron Age enclosures, field systems, tracks and settlements that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the area to the south of the town. Thurnscoe is situated to the east of Ryknild Street Roman road and archaeological evidence also demonstrates Romano-British settlement in the area to the west of Derry Grove.

Early medieval activity at Thurnscoe is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Ternusc' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Thurnscoe derives its name from the Old Norse 'pyrne' and 'skogr' and means 'thorn wood' (Smith 1961). Early medieval deposits survive within the fabric of St. Helen's Church, which was rebuilt in the 15th century and again in the early 18th century.

Following the Norman Conquest, Thurnscoe was granted to Robert, Count of Mortain, the half-brother of William the Conqueror. A moated site with associated earthworks may have been occupied in the 11th century. Various lands in Thurnscoe were granted to Nostell Priory in the 12th century, while Roche Abbey held lands here by the 14th century. A farm in the area originated as an abbey grange, while monks from Roche quarried limestone at Thurnscoe.

Thurnscoe remained largely agricultural and the remains of extensive post-medieval field systems are visible on aerial photographs. While coalmining took place in the area from the late 18th century, its main impact occurred after the opening of Hickleton Main Colliery in 1894. By the early 20th century, Thurnscoe had expanded substantially through the construction of housing for miners and their families. Hickleton Main closed in 1988

**Goldthorpe** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Goldthorpe area is indicated by an enclosure that is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs of the Doncaster Road area, while early medieval activity is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Godetorp' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Goldthorpe derives its name from the Old English personal name 'Golda' and the Old Norse 'torp', meaning a small settlement (Smith 1961).

Following the Norman Conquest, Goldthorpe was granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill. The area remained largely in agricultural use throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods, and the area's commons were enclosed between 1761 and 1767. Two corn mills were worked at Goldthorpe in the 18th century.

Coal mining took place in the Goldthorpe area from the 17th century, with the opening of a colliery in 1678 (Smith 2002). This mine was developed further as Marsden's Goldthorpe Colliery in 1770. The site closed in



1783 but was re-opened as Goldthorpe Colliery in 1909. The mine closed in 1994.

**Bolton Upon Dearne** - Prehistoric activity in the Bolton Upon Dearne area is demonstrated by a Bronze Age palstave that was recovered from the bank of the River Dearne, to the east of the B6098. Cropmark evidence indicates settlement and agricultural activity in the area to the south of Lowfield Road during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Bodetone' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Bolton Upon Dearne derives its name from the Old English elements 'bodl' and 'tun', and means 'an enclosure with buildings' (Smith 1961, 83). The location and extent of the early medieval settlement is unknown, although St. Andrew's Church was founded during this period and elements of the early medieval church are retained in the current building.

Following the Norman Conquest, Bolton Upon Dearne was granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill. Two mills were recorded at Bolton Upon Dearne in the late 11th century and the area remained in agricultural use in the early post-medieval period, when a further corn mill was constructed. Bolton Upon Dearne's commons were enclosed between 1761 and 1767.

New farms, such as Grange Farm, were established in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and many agricultural buildings and features survive from this period. Land around the village remained largely in agricultural use until the early 20th century, when the village began to expand with the construction of extensive areas of housing for miners who were employed at Goldthorpe Colliery to the north.

**Harlington** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Harlington area is indicated by field systems, tracks and settlements visible as cropmarks in the area to the south of Doncaster Road on aerial

photographs. The village lies less than 1km to the south of Barnburgh, where archaeological evidence indicates extensive activity from the Neolithic period.

Place-name evidence indicates early medieval activity at Harlington, with the Old English elements 'ling' meaning pasture and 'tun' meaning a settlement. The area may have been granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill, as part of the manor of Barnburgh following the Norman Conquest and Harlington Mill may occupy the site of a mill that was recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey. The village appears to have been a 'ribbon development' along a single street during the medieval period.

Harlington remained a rural village throughout the post-medieval period. New farmhouses were constructed during this period and many agricultural buildings of this date survive at sites such as Old Hall. Harlington's commons were enclosed with those of Barnburgh in 1819.

Barnburgh Main Colliery opened to the north-west of the village in 1911 but, unlike in other parts of the Dearne Valley, did not lead to extensive housing development in the area. The Dearne Valley Railway opened at Harlington in 1912.

**Mexborough** - The Roman Ridge, a substantial bank and ditch earthwork that commences in Sheffield, terminates at Mexborough. The Ridge is currently undated but is likely to have been constructed in the Iron Age, the early Romano-British period or the early medieval period. The purpose of the Roman Ridge remains unclear and the reason for its termination at Mexborough is unknown.

Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence, with Mexborough deriving its name from the Old English or Old Norse personal name 'Meac' or 'Mjuk' and the Old English 'burh', meaning a fortified settlement (Smith 1961). Mexborough appears to have been part of a system of



fortified sites along the Dearne and Don valleys during the early medieval period (Hey 1979).

Mexborough's proximity to the river crossing over the Don at Strafforth Sands is likely to have influenced the development of the burh, although the site of the fortified area is unclear. Early medieval elements are preserved within the fabric of the Church of St. John the Baptist, while a late 11th-century stone cross survives in the Lady Chapel.

Mexborough was granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill, following the Norman Conquest. A motte and bailey castle was constructed at Castle Hill, probably during the late 11th century, while the area was the location for meetings of the Strafforth Wapentake court in this period. The village was granted to Monk Bretton Priory during the medieval period and was confiscated by the Crown at the Dissolution in the 1530s.

Mexborough remained a small village until the late 18th century, when the Don Navigation made the area viable for new industries, including deep coal mining, glass manufacture and pottery production. Mexborough Pottery opened on a site adjacent to the canal in 1800. The South Yorkshire Railway opened at Mexborough in 1850 and a National School was built by public subscription in 1865.

During the 19th century, the village's industries included the Emerys Pottery, the Mexborough Rock Pottery, the Don Valley Pottery, the Phoenix Glass Works, the Bull Green Glass Works and the New Don Glass Works. Expansion to the west of the village in this period was so extensive that the area became known as 'New Mexborough'. Several coal mines were sunk in the Mexborough region during the 19th and early 20th centuries, including Denaby Main Colliery and Cadeby Colliery.

**Swinton** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Swinton area is indicated by a probable Iron Age beehive quernstone that

was found to the east of Rockingham Road and a 1st- to 3rd-century AD Roman silver coin hoard that was found to the west of the town. The Roman Ridge runs to the west of Swinton and a substantial section of the earthwork remains in Long Plantation.

Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence, with Swinton deriving its name from the Old English 'swin' and 'tun', meaning 'swine farm' (Smith 1961, 115). Swinton was held by Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill, at the time of the 1086 Domesday survey. St. Mary Magdalene Chapel was constructed in the 12th century and remained extant until 1817.

Comparatively little is known about the history of Swinton during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Development occurred following the opening of the Don Navigation, which connected Swinton to Rotherham and Mexborough, in 1740 and the Dearne and Dove Canal in 1798. The Don Pottery opened on a site adjacent to the canal in 1803 and remained one of the town's major employers until 1893. The North Midland Railway opened in Swinton in 1840. Other major sites from this period include the Swinton Iron & Steel Works, the Don Chemical Works, the Swinton Glass Works and the South Yorkshire Glass Works.

**Conisbrough** - Prehistoric activity in the Conisbrough area is indicated by finds of flints and an arrowhead to the north of the town, while a Roman coin hoard and finds of single coins denote Romano-British activity in the area. Archaeological evidence of early post-Roman activity has been identified at Wellgate, with 6th-century settlement indicated by a pond, a fenceline and tracks. A hoard of 6th-century Byzantine coins was discovered at Conisbrough in 1921.

Place-name evidence indicates high status activity in the area during the early medieval period. Conisbrough derives its name from the Old Norse 'konungr', meaning 'the king's stronghold' and the Old English 'burh',



meaning a fortified settlement (Smith 1961, 126). The name was first recorded in 1002-1004, but the Old Norse element may have replaced the earlier Old English term 'cyning', which also means 'king' (Smith 1961).

Conisbrough was part of a system of fortified sites along the Dearne and Don valleys during the early medieval period and is likely to have been the centre of a large administrative unit prior to the Norman Conquest (Hey 1979). Early medieval deposits associated with the burh have been found in the vicinity of Conisbrough Castle and elements of an early medieval church, including an Anglo-Saxon cross fragment, are retained within the fabric of St. Peter's Church. A cist burial that was excavated at St. Peter's Church may also be early medieval in date.

Conisbrough was held by Harold Godwinson, king of England, in 1066 but was subsequently granted to William de Warenne, the son-in-law of William the Conqueror. Conisbrough Castle was constructed c.1180 by Hameline Plantagenet, the half-brother of Henry II. Numerous medieval remains survive at Conisbrough, from an extensive deer park to a 12th-century coped tomb chest. Two mills were recorded at Conisbrough in the 11th century and a ferry operated on the river, just below the castle, in the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. Elements of several medieval and early post-medieval buildings survive within the fabric of later structures, including timber-framed farm buildings and high status dwellings.

A noted sickle works was operating on the river by 1600 but the wider Conisbrough area remained a largely agricultural area until the early 20th century. Expansion had occurred during the mid-19th century, although the village was not redeveloped extensively due to the creation of a planned new village at Denaby Main to house miners and their families. The South Yorkshire Railway and the Midland railway opened a joint station at Conisbrough in 1849 and the area also

included the Ashfield Fire Clay Works, a brick, tile and pipe works, a pottery and the Denaby Powder Works, which produced explosives, during this period.

**Hoyland and Elsecar** - Prehistoric activity in the Hoyland area is indicated by an Iron Age settlement with associated field systems at Jump. This site was developed as an enclosed farmstead in the Romano-British period. Place-name evidence indicates early medieval activity. Recorded as 'Holand' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Hoyland derives its name from the Old English term 'hoh', meaning a spur of land (Smith 1961). Following the Norman Conquest, Hoyland was granted to Roger de Busli, the lord of Tickhill. The area remained in agricultural use throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods and ridge and furrow earthworks remain extant in several areas. Elements of features from these periods survive within the fabric of later structures, including timber-framed farm buildings such as an aisled barn at Alderthwaite. Hoyland's commons were enclosed in 1794.

Industrial activity developed in the area with the opening of a series of coal mines at Platts Common. These were subsequently developed as Hoyland Silkstone Colliery in the second half of the 19th century. This mine closed in the 1950s, while the nearby Rockingham Colliery closed in 1979.

**Worsbrough** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Worsbrough area is indicated by field systems, tracks and settlements visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Early medieval activity in the area is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Wircesburg' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Worsbrough derives its name from an assumed Old English personal name, 'Wirc', and the Old English 'burh', meaning a fortified settlement (Smith 1961). The site of the fortified area is unclear.

Following the Norman Conquest, Worsbrough was granted to Ilbert de Laci, the



lord of Pontefract. A mill that was recorded at Worsbrough in the 11th century appears to have remained active into the early post-medieval period, when it was rebuilt as Worsbrough Corn Mill. St. Mary's Church was founded in the 12th century and medieval elements survive within the present-day building.

Elements of several medieval and early post-medieval buildings survive also within the fabric of later secular structures, including timber-framed buildings at Elmhirst Farm. The vicarage and a school were built at Worsbrough in the 16th century. A range of early post-medieval high status buildings remain extant in the area, including Darley Cliffe Hall and Worsbrough Hall. The estate of the latter was emparked during the early post-medieval period.

Settlement appears to have been relatively dispersed around the Worsbrough district before becoming concentrated in the valley at Worsbrough Bridge following the opening of the Dearne and Dove Canal and the Worsbrough canal basin in 1804. While bell pits indicate that shallow coal and ironstone mining took place at Worsbrough during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods, deep coal mining dominated the area from the mid-19th century. Among the collieries that were worked at Worsbrough were the Park Colliery, Martin's Main Colliery, Darley Main, Bell Ing Colliery and Barrow Colliery. The latter closed in 1986.

Other local industries included Wood Brothers Glass Works, Worsbrough Mill, the Dearne & Dove Steel Works, Worsbrough Furnace and the Dearne & Dove Saw Mills. The South Yorkshire Railway opened at Worsbrough in 1854. The canal basin closed in 1906.

**Grimethorpe / Brierley** - Prehistoric and Romano-British activity is indicated by enclosures and field systems that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the area around Hallsteads medieval fortified

manor house, Grimethorpe, and on land to the south of Common Road, Brierley.

Early medieval activity is indicated by place-name evidence. Recorded as 'Breselai' in the 1086 Domesday survey, Brierley appears to mean a 'clearing among the briars' (Smith 1961, 268). Grimethorpe derives its name from the Old Norse personal name 'Grym' and the Old Norse 'torp', meaning a small farm (Smith 1961).

The area was granted to Ilbert de Laci, the lord of Pontefract, following the Norman Conquest. Documentary evidence for Brierley is relatively plentiful for the later medieval period, when the manor was administered from a fortified manor house at Hallsteads. Earthworks at Ringstone Hill may also be medieval in date. These were re-used during the Civil War in 1645. A range of early post-medieval buildings remain extant in the area, with high status sites such as Grimethorpe Hall and Brierley Manor, agricultural sites such as Cliff Farm and Elms Farm, and several 18th-century domestic houses at Church Street.

Coal mining took place at Brierley from the 17th century. Documentary evidence indicates that in addition to bell pits, drift mines were worked in the area in 1638 (Watson and Harrison 1976). At Grimethorpe, deep coal mining commenced with the opening of Grimethorpe Colliery in 1895. The development of the area's mining industry saw the population increase from 500 in 1881 to 1,684 in 1901.

While new estates were built at Grimethorpe to house the miners and their families, Brierley largely retained its rural character even after the opening of Brierley Colliery in 1910. A tram road or waggonway connected the Brierley and Grimethorpe mines. Ferry Moor Colliery opened in 1917. Coal was mined in the area through opencasting during the inter-war period, with the extraction sites then being landscaped in 1949. The Brierley



Colliery spoilheap was subject to reclamation between 1959 and 1961.

**Cudworth** - Prehistoric activity in the Cudworth area is indicated by Mesolithic flints found to the east of Lund Avenue. Place-name evidence indicates early medieval activity. Recorded as 'Cudeuardia' in 1180-1190, Cudworth includes the Old English personal name 'Cuda' and the Old English term 'worth', meaning an enclosed settlement (Smith 1961).

A possible medieval moated site appears to have been situated on the site of Manor Farm, while a series of stone posts and pillars may be fence posts or boundary markers demarcating land owned by Monk Bretton Priory, to the south-west of Cudworth.

Cudworth stood on the main road from Barnsley to Pontefract during the medieval period and a packhorse route crossed the area during the early post-medieval period. Cudworth's commons were enclosed in 1809. Despite the upgrading of the Barnsley to Pontefract road as a turnpike in 1833 and the coming of the North Midland Railway in 1840, the area remained largely agricultural until the opening of the Milton Bleach Works in 1854.

### 1.4 Context

**Location** – The Dearne Valley is situated within South Yorkshire, including parts of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. From the centre of the area it is approximately 16 miles to Sheffield, 31 miles to Leeds, 15 miles to Doncaster, 7 miles to Barnsley and 7 miles to Rotherham. There is immediate and easy access to the M1, A1(M) and M18. There are two train lines running through the area – Sheffield to Leeds and Sheffield to the East Coast. There are 10 railway stations and the Barnsley Transport Interchange within the boundary. The area is well served by buses to all three of the main centres.

**Geography** – The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership area is approximately 177km<sup>2</sup>.

The DVLP Area is of consistent landscape character and the vast majority is within National Character Area 38: The Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. This area of broadly consistent landscape character extends from Leeds to Nottingham. In addition, the south-eastern edge of the DVLP Area is within National Landscape Character Area 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone.



**Why the Dearne** – The need was clearly demonstrated within the Stage 1 application based on landscape, heritage, economic and social reasons. This need has been expanded further during the development phase to show the depth and quality of the landscape, biodiversity and heritage. The Dearne Valley has become a recognised and defined area through the considerable efforts of the three local authorities, the range of partners and the communities of the Dearne.

It is an area of opportunity. There are problems, but these are far outweighed by the depth and wealth of people, places and landscapes. The chance to “Reveal the Hidden Dearne” remains as strong as ever.

There is clear empirical evidence through demographics, research and mapping – set out in the LCAP and supporting documents. What this doesn't necessarily show is the hard to explain qualities that the area has. It is a jigsaw – there isn't a consistent landscape, there isn't a consistent community, there isn't



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

a consistent narrative. In many ways though it is out of this lack of consistency and coherence that consistency and coherence comes. There is a strong sense of pride in the area. There is a network of community groups. There are significant numbers of visitors to the area. There are impressive landscapes and views. There is heritage in abundance. The DVLP provides the chance to enhance all this and provide cohesion and identity through working consistently in the area for five years. The DVLP can start to put some of the pieces of the jigsaw together.

**Demographics** – Full details of the demographics of the area are provided in the Audience Development Strategy in support of the LCAP. In summary:



The total population of the area is 185,074. There is a fairly average age profile in comparison to England and the region. There are a relatively high proportion of people of working age, compared to the outmigration of younger people and higher numbers of older people seen in many rural areas.

On several indicators, the Dearne Valley area shows higher levels of deprivation than the England or regional average. In particular, the proportion of economically inactive is higher than average and the levels of disability and poor health are significantly higher.

The largest proportion of people fall within the 30 – 40 and 45 – 59 age categories. Based on population, 63% live in Barnsley, 19% live in Doncaster and 18% live in Rotherham.

**Need** – The Dearne Valley Eco-Vision (part of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership) covers a significant part of the DVLP area. It is a strategic partnership promoting a 30-year programme to transform the Dearne Valley from a landscape dominated by the industrial legacy of carbon production, to a ‘Futurescape’ supporting the lowest carbon community of its type in the UK. With regards the environment the Dearne Valley Eco-Vision aims to reconnect local people to their environment and change the perception of the valley, to make it an area local people are proud to call theirs and help reconnect people with the River Dearne. The Eco-Vision core area is at the centre of the DVLP area. Whilst this core area doesn’t cover the whole of the DVLP area it is representative of the wider area and the socio-economic issues within it.

Eco-Vision undertook a socio-economic analysis in 2010 that demonstrated how the Dearne Valley is an area of multiple deprivation, albeit enhanced by changes over the last few years. The National Index of Deprivation in 2010 shows that deprivation levels are relatively high across the Dearne Valley, with 29% of the Dearne Valley population amongst the most deprived 10% of England.

It is clear that the communities of the Dearne Valley are ones that have undergone seismic socio-economic changes as a result of the collapse of the coal industry. The coal industry and its decline not only scarred the landscape but the communities within it in terms of employment, skills, and cohesion as well as culturally and socially. In summary the main forms of deprivation affecting the Dearne Valley are:



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Health & Disability – average rank 4,885 (in top 15% nationally), 41% of SOAs are in the most deprived 10% of England.
- Employment – average rank 5,315 (in top 17% nationally), 39% of SOAs are in the most deprived 10% of England. The 2010 Indices of Deprivation show that 18.3% of working age residents were unemployed or long term sick (2008/9) which was much higher than the English average of 10.1%. Employment deprivation will have increased significantly since 2008/9 as a result of the current economic downturn.
- Education & Skills – average rank 5,500 (in top 17% nationally), 48% of SOAs are in most deprived 10% of England



The area covered by the DVLP crosses three local authority boundaries. For the entire Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham areas the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count stood at 5.1% in December 2011. For the SOAs covering just the Dearne Valley the figure was 5.4%. The figure for Yorkshire and Humber as a whole is 4.5%. For all Out of Work Benefits (JSA, IB/ESA and other income related benefits) there figures are (May 2011) 16.5% and 20.6%.

The population density is 4,260 per square mile, much higher than the South Yorkshire Coalfield average of 1,686. The 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation score is equivalent to a national rank of 5,788, putting the Dearne Valley as a whole within the most deprived 18% of England.

Eco-Vision research has highlighted the following as the key challenges facing the core area:

### Employment

- High levels of worklessness and benefit dependency, especially on Incapacity Benefit
- Risk of employment concentration in a small number of large employers in a few sectors
- Low proportion of local people employed in new industries
- Polarisation between high earning and workless people

### Education & Skills

- Low level of skills in adult workforce
- Higher skilled workers commuting into the area
- Low (if rising) attainment of children & young people, especially in key subjects
- Low level of aspiration and low parental attainment

### Health

- High levels of disability and ill-health
- High proportion of working age carers

### Transport

- High dependency on the car, especially for workers
- Dispersed settlement & employment locations - complex travel patterns



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Low use and awareness of public transport options, especially by workers
- High level of in-commuting by car & related parking requirement

### Housing

- Older housing at lower end of market and often in poor condition
- Integrating new housing estates into existing communities
- Shortage of quality housing which could attract high income residents to live in the areas
- Potential vulnerability to housing market downturn

### Environment

- Poor perception of area based on past industrial environment
- Poor quality older urban environments
- Promotion of environmental & heritage assets
- Improving the quality and diversity of the local environment

## 1.5 Management information

There are a range of strategies, policies and guidance providing the context in which the DVLP is operating. These have informed the development and approach of the landscape partnership and will continue to do so during the operation of the scheme. In addition the DVLP has been shaped by the considerable consultation undertaken during the development phase in order to reflect the needs, ambitions and activities of the range of organisations and individuals in the area.

### EUROPEAN

**European Landscape Convention** - The convention covers four broad areas:

- Landscape Protection;
- Landscape Management

- Landscape Planning
- European Cooperation.

An integral part of all these is raising awareness of landscape issues through engaging with the public.

As defined 'landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

Within England the focus is on:

- Influencing future legislation, regulation and advice, including contributing to gap analysis
- Improving the understanding of landscape character and dynamics, and the monitoring of change and trends
- Engaging people through comprehensive and accessible awareness and understanding activities as well as through, promotion, education & training
- Sharing experiences and best practice

### NATIONAL

**Natural Environment White Paper - The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, DEFRA (2011)** – The White Paper highlighted that the natural environment is the foundation for economic growth, prosperous communities and personal wellbeing.

Its aims are:

- Protecting and improving our natural environment
  - A vision for nature
  - Local nature partnerships
  - Nature improvement areas
  - Protecting natural value through the planning system



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Offsetting the impacts of development on biodiversity
- Planning for local carbon infrastructure
- Getting the best value from agricultural land
- Protecting and improving our woodlands and forests
- Diverse and living landscape
- Safeguarding our soils
- Restoring nature in our rivers and water bodies
- Restoring nature in our cities, towns and villages
- Managing our marine environment



- Growing a green economy
  - Capturing the value of nature in our
  - Government and business working together in partnership
  - Growing business opportunities that pay back to nature
  - Helping business capture the value of nature through responsible supply chains
  - Government leading by example

- Reconnecting people with nature in our nation's accounts
  - Connecting through nature's health service
  - Connecting through education – in and about the natural environment
  - Connecting through better neighbourhood access to nature
  - Connecting by improving access to coast and countryside
  - Connecting by 'paying back' to nature in our most visited landscapes
  - Connecting through voluntary action – good for us and good for nature
  - Connecting through better access to environmental information

The DVLP can address many, many of the 92 commitments established in the White Paper and it provides a clear framework in which to operate.



**Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services** – Published in 2011 this builds on the Natural Environment White Paper sets biodiversity policy for land, rivers, lakes and sea. It is about an integrated wide scale



approach to conservation with the following priority actions:

- Establish more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people
- Establish and effectively manage an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas which covers in excess of 25% of English waters by the end of 2016, and which contributes to the UK's achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Take targeted action for the recovery of priority species, whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based and ecosystem measures
- Ensure that 'agricultural' genetic diversity is conserved and enhanced wherever appropriate
- Work with the biodiversity partnership to engage significantly more people in biodiversity issues, increase awareness of the value of biodiversity and increase the number of people taking positive action
- Promote taking better account of the values of biodiversity in public and private sector decision-making, including by providing tools to help consider a wider range of ecosystem services
- Develop new and innovative financing mechanisms to direct more funding towards the achievement of biodiversity outcomes
- Improve the delivery of environmental outcomes from agricultural land management practices, whilst increasing food production
- Reform the Common Agricultural Policy to achieve greater environmental benefits
- Bring a greater proportion of our existing woodlands into sustainable management and expand the area of woodland in England
- Through reforms of the planning system, take a strategic approach to planning for nature within and across local areas. This approach will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system
- Establish a new, voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets and test our approach in pilot areas
- Align measures to protect the water environment with action for biodiversity, including through the river basin planning approach under the EU Water Framework Directive
- Continue to promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity
- Reform the water abstraction regime. The new regime will provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem functioning. We will also take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently
- Develop 10 Marine Plans which integrate economic, social and environmental considerations, and which will guide decision-makers when making any decision that affects, or might affect, a marine area. This



action in England is part of the UK vision for ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’

- Implement actions and reforms to ensure fisheries management directly supports the achievement of wider environmental objectives, including the achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity through approaches at national, UK, EU and international levels targeted at the sectors which are the source of the relevant pollutants (nitrogen oxides, ozone, sulphur dioxide, ammonia)
- Continue to implement the Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain
- Work collaboratively across Defra and the relevant agencies to direct research investment within Government to areas of highest priority to deliver the outcomes and priorities set out in this strategy, and in partnership with the Research Councils and other organisations in the UK and Europe to build the evidence base
- Put robust, reliable and more co-ordinated arrangements in place, to monitor changes in the state of biodiversity and also the flow of benefits and services it provides us, to ensure that we can assess the outcomes of this strategy
- Improve public access to biodiversity data and other environmental information – putting power into the hands of people to act and hold others to account. Also communicate progress towards the outcomes and priorities of this strategy and make available information to support decision-

making at a range of scales to help others contribute to the outcomes

**Making Space for Nature: A review of England’s Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, DEFRA, 2010** – This makes a case for a resilient and coherent ecological network through a review of England’s wildlife sites. The five key approaches to rebuild nature and address the weaknesses of the current series of wildlife sites are:



- Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management.
- Increase the size of current wildlife sites.
- Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through ‘stepping stones’.
- Create new sites.
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.

**Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)** – English Heritage, in conjunction with local authority sites and monuments records, provides a framework for understanding landscapes as a whole. It explains every landscape's cultural, historic and archaeological attributes and the importance of change through time as a primary characteristic.



**National Heritage Protection Plan** - sets out how English Heritage together with partners in the heritage sector, will prioritise and deliver heritage protection from 2011 to 2015.

**English Heritage - A Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment, 2010:** Setting out the objectives for further research into the protection and increased understanding of Britain's industrial heritage.

- **Understanding Place:** Historic Area Assessments in a Planning and Development Context
- **Understanding Place:** Character and Context in Local Planning
- **Understanding Historic Buildings:** Policy and Guidance for Local Planning Authorities

**National Planning Policy Framework, 2012:** This framework updates or replaces previous planning policy and addresses the issues that have put people off from getting involved. This was particularly at the local community level, because planning policy had become so elaborate and complex – the preserve of specialists, rather than people in communities. Introducing Neighbourhood Planning aims to address this giving communities more say in the development that takes place in their locality. The framework recognises that both the natural environment and our historic environment – buildings, landscapes, towns and villages – can be cherished better if their spirit of place thrives, rather than withers. A Neighbourhood Plan provides a community with a greater say over how its local area changes over time. It outlines the characteristics of a place, those elements which local people may wish to preserve and those areas where changes could be made. It identifies the opportunities for improvement and the challenges that will need to be faced. Consideration of the built, natural and historic environment in the plan area from

the outset can help ensure that Neighbourhood Plans are sustainable. Of particular relevance to the DVLP are Sections 11 and 12.

**11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment** - The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils
- Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services
- Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures
- Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability
- Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate

**12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment** - Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation
- The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place

In addition to normal development controls, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Monuments (SMs).



**Council for British Archaeology** - A UK-wide non-governmental organisation that promotes knowledge, appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations. The CBA has five core functional areas:

- Research
- Conservation
- Education
- Information
- Publication.

**Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000)** - This Act covers the creation of access land, amending the laws relating to rights of rights of way, the requirement for Local Access Forums, and also refers to Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty.

**Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic framework for 2013-2018** - This document sets out plans designed to deliver long term and sustainable benefits in response to the newly emerging needs facing the heritage sector. The goal is to make a lasting difference for heritage and people. The strategic framework identifies the range of outcomes that the HLF want to achieve with their funding. Those relevant to the LCAP are:

Outcomes for people – with HLF investment, people will have:

- Learnt about heritage
- Developed skills
- Changed their attitudes and/or behaviour
- Had an enjoyable experience
- Volunteered time

Outcomes for communities – with HLF investment:

- Environmental impacts will be reduced
- More people and a wider range of people, will have engaged with heritage
- Organisations will be more resilient
- Local economies will be boosted



**Localism Act 2013** - Measures of the Localism Act mean new rights and powers for local communities. The Act:

- Makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life
- Ensures that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done
- Places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives;
- Provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development

## **REGIONAL**

**City Regions and Local Enterprise Partnership** - The Rotherham and Doncaster areas of the Dearne Valley lie within the Sheffield City Region. The Barnsley area of the Dearne sits within both Sheffield City Region and Leeds City Region. The focus for the DVLP will therefore be Sheffield City Region.

The SCR / LEP vision for future growth and development of the City Region is that:

*Sheffield City Region will be the best place to collaborate, to invest, to innovate and grow a business, and live, work, play and study. It will be supported by an unrivalled skills base and quality of life.*

Four central objectives arise from this vision – all Sheffield City Region work will seek to:

- Increase the Sheffield City Region's Gross Value Added (GVA)
- Increase the number of jobs in the Sheffield City Region
- Rebalance the economic base of Sheffield City Region so that a greater

proportion of the workforce are employed in the private sector

- Capitalise on the quality of life in the Sheffield City Region, to deliver sustainable growth

**South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership** – This is led by the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership and is one of 48 LNPs across England, supported by DEFRA. It champions the natural environment and is made up of a wide range of groups and organisations across South Yorkshire including environmental and health organisations, NGOs, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Sheffield Hallam University, all four South Yorkshire Local Authorities and local businesses. Its establishment was endorsed at a workshop in June 2013. This event was attended by the DVLP development officer.

**South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy** – This document presents a new vision for South Yorkshire's green infrastructure and provides a framework for a programme to support local action, stimulate growth and create liveable, attractive and prosperous places over the next twenty years and beyond. The goals are:

- Economy - Provide for an enhanced quality of place for both new and existing communities and for new economic investment. Stimulate and sustain economic growth through innovation.
- Climate Change - Adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change, and mitigate that projected.
- Community - Create and extend opportunities for access and recreation. Joining up communities, maintaining and providing employment opportunities and supporting social cohesion. Use the green network to support mental and physical health.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Biodiversity - Enhance, conserve, appreciate and respect the unique functions of biodiversity, which enable all life and success in South Yorkshire.

### LOCAL

#### **Barnsley Community Strategy 2011-15 -**

Four principles are set out. An extract of relevant principles and aims is summarised below:

Growing a 21st century economy aims to:

- Inspire a more enterprising culture
- Regenerate and grow the Barnsley Dearne and develop employment clusters

A 21st Century relationship between citizens, voluntary/community sector and public sector agencies, includes:

- Engaging with communities, listening to citizens' views about local priorities, and harnessing people's knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to co-create solutions

A low carbon future includes

- Increasing public transport use
- Introducing low carbon transport technology

#### **Doncaster Borough Strategy 2010-2015**

– There are seven priority themes, of which five include relevant aims summarised below:

Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy

- Enabling local businesses to start, innovate, expand, adapt and thrive
- Increasing aspirations and skills, Improving education at all levels
- Having a 'buy local' policy wherever possible

Developing stronger communities

- Equipping individuals with confidence and skills

- Enabling residents to have greater involvement and influence in decision making
- Increasing collaboration between public services, businesses, charities and voluntary groups
- Additional and more diverse volunteer placements



Protecting and improving children's lives: Aspirations for children and young people to be:

- Healthier and have access to good advice and services
- Fully engaged and influence the design and quality of services
- Able to engage in positive activities

Improving health and support for independent lives, includes:

- Reduction in health inequalities
- Encouraging healthy lifestyle choices

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour includes:

- Encouraging positive behaviour through education, engagement and peer pressure

Creating a cleaner and better environment includes:



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Protecting our environmental assets, maintaining and developing heritage sites and open spaces
- access to quality recreational opportunities, including open space, and to the natural environment and cultural assets
- Residents taking responsibility for a clean & tidy environment

### **Rotherham Community Strategy 2012 – 2015** - Three Priorities are set out:

- Help local people and businesses benefit from a growing economy, including providing the environment and opportunities to prepare young people for work supporting those that are seeking work
- Ensure the best start in life for children and families
- Support the most vulnerable

### **Barnsley Green Infrastructure Strategy**

– This was commissioned in 2010 with the vision of *“Barnsley’s special green infrastructure assets will enable it to become a successful, uniquely distinctive 21<sup>st</sup> century market town at the centre of a borough that offers prosperity and a high quality of life for all and that is resilient to climate change”*. It has four strategic objectives:

Objective 1: To accelerate sustainable economic growth by:

- Increasing the attractiveness of brownfield and employment sites for commercial investment, either as new build or as estate refurbishment
- Increasing and sustaining a high quality employment offer with a series of on-site open spaces, water bodies, footpaths and landscaping as appropriate
- Creating new parks, open spaces and landscaping to increase the

attractiveness of new housing and employment land for investment

- Improving the quality of existing parks and open spaces to complement housing and industrial renewal
- Enhancing the appearance of the public transport hubs and services to promote walking and cycling as journeys to work
- Stimulating investment by creating attractive environments and improving image
- Promoting nature and activity-based tourism
- Encouraging better use of the River Dearne, Don and Dove

Objective 2: To adapt to and mitigate climate change by:

- Using woodlands and peat to increase the Borough’s natural carbon storage capacity
- Increasing tree canopy cover on streets and in the public realm - to provide more shade, moderate urban temperatures and reduce surface water run-off
- Maintaining, and where possible increasing, the amount of vegetation cover in urban areas to reduce surface water run-off and increase the cooling effect - e.g. favouring green roofs and green walls in new and refurbished buildings, minimising the use of non-porous surfacing in the public realm and in gardens materials and when existing buildings are refurbished
- Creating more areas of open water and water features to increase cooling
- Increasing the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) to provide storm water attenuation and reduce flood risk



- Identifying opportunities to undertake river restoration projects, reinstating natural flood plains to create wetlands and flood storage areas
- Reducing carbon emissions by encouraging people to make local journeys by cycle and or on foot
- Adopting measures which enable wildlife and habitats to adapt to climate change and maintain biodiversity
- Reducing habitat fragmentation through the creation, extension and restoration of priority wildlife habitats
- Further enhancing the Borough's designated wildlife and geodiversity sites and ensure all 'Local Wildlife Sites' are in positive management
- Maintaining and improving the condition of water bodies across the Borough.

Objective 3: To improve access, movement and connectivity with sustainable travel and secure healthy communities and well-being by:

- Increasing the quality and accessibility of natural green space, walkways and cycleways
- Increasing the use of natural green space, walkways and cycleways
- Providing spaces for play, sport and relaxation promoting physical and mental health and well-being
- Fostering links between sites such as parks to create continuous green routes within and between communities
- Making use of natural features such as the rivers to create visual gateways on the strategic transport network

Objective 4: To protect and improve the countryside and natural environment by:

- Increasing the areas of high biodiversity value
- Developing a network of multi-functional green spaces
- Conserving and enhancing the priority species and habitats identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan

**Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy (Draft for Consultation)** - By 2019, Doncaster will be developing an integrated and multifunctional network of high quality green corridors and spaces across the borough, which are well-managed, well maintained, and well-connected to the wider network. They will provide an attractive setting for investment and a place where the workforce wants to live. Its main aims are:

- Improving the workforce's health & wellbeing (provide opportunities for physical activity, outdoor learning and contact with natural environment to combat stress and lifestyle related illness)
- Provide opportunities to diversify the economy and develop jobs in conservation, green industries (e.g. Low Carbon Industries), leisure/tourism and the third sector, with associated opportunities for training and volunteering (which can increase young people's self-respect and aspirations)
- Contribute to halting and reversing the decline of the country's biodiversity
- Improve resilience to the impacts of climate change (providing urban cooling, reducing flood risk)

**Rotherham Green Infrastructure Strategy** – Rotherham does not have its own GI Strategy but works under the South Yorkshire GI Strategy.



**Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area** – The DVGH Nature Improvement Area (NIA) is one of 12 nationwide established with funding through DEFRA and Natural England. The aim of the NIA projects is for local partnerships to improve the landscape for people and nature through restoring, expanding and joining up wildlife-rich areas.

In the Dearne Valley the additional £559,980 funding from the NIA has given the project partners the means to step up their programme of woodland and wetland restoration in the area, as well their programme of community engagement. In its first year of partnership it:

- Planted nearly 3,000 native trees at the reclaimed colliery site, Barnsley Main
- Worked with Yorkshire Water and other partners to agree a 20 year management plan to tackle pollution issues on the most polluted water course in the area, Cudworth Dyke
- Developed new wildlife-friendly farming schemes to help farm businesses support and create wildlife habitats.
- Worked with Barnsley Council to create several wildlife rich meadows
- Engaged with more than 1,000 children across 12 local schools around nature conservation and involved dozens of local people on “Hidden Gems” walks in the Valley
- Recruited two community rangers to work with local communities and lead practical conservation work

The NIA is a key partner with the DVLP and has been closely involved with its development. They are two complementary schemes, operating in the same area. They have clear and distinctive identities but are working with the common aim of improving

the Dearne Valley. They will continue to operate closely during implementation of the DVLP.

**Dearne Valley Eco-Vision** - The Dearne Valley Eco-Vision is a joint Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster local authority initiative that is designed to transform the Dearne Valley into one of lowest carbon communities in the UK and across Europe within twenty years. It was established in 2008 and operates under the auspices of Sheffield City Region.

The focus of activity in the first phase (1-5 years) of the project is based around three specific priorities:

- Community and Housing - enhancing the energy efficiency of homes and buildings and considering renewables where appropriate; and increasing understanding and eco-know how of residents to help them to make more informed decisions
- The economy – helping existing businesses to become more energy and resource efficient to save energy and money; and attract new green technology businesses to the Dearne Valley, developing local supply chains to help deliver the Eco-Vision
- The environment – reconnecting people to their local environment and offering an active leisure and tourism package which will help to contribute towards the local economy

**Environmental Stewardship** – Due to the transition period of the current Rural Development Programme (RDP) it is not clear as to the exact nature of the RDP from 2015. Existing agreements, new Higher Level Stewardship agreements (2014) and new Entry Level Stewardship agreements (2014) will continue to operate in the area. This situation will be monitored in order to ensure the DVLP benefits.



## **The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

**English Woodland Grant Scheme** - Due to the transition period of the current Rural Development Programme (RDP) it is not clear as to the exact nature of the RDP from 2015. Various elements of the grant scheme will continue to operate during 2014. This situation will be monitored in order to ensure the DVLP benefits.



## 2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**2.1 Introduction** – The Dearne Valley is a distinctive and special landscape. Whilst not formerly acknowledged as an Area of Outstanding National Beauty it contains spectacular views, varied countryside, nationally significant heritage, large expanses of wetlands and significant social history.

It is an area that belies the perception some may have of it as a post-industrial, damaged landscape. It is an area that has seen the rise and fall of industry, with the fall leaving many scars physically, socially and economically. The area and the people are resilient though. It is an area that is constantly changing, but doesn't forget or hide its past. These changes create what is special about the Dearne Valley.



**2.2 Statement of Significance** - Much of the opportunity highlighted already is brought together within the Statement of Significance produced by the ecologist Professor John Rodwell during 2011. It states that:

“The Dearne Valley is an intimate landscape of ups and downs. Its corrugated topography of alternating brows and vales offers a journey with constantly changing perspectives on the wider scene, *the river coming as a surprise at the heart of the place*. And the fluctuating fortunes of its economic and social life, past successes and

declines over many years, have bequeathed us a landscape of challenge and opportunity now.

It was out of its underlying rocks that the wealth and renown of the Dearne Valley most recently came but the heavy industries of iron and coal were only the latest of the forces that have shaped the lives and livelihoods of the people there and left their marks on its landscape. Before them came trades in linen, wool and leather, and an agricultural economy deeply rooted in the farmland that still forms the backdrop to the place.

The historical reach of peoples' belonging in the Dearne valley is ancient, many of its present towns and villages being of Saxon or Viking origin, settlement still recognisable in their distinctive place names, and its older built heritage is medieval, boasting places of national significance like Conisbrough Castle and Monk Bretton Priory and numerous striking churches, mills and yeoman farms, often hidden now in the sturdy familiarity of later industrial settlement. With the demise of heavy industry, it is also possible to see emerging once more a fabric of landed estates with their great gentry houses and follies. And there is an opportunity again to appreciate the surviving industrial heritage of colliery headstocks, brickworks and canal basins. Celebrating afresh this continuity of time and place is essential for the future.

Farmland, stretches of woodland, fragments of heath – this scenery is already enhanced by the new open waters, reedbeds and marshland that have been created from mining subsidence flashes and regenerated colliery sites. With existing allotments, parks and gardens, and the trails being opened up along abandoned rail-tracks and canal-sides, these can provide the basis of a revitalised green infrastructure to the Dearne Valley. Widely dispersed in the familiar landscapes of everyday lives, there are new opportunities for people and wildlife to find themselves in the same place and to celebrate distinctive features of nature and culture together. This



sense of ownership and of the well-being of both communities and environment needs to be at the heart of socio-economic regeneration.

Though the RSPB Old Moor and the wetland nature reserves at the core of the Dearne Valley is rightly renowned as a national destination for the quality of its habitats and its outstanding wildlife, there is less appreciation, even locally, of the potential the wider landscape could have for helping communities rediscover a sense of identity and self-confidence after a difficult period of readjustment. Also, though regeneration of the post-industrial landscape has been a priority of successive governments, there has not been a holistic approach to integrating environmental outcomes with socio-economic goals across the region.

Keynotes for assuring the future of the Dearne Valley will therefore be to reveal its hidden treasures far and wide across its landscape and to make connections here and now – connections between people and the particular places where they live and work and take their recreation; connections between different places that can be seen again as belonging together in the wider scene.”

**2.3 Significance and the Landscape Character Assessment** - The Dearne Valley is a unique and inspiring landscape, where post-industrial, natural and built environments have regenerated together. New roads, buildings and settlements are interspersed by lakes and ponds, vibrant rivers and streams, biodiversity, woodlands and grasslands, all of which are full of resurgent wildlife. The landscape is criss-crossed by trails, often following old railway lines and canals, which have a remarkable sense of peace and detachment, despite a proximity to surrounding urban centres. The River Dearne flows south-east through the valley, surrounded by a semi-rural landscape with farming being the main land use in the valley bottom.

It was out of its underlying geology that the wealth and recent renown of the Dearne Valley sprang. The Dearne was home to coal mining and associated industries which had a profound social, economic and environmental impact. The fluctuating fortunes of its economic and social life, of past successes and subsequent declines, have bequeathed a landscape of challenge and opportunity and have hidden much of the built heritage, environment and biodiversity.



**2.4 The Impact of Industry** - The Dearne Valley has a history as a centre of coal mining in South Yorkshire which has had a clear impact on the landscape. Mining subsidence has created a series of ings (water meadows and marshes). Reed beds and wetlands were filled with spoil and many of the former spoil heaps have been landscaped and these create a distinctive “reclaimed” landscape. This has also left a legacy of former pit heads, colliery buildings and related structures. Mining, along with other industries including glass manufacturing, ironmaking, and textiles in effect turned the River Dearne into a waste disposal system with very little consideration for the environmental and social cost. The environment became something on which people turned their backs. With the demise of industry large swathes of the Dearne Valley were little more than a ‘moonscape’; devoid of biodiversity and vegetation.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

The Dearne Valley has been shaped by its industrial past, creating a unique mix of settlements, rivers, built heritage, biodiversity, woodlands and grasslands. The historic importance of the area derives from its geology in particular the coal seams and the resultant industry and wealth. The modern importance of the landscape is its post-industrial character.



**2.5 The Landscape** - The Dearne Valley has undergone a remarkable recovery over recent years. The industry and associated economic activity, which has so negatively impacted on the land and waterways, has also provided the opportunity for a remarkable recovery.

Farmland, woodlands and heath fragments are enhanced by the new open waters, reedbeds and marshland that have been created from mining subsidence flashes and ecologically regenerated colliery sites. It is this ecological regeneration and post-industrial development that make the Dearne Valley unique in England with a wealth of heritage and stories to reveal. The natural and built environments wrap around each other, giving a rich interspersed mosaic of built and natural elements in close proximity. There is a clear link between making a step change in biodiversity / habitat and economic regeneration.

**2.6 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity** - During the period between the Romans and the Norman conquest of

Britain, the Dearne Valley area must have been a fantastic scene of forest, small villages, grazed clearings and marsh. The River Dearne which provided life for the small human occupation and for the wildlife would have offered clean water then and as now flowed from its source at what is now Birds Edge on the edge of the Pennines.

The surrounding natural habitats around the river would have provided food for the people living in this area. Wildlife would have been abundant with Deer, Wild Boar, Brown Bear, Pine Marten and Red Squirrel in the woodlands and Otter, Salmon, Brown Trout and Eel in the River Dearne. Bird species would have been abundant and wide-ranging with Wildfowl, Raptors and many other species that could probably be comparable with some countries in present day Eastern Europe but unfortunately many now extinct here.

Moving forward through the Norman period, on through the “middle ages”, the War of the Roses, the Civil War, the industrial era of the 18th and 19th centuries, the decline of the industries in the mid-1980s and to what we have now. There was a vast change to the landscape of the present Dearne Valley area over that period of time but from a habitat and wildlife point of view always a downhill slide of change and extinctions.

There is now a much changed landscape in many areas and particularly from the industrial days. There are remarkable remnant habitats that survived the destruction. New habitats were created with species such as Otter *Lutra lutra* and Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* re-colonising areas and new emerging species such as Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* breeding.

There is a need to continue to re-create the habitats lost centuries ago where possible and link these habitats throughout the Dearne Valley area to create a wildlife corridor effect that will link existing isolated species, provide



biodiversity, attractive to incoming species and to provide sustainability to these species.

The knock-on effect will be a pleasant landscape to work in and for leisure purposes. It will be a pleasant landscape for new businesses and initiatives but importantly it will provide further tourism to this area and expand what RSPB Old Moor has created.



### 2.7 How the Landscape has Been Shaped

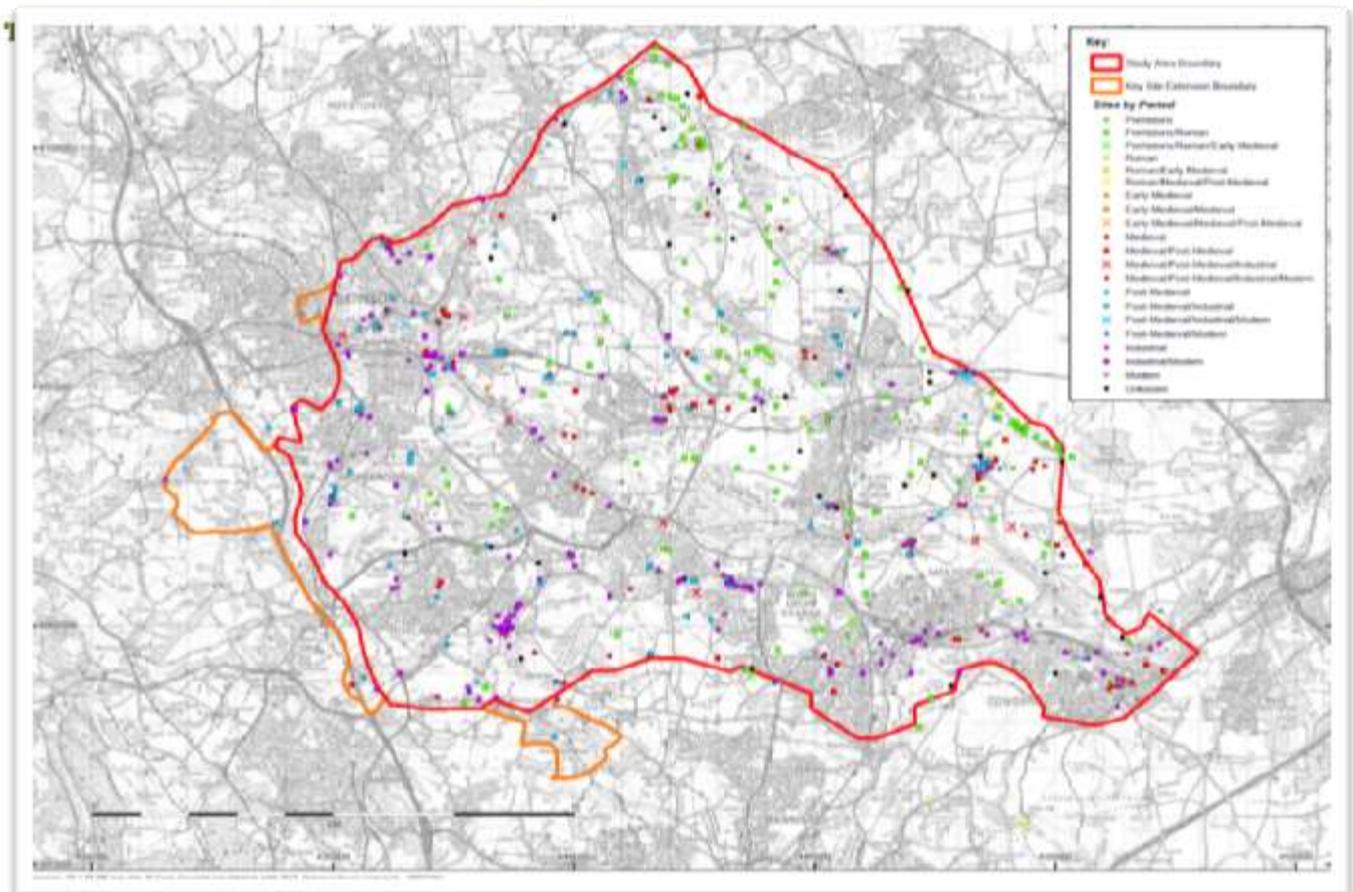
- Emerging from this history, there is the opportunity to again appreciate the surviving built industrial heritage of colliery headstocks, brickworks, canal basins and railway embankments, bridges and viaducts. The industrial heritage, which underpins the environmental regeneration, is the means by which people can be reconnected to their natural, cultural and industrial heritage. A network of disused colliery lines runs along the length of the valley, while many Rights of Way (RoW) survive uninterrupted by the industrial era. Indeed, many of these RoW were routes to work for miners, along which the present day walker can retrace their steps. Remnants of the Dove Dearne Canal and towpath survive. These legacy structures of pathways, disused railways, bridges and embankments provide a rare opportunity to establish a valley wide access network to a connected revitalised green infrastructure of habitats (heathlands, grassland and woodlands) and wildlife.

### 2.8 Archaeological, Built and Industrial Heritage

– The scale, range and

quality of the archaeological and built heritage is clearly demonstrated in the heritage audit carried out in the area and provided in support of the LCAP. The 704 entries clearly illustrate the statement that every generation has left traces of their lives. Sometimes these traces are positive additions, sometimes they are negative scars. What they all show are that the Dearne Valley is a living, breathing landscape. The map on the following page shows the distribution across the area by period – this is extracted from the heritage audit. This clearly demonstrates the wealth and range of heritage spread across the area. What this also shows in graphical form is the concentration of buildings and structures from certain periods. The sweep of prehistory can be seen from the east to the north, with a concentration along that corridor. Industry can clearly be seen developing along the line of the River Dearne.





Much of this heritage is hidden, whether that is physically, or through a lack of awareness or knowledge. Exercises such as the heritage audit though are starting to make the hidden apparent.

The earliest settlers have left traces through their field boundaries or enclosures. The movement of the Romans across Europe and through England are clearly evident in the Dearne. This untold story is ripe to telling and discover with the opportunity to capture people's imagination. The pre-industrial history is evident in Darfield and Bolton-on-Dearne with Saxon stonework within the churches. In the extreme east of the Dearne you have the medieval Conisbrough Castle and the extreme west the remains of Monk Bretton Priory. In the area between you have traces and remains of every generation since.

The Dearne was transformed by the rise of industry driven by the seams of coal running through the area. Coal wasn't the only industry as there was also iron smelting, glassmaking and pottery with the resultant

structures and buildings needed. Rockingham Pottery and Kilner Jars were internationally famous and were produced in the Dearne. Mitre footballs used in the FA Cup final were made in the Dearne. Tin plate toys, for companies such as the Disney, were produced in the Dearne and went all around the world.

What marks the Dearne out are the stark contrasts. Therefore within 5 minutes' walk of the medieval Monk Bretton Priory you have Barnsley Main Colliery dating first on site in 1824, but most recently altered in the 1970s before closure in 1991. This was listed as Grade 2 in 2013 and is the only remaining standing pit headgear in the Dearne. It is now a symbol of mining in the Dearne and sits as an object in the landscape.

The Fitzwilliams created Wentworth Woodhouse but also created the villages of Wentworth and Elsecar to house their workers. Elsecar, which were workshops for the mines of the Fitzwilliams were also a demonstration of their wealth, with their own private station. Elsecar remains today as the



Elsecar Heritage Centre, a mix of heritage, retail and food. This is also home to Elsecar Heritage Railway, a steam railway operated by volunteers.



The themes that clearly come through from the heritage audit are pre-industrial, Romano British, Medieval and industrial through the ages. There can be very few areas that have this rich and intertwined mix.

There are castles and evidence of castles at Conisbrough and Mexborough. There are military remains from the civil war and World War 2. There are follies at Hoyland Lowe Stand, Hooper and both Wentworths. There is industry in all its forms in ironworks, mining, glassworks, brickworks and pottery. There are miners' cottages and some of the grandest stately homes in the country.

The 14 conservation areas, 15 scheduled ancient monuments, 249 listed buildings and the only Grade 1 listed landscape in South Yorkshire show clearly the impact of the people, industry and social changes from earliest times. The DVLP provides the chance for these stories to be told to a wider audience and new chapters found.

**2.9 Historical Significance** – The impact of the Romans is evident across the area. If as Professor Joann Fletcher suggests there are mummified remains in the Dearne then this could potentially change our understanding of the Romans. Even if this isn't the case then the Dearne was at a

crossroads of east-west (Halifax to London) and north-south (Rotherham to Pontefract) routes. This is mirrored today with the proximity to the M18 / M1 intersection.

The Fitzwilliams of Wentworth Woodhouse had an international influence, as clearly documented in the bestselling book *Black Diamonds*. This book charts the rise and fall of the estate and the family taking in industry, education, coal and the Kennedys.

The miners' strike of 1984 began in the Dearne at Cortonwood and the impact remains. This site captures the decline of industry and changing times – Cortonwood is now a retail park including Morrisons, B & Q and Boots. The personal impact also lingers with some personal disputes remaining 30 years on depending which side of the strike they were on.

### **2.10 Cultural and Human Significance**

– There are strong writing connections to the area both through poetry and prose. Some of Ted Hughes' earliest writing was about the area with "The Thought Fox" and "The Rain Horse". Ian MacMillan – the Bard of Barnsley – was born and still lives in Darfield. Barry Hines the author of *A Kestrel for a Knave* was born in Hoyland Common. He wrote *The Price of Coal* about life as a miner. His TV play *Threads* looked at survivors of the nuclear holocaust in Sheffield. He is best known for "Kes" the film directed by Ken Loach, filmed extensively in the Dearne. The image of Billy Caspar sticking two fingers up remains an image used in posters, car stickers and t-shirts. *Brassed Off* illustrated the despair shown in mining communities as they faced the decline of the industry and the impact it had on their lives. What is clear is that the Dearne Valley – its landscape and its heritage is the inspiration for a range of writers, performers and creative people and that continues to this day. Whether it is the picturesque landscape, the historical remains or the gritty industrial buildings, they all have shaped the cultural activity in the area. It should be remembered that there is also light



hearted culture. For example the Mexborough Concertina Orchestra, formed in 1884, won national prizes and was one of the top four concertina ensembles. They broadcast on the radio, produced records and continued until 1978. In recent years a new band has formed to continue the tradition. It is these hidden cultural gems that the DVLP will look to discover and nurture.

**2.11 Importance to Local Communities** – As part of the Audience Development Plan and Community Engagement Strategy detailed consultation took place within the Dearne. This included online surveys as well as 40 face to face street interviews. This clarified and confirmed what the Dearne means to the people of the Dearne in terms of local identity and pride in the area. A full copy of the document is provided in support of the LCAP but what comes through clearly is people's love of wildlife, greenspace, trails, heritage and being outdoors in the Dearne.

When asked, the majority of people (44%) said that wildlife reserves were the things they liked to visit in the Dearne. This was followed by rivers, lakes, ponds and canals (17%), trails and walks (13%) and heritage / visitors centres (10%).

When asked what they like about the area people said nature and wildlife (35%) followed by peace, quiet and clean (15%), walking / dog walking (12%) and children's play / safe (11%).

People were asked what the Dearne meant to them and the responses were mining / industrial dereliction (18%), wildlife sites and nature (13%), new industry and roads (13%), lakes and rivers (10%) and rural / cleaner / green space (10%).

The aspects of history and landscape people were most interested in were wildlife, followed by industrial history, natural history and local history.

As well as empirical analysis consultation report also provided statements. A sample is included below:

*'Green space with a lovely café'*

*'Contact with wildlife and friendly people.'*

*'Safe for kids, easy walking'*

*'Fishing, peace & tranquillity, see kingfishers, woodpeckers'*

*'Strong family connections going back four generations. We all have enjoyed the site in its many different stages from a boating lake to making a real difference to its present state so our village can be proud of it.'*

*'I'd like something on mining history didn't know about Barnsley Museum'*

*'Old houses, all history'*

*'Relative told me stories it will never die'*

*'Getting out and exploring it'*

*'I recall the dereliction and the filth that represented the Dearne Valley in the past ... a remarkable change.'*

*'An area that has changed dramatically over the last 10 - 15 years, from an area of industrial dereliction to a much cleaner, greener place to live and work.'*

*'Large area proud of its industrial past but enjoying its ever greening sites and trails.'*

*'Open green space, regeneration, new housing, large factories'*

*'Some lovely bits of countryside, but marred by call centres, lack of resources and aspiration.'*



### 3. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**3.1 Introduction** – The threats facing the area are many and varied, requiring a mixed approach to address them. The DVLVP will cover physical, environmental, educational and community development projects. By focusing on the river and industrial heritage of the Dearne Valley there is an opportunity to pull together the heritage, environment, archaeology and biodiversity thereby “Revealing the Hidden Dearne”. The river and industry have shaped the land, the environment and the people over the centuries. The lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of industrial heritage is in itself an immediate threat. Much has been lost already as the significance has not been realised.



Regeneration efforts over the last decade in the area have focused on the physical infrastructure (in particular the road network) and large scale land reclamation.

There has been a negative effect of this not being undertaken holistically often with the aim of achieving short term wins. For example large wholesale land reclamation was carried out at the expense of the heritage, rather than less aggressive measures to re-landscape the areas.

The wholesale changes have led to a loss of continuity and have hidden some elements of the past. A chapter in the story has been lost so people lost the connection with the landscape and the previous history as they aren't aware of it or it's not visible. There is a wealth of hidden heritage to be rediscovered and memories to be recorded.

The socio-economic issues facing the area are a current and future threat. Employment levels are below the average, as are skills levels and educational attainment. With the downturn in the economy the area is being hit harder than most and further economic decline will lead to further physical and social decline in the area.

Anti-social behaviour is directly affecting the heritage and landscape of the area, through vandalism, off road biking and other similar negative activities. People feel it is unsafe to use the area, therefore reducing legitimate leisure activities in the area. There has already been damage to disused brickworks at Parkhill Nature Reserve, Wombwell with the loss of the chimney and there are threats to the Pit Head site part of the disused Barnsley Main colliery.

#### **3.2 Landscape Character Types: Risks and Opportunities**

For each of the landscape character types, threats and opportunities were identified in the Landscape Character Assessment produced by Fiona Fyfe.

The DVLVP can't expect to address all the risks and opportunities but the opportunities identified here, along with those identified through the various expert reports and the



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

range of consultation have informed the LCAP and the specific projects within it.

The key threats, based on the Interpretation Study, Landscape Character Assessment and expertise of the partners are as follow:



- Agriculture and more recently industrial development have led to a drained and canalised landscape in the valley bottom, resulting in a net loss and fragmentation of wetlands. Recent mining subsidence has increased the amount of open water. However, such features are more disparate than in historic times and the landscape is no longer acting as a continuous hydrological unit.
- There have been a loss of habitats and only small amounts of semi-natural woodland remain. While spoil heaps have been planted with new woodland, they currently lack a co-ordinated management strategy.
- A need to increase the intrinsic biodiversity value of the farmed landscape, as the valley floor lacks natural corridors for wildlife to move between protected sites. Only a handful of farmers have signed High Level Stewardship agreements within the LP area. Therefore there is the potential to increase the value of the wider landscape to increase biodiversity gain and connectivity through further HLS agreements. The DVLP will seek to work alongside HLS agreements to enhance their effectiveness.
- Channelling and artificial control of watercourses have reduced the landscape's flood-holding capacity/ Developing further washlands alongside the River Dearne will help reverse this problem.
- Climate change is likely to have detrimental impacts on the landscape. These include increased flood risk having an adverse impact on distributions of plant and animal species within the fragmented landscape. Pond creation and further improvements to streams/canals will allow species to move through the landscape in response to a changing environment.
- Neglect/loss of industrial heritage, including canal features and infrastructure centred on the pit heads. A lack of community awareness has led to a gradual deterioration in the quality of the built heritage.
- A reduction of local distinctiveness, resulting from the redevelopment of former mining sites with large-scale and relatively bland residential and commercial buildings. The latter lacking a sense of connection with the surroundings, history and cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Large-scale and visually-intrusive new developments have sprung up within the Valley. These could have been avoided if there had been a greater understanding of the intrinsic value of the landscape and its heritage.



- A loss of physical and cultural connection with the rivers and fragmentation of the landscape by new transport routes. The result has been to disconnect communities from their heritage. This process could be reversed through improving signage and interpretation and by using the canals and railway embankments as gateways into the hidden landscape.
- A loss of the distinctiveness of individual settlements as a result of economic decline and insensitive new development. There is clearly a need to promote the heritage of the Dearne to local communities and thereby convey a sense of identity.
- Limited physical access to heritage within the landscape due to recent building development and new transport infrastructure.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of industrial heritage and how it has shaped the current landscape.
- Employment and skill levels are below the national average, as are levels of educational attainment. With the downturn in the economy, the area is being hit harder than most and further economic decline will lead to further physical and social decline.

### **3.2.1 LOWLAND VALLEY FLOOR**

#### **RISKS**

See Section 1 and the Landscape Character Assessment for full details. In summary:

- Loss of habitats.
- Increased risk of flooding.
- Previous and continued loss of pre-industrial and industrial heritage.
- Loss of local distinctiveness.

- Unsympathetic large scale commercial development.
- Loss of connection with the rivers and landscape.
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour.



#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **Industrial Heritage**

###### Protect

- Protect surviving historic features, for example canals, mills, brickworks, stone bridges, railway buildings. Provide appropriate access, signage and interpretation.
- Protect pre-industrial heritage such as Monk Bretton Priory, providing additional access, signage and interpretation where required.
- Protect and emphasise distinctive place names which tell the story of past land uses.

###### Manage

- Manage trails along former industrial transport routes (railways and canals), maintaining them in a good state of repair, and with additional signage and interpretation of the historic landscape.
- Manage the historic environment to safeguard a strong sense of cultural identity.



**Plan**

- Plan to improve access to and awareness of industrial heritage sites.
- Plan to continue reclaiming and restoring areas of contaminated and/or degraded land for biodiversity and/or recreation whilst maintaining links to the industrial heritage of the area.

**Biodiversity**

**Protect**

- Protect existing valley-floor wetlands and meadows, including surviving fragments of relict fen.

**Plan**

- Manage existing wetland and washland sites to enhance their biodiversity; where possible encouraging development of buffers around them.
- Manage and control the spread of invasive species, particularly water-borne species.
- Manage farmland to maximise its biodiversity and recreational roles, encouraging future take-up of agri-environment grant schemes.

**Manage**

- Plan to create new habitats (e.g. open water, reedbeds meadows, grazing marsh, wet woodlands) on derelict industrial/arable land.
- Plan to improve linkages between wildlife sites, improving the habitat network.
- Plan for an integrated approach to water catchment management across the DVLP Area, to ensure sustainability of the system as a whole.

**Socio-Economic**

**Protect**

- Protect existing access, footpaths, footbridges etc. enabling local people and visitors to reach and enjoy the Valley Floor landscape.
- Protect access to employment sites, linking the least privileged residential areas with low car ownership to employment sites via walking and cycling routes.

**Plan**

- Manage the Lowland Valley Floor's conservation and heritage sites with the involvement of local people, fostering a sense of local ownership.
- Manage the area to reduce levels of vandalism, and expand education and outreach programmes to generate a sense of pride in the Dearne Valley landscape's rich industrial heritage and biodiversity. Utilise RSPB Old Moor as a starting point for discovering the wider Dearne Valley Area.

**Manage**

- Plan to reduce flood risk by restoring natural river dynamics and water storage where possible.
- Plan to improve Green Infrastructure links, identifying gaps in existing provision, and enhancing connections between settlements and the Valley Floor.
- Plan future extractive industry or industrial development to ensure long-term improvement to Valley Floor access and Biodiversity.
- Plan to explore opportunities for renewable energy generation.

**3.2.2 OPEN COALFIELD FARMLAND**

**RISKS**

See Section 1 and the Landscape Character Assessment for full details. In summary:



- Loss of hedgerows.
- Fragmentation of habitats.
- Expansion of settlements.
- Unsympathetic large scale commercial developments.
- Loss of local distinctiveness.
- Neglect of historic built features and agricultural buildings.
- Pressure on existing farmland and open spaces as a result of development land.
- Flytipping.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Industrial Heritage**

#### Protect

- Protect surviving built heritage which supports the cultural heritage of the area, e.g. pit villages and their associated buildings; Anti-aircraft battery at Bolton-Upon-Dearne.

#### Manage

- Manage disused railway lines and other remnant industrial sites to maximise their ecological and recreation potential.

#### Plan

- Plan to improve public access and interpretation to heritage sites (e.g. Adwick Gun Battery).

### **Biodiversity**

#### Protect

- Protect remaining hedgerows, watercourses, woodlands and hedgerow trees.

#### Manage

- Manage farmland to enhance landscape structure and habitat diversity, for example through agri-

environment schemes funding hedgerow restoration.

- Create connections between woodlands and hedgerows, to encourage wildlife corridors within the landscape.

#### Plan

- Plan to connect lower-lying farmland and valley floor wetlands, enabling holistic ecosystem management.
- Plan to increase the range of habitats, eg. Through heathland and grassland creation.

### **Socio-Economic**

#### Protect

- Protect existing access routes and footpaths.
- Protect views to and from settlements and landmarks, ensuring the relationship between landscape and local identity is maintained.
- Protect the surviving memories and social history of the area's mining past (e.g. through oral history recordings, schools projects etc.)

#### Manage

- Manage land (particularly on the urban fringe) to help create a more cared-for environment, which will hopefully reduce incidence of fly tipping etc.
- Manage land for recreation and events in close proximity to centres of population to encourage people to explore their local landscape (e.g. a fun run on Swinton racecourse). Work with local communities to raise awareness of landscape character and the special qualities of the area.



**Plan**

- Plan to improve the landscape setting of key urban edge buildings, mitigating the contrast between open farmland and large commercial/ industrial buildings.
- Plan any future development to avoid ribbon development which is not in keeping with the existing settlement character, to minimise loss of open arable land, and to integrate development with its surrounding countryside.
- Plan to enhance the Green Infrastructure network, creating connections with other Landscape Character Types.
- Plan to increase recreational opportunities through imaginative use of land (e.g. mountain biking on Bolton Tip).

**3.2.3 WOODED COALFIELD FARMLAND**

**RISKS**

See Section 1 and the Landscape Character Assessment for full details. In summary:

- Expansion of settlements.
- Loss of woodlands.
- Fragmentation of habitats.
- Loss of distinctiveness and character.
- Pressure on existing land as a result of residential / commercial developments.
- Flytipping.
- Fragmentation of habitats.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Industrial Heritage**

**Protect**

- Protect remaining industrial buildings and those associated with the cultural history of the area (e.g. housing, churches, institutes, baths etc), finding appropriate uses for them.
- Protect surviving agricultural and preindustrial buildings e.g. the old farm in the centre of Grimethorpe.
- Protect Scheduled Monuments e.g. sites in Wombwell Wood, and Grimethorpe Hall.

**Manage**

- Manage former industrial sites (e.g. Grimethorpe Colliery) to maximise their biodiversity, cultural and recreational potential.

**Plan**

- Plan to improve physical connections between historic sites and centres of population, and people's awareness of these sites.
- Plan to utilise former railway lines as Green Infrastructure routes, including connections to the Dearne Valley Floor.

**Biodiversity**

**Protect**

- Protect semi-natural habitats including woodlands, hedgerows, grassland and streams. Replant missing hedgerows to conserve the landscape structure and create wildlife linkages.

**Manage**

- Manage woodland, increasing ecological diversity and age/ species composition, and protecting archaeological features.



- Manage agricultural land to increase its biodiversity, encouraging the take-up of agri-environment grants.

**Plan**

- Plan to improve connectivity between woodland habitats.
- Plan to diversify habitats in the landscape e.g. heathland creation.
- Plan to create an integrated strategy for woodland management across the DVLP Area.

**Socio-Economic**

**Protect**

- Protect the integrity of existing farms, preventing fragmentation of farmland (particularly on urban edges) in order to maintain the quality of the environment.
- Protect visually-exposed slopes from further development.
- Protect the surviving memories and social history of the area's mining past (e.g. through oral history recordings, schools projects etc.)

**Manage**

- Manage recreation areas to ensure the landscape remains a cared-for and enjoyable place to be.
- Manage sites (e.g. woodlands) with the involvement of local people, and encourage education projects in the local environment.
- Work with local communities to raise awareness of landscape character and the special qualities of the area.
- Manage and control fly-tipping and degradation of the landscape (particularly at urban edges) to create a pleasant and cared-for environment.

**Plan**

- Plan to improve access between settlements and the countryside, linking woodland nature reserves with centres of population.
- Plan additional woodland planting where necessary to integrate development into its surroundings.

**3.2.4 DESIGNED ESTATE**

**RISKS**

See Section 1 and the Landscape Character Assessment for full details. In summary:

- Visual intrusion in the landscape from mining and pylons.
- Neglect of the canals.
- Neglect of industrial heritage.
- Loss of access to the land through private ownership.
- Loss of architectural integrity through incremental changes.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Industrial Heritage**

**Protect**

- Protect surviving industrial heritage sites.
- Protect historic settlements, ensuring that any new development or alterations are sympathetic in terms of scale, style and materials.
- Protect features of the designed Estate landscape, e.g. woodland blocks, follies, walls etc.

**Manage**

- Manage and develop visitor attractions, further developing them and their educational role.
- Manage canals and their associated features to retain their heritage value



whilst encouraging their biodiversity and recreational use.

**Plan**

- Plan to restore remaining derelict industrial structures around Elsecar.
- Plan to develop former industrial transport routes for recreational use, e.g. extending the heritage railway, and improving access to the canal at Elsecar.

**Biodiversity**

**Protect**

- Protect existing woodlands, and manage them to enhance their biodiversity and age/ species composition.
- Protect surviving grassland and wetland sites.

**Manage**

- Manage agricultural land to increase its biodiversity. Encourage the take-up of agri-environment grant schemes.
- Manage wetlands and open water associated with the Elsecar canal.

**Plan**

- Plan to work with Estate managers, encouraging an integrated approach to woodland management across the Dearne Valley Area.

**Socio-Economic**

**Protect**

- Protect existing parks and recreation areas, so that they can continue to be enjoyed by local people as well as visitors.

**Manage**

- Manage visitor pressure, seeking to relieve pressure on honeypot areas (e.g. Wentworth village) in a sustainable manner. Develop

opportunities to tell visitors to Wentworth and Elsecar about the wider Dearne Valley Area and its recreational sites.

**Plan**

- Plan to increase public access to Estate land and woodland, where possible.
- Plan to improve links between settlements and the estate landscape, emphasising the historic link between Elsecar and the Wentworth Woodhouse estate.

**3.2.5 MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE**

**RISKS**

See Section 1 and the Landscape Character Assessment for full details. In summary:

- Ongoing quarrying.
- Loss of hedgerows.
- Visual intrusion in the landscape from pylons.
- Fly tipping.
- Loss of distinctiveness and character through further residential development.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Industrial Heritage**

**Protect**

- Protect industrial structures such as Sprotbrough viaduct.
- Protect vernacular buildings and the character of existing villages, ensuring that any new development or alterations are sympathetic.
- Protect heritage associated with estate landscapes, e.g. Country Houses, parkland, walls etc., linking with improving biodiversity where possible.



Manage

- Manage valley floor canal and colliery reclamation sites to encourage biodiversity and recreational use.

Plan

- Plan to ensure that any future expansion of limestone extraction sites protects the surviving industrial heritage of the area.

**Biodiversity**

Protect

- Protect existing woodlands, avoiding damage by development or stone extraction.

Manage

- Manage woodlands on scarp and gorge slopes to encourage ongoing regeneration and good age and species diversity.
- Manage farmland (encouraging the take-up of agri-environmental grant schemes) to increase its biodiversity. E.g. through hedgerow and grassland management.
- Manage pockets of valley-floor wetland, linking with similar sites if possible.

Plan

- Plan to ensure that restoration following limestone extraction increases the biodiversity of the area.

**Socio-Economic**

Protect

- Protect existing recreational routes to encourage access into the wider landscape.
- Protect the wooded limestone scarp as an attractive backdrop in views from lower land which enhances the overall appearance of the landscape.

Manage

- Manage the landscape to reduce incidence of litter and fly tipping, and retain its high visual quality.
- Foster links with schools and community groups to raise awareness of the landscape's character, diversity and special qualities.
- Manage and encourage visitors to the area, developing opportunities to tell visitors to Conisbrough Castle about the wider Dearne Valley Area and its recreational sites.

Plan

- Plan to ensure that restoration schemes for limestone quarries are of benefit to the local population.

**3.3 The Archaeological, Built and Industrial Heritage** – The lack of clear information about the heritage of the area is a clear risk in itself. The development phase has provided the opportunity to collate information within the area and use this as a platform for further protection, preservation and enhancement. It should be acknowledged that whilst this research has been comprehensive it is likely that further heritage assets will be discovered and the DVLP will have to respond to them.

The archaeological and built heritage is by its very nature at risk from its age, condition and the cost of maintaining and repairing.

English Heritage's Heritage At Risk register identifies those buildings at particular risk of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. There are a number of buildings within the Dearne that area on that list:

- Bolton anti-aircraft gun battery (SAM)
- Rockley Blast Furnace and Engine House (SAM)
- Elsecar (Conservation area)
- Church of St Helen, Thurnscoe



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Newcomen Beam Engine, Elsecar
- Grimethorpe Hall, Brierley
- Gun Room, Wentworth Castle
- Dovecote at Glebe Farm, Tankersley
- Site of St Helen's Chapel, Barnburgh
- Stable at Hickleton Hall
- Church of All Saints, Wath
- Roman Ridge, Wath Wood
- Swinton Pottery, Rockingham Works
- Roman Ridge, Wentworth
- Stable Block, Wentworth Woodhouse
- Camelia House, Wentworth Woodhouse
- Raise awareness of the heritage of the area, to owners and the general public.
- Identify when the heritage is at particular risk and aim to reduce the risk.
- Improve interpretation of the assets of the Dearne, through information, education and participation.
- Improve access to the heritage, through paths, signage and information.
- Support building owners and communities in protect, enhancing and maintaining the heritage assets – through financial and / or organisation support.

A lack of information about the heritage in the area, results in a lack of understanding both from building owners and the wider community. If people aren't aware then they may cause damage, deliberately or through neglect.



Without the necessary investment and consideration of these heritage assets then there is a danger that they will be damaged or lost.

### Opportunities:

- Collate information about the heritage in the area.

### 3.4 The Participation of the Community

– The communities of the Dearne are many and varied, whether they are communities of interest or communities of location. The consultation has identified a number of barriers. 63% of people said something did put them off visiting the area. This included crime / anti-social behaviour, time, disability, not liking the countryside, transport, cost, image and the lack of information.

It is clear from the consultation though that people appreciate what the Dearne has to offer and there are many active groups, organisations and individuals contributing greatly to the area. There are clear barriers to involvement though, with the key one being not knowing what there is to see or do. Other responses included not knowing where to get information / not having the internet, feeling anxious about visiting a “wilder” area, difficulty getting to the area and not knowing how to get around the area. The common threads running through these responses are information (having the right information and having access to it) and confidence in being in the area.

Participation in the activities in the area and the work of the DVLP is also at risk if there



isn't confidence in the approach of the DVLP, if it is of poor quality and it's not relevant to the community. If people have a bad experience they will not come back or participate again. If they have a good experience they're more likely to stay involved and spread a positive message.

### Opportunities:

- Have clear, accessible, relevant information available in all forms so people know about the Dearne and the DVLP.
- Establish forums and networks across the area.
- Work closely with local communities to provide activities and programmes relevant to them.
- Produce the highest quality of work possible.
- Seek feedback and evaluate the approach to change it if needed.

**3.5 Increased Visitors Numbers** – There are already significant numbers of visitors to the Dearne at key sites such as Old Moor (100,000+ pa), Elsecar Heritage Centre (300,000+ pa) and Conisbrough Castle. There is the capacity for more, with increasing visitors to the area identified as a key priority for the DVLP. That brings with it risks, the danger is the existing sites can't cope with increased numbers. Also these increased numbers could conflict with the requirements of the heritage and environment. Equally, the type of activities to be encouraged in the area, could conflict with what is best for the heritage or environment (in all forms) of the area. Increased footfall may cause more damage to precious sites. Equally, through increasing awareness of wildlife areas, archaeology or built heritage this may have the converse effect of more damage as a result of people now being aware they are there. This balancing act needs careful consideration.

### Opportunities:

- Carefully consider the special requirements of each site before progressing projects and activities.
- Carefully manage and control sites to ensure negative impact is minimised.
- Redirect visitors from key sites to others to spread the numbers across the area.
- Promote responsible behaviour.



**3.6 The Economy, Resources and Funding** – The downturn of the economy has hit the Dearne particularly hard. Unemployment levels are above the national average, the local authorities in the area are undergoing significant cuts and investment in the area is limited. Equally the “spending power” of people in the area is reduced – both as owners of sites / buildings and as visitors / participants in the area. There are risks that match funding will not be found, though based on the development phase, organisations and groups with interests in the area have focused future spending plans into the area to support the DVLP. At a time of cuts and financial squeezes then there is the risk that what some people perceive as the “niceties” - the environment and heritage - may be quite low down on the agenda and be the first to face cuts.



### Opportunities:

- Promote the economic benefits of investing in the Dearne.
- Promote the potential for growth in the visitor economy.
- Aim to monitor and assess the economic impact of the DVLP.
- Work with a range of partners to secure new funding or re-direct existing funding.
- Take a strategic approach to the securing of match funding.
- Closely monitor all spending in order to ensure maximum value for money.

### 3.7 Management and Maintenance –

The management and maintenance of heritage assets in the Dearne (both existing and those supported through the DVLP) need careful consideration. If what is there already isn't properly maintained it will lead to its decline, lead to a poor perception of the area and stop people visiting. If the management and maintenance of assets supported through the DVLP is not carefully considered then the same risks apply. Additionally the DVLP could suffer reputational damage by association as a result of any investment not being maintained.

### Opportunities:

- Identify management and maintenance issues of existing sites.
- Consider management and maintenance at the outset of any project developed as part of the DVLP.
- Raise awareness of the benefits of good management and maintenance.
- Look at opportunities to minimise the cost of management and maintenance whilst maintaining the quality, including alternative approaches.

### 3.8 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

– The landscape character assessment, the interpretation strategy, the signage design guide, audience development plan, consultation and anecdotal observations all indicate problems with crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. This includes littering, vandalism, graffiti, animal crime, off road vehicles, fires, damage to heritage assets and fly-tipping. There is the question of how much of this is perception as opposed to the actual level of crime. Anti-social behaviour does present a barrier as has been shown in the audience development surveys. Anti-social behaviour and rubbish / damage were the biggest response (44%) when people were asked what puts them off visiting the Dearne. Fewer people visiting means fewer watchful eyes looking over the area, reporting problems or preventing them in the first place. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour also has an economic impact. If high standards are to be maintained then repairs have to be carried out, costing money.

### Opportunities:

- Bring together networks to identify problems and solutions, including working with the police, landowners, councils and local communities.
- Reduce the potential for damage by “designing out crime” whether by securing sites, making damage harder to reducing risk.
- Raise awareness of the problem and work with local communities to reduce offending behaviour.

### 3.9 Climate Change –

A particular issue facing the Dearne Valley results, as would be expected, from the River Dearne. There are significant numbers of areas across the valley that are prone to flooding. This affects residential and commercial properties, confidence in the area, communities, the built heritage, the biodiversity and the environment. The unpredictability of the



weather clearly has an impact on biodiversity but extremes of temperature and increased rain also hasten damage to the built heritage and archaeology.

### Opportunities:

- Work with partners, particularly the DVGH NIA in supporting the development of habitats and look at natural flood alleviation methods.
- Raise awareness of climate change, flooding and weather issues.

**3.10 Development and Planning Pressure** – Though large areas of the Dearne Valley are designated as Green Belt that does not mean they are immune to development. With the need to support the local economy there will be competing pressures of development versus environment / heritage. Recent investment in the area has shown how the road network and commercial / industrial development led regeneration, whilst bringing jobs can also have a negative impact on the environment and connectivity. The rise and fall of industry over the last 150 years clearly show both the positive and negative effects of development. There is clear pressure in parts of the Dearne Valley in expanding existing conurbations, primarily through housing. It has also been identified that development of all sorts has the potential to reduce the distinctiveness and character of the Dearne.

### Opportunities:

- Work closely with the planning departments (planning policy and development management) of all three local authorities.
- Raise awareness of the challenges of development versus environment / heritage.
- Look at opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts of development.

**3.11 Partnership** – As with any programme and initiative, particular involving a wide number of partners, there is a danger that the priorities will change. This could be as a result of political, economic or social trends. What is a priority for the partners and investors now may not be a priority in the future. Within the programme some projects may not progress leaving gaps in the programme. Partners may leave the partnership for any number of reasons. The partnership itself may not have the range of necessary skills or knowledge in order to support and guide the DVLP. Equally the range of skills and knowledge may be skewed in certain directions, unbalancing the focus of the work.



### Opportunities:

- Undertake a skills audit of the members of the partnership at all levels.
- Establish working groups that can support the partnership board and the programme delivery team.
- Identify where there are gaps in the board and seek to recruit suitably qualified and experience members to fill those gaps.
- Undertake an internal annual review of the DVLP including the board.



- Carry out formal external evaluation at 18 months, 3 and a half years and 4 and a half years.

**3.12 Risks from each of the consultants reports** – Within a number of the reports commissioned from consultants to support the development phase they identified a number of risks and opportunities. Full copies of all the reports are provided in support of the LCAP and the key findings are summarised in Section 4: Aims and Objectives.

**Audience Development Plan and Engagement Strategy** – This clearly identified the following barriers to involvement, which therefore present clear risks if they are not addressed:

- Lack of information and awareness about what's available.
- A perception of rubbish, rundown appearance and anti-social behaviour at some sites.
- Lack of transport and cost.

**Communications Strategy** – This identified that the key issues that a good strategy can address are:

- Misunderstanding
- Confusion
- Conflict

The strategy presents the opportunity to support the successful delivery of the DVLP's aims by identifying key messages and setting out roles and responsibilities along with methods and means by which the DVLP will communicate with key stakeholders and audiences.

**Interpretation Strategy** – This identified the following as barriers that audiences face if they:

- Are unaware of the interpretive experience because the marketing and promotion is poor.
- Can't find the key sites because the provision of orientation is inadequate.
- Can't find the interpretation because it is hidden in the landscape or lose interest because there is insufficient interpretation to hold their interest (known as 'pacing').

**Signage and Wayfinding Guide** – This guide identified the following weaknesses and threats, forming risks which the DVLP must be aware of and consider:



- Vehicle traffic dominates and roads through the area tend to be very busy.
- Local PROW networks are fragmented and incomplete, reducing access.
- Areas of signage in poor condition.
- Lack of gateway signage.
- Confusing multi-way junctions with inadequate wayfinding.
- Physical barriers to pedestrian movement, with limited road, river and rail crossings.
- Over-reliance on a few key routes.
- Local leisure opportunities are often hidden and poorly signposted.
- Over-use of uninviting warning signs.



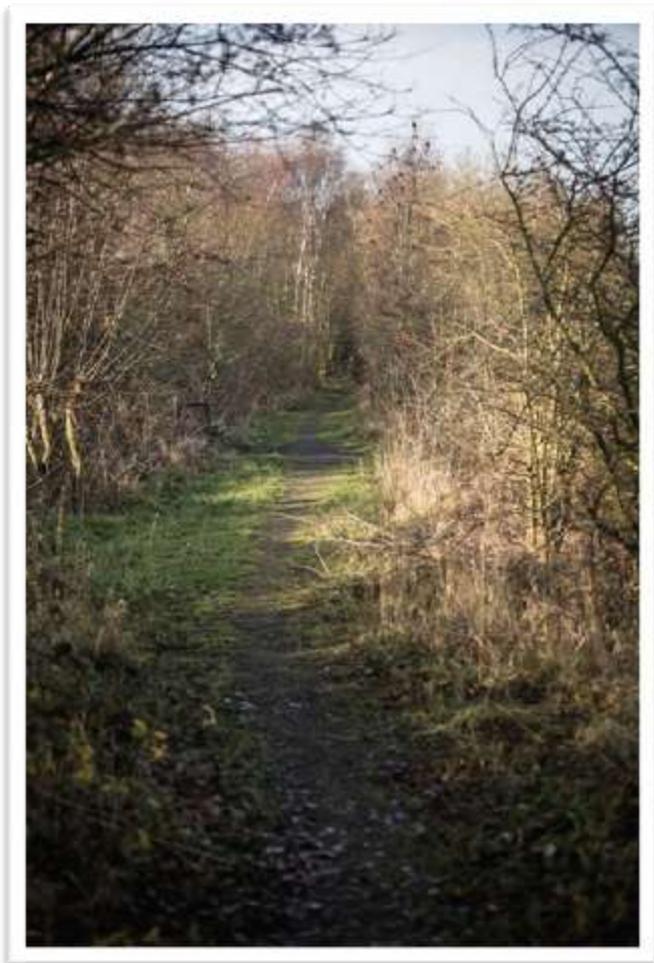
## **The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

- Some communities have limited access to off-road routes, leaving them ‘disconnected’.
- Limited budgets available for signage.
- Fear of crime.
- Theft and vandalism.
- Further reductions to signage budgets.
- Routes through sensitive wildlife areas must be carefully planned to avoid disruption.



#### 4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

**4.1 Introduction** – The development phase of the DVLPP has been vital and essential in so many ways. It has focused the attention of all the partners. It has developed in detail the themes and projects from the first phase, increasing the understanding of the area. Perhaps most importantly it has established a clear vision with aims and objectives for the landscape partnership.



It has been a challenge to clearly encapsulate what the Dearne Valley is and what it means to people. This action plan has emerged as a result of the wide ranging consultation and the appointment of the various consultant teams during the development phase. The phrase “jigsaw” has been used repeatedly – the Dearne Valley is a mix of pieces. It has heritage, environment, biodiversity, a range

of communities, industry, visitors, transport corridors, a rail network, the Trans Pennine Trail, beauty, blight, problems, opportunities, advantages, disadvantages – the list goes on.

Unlike some landscapes, the Dearne Valley doesn't necessarily have a unifying theme. It doesn't have one key listed building, or a distinctive landscape feature that defines the area. It doesn't have a coherent and instantly understandable identity. This is both a strength and a weakness and something that has to be at the heart of the DVLPP.

With the disparate landscapes and settlement there isn't a consistent character across the area. Perhaps the common thread tying the area together is actually the River Dearne itself. It is physically at the heart of the Dearne Valley, with its origins in the Pennines, running through to the North Sea via the Rivers Don, Ouse and Humber. It is also economically, historically and socially at the heart of the area - what it was, what it became and what it can become in the future. It has been a driving force for change in the area, being one of the key reasons for industry of all sorts developing in the Dearne Valley.

The river continues to breathe life into the area through the creation of new washlands, as well as causing problems through flooding.

The commissioned Heritage Survey has clearly shown that there is a greater concentration of significant heritage sites from all periods within the valley bottom and along the associated water courses. That breadth of assets that the area has is one of its greatest strengths and is perhaps best captured through the statement developed as part of the interpretation strategy:



***“People have lived in the beautiful and secluded valley around the River Dearne for thousands of years, shaping and adapting the landscape, leaving fascinating traces of their lives as each generation faced new challenges”.***

This reiterates a key approach established as part of the Stage One application – to “Reveal the Hidden Dearne”. The DVLP will look at what traces people have left, what they mean to the area and what influences they have on the future of the Dearne Valley. There will be a particular focus on the River Dearne. How it runs physically through the area, but also how it is a thread running through the area over time in terms of social, economic, environmental and leisure significance.

One of the telling lines in John Rodwell’s statement of significance is that the Dearne Valley “offers a journey with constantly changing perspectives on the wider scene, the river coming as a surprise at the heart of the place.” This “surprise” is confirmed by the fact there are very few places where you can actually see the river properly and even fewer places where you can stand directly by it. If you drive from Barnsley to Doncaster through the Dearne Valley you criss cross the river many times, occasionally seeing road signs and catching glimpses but never really getting a full sense of the river. When you do catch glimpses of the river, it is culverted, overgrown or hidden. To see the Dearne at its best, where it is natural, free flowing and wide you need to know where you are going and what you are looking for.

The Stage One application only scratched the surface, the development phase has dug deeper and started to reveal the depth of opportunity that the DVLP has. During the implementation phase the further “digging” will continue to reveal more. A clear framework has now been established for the

DVLP that not only provides details of the specific projects but has established an ethos and approach to the implementation phase that all partners, projects and communities support.

The DVLP provides the opportunity to put into practice many of the recommendations of the Dearne Valley Green Heart Interpretation Study that was produced in 2011 for the broad multi-agency Green Heart Partnership in the Dearne Valley. This detailed study included comprehensive consultation and clear strategic projects. The thinking behind this has provided and will continue to provide a clear framework and structure for the DVLP.



**4.2 The Vision** – By looking to “Reveal the Hidden Dearne” the DVLP will help create a sustainable future for the area, economically, socially and environmentally. The DVLP can provide cohesion to a fragmented area, providing a common thread running through the range of projects and initiatives across the valley.

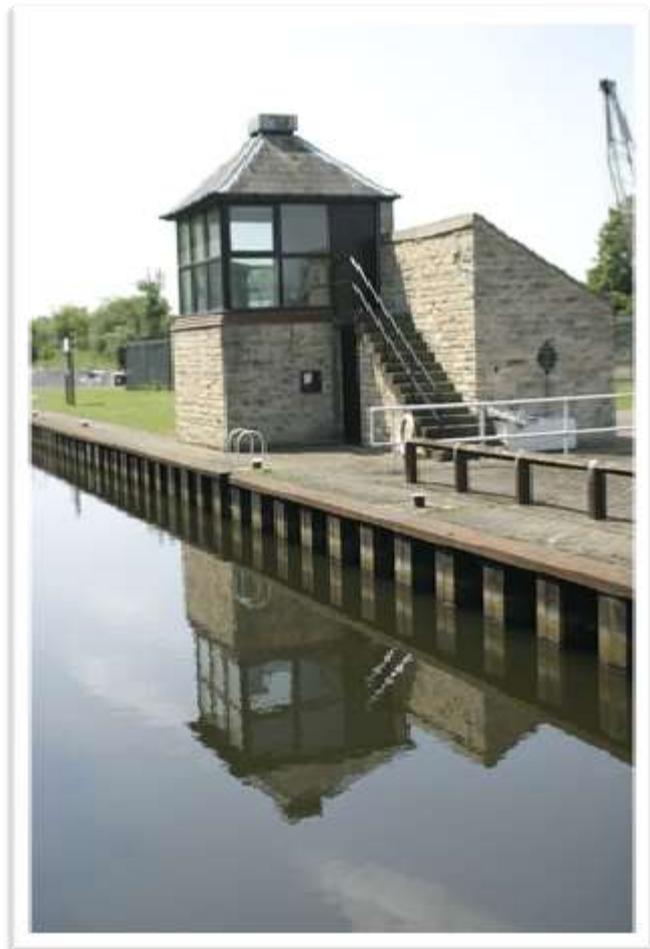
The DVLP will work in partnership to protect, restore and enhance the built heritage, natural environment and biodiversity. There can be few areas of the UK where industry has shaped the landscape more than the Dearne and the project will reconnect people with the wealth of industrial heritage, unique landscapes, significant environmental features, leisure opportunities and economic



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

potential within the Dearne Valley that are not accessible or apparent to enough people.

The DVLP will raise awareness of the area's significance, allow local communities to become actively involved in shaping it, to increase their understanding of what makes it so special and encourage more people to benefit from the Dearne's built and natural assets.



**4.3 HLF Aims and Objectives** - The HLF aims and objectives for Landscape Partnerships remain at the core of the DVLP:

- A Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character
- B Increasing community participation in local heritage
- C Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage

D Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills

**4.4 DVLP Aims and Objectives** – The aims and objectives established for the DVLP as part of the Stage One application, remain true and central to the approach set out in the LCAP. The aims of the DVLP are to:

1. Conserve, protect and enhance the built, natural and cultural heritage that makes up the unique landscape of the Dearne Valley.
2. Enable the community to celebrate the immense value of the Dearne's heritage, by working with them and other organisations.
3. Increase the community's understanding, use and enjoyment of the existing natural and built heritage by increasing access opportunities and interpretation.
4. Boost the economic prosperity of the Dearne by making it a place where people want to live, work and visit, building on the sense of place as a positive, forward looking and innovative community
5. Support the local community through providing a range of training, skills and volunteering opportunities.
6. Develop a sustainable partnership, with the local community at its centre, to ensure a lasting legacy for the LP and a viable future for the Dearne's unique heritage assets.

For each of the aims, clear and measurable objectives have been set out and are shown below:

1. Conserve, protect and enhance the built, natural and cultural heritage that makes up the unique landscape of the Dearne Valley.
  - 1.1 Conserve, protect and enhance key heritage buildings and structures.



1.2 Conserve, protect, enhance and key environmental sites.

1.3 Re-establish connectivity of the River Dearne.

1.4 Develop new ways of creating and managing key environmental sites.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objective A.

2. Enable the community to celebrate the immense value of the Dearne's heritage, by working with them and other organisations.

2.1 Carry out community surveys of key environmental sites across the area bringing experts and members of the community together to learn new skills.

2.2 Carry out community surveys of key archaeological sites across the area bringing experts and members of the community together to learn new skills.

2.3 Introduce an arts programme (workshops, performances, classes, competitions, etc) to engage people in the heritage and environment of the area.

2.4 Introduce exhibitions at venues across the area celebrating the heritage and environment of the Dearne.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objectives B, C and D.

3. Increase the community's understanding, use and enjoyment of the existing natural and built heritage by increasing access opportunities, connectivity and interpretation.

3.1 Improve paths, routes and physical access to the river, key buildings and sites.

3.2 Involve the local community and site owners in the improvement of

interpretation at and between key sites.

3.3 Improve signage to and between key sites.

3.4 Establish a series of walking routes, with accompanying leaflets and guides.

3.5 Ensure key buildings and sites are accessible for all through undertaking access surveys and addressing any issues.

3.6 Improve access to the River Dearne at strategic locations.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objectives B and C.



4. Boost the economic prosperity of the Dearne by making it a place where people want to live, work and visit, building on the sense of place as a positive, forward looking and innovative community.

4.1 Promote the key sites and attractions within the Dearne through the introduction of websites, leaflets, apps and publications.

4.2 Improve the existing promotional material, guides and leaflets of local interest groups and organisations through bringing experts to work with volunteer.



4.3 Introduce tourist information points / interpretation at key sites, gateways and transport hubs.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objectives B and C.

5. Support the local community through providing a range of training, skills and volunteering opportunities.

5.1 Support volunteering opportunities across the Dearne.

5.2 Provide a programme of workshops to support the development of groups and individuals across the Dearne.

5.3 Provide a programme of environmental and heritage training and education to develop the skills of the local community.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objectives B, C and D.

6. Develop a sustainable partnership, with the local community at its centre, to ensure a lasting legacy for the LP and a viable future for the Dearne's unique heritage assets.

6.1 Provide grants to community groups to support them in delivering projects, strengthening and developing them for the future.

6.2 Support specialist networks and forums across the Dearne, bringing together individuals and groups.

6.3 Identify legacy opportunities for the work of the DVLDP beyond the five year HLF funding.

The above contribute to HLF Aims and Objectives A, B and D.

It can be clearly seen that these aims and objectives are developed from those set out by the HLF. They have been at the heart of the development phase, used as a starting point

for all the consultation and the work of the consultants.

**4.5 Themes** – As a result of the development phase a series of themes became apparent that have shaped the development of the projects within the overall programme, they are:

1. **Cultural Heritage of the Dearne:**

This theme will focus on the archaeology and built heritage of the Dearne, highlighting the legacy of what remains. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the physical heritage. There will be encouragement for increased involvement from and understanding within the community, helping protect the heritage for the future.

2. **Environmental Heritage of the Dearne:**

This theme will focus on the rivers, landscape, biodiversity and geology of the Dearne. It will highlight how they have shaped the place and its people. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the environment. There will be encouragement to increase the involvement and understanding of the community, helping protect the environment for the future.

3. **Discovering the Dearne:**

This theme will aim to make local people and visitors more aware of the opportunities there are in the Dearne. It will use the arts to engage with people to collect and celebrate the stories of the Dearne. It will encourage more people to visit the area, providing more information about what is in the area and making it easier for people to move around and find their way. There will be a focus on strengthening the connections within the Dearne both the physical links (particularly around the River Dearne) but also in people's perceptions.

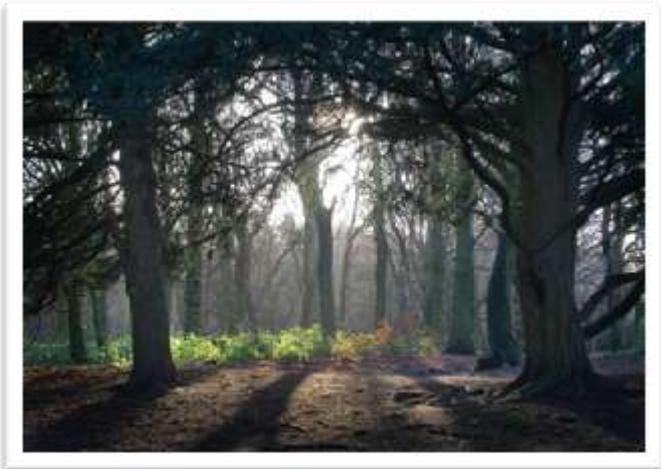
4. **Strengthening the Dearne:**

This theme will support the communities of the Dearne through volunteering,



training, grants, networks and capacity building. It will aim to help people play an active part in their local community.

Running through these themes will be the ideas of discovery, revelation, celebration, understanding, sharing, engagement, protection, sustainability, exploration, enhancement, support and strengthening.



#### **4.6 Programme Overview**

An overview of the programme is provided below, but full details of all the projects within it are included in Section 5.

##### **1. Cultural Heritage of the Dearne**

**HD1: Archaeology and Geology of the Dearne:** Learning more about the archaeology and geology of the Dearne through bringing specialists together with community volunteers to carry out heritage surveys.

**HD2: Protecting Key Sites:** Conserving four key, unique heritage sites to conserve and protect them for the future.

##### **2. Environmental Heritage of the Dearne**

**ED3: Surveying the Dearne:** “Citizen Science” community led environmental surveys of key sites in

the Dearne bringing experts together with the local community.

**ED4: Creating and Managing sites more effectively:** Looking at new ways of working for the creation and management of washlands, greenspace, valley verges, woodlands, community sites, former pit sites and public open space.

**ED5: Reconnecting the River Dearne:** Introducing meandering, removing weirs, and introducing fish passes in order increase connectivity for fish along the river and improve habitats.

##### **3. Discovering the Dearne**

**DD6: Promoting the Dearne:** Marketing and promotion through leaflets, websites, apps, publications.

**DD7: Exploring the Dearne:** Encouraging more people to visit, walk, cycle and horse ride in the Dearne through improving physical access. Creating access points to the river to connect people to the Dearne.

**DD8: Signposting the Dearne:** Improving signage, information points and interpretation from the TPT to key sites. Bringing specialists together with community volunteers to develop the interpretation and signage at key sites, transport hubs and gateway sites.

**DD9: Art of the Dearne:** Using arts and community engagement to collect and tell the stories of the place and the people through oral history, photography, exhibitions, creative writing, memory walks, willow working, art camps, classes and land art.

##### **4. Strengthening the Dearne**

**SD10: Community Grants:** Providing grants to community groups



to support them in delivering projects, strengthening and developing them for the future.

**SD11: Developing Capacity:** Supporting the development of groups and individuals through training and advice.

**SD12: Learning from the Dearne:** Maximising the use of outdoor classrooms, canal barges, historic sites and landscapes to encourage and support learning.



**4.7 Climate Change and Effects on the Environment** – By increasing people’s understanding of the wealth and quality of the environment on their doorsteps the aim is to raise their awareness of broader issues. This can include issues of climate change and the impact locally through flooding, temperature extremes and unpredictable weather conditions. This can be covered in the education, outreach and arts programme. By linking it to local issues it has the potential to make it more relevant. Due to the assets on the doorstep, there are opportunities for people to take part directly in their local community. As previously indicated the 10 train stops and the network of bus routes through the area mean there is great potential for people to use public transport rather than cars. The public transport routes and timetables will be promoted through the work

of the DVLP. The Dearne Valley also has the huge advantage of having the Trans Pennine Trail running through the heart of the area. It is already actively used for recreation and commuting and its further use will be encouraged.

**4.8 Management and Maintenance** – It is vitally important that any physical improvements made to sites, buildings or structures are properly maintained. Otherwise the condition will decline back to its previous condition. This will defeat the object of the investment but also have a negative impact on the reputation of all involved. Therefore before any work is undertaken detailed consideration will be given to management budgets. This could be by identifying budgets within partner organisations, reducing maintenance costs, or looking at different models of operation (such as community adoption and maintenance). In the current climate of cuts it is more important than ever that the need for proper management and maintenance is advocated for. Inevitably there will be conflicts between geology, archaeology, built heritage, environment, biodiversity, development and visitors. By increasing visitor numbers to a certain site there is a danger that increased footfall will lead to damage to the historic fabric or delicate biodiversity. By increasing awareness of a unique piece of archaeology it may have the adverse effect of bringing anti-social behaviour to that site. Therefore before any project is progressed there will be clear, honest and open consultation with the range of partners, stakeholders and statutory bodies to identify any issues. If there are any issues, resolution will be sought, through compromise or adjustment. If it is clear that there will be unacceptable damage (or risk of damage) then projects won’t proceed.

**4.9 Standards and Ethos** – The DVLP aims to deliver work to the highest standards, whether this is work on a building or dealing with enquiries over the phone. The range of



strategies and guidance established through the development process is a statement of intent as to the approach taken. The DVLP will aim to instil this in all its partner organisations. Where there are recognised or easily defined standards such as building conservation, public rights of way signage, path construction, listed building consent or qualifications then these standards will be met or exceeded. Where there are not clearly defined standards then all the partners and stakeholders will be involved at the early stages of detailed project development to ensure clarity in scope and requirements



**4.10 Management** – The DVLP programme and projects within it will be managed using Prince2 Project Management principles. Use will be made of the P2.net online project management system used by Barnsley Council for both individual projects and the programme as a whole. This system has the advantage that it can be shared with people outside Barnsley Council, meaning not

only will all aspects of project are recorded in a central location but they can be shared and changes tracked. The automatic reporting system will also assist in the monitoring and reporting both within the partnership and to the HLF.

**4.11 Managing Information** – The DVLP will operate on a transparent basis with a clear reporting structure from working groups through to the partnership board. It will not be about reports for report's sake, but clear concise information. The management structure identified in the Stage 1 application has been refined but is still fundamentally the same.

**4.12 Consultant Support** – A series of specific pieces of work were commissioned from a number of consultants. Clear briefs were produced on the following themes:

- Heritage Audit
- Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy
- Interpretation Strategy
- Communication Strategy
- Branding
- Audience Development Plan and Engagement Strategy
- Environmental and Biodiversity Review
- Volunteering and Training Strategy
- Signage and Wayfinding Guide
- Building Review and Condition Survey

All these pieces of work were tendered with returns assessed against clear criteria. The majority of these pieces of work were being carried out concurrently. Despite this, perhaps because all the consultants were encouraged to be in regular contact, there are very few discrepancies and conflicts between them. These pieces of work were vital to the development phase and have been central in shaping and structuring the LCAP and the implementation phase.



**4.13 Heritage Audit:** ArcHeritage were commissioned to carry out an audit of cultural heritage sites within the Dearne Valley. A copy of the document is supplied in support of the LCAP. Following a baseline survey, a gazetteer of the archaeological and built heritage resources in the area was produced. From this, key sites were identified with the potential for future cultural heritage opportunities/activities.

The aim of the survey was to determine the nature of the cultural heritage resource of key sites within the boundary of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. This was achieved by collating existing archaeological and historic information relating to the selected sites and their immediate environs. Additional documentary and cartographic research was carried out in order to enhance the cultural heritage resource of each key site.

Rapid walkover surveys were conducted at each key site, noting their present condition, the extent and condition of any surviving above-ground remains, potential threats and the extent to which the sites are currently identified as cultural heritage assets.

The cultural heritage resource was also assessed on a period by period basis for various communities within the study area, in order to aid in the construction of a narrative for the historic development of the Dearne Valley.

Recommendations have been made for potential future community engagement or for the enhancement, understanding and appreciation of the sites and the wider heritage of the Dearne Valley.

**4.14 Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy:** Resources for Change were commissioned to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation phase of the DVLP. A copy of the document is supplied in support of the LCAP. Its five main purposes are:

- To demonstrate that the DVLP is having a positive impact.
- To demonstrate the value of investing time and money in the DVLP.
- To help improve practice and to deliver the DVLP to a high standard.
- If some things don't work, to understand why.
- To help strengthen DVLP.

Full details of the monitoring and evaluation are contained within Section 7.

**4.15 Interpretation Strategy –** Heritage Destination Consulting were commissioned to produce an interpretation strategy that will guide the work of the DVLP for the next five years. A full copy of the strategy is provided in support of the LCAP but it can be summarised as follows:

The scope of the plan was to:

- Research existing interpretation strategies and approaches, for organisations operating within the Dearne Valley.
- Identify best practice and how this can be used within the Dearne Valley.
- Consult with partner organisations.
- Identify key sites.
- Identify key messages and how they can best be communicated.
- Set out the principles of interpretation for the landscape partnership.
- Establish a clear strategy.
- Produce a costed action plan for the five year implementation period.

Interpretation for the DVLP will be guided by the following definition:

*'Heritage interpretation is a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural*



*heritage, through involvement with objects, artefacts, landscapes and sites.'*

Heritage interpretation is not simply a way of presenting information. It is a specific communication process that is used to translate raw information, from the technical language of the expert, to the everyday language of the audience. This should be in a personal, inspiring and engaging way that leaves a lasting and profound impression.

Interpretation will be tested against:

- **Provokes:** Does the interpretation provoke the audience to participate and interact?
- **Relates:** Does the interpretation relate on a psychological level to the audience? Does it relate the everyday life, memory, feeling or experience of your audience?
- **Reveals:** Does the interpretation reveal meaning rather than facts? Is the main concept, message or theme explained through some creative or unusual viewpoint?
- **Presents the whole:** Does the interpretation contain and address a clearly defined interpretive theme?
- **Has Message Unity:** Does the interpretation use supporting elements to illustrate your theme or main concept?
- **Is Relevant and Appropriate:** Is the interpretation relevant and appropriate to the subject, location and the audience?
- **Is Audience Focussed:** Is the interpretation specifically planned, written and designed for the given audience?
- **Accomplishes Planned Interpretive Objectives:** Was the interpretation planned with stated Learn, Feel, and Do Objectives and

when evaluated were those objectives accomplished?

Strategically the aim of interpretation in the Dearne Valley is to encourage local people and visitors into the landscape and to maximize their dwell time by delivering an entertaining, inspiring and engaging interpretive experience that is centred on a series of key messages that help them better understand the Dearne Valley. To achieve the strategic aim the audience must:

- Be made aware of the Dearne Valley offer and be compelled to participate in exploring it (marketing).
- Be guided efficiently and safely to, and around the key Dearne Valley sites (orientation).
- Experience an entertaining, inspiring and engaging visitor interpretive experience that connects to other entertaining, inspiring and engaging visitor experience at key sites throughout Dearne Valley (interpretation).

Learning outcomes of each element of the programme will be developed as part of each project initiation.

Interpretation in the Dearne (led directly by the DVLDP or in partnership with others) will therefore have the following aim, it will be:

- Fit for purpose.
- Professionally planned, written and designed.
- Where possible environmentally friendly and long lasting (10-years plus).
- Focussed on a series of easily accessible interconnected key sites that have strong relevant stories to tell.
- Based on a strong main interpretive theme that is supported by program themes which in turn are supported by sub-themes.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Focused on a broad audience base, from special interest to the family holiday market and has the potential to attract new markets.
- Accessible to as many people as possible.
- Adding value to the local economy.
- Using interpretive media that is cost effective, low maintenance and works best for the target audience.
- Where possible exploiting the potential of modern communications.
- Where possible using live interpretation.
- Supported and promoted by effective pre-visit, on-visit and post-visit marketing.
- Supported by a network of tourist information points that market the interpretation and orientate the visitor to key sites.
- Backed by robust pre- and post-evaluation process that measures effectiveness, return on investment and outcomes.

### 4.16 Communication and Branding –

Capital B Media were commissioned to produce a communications strategy to set out a clear, concise and effective communications framework to support the work of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership and help it achieve its aims. A copy of the strategy is supplied in support of the LCAP. The DVLP's Communication Strategy, therefore, has the top-line aims to:

- Launch the DVLP programme and establish a clear and strong identity for - and understanding of – its work.
- Promote and communicate the work of the DVLP – highlighting what's new, what's improved, what's been

achieved, what's available, what's happening.



- Raise and enhance the profile of the Dearne Valley – develop its 'sense of place' and its reputation as a great place to live, work and visit.
- Inform, inspire and encourage more active participation in the Dearne Valley and the opportunities afforded by its landscape - across all audiences and all relevant geographical communities (local, regional, national) and communities of interest (eg cycling, arts, rambling).
- Protect the reputation of the DVLP by managing expectations, dealing with any issues raised, preparing for any adverse attention.
- Establish effective communication processes across the DVLP to develop and maintain relationships with all stakeholders and facilitate sustainable partnership working and community-wide involvement for the Dearne Valley going forward.

In order to achieve these aims, this Communications Strategy will:



- Identify key messages (in support of the core Dearne Valley ‘brand’ and associated DVLP ‘brand’, its aims, projects and activities).
- Identify key stakeholders and audiences (active and potential including partners, ambassadors, residents, businesses and visitors).
- Identify potential key media and communication tools (including owned, earned and paid-for media such as promotional material, PR, online resources advertising).
- Outline communication processes - the rules, roles and responsibilities (eg for the publication and distribution of materials, writing of press releases, contributions of spokespeople, online and social media management, promotional events etc).
- Suggest means of monitoring the quality of communication activity; evaluating and reviewing its impact upon, and contribution to, the DVLP’s aims.

The Cafeteria were commissioned to produce a brand identity (logo and font) for the DVLP. A copy of the branding guidelines are supplied in support of the LCAP. These guidelines will help produce communication that represents the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership’s values. They provide specific rules explaining how to use the marketing assets, and inspiration for creative, confident interpretation of the visual identity.

**4.17 Audience Development Plan and Engagement Strategy** – Resources for Change were commissioned to produce a report that identifies current and potential audiences and describes research findings relating to awareness of and engagement with Dearne Valley’s heritage and landscape. It recommends the most effective ways of providing opportunities for the priority audiences to be involved in accessing,

learning about and understanding the landscape and heritage of Dearne Valley, and contributing in practical ways to its conservation and enhancement. A copy of the strategy is supplied in support of the LCAP.

The R4C team used a combination of online questionnaires, phone & face-to-face (street) interviews with key stakeholders, organisations, community groups and individuals.

Five specific audience development objectives are set out to achieve these outcomes, with recommendations for activities designed to meet the objectives.

- Objective 1: Perspectives on the past – hearing and telling stories: Collecting and expressing community history, making connections with the deeper past and industrial history as well as mining.
- Objective 2: Walking into history (including cycling & riding): Aiming for a series of trails of varying distances, and in varying locations and types of places, helping people to actively experience Dearne Valley and learn more about it. Routes into and between communities, for example short routes to the Trans Pennine Trail.
- Objective 3: Heritage hosting: Helping businesses and residents to inform and engage visitors & residents. Build on existing good practice, provide active support to those already involved, and encourage others to get started. Includes businesses in the town shopping centres.
- Objective 4: Open your eyes and look beyond: To specialist interest users to broaden their perspectives to help amateur specialists spread their knowledge more widely in the community, by understanding the



facility or feature they are focussed on within a bigger context.

- Objective 5: Dearne Valley on your doorstep: To attract more visitors from the region and to extend visitor stay.

**4.18 Environmental and Biodiversity Review** - Louise Hill of MRB Ecology and Environment was commissioned to undertake a review of existing information on the biodiversity of the Dearne Valley in order to prepare a strategy for achieving the environmental and biodiversity aims of the DVLP. A copy of the document is supplied in support of the LCAP. From a review of Partnership documentation, the following goals were identified:

- 1 Protecting existing environmental assets – In a better condition.
2. Maintaining existing environmental assets – Better managed.
- 3 Improving Knowledge about Existing Assets - Better identified and recorded.
4. Reducing Environmental Impacts.
5. Reducing Fragmentation.
  - Barrier removal.
  - Creating new habitats.
  - Improving existing low grade habitats.
6. Connecting People with their Landscape.
  - Education for employment.
  - Education for enjoyment.
7. Connecting People with their Landscape – Practical Involvement (Volunteering).
8. Improving Local Distinctiveness.
9. Sustainable Land Use – Provisioning functions - food and fuel production.

10. Sustainable Land Use – Regulating functions - improving Flood-holding Capacity.

To develop the strategy the following work was undertaken:

- Consultations.
- Analysis of Environmental Data Sources.
- Document Review.
- Identification of Mapped Environmental Assets.

A structured action plan was then produced to support this.

**4.19 Volunteering and Training Strategy** – Voluntary Action Barnsley were commissioned to undertake an audit of volunteering, training and education opportunities within the Dearne Valley and identify gaps in provision and recommendations for improvement.

**4.20 Signage and Wayfinding Guide** – Countryside were commissioned to research and produce a document that provides guidance about the signs that people use to get around whilst walking, cycling and horse riding in the Dearne Valley. A copy of the strategy is supplied in support of the LCAP. The guidance is intended to help:

- Coordinate and improve the consistency of directional signs within the Dearne Valley.
- Improve linkages between existing routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.
- Support the ‘destination brand’ of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership - strengthening the area’s local identity and sense of place.

Its key objectives are:

- A user-based approach: The experience of people using a route is the single most important factor in



deciding what any sign should look like and where it should be located.

- **Simplicity:** Signs should be as simple as possible and should avoid information that is not essential for users of the route – for example, marketing brands or logos, names of organisations, etc. This information can be provided on other signs, such as those located near trailheads.



- **Separation of sign types:** Directional signs should be provided independently of any other signs. Other information that users may need, or which land managers may want to provide, should be displayed on other signs or information boards to suit the specific circumstances.
- **Consistency:** A consistent approach should be used across the Dearne Valley. This will, in time, increase the confidence of path users – particularly those unfamiliar with the area.
- **Placing signs only where they are needed:** This guidance cannot prescribe where each sign should be placed: a balance is required between providing sufficient information for users and cluttering the landscape with signs. This needs to be considered at both a local and strategic level, taking into account the coverage of existing

signage and any plans being made by partners to install new signage.

**4.21 Building Review and Condition Survey** – Rance Booth Smith architects were commissioned to carry out a review of key buildings and structures that have been identified as significant across the Dearne Valley. A full copy of the report is provided in support of the LCAP. It reviewed nine sites, provided preferred options and established outline costs. The sites covered were:

- Glassby Arch
- Barnsley Main Pit Head
- Monk Bretton Priory
- Hemingfield Pumping Station
- Worsbrough Mill
- Park Hill Brickworks
- Rockley Forge
- Rockingham Pottery
- Hoyland Lowe Stand



## 5. SCHEME PLAN AND COSTS

**5.1 Introduction** – The projects within this programme form a co-ordinated and interlinked approach. They provide a strategic and practical approach to delivering the aims and objectives of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. The projects included represent a culmination of the Stage 1 submission and the subsequent development process. None of the projects should be seen in isolation, as none of them will operate in isolation.

**5.2 Project Selection and Development Process** - A pro-forma was distributed from November 2012 onwards to provide a way of collating information on project suggestions and ensure there was some form of consistency of approach. As the development phase progressed, as a result of the meetings, presentations, emails and networking - 228 project ideas were put forward. The long list of projects was scored against how they could contribute to the strategic aims and objectives of the DVLP. Consideration was also given to the deliverability of projects and this assisted in focusing on the projects that are now within

the LCAP. A number of project ideas have been merged together, bringing partners together and also strengthening projects. It has obviously (and unfortunately) not been possible to fund every project proposal. It is the hope though that for some of the smaller proposals they may be submitted as applications through the small grants fund. The programme management team will also look to provide support and advice to organisations and groups across the Dearne during the implementation phase. It also means that if, for any reason, projects included in the LCAP are not able to proceed there will be a wealth of other projects that can be brought forward to replace them.

**5.3 Programme Changes** – The following table summarises the changes made to the allocation of funding between the various headings. The balance between the various programme headings has altered as a result of the development phase and the detailed project development.

The overall value of the projects has increased with the HLF contribution remaining the same and the match funding increasing. This is as a result of more detailed project

Programme	First Round	Revised Second Round	Change
Development Phase	£99,500	£99,500	£0
A - Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character	£510,000	£880,912	+£370,912
B - Increasing community participation in local heritage	£390,000	£293,220	-£96,780
C - Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage	£505,000	£480,322	-£24,678
D - Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills	£340,000	£198,079	-£141,921
E - Staff Costs and Overheads	£645,000	£705,358	+£60,358
Total	£2,489,500	£2,657,391	£167,891
Match	£607,450	£775,341	+£167,891
HLF Grant	£1,882,050	£1,882,050	£0



development, identifying realistic levels of match funding and project deliverability.

The allocation between the project four key HLF headings has also changed as a result a review of the overall programme and aligning projects to their most appropriate category.

### 5.4 DVLP Programme

Full details of the projects within the DVLP programme are included in the rest of this section. The projects within the programme have been grouped under the four themes established for the DVLP. As a reminder the themes are:

1. **Cultural Heritage of the Dearne:** This theme will focus on the archaeology and built heritage of the Dearne, highlighting the legacy of what remains. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the physical heritage. There will be encouragement for increased involvement and understanding of the community, helping protect the heritage for the future.
2. **Environmental Heritage of the Dearne:** This theme will focus on the rivers, landscape, biodiversity and geology of the Dearne. It will highlight how they have shaped the place and its people. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the environment. There will be encouragement to increase the involvement and understanding of the community, helping protect the environment for the future.
3. **Discovering the Dearne:** This theme will aim to make local people and visitors more aware of the opportunities there are in the Dearne. It will use the arts to engage with people to collect and celebrate the stories of the Dearne. It will encourage more people to visit the area, providing more information about what is in the area and making it easier people to

move around and find their way. There will be a focus on strengthening the connections within the Dearne both the physical links (particularly around the River Dearne) but also the promotional and thematic links.

4. **Strengthening the Dearne:** This theme will support the communities of the Dearne through volunteering, training, grants, networks and capacity building. It will aim to help people play an active part in their local community.

Running through these themes will be the ideas of discovery, revelation, celebration, understanding, sharing, engagement, protection, sustainability, exploration, enhancement, support and strengthening.



## **THEME 1 – CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE DEARNE**

This theme will focus on the archaeology and built heritage of the Dearne, highlighting the legacy of what remains. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the physical heritage. There will be encouragement for increased involvement from and understanding within the community, helping protect the heritage for the future.

### **HD1: ARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY OF THE DEARNE**

**Project Description** – The Heritage Audit commissioned by the DVLP clearly identified the wealth of heritage across the area from pre-history through to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This project will be community led, involving a co-ordinated approach to surveying the historic environment of the Dearne Valley. This will help develop local people’s understanding of the heritage of the Dearne but also develop their skills and knowledge.



An archaeological / geology specialist will be appointed to work with the local community in focusing on 10 key sites in more detail. For each site they will identify a core community group to work with and use this as the basis for developing more community involvement.

Each site will be looked at independently, working with the owners, guardians and local community. Activity at each site will be different, reflecting the existing levels of

information held about the site, the need for further information, the priority, the local community and future opportunities.

Together they will develop a package of works for each site for which local volunteers will be provided with specialist training and support. The long list of activities to select from includes:

- Archive research
- Photogrammetry
- Building recording
- 3D modelling
- Community excavation
- Conservation skills
- Ground penetrating radar (GPR)
- Aerial photography plotting and interpretation
- Geophysical surveys
- Woodland earthwork survey
- Learning how to develop a Project Design
- How to submit new information to the Sites & Monuments Record
- Excavation (trial trenches)
- Lidar interpretation and use
- Community woodland surveys
- Oral history collation and transcription
- Artefact cataloguing
- Surveys of enclosure
- Determine whether to apply for Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Field walking to recover material
- Ceramics workshops
- Earthwork surveys (comparison of different techniques, plane tabling, Total Station, GPS)



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Geological reviews

In addition, many of these sites have the potential for other types of creative projects, with a heritage focus. These could include for example:

- Developing schools' resource packs, keyed in to curriculum learning outcomes
- Creative writing workshops
- Audio trails
- Storytelling events
- Conservation/crafts skills training

The heritage audit began with a baseline survey of the DVLP area, looking at every cultural heritage site within the defined boundary. This was achieved by collating existing archaeological and historic information.

Following this a gazetteer was produced of all the archaeological and built heritage features. From this, twenty key sites were identified with the potential for future cultural heritage opportunities and activities. Additional documentary and cartographic research was carried out in order to enhance the cultural heritage resource of each key site.

Rapid walkover surveys were conducted at each key site, noting their present condition, the extent and condition of any surviving above-ground remains, potential threats and the extent to which the sites are currently identified as cultural heritage assets. Recommendations have been made for potential future community engagement or for the enhancement, understanding and appreciation of the sites. This Audit has formed the basis for a lot of the activity for the DVLP but particularly the focus with this project on archaeology and geology.

There is the great potential to link a number of these sites either into themed research topics or thematic or area-based trails within the DVLP area. Each key site has been

considered against a common heritage theme of industry, transport, religion, settlement, historic land use and defence. Each site has been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to these themes and the ways in which the site relates these themes to the wider area.



This project will lead to a greater understanding from landowners of the sites they are responsible for. The DVLP can provide co-ordination of activity, but also of information and findings. By having that overview and linking in with the built heritage, the environment and local community it will bring together the story of the Dearne. Not only will the understanding of the area be much greater but the communities of the area will know much more about it and have a new range of skills.

The work won't be carried out in isolation as it will feed into local interpretation boards, heritage trail leaflets, websites, community projects, arts projects, guided walks and schools projects amongst others.

For each project a report will be produced along with a range of differing outcomes depending on the nature of the project. This could include publications, exhibitions, website information, 3D models, events, performances or creative projects. All findings will be deposited with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service who are a key partner in the DVLP.



The 20 key sites are listed below, with priority and secondary sites identified. Also indicated are the suggested years in which they will take place:

### Priority

- Hemingfield Colliery, Hoyland Nether (1)
- Cranford Hall/New Hall Farm, Darfield (2)
- Glassby Arch, Fern Villa, Church Street, Mexborough (2)
- Wombwell Wood, Wombwell (2)
- Barnsley Main Colliery, Barnsley (2)
- Hoyland Lowe Stand, Barnsley (2)
- Old Mill, Conisbrough (2)
- West Haigh Wood and Houghton Common, Great Houghton (3)
- H17 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Bolton Upon Dearne (3)
- Thorncliffe to Elsecar Tramway (3)

### Secondary

- Don Pottery, Swinton (3)
- Castle Hill, Mexborough (3)
- Mexborough Old Hall, Mexborough (4)
- Hallsteads, Grimethorpe (4)
- Providence Glass Works, Conisbrough (4)
- Civil War Tower, Houndhill (4)
- Bell Bank and Woolley Bank Wood, Worsbrough (4)
- Wood Brothers' Glass Works, Worsbrough (4)
- Tankersley Old Hall, Tankersley (5)
- Cathill Road, Darfield (5)

In addition to the above sites Monk Bretton Priory and the walled garden site at Wentworth Castle were identified during the

development phase as other potential sites to focus on. This was after the Heritage Audit key sites had been identified but they featured within the audit. If other sites of value are identified through the course of project development and through the lifetime of the project then they will be considered and brought forward.

### **Project Aims**

- Increase understanding of archaeology, geology and geodiversity, leading to better promotion and protection of the landscape of the Dearne.
- Create a record of archaeological features in the Dearne.
- Provide volunteer and training opportunities for local community groups creating the capacity to initiate further work.
- Enhance the appreciation of the sites within the surrounding community.
- Minimise the potential conflicts between the conservation of habitats, flora and fauna with those of the conservation of the geology.
- Better manage archaeology and geology through the establishment of informed recommendations.
- Provide information and recommendations for interpretation of the sites.
- Reduce the threat to archaeology / geology through greater education and monitoring of condition of the remains.
- Provide recommendations for future management of the sites.
- Make recommendations for further community archaeology and geology projects.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Understand the historic development of sites and place them within a wider landscape context.
- Establish links into ecological surveys to give holistic appreciation.
- Enhance enjoyment for recreational users/interested members of the local community through improved interpretation.
- Increase the sense of place/ local pride delivered through exhibitions/ talks/ booklet on the results.

### Project Lead - DVLDP

**Project Partners** – SYAS, Sheffield Area Geology Trust

**Land Ownership** – Sites are in a range of ownerships

**Audience** – Local community. Landowners. Local authorities.

### Outputs and Outcomes -

- 10 sites investigated (including desk based and field surveys)
- 25 community workshops held
- 10 project reports produced
- 100 people participating directly in workshops and surveys
- 250 volunteer days contributed
- 10 community groups supported

### Project Costs –

Total Project Cost	£57,350
Cash	£3,000
HLF (amount)	£54,350
HLF (as a %)	95%

**Timescale** – Development during Year 1. Implementation from end of Year 1 to mid-Year 5

**Management and Maintenance** – There are no long terms management and maintenance implications for the DVLDP. The increased understanding of sites within the area will have positive management implications for individual site owners.

**Procurement** – Archaeologists / geologists will be commissioned to work with the DVLDP in developing and delivering the project. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLDP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – Landowner permission will be sought on sites in private ownership. All necessary statutory permissions will be sought in advance of any work being carried out.

### Project Risks -

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Damage to sensitive landscapes and heritage assets. Lack of sites to investigate.

Suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists will be appointed. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. The heritage audit has clearly identified sufficient sites.



Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover all sites.

A clear budget for each element will be established and closely monitored. Sites will be prioritised and work only undertaken if sufficient budget is available.

### **Links to other projects -**

HD2: Protection Key Sites - For the relevant key sites the information uncovered will help within their conservation and future protection.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne - The links with the local community can be extended into the environment community surveys (and vice versa).

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites more Effectively - The archaeological information can be integrated into development of management approaches for key sites.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne - The project and its findings can be promoted as part of the work of the DVLDP.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne - Where appropriate physical connections can be made to key sites. There are opportunities to develop further trails based on an archaeology theme.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne - Signposting can be prioritised to focus on key sites. The information discovered through this project can feed into the interpretation.

DD9: Art of the Dearne - Arts based projects can be developed on the basis of the information found and the community links established.

SD10: Community Grants - If further opportunities for local projects are identified then there are opportunities to seek funding through the grants programme.

SD11: Developing Capacity - The local contacts made can benefit from further opportunities to support and develop individuals and groups.

SD12: Learning from the Dearne - Further opportunities for learning can be developed on the basis of the lessons learned.

### **Legacy –**

- An enhanced record of the historic environment of the Dearne Valley. This will be held by South Yorkshire Archaeological Service.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of archaeology amongst the community of the Dearne.
- Increased understanding amongst landowners of the historical environment, which will ensure there is a greater protection and appreciation of it in the future.



**HD2: PROTECTING KEY SITES:**

**Project Description** – The DVLP will provide strategic investment in four key heritage sites.

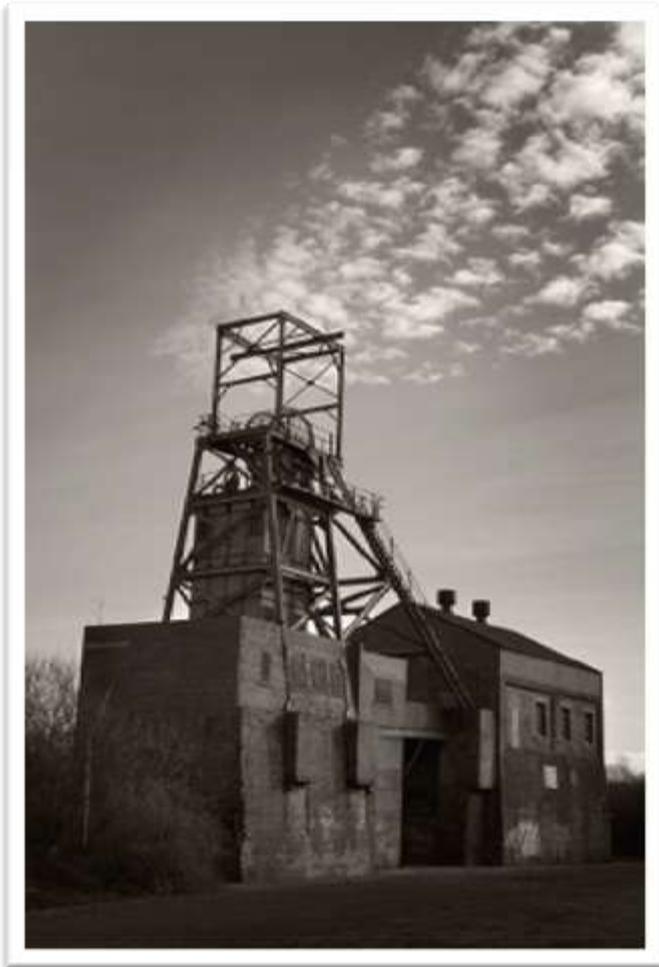
- Barnsley Main
- Glassby Arch
- Hemingfield Colliery
- Hoyland Lowe Stand

The DVLP will work with local groups to ensure that these key and significant sites are protected, preserved and maintained.

The sites included here are as a result of extensive consultation, building on the considerable work undertaken independently by the groups involved. The sites have been chosen based on their heritage impact, sustainability, need and opportunities to link in with further work. Each site was also investigated through the Heritage Audit and considered as part of the Buildings Review and Conditions Survey carried out by Rance Booth Smith architects.



**HD2.1: Barnsley Main: Marking Mining:** This project focuses on the protection of Barnsley Main - the last remaining mining headgear in South Yorkshire. It will become a focus for marking the mining industry in the Dearne Valley. It was the site of the worst mining disaster in English history with the loss of 364 lives in 1866. The loss of those lives is not publically recorded and marked anywhere. The opportunities and symbolism this site provides has been recognised from the earliest stages of development of the DVLP.



The project will be developed and implemented in the build up to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oaks Disaster in December 2016. It will:

- Consolidate and protect the structure and site to prevent deterioration of the fabric.
- Improve access to the site making it easier for people to access the site.
- Improve signage and interpretation to raise the profile of the site and increase awareness of the importance of it.
- Commemorate and record on the site the names of those who lost their lives in the Oaks Disaster – the worst mining disaster in English history.
- Identify and develop opportunities to mark the structure as a significant landmark in the landscape through creative approaches – in particular lighting.

Barnsley Main is hidden despite it being so close to Barnsley town centre and various residential areas. It is adjacent to the Trans Pennine Trail and is set within attractive and varied greenspace. In line with the approach of the DVLP there is an opportunity to reveal this structure to more people – physically and through sharing information. Anyone who has visited the site can't fail to be impressed by the scale of the structure and how intact it is. When people think of mining gear and pitheads, this is the type of structure they think of. Its historical significance is further enhanced by the site being the location for the largest mining disaster in England. A steering group has already been formed with Councillors and Officers within Barnsley Council, which will be expanded to incorporate community and NUM involvement.

Barnsley Main Colliery originated as Oaks Colliery, when a coal-winding shaft and a pumping shaft were sunk to the west of Oaks Lane, Stairfoot, in 1824. Thirteen explosions occurred at the colliery over ten days in 1866, resulting in the deaths of 364 miners and the closure and infilling of the Old Oaks shafts. New shafts sunk at Ardsley in the following



year opened as the 'New Oaks Colliery' in 1870. By 1906 substantial development had taken place, with the construction of several large buildings and numerous railway lines in the pit yard. Barnsley Main closed in 1965, following an accelerated pit-closure programme. A £25 million-pound refurbishment scheme saw the re-opening of Barnsley Main in the 1970s, with the construction of several new buildings at the pit top. The site's surviving headgear and two-storey, brick-built engine house date from this period.

Barnsley Main Colliery has a high significance for industry as it occupied two large sites, possessed a wide range of coal-mining features and its history illustrates the development and decline of the mining industry, not just in the Barnsley area, but within the Dearne and South Yorkshire as a whole. The site also has a high significance for transport, as colliery waggonways and railways connected the various parts of the pit with each other and also with the main railway lines and the Dearne and Dove Canal.

Barnsley Main is clearly a symbol of the mining heritage of the Dearne and Yorkshire as a whole. The rarity of the pithead highlights it as significant not just in heritage terms but also culturally. The Dearne was once covered in many such structures – this is the only one left. It represents a huge opportunity to engage with people of all generations in the mining past of the Dearne and use it as a starting point for further discussion, consultation, creativity, learning and understanding.

Barnsley Council was successful in 2012 in having the structure designated as Grade 2 listed. This was directly linked to the development of the DVLP. The English Heritage advice report states that:

***“Barnsley Main Colliery was one of the most significant collieries of the South Yorkshire Coalfield, itself being one of the longest lived and most significant***

***coalfields in the country. From a historical point of view, the coal industry was of particular importance to Barnsley, for instance being the national base for the National Union of Mineworkers, yet surviving physical remains of the coal industry in the wider surrounding area are now very rare because of late C20 clearance. This regional rarity gives the pithead structures at Barnsley Main particular significance. The monolithic form of the structures forming a poignant reminder of the industry that was once so important to Barnsley and the surrounding region.”***

The site was one of those included in the Building Review and Conditions Survey, carried out by Rance Booth Smith during the development phase. The report indicated that the buildings appear to be in a stable condition at present. Although the buildings are not in poor condition, there is evidence of deterioration and decay. There is vegetation growth around the building, in particular to the base of the structure, the face of the brickwork and larger vegetation growth on the roof of the shaft head building.

The steelwork has corroded in various places and is contributing to the erosion of the brickwork. There are areas of walls that have been damaged due to water ingress. There are various patch repairs to the brickwork in places. The south elevation of the engine house appears to be bowed and warped. There are various cracks to the buildings and the brickwork is damaged in places, particularly to the corners of the buildings. The roof appears to be intact, however there is evidence of moss and vegetation growth in the gutters and downpipes are missing. The base of the structure appears stable and there is a concrete base around the whole of the structure with no evidence of damage or vegetation growth.

Three options were considered:



- Option 1 - To leave the structure as it is and carry out only essential maintenance work to keep it safe and secure. This would be a managed decline of the structure.
- Option 2 - To preserve the structure in its current state and carry out maintenance work to rectify issues that will accelerate the demise of the building to prevent further decay. Encourage more activity and foot traffic through the site with signage and walks/trails.
- Option 3 - To repair and restore the structure and bring it into use and create a purpose for the space that will encourage visitors.

Option 2 was chosen as the preferred option.



It will:

- Ensure structure is safe, stable and secure.
- Carry out maintenance work on the structure in order to preserve it in its current state.
- Rectify issues that will accelerate the demise of the building to prevent further decay, i.e. repairs to roof and brickwork, address leaks and failures.

- Re-route paths and walks to incorporate the structure, to encourage more activity and foot traffic through the site.
- Create a focal point in the landscape that would serve as an iconic sculpture and promote itself to be part of the local community and a point of interest on established walks/trails.
- Establish a broad, representative steering group with the project development for the site.
- Record and mark the names of all those who lost their lives in the Oaks disaster.

The broad Schedule of Works is:

- Clear areas of vegetation growth to the base of the structure and the face of the brickwork.
- Remove graffiti from brick face around the structure.
- Repair areas of brickwork that have been damaged/vandalised, particularly to the corners of the structure.
- Repair and address any cracks to the brickwork as appropriate.
- Clean steelwork and repair any areas of damage/erosion as necessary.
- Allow for areas of repair to the pitched roof as required.
- Allow for repairs to the flat roof area as required.
- Address damaged caused by on-going leaks and water damage.
- Replace guttering and downpipes to pitched roof.
- Allow for landscaping works around the structure, new paths and seating areas, including new path to link to Monk Bretton Priory and new path to link to Dearne Valley Park (approx.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

800m) – elements to be potentially funded through ED4.

- Allow for information boards/signage to the site – to be potentially funded through DD8.
- Allow for promotional and directional signage and maps to be placed at the Dearne Valley Park and Monk Bretton Priory – to be potentially funded through DD8.

A detailed conservation plan will be produced and agreed in year 1, prior to work being undertaken. Work will be commissioned in line with the available budget.



### Project Aim –

- To consolidate the structure and surrounding site to prevent any deterioration.
- To carry out path, signage and interpretation improvements to make the site more accessible.

- To establish a friends of group to support the protection of the site.
- To produce and implement a site management plan.
- To establish this site as a key entry point and destination within the Dearne Valley.
- To integrate the site into the work of the rest of the DVLP.
- To make more people aware of the site and use this as a way of engaging them with the DVLP.
- To mark the loss of life in the Oaks disaster and the loss of life through mining accidents in the Dearne, South Yorkshire and beyond.

### Project Lead - DVLP

**Project Partners** – BMBC, NUM,

**Land Ownership** – The site is owned by BMBC

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Visitors from outside the area.

### Outputs and Outcomes -

- 1 Steering group to support the project
- 1 consultation event held
- 15 people actively involved
- 1 Friends of Group established
- 1 conservation plan produced
- 1 listed building protected

### Project Costs

Total Project Cost	£152,500
Cash	£84,000
In Kind	0
HLF (amount)	£68,500
HLF (as a %)	45%



**Timescale** – The 150th anniversary of the Oak Disaster is in December 2016. Works will be completed by then.

**Management and Maintenance** – The management and maintenance implications for the Barnsley Council will be identified at the outset of the project.

**Procurement** – Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy. No individual contract sum will be above £100,000 therefore.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – BMBC is the owner of the site. Any capital works developed will be in conjunction with BMBC. Listed building consent will be required.

### **Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Damage to a sensitive heritage asset. A clear strategy is not produced. A lack of community support.

Suitably qualified and experienced consultants will be appointed. A clear brief will be issued to consultants. A conservation plan and method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. Clear support from

the community has already been identified and partner organisations put forward.

**Financial** – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for work will be established and closely monitored. A clear brief will be issued to consultants against which they will provide a fee quote.

### **Links to other projects –**

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively – proposals for the site surrounding Barnsley Main can be developed through this project.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the site will be marketed and promoted through this project.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the physical access improvements will increase access to the site.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the site will be included as part of the signage and interpretation programme.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – The site will be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The site will provide an opportunity for outdoor learning.

### **Legacy –**

- The protection, conservation and preservation of a key piece of cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Increased understanding of a key piece of the cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Improvement management and maintenance of the structure and the wider site.
- Increased usage of the wider site.



**HD2.2: Glassby Arch:** This project will see the restoration, reassembly and relocation of this historic arch within Mexborough. It is a partnership between the DVLP, Mexborough Charitable Trust, Doncaster Council and Mexborough and District Heritage Society.

The Glassby Arch is a free-standing, semi-circular Romanesque arch resting on dressed stone abutments set beneath a triangular superstructure, constructed in 1860 by Robert Glassby. Glassby, a stonemason who was born in Mexborough in 1835, became known locally as the ‘Sculptor to the Queen’ through his work on the Albert Memorial.



Glassby started his working life as a journeyman stonemason before he began studying drawing and modelling at Sheffield School of Art with the support and patronage of John Reed. He continued his studies first at the London School, and then at the Royal Academy Schools. His primary means of support was working successively in the studios of the sculptors Henry Weekes, John Birnie Philip and Baron Carlo Marochetti. Finally he became principal studio assistant to Joseph Edgar Boehm; Boehm was by this time heavily engaged on work for the Royal Family. On Boehm's death in 1890 Glassby was entrusted with completing a number of works left incomplete.

The arch was Glassby's first attempt at such a large work and was constructed in 1860 for John Reed, the owner of Rockingham Pottery. Regarded as the most important of Robert Glassby's early works, the arch originally formed the entrance to the garden of Reed's home at Prospect House, Market Street. The Glassby Arch remained in situ until 1966, when Prospect House was demolished due to the construction of the Mexborough by-pass.

It was taken down and moved to Fern Villa, Church Street in 1968 on condition that it remained the property of the people of the town and was visible to them at all times. This condition was observed until 2007 when following the demolition of Fern Villa a large new house was allowed to obscure the arch from the road. It is still visible though from the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, nearby. The arch's condition has since deteriorated due to the absence of the previous owner and its future has been threatened for some time.

The DVLP has the opportunity to rescue this arch, which is considered to be of national importance. The new site is within the grounds of Mexborough Almhouses (which is owned and managed by the Mexborough Charitable Trust) in a more visible, public and secure position. This is also the area of the original birthplace of Glassby. This will provide a starting point for a series of historical trails within the area. Interpretation will be carried out through the interpretation project to build on the work already carried out in the area.

The arch is considered to be of national importance, which is reflected in its inclusion on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Planning permission and listed building consent is required and an application was submitted Quarter 2 2014. A full Statement of Significance was produced by Woodhall Planning and Conservation and this has been used as the basis for developing specifications and costings for the work.



**Project Aim**

- To protect and restore a nationally significant sculpture.
- To work with the local community in establishing this as a key feature within Mexborough.
- To raise the profile of Robert Glassby and his connections with Mexborough.
- To relocate the arch to a prominent location within Mexborough.
- To use the arch as the starting point for a heritage trail within Mexborough.

**Project Lead** - Mexborough Charitable Trust

**Project Partners** – DVLP, Mexborough and District Heritage Society, Doncaster Council

**Land Ownership** –The arch has been gifted to the Mexborough Charitable Trust following acquisition by the police as the result of the property where it sits being claimed as part of criminal investigations and sold off.

This site where the arch is to be relocated to is in the ownership of Mexborough Charitable Trust who are working with Doncaster Council and the Mexborough and District Heritage Society, having previously erected interpretation panels on the site.

**Audience** – Local community.

**Outputs and Outcomes**

- One listed structure restored and relocated.
- 10 people actively involved
- Site interpretation established, acknowledging the significance of the sculptor and the arch
- 20 volunteer days contributed
- 2 community groups supported

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£31,786
Cash	£4,050
HLF (amount)	£27,736
HLF (as a %)	87%

**Timescale** – Year 1

**Management and Maintenance** – Management and maintenance costs will be covered by fund raising from Mexborough Charitable Trust and Mexborough and District Heritage Society.

**Procurement** - The DVLP will work closely with the Trust to ensure that all procurement guidance is followed. This will be highlighted in conditions of grant with the requirement that. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** - The arch is to be relocated to the site of Almshouses, Church Street, Mexborough. Planning permission is required and an application was submitted Quarter 2 2014.



**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Suitable works aren't carried out. A lack of community support.

The DVLP will work closely with the partner organisations. They have already carried out detailed investigations and have taken a best practice approach. No work will be commissioned until it has been approved by the DVLP. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. This is a community led project.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

Detailed costings have already been produced by the Mexborough Charitable Trust and reviewed by conservation architects employed by DVLP in the development phase. A clear budget has been established and will be closely monitored by the DVLP working with the Trust. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

**Links to other projects -**

HD1: Archaeology and Geology of the Dearne - Opportunities to carry out community archaeology surveys linked to the arch and its various locations.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne - The site can be promoted as part of the work of the DVLP.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – The site can link into the routes to be established. There are opportunities to develop further trails based on the theme of Mexborough.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne - Signposting can be prioritised to focus on the sites. The information discovered through this project can feed into the interpretation.

DD9: Art of the Dearne - Arts based projects can be developed on the basis of the arch and the community links established.

SD11: Developing Capacity - The local contacts made can benefit from further opportunities to support and develop individuals and groups.

SD12: Learning from the Dearne - Further opportunities for learning can be developed on the basis of the lessons learned.

**Legacy –**

- A piece of cultural heritage of national significance will be preserved, protected and enhanced for future generations.
- The profile of Robert Glassby will be raised.
- The experience and confidence of local community and heritage groups will be strengthened for future projects.



**The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**



**HD2.3: Hemingfield Colliery** - This project will see the restoration of one of the buildings within this historic complex to bring it back into community use and act as a catalyst for its further regeneration. A Friends of Hemingfield Colliery Group (FOHC) was formed in 2013 with the aim of acquiring, protecting and preserving the site. It finally purchased the site in June 2014 and is looking to acquire more of the adjacent land.



The colliery buildings are not listed at present, though the canal basin is. The listing of the site is being progressed through the DVLP. It is felt that the cultural heritage and remaining structures merit this. This site is of great significance in terms of the coal mining heritage of the area in particular the links to Elsecar Village.

The DVLP appointed architects during the development phase to carry out initial feasibility work on Hemingfield Colliery, looking at building conditions and identifying future uses and outline costs. This has been

built upon with further estimated costs developed for re-roofing and completing the building envelope in order to bring the building back into active use. A feasibility study led by Groundwork South Yorkshire has been carried out investigating the opportunity to establish a cycle hire social enterprise within this first building. The rest of the site has been masterplanned by students from Sheffield University School of Architecture.

Hemingfield Colliery was sunk in the 1840s for Charles Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, the 5th Earl Fitzwilliam, of Wentworth Woodhouse. While surviving miners' pit checks indicate that the colliery was known formally as 'Elsecar Low Pit'. The shaft from which the coal was wound became known locally as the 'Bicycle Wheel Pit' as it featured two pulley wheels mounted one above the other.

It contained a pump house, a winder house and an engine house, while a series of buildings along the canal bank formed Hemingfield Basin, where coal was loaded onto barges for transportation from the site. Several buildings, the majority of the mine's railway lines and the features that extended to the canal bank had been removed by the time of the 1930 Ordnance Survey map, when the site was marked 'Hemingfield Pumping Station (Mine Drainage)'. Standing buildings at the site include two stone-built engine houses, one of which is currently in use as a private house.

The railway line run by Elsecar Heritage Railway runs adjacent to the Colliery Site, with the extension of the line to Cortonwood (an additional mile of track) due by the Summer of 2015. This provides the opportunity to bring together their activities, with those of the FOHC and Barnsley Council with the HLF investment at Elsecar Heritage Centre in the Newcomen Beam Engine. The Colliery would provide an ideal station stop for the line and can also be linked back to the Heritage Centre through a walk past the canal



basin, through the woodland and along the side of the Canal.

The site was one of those included in the Building Review and Conditions Survey, carried out by Rance Booth Smith during the development phase.

The report indicates the pumping station has been abandoned and neglected for a long period of time, which has affected the condition of the buildings on site. There are two main buildings on site. Building 1 is two storey, brick built and located to the south of the site. Building 2 is also a two storey building, but spilt level, constructed partly in stone and partly in brick and located to the north of the site.

Building 1 is in poor condition; it has suffered considerable fire damage and subsequently has no roof and is open to the elements. There is a large amount of vegetation growth around the structure, which could potentially be contributing to the deterioration of the structure. The debris appears to have been cleared from this damage and it appears to have caused minimal damage to the brickwork or stability of the building. There are various openings in the building which have been infilled with a combination of blockwork and brick. This building is located directly on the boundary line of the site and the perimeter wall is broken by the south east elevation. This elevation has two large openings to the ground floor and two small opening to the first floor. These have been infilled with corrugated steel panels, which are showing signs of corrosion. The lower brickwork to this elevation also shows signs of erosion damage, due to salts and spray from the road.

Building 2 is a large two storey stone building with a large brick built extension to the northeast elevation. The stone work is in poor condition, particularly to the base of the structure and is heavily eroded in places. The pitched tile roof appears to be in good condition on the building and the extension,

with only a few slipped and missing tiles, particularly at the junction of the two structures. Gutters and down pipes are missing to both parts of the building and there is also vegetation growth at the junction between the two buildings, suggesting water ingress and damage. Openings to the ground floor have been infilled with brickwork and boarded up. There is only one apparent opening to the first floor level, which is open to the elements and has the remains of a damaged timber window frame.

The proposal for this site is to repair and restore the structures and buildings on the site and bring them into use and create a purpose and use for the buildings that will encourage visitors. A café space and multi-use community space could be created within brick built Building 1 and a visitor centre / shop, created in Building 2.

Works required to Building 1 are substantial. Areas of brickwork are to be repaired as required, the whole building repointed and a light clean to the brickwork to address staining and marking, etc. All existing roof trusses are to be removed and replaced, and a new insulated 'warm roof' system installed with slates externally. New guttering and downpipes are to be provided throughout. Walls are to be internally dry-lined with an insulated independent wall lining system and existing blocked openings to be replaced with new steel framed windows to replicate existing. Blocked door openings are to be replaced with new timber access doors with security shutters. New gas, water, drainage and electricity connections are required and new electrical and heating installations required throughout, including external feature lighting.

Initial costs have been developed for the site and feasibility work is being pursued to look at options for a cycle hire / repair / café social enterprise to be the phase one of the site. This will focus on building 1 of the feasibility report with the aim of preventing the loss of the building, getting it back into active use



and using this as the stepping stone to regenerate the rest of the site.

A detailed conservation plan will be produced and agreed in year 1, prior to work being undertaken. Work will be commissioned in line with the available budget. A legal agreement will also be developed to ensure there is no private gain from HLF investment into the site.

**Project Aim -**

- To preserve the one of the key buildings within the historic group.
- To act as the catalyst for the preservation of further buildings on the site.
- To bring the site back into active and sustainable use.
- To integrate the site into the work of the rest of the DVLP.
- To support a Friends of Group to support the future of the site.
- To bring together the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery with the Elsecar Heritage Railway and Elsecar Heritage Centre to provide a co-ordinated approach to the development of the Elsecar area.

**Project Lead -** Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

**Project Partners –** DVLP, Elsecar Heritage Railway, Barnsley Council

**Land Ownership –** The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery own the site.

**Audience –** Local community. Local businesses. Visitors from outside the area.

**Outputs and Outcomes -**

- 1 Steering group to support the project
- 1 consultation event held
- 8 people actively involved
- 1 building brought back into use

- 75 volunteer days contributed
- 1 friends of group supported

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£169,530
Cash	£106,030
HLF (amount)	£63,500
HLF (as a %)	37%

**Timescale –** Conservation plan development will take place during year 1

**Management and Maintenance -** There are no management and maintenance implications for the DVLP. The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery are developing a business plan as part of the conservation plan and feasibility work will look at income generation.

**Procurement -** The DVLP will work closely with the FOCH to ensure that all procurement guidance is followed. This will be highlighted in conditions of grant with the requirement that. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.



**Consents** – Friends of Hemingfield Colliery are the owners of the site. Planning permission will be required and listed building consent if the building does become listed.

**Project Risks** - Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Damage to a sensitive heritage asset. A clear strategy is not produced. A lack of community support.

Suitably qualified and experienced consultants will be appointed. A clear brief will be issued to consultants, Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. Clear support from the community has already been identified and partner organisations put forward.

**Financial** – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work will be established and closely monitored. A clear brief will be issued to consultants against which they will provide a fee quote.

### **Links to other projects** –

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively – proposals for the site surrounding can be developed through this project.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the site will be marketed and promoted through this project.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the physical access improvements will increase access to the site.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the site will be included as part of the signage and interpretation programme.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – The site will be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

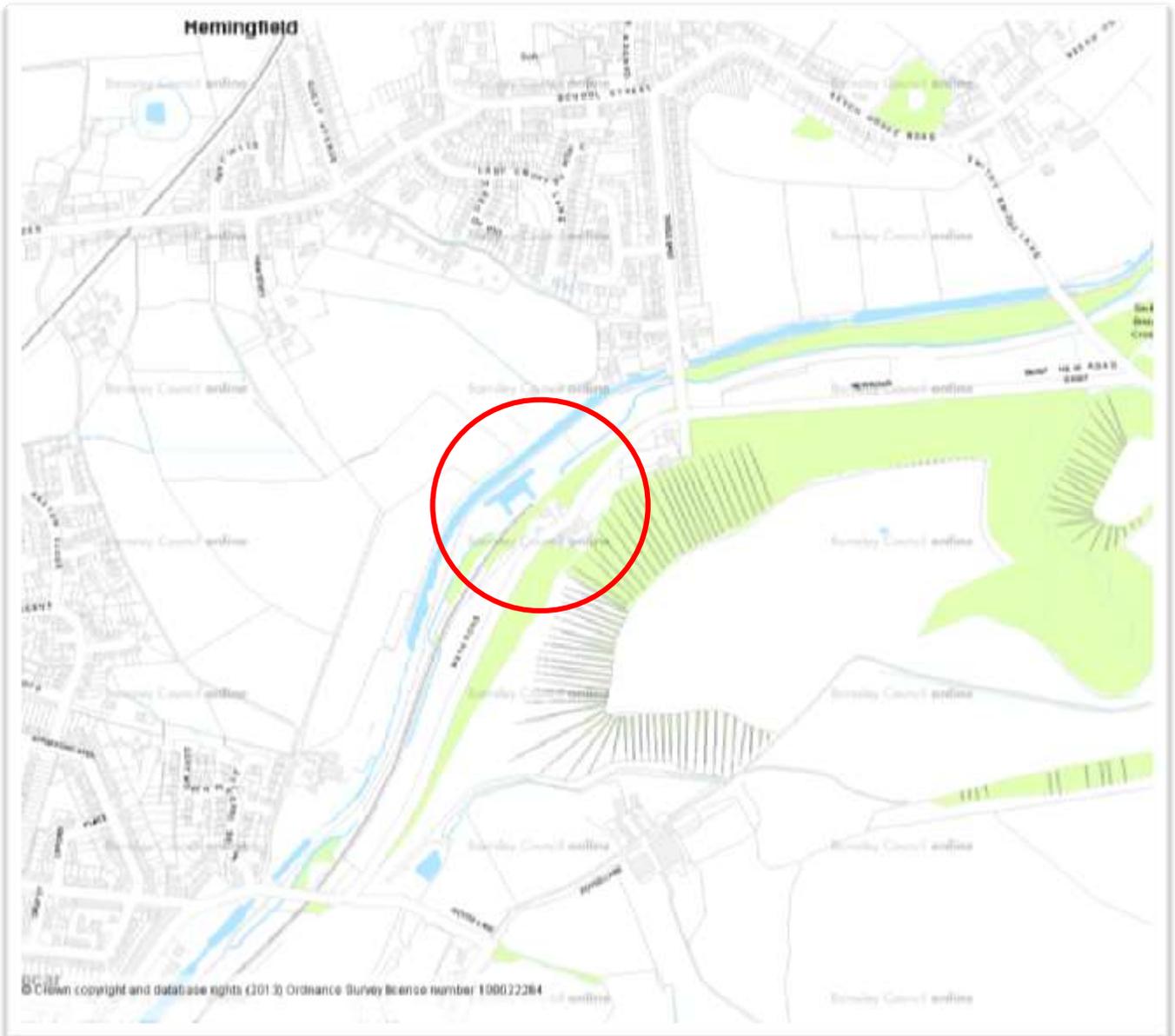
DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The site will provide an opportunity for outdoor learning.

### **Legacy** –

- The protection, conservation and preservation of a key piece of cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Increased understanding of a key piece of the cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Improvement management and maintenance of the structure and the wider site.
- Increased usage of the wider site.
- The experience and confidence of local community and heritage groups will be strengthened for future projects.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership



**HD2.4: Hoyland Lowe Stand** - This project will see the reconstruction of the tower, replacement of the roof and making the structure watertight to protect it from the elements. This will protect and preserve the building, allowing the trust to carry out further fund raising and project development in future years.

Hoyland Lowe Stand sits on the edge of Hoyland Village. It is thought to have been built around 1750 as a huntsman's lodge with observation tower for Thomas Watson-Wentworth, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Rockingham. It is thought that the building may have been designed by Henry Flitcroft, a renowned architect of the time, experienced in Palladian architecture and responsible for recreating publications of the drawings by Inigo Jones.



The Stand is known to be built on the highest part of the Wentworth estate, being 609.75ft or 182.93m above sea level and has panoramic views eastward towards the North Sea. It is reputed that on a clear day York Minster can be seen from the top of the tower, giving a good vantage point of the lands and estates of both Wentworth Woodhouse and Stainborough Park. The estate eventually became part of the Wentworth Woodhouse estate, the family seat of the Fitzwilliams.

In later years the building was converted into a dwelling and liability was transferred to the Dearne Valley Water Board, who ultimately transferred ownership to Hoyland Urban District Council. The structure currently belongs to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Over the past three decades it has fallen into a state of severe disrepair.

The Hoyland Lowe Stand Trust was formed following the announcement by Barnsley MBC that the structure had been included on a three year demolition list. Following the signing of a petition by 1,400 people in 2007, Barnsley MBC brought a halt to selling off the land.

The Trust was formed in order restore and preserve the stand and have produced a full business plan that takes a phased approach to its protection. The aim is to protect Hoyland Lowe Stand for future generations to use and enjoy, carrying out a sympathetic and sustainable restoration, increasing local awareness and providing a community resource. The group has received formal charitable status and has become well established within the local community of Hoyland and immediately beyond. The aims of the group are:

- To increase awareness of the landmark of Hoyland Lowe Stand, both locally and nationally.
- To protect the landmark from a sale that would not benefit the Stand and local community.
- To protect the landmark from decay and potential collapse.
- To work with Barnsley MBC and provide community facilities so that the sustainability of the structure can be assured.

The trust have commissioned a feasibility study and have produced a detailed business plan. They have already completed phase 1, which was securing and maintaining the basic structure and obtaining planning permission



for further work. The work has been fully costed and checked by the DVLP.

The project won't proceed until negotiations have been completed in relation to terms of the lease agreement with Barnsley Council. If the project does not proceed then the funding will be re-allocated.

**Project Aims:**

- To safeguard the long term future of the Stand.
- To carry out sympathetic and sustainable restoration of the stand and provide local and public access.
- To increase local awareness and promote further afield to draw visitors to the site.
- To provide a community resource and focus for local groups and schools.
- To provide a focus for community education of the history and heritage of the area.

**Project Lead** – Hoyland Lowe Stand Trust

**Project Partners** – DVLP, Barnsley Council

**Land Ownership** – The site is in the ownership of Barnsley Council with ongoing discussion regarding the transfer of ownership the Trust.

**Audience** – Local community.

**Outputs and Outcomes -**

- One Grade 2 listed structure protected and preserved
- 10 people actively involved
- Site interpretation established
- 40 volunteer days contributed
- 1 community group supported

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£49,927
Cash	£25,527
HLF (amount)	£24,400
HLF (as a %)	49%

**Timescale** – It is proposed for work to be carried out in Year 2.

**Management and Maintenance** – The Trust's business plan builds ongoing management and maintenance into their costings and fundraising.

**Procurement** - The DVLP will work closely with the Trust to ensure that all procurement guidance is followed. This will be highlighted in conditions of grant with the requirement that. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – Planning permissions / listed building consent has been obtained for the Phase 2 works.

**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Suitable works



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

aren't carried out. A lack of community support.

The DVLP will work closely with the partner organisation. They have already carried out detailed investigations. No work will be commissioned until it has been approved by the DVLP. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. This is a community led project.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

Detailed costings have already been produced by the Hoyland Lowe Stand Trust. These have been reviewed by conservation architects appointed by the DVLP during the development phase. A clear budget has been established and will be closely monitored by the DVLP working with the Trust. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

### Links to other projects –

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively – proposals for the surrounding site can be developed through this project.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the site will be marketed and promoted through this project.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the physical access improvements will increase access to the site.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the site will be included as part of the signage and interpretation programme.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – The site will be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The site will provide an opportunity for outdoor learning.

### Legacy –

- The protection, conservation and preservation of a key piece of cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Increased understanding of a key piece of the cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Improvement management and maintenance of the structure and the wider site.
- Increased usage of the wider site.
- The experience and confidence of local community and heritage groups will be strengthened for future projects.





**THEME 2: ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE OF THE DEARNE**

This theme will focus on the rivers, landscape, biodiversity and geology of the Dearne. It will highlight how they have shaped the place and its people. Projects will look to protect, preserve and enhance the environment. There will be encouragement to increase the involvement and understanding of the community, helping protect the environment for the future.

**ED3: SURVEYING THE DEARNE**

**Project Description** – This project will aim to gain a greater understanding of key environmental sites across the Dearne, in order that they can be protected, preserved and enhanced for the future. These sites will fall into three broad categories:

- Former colliery, industrial and associated sites
- Roadside verges
- Woodlands

There will be two stages to the project:

- Community led engagement activities to better understand key sites looking both the heritage and the wildlife.
- Surveys bringing together experts and the local community to develop more detailed knowledge of key sites, once again both how they have developed and the biodiversity that is there.

**Former Colliery, Industrial and Associated Sites** - South Yorkshire once hosted over 30 deep mines, with the majority being in the Dearne Valley. They have left a similar amount of spoil heaps as a legacy. Barnburgh Tip, Goldthorpe Tip, Park Hill Tip, Bolton Common, WR3, Phoenix Park, Cudworth Common and New Park Springs are all examples. These have been restored and reclaimed with varying degrees of success over recent years. This has led to a large area of land, not suitable for development that is

part of the Dearne Valley's growing natural resource. Many of these sites are now public resources, at the heart of the community and are actively used by a range of people. Due to the various approaches taken with the reclamation of colliery sites (some of it man made, some of it through nature) it has resulted in a wide and often unexpected range of species being found. This project will help capture the sheer range and variety but also understand why they are there as a result of the various land reclamation methods. This mosaic of sites is considered to be very rare in the country and increasingly uncommon in South Yorkshire.



**Roadside Verges** - There are verges throughout the area, often overlooked but they do form mini nature reserves, in many cases the only nature in some areas. They can provide wildlife and biodiversity refuges and act as wildlife corridors connecting more established and recognisable habitats. They can be home to rare species as well as intensive amounts of species. The verges are often long established, being the last vestiges of long lost landscapes. In many cases they have escaped the pesticides used on farmland, leaving them as safe habitats for a range of flora and fauna.

**Woodlands** - The Dearne has a wealth of significant, valuable and varied woodlands ranging from ancient woodlands to



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

contemporary planting. Through the involvement of local communities in bringing under-managed or neglected woodland back into sustainable management this will help protect and enhance the Dearne Valley's natural environment. An important element is supporting local people and partners in developing and interpreting several key priority woodland sites, based on their historical and/or biodiversity richness. This will increase the public and local communities understanding, use and enjoyment of these natural and valuable resources.



**Community Led Engagement** - There will be a focus on “citizen science” environmental engagement and surveys of key sites in the Dearne, bringing experts together with the local community. It will develop the skills and knowledge of local people. It will also create a sustainable record of the rich biodiversity and heritage of the Dearne Valley. Through working with local communities it will allow for key sites to be prioritised, with management or improvement plans which can then be delivered through ED5: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively.

Initially a team of ecologists, environmentalists and engagement specialists will work with the local community in focusing on key sites across the Dearne. There will be an initial programme of community

engagement, using the OPAL project model as the basis. The DVLP will work with the local community in learning more about the sites and increasing local people's understanding of those sites. There will be community based surveys led by specialists who will equip local people with the skills and knowledge to learn more about the sites and have the skills to carry out further surveys on their own.

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network is a UK-wide citizen science initiative that allows people to get hands on with nature, whatever their age, background or level of ability. They develop activities and resources, including national surveys, which allow people to get closer to their local environment while collecting important scientific data.

Three trial events were carried out by the OPAL project, working with local partners to hold events at three varied and distinctive sites across the Dearne. These initial sites were all former colliery sites, each that had been reclaimed in different ways. They were New Park Spring (Grimethorpe), Phoenix Park (Thurnscoe) and the Cadeby Colliery Site (Conisbrough). These proved very successful and demonstrated the potential for this approach in the Dearne.

OPAL have identified the Dearne Valley as their area of focus for phase 2 of activity in Yorkshire and Humberside. This follows on from a successful phase 1 in the Wakefield area from 2008-13. Using the model developed in phase 1 the engagement will include:

- OPAL Surveys: Soil and Earthworms, Air quality and lichens, Water quality, Biodiversity of hedgerows, Climate and weather, Invertebrates (Bugs Count) and Tree Health. Using survey packs developed the DVLP will work with local people to carry out these initial surveys.
- Education packs: a series of education packs aimed at helping primary school



children learn about the environment in a fun way.

- BioBlitzes: A series of bioblitzes with various partners with guides on how best to run them.
- Participatory mapping (or participatory GIS): to understand how people view their local environment. This focuses not just on the biodiversity they have seen in the area but how they have seen the area change over time, their memories of it and their hopes for the future.
- Species identification and recording: free species identification courses in conjunction with partners which aimed to introduce people to some of the wildlife around them.

This approach has many benefits:

- Whilst not necessarily comprehensive recording they can create a species list and identify opportunities for further investigation.
- This can be an enjoyable introduction to surveying, they are less formal and focus on short bursts of activity, working with other people.
- They take place in people's own communities helping them learn and understand more about areas relevant to them.
- They have scientific value that is benefit to experts.
- Volunteers can learn from experts in their field.
- People can be surprised about what species or habitats that they find.

Using these approaches the DVLP will hold a series of events across the area over a number of years. Training and support will be provided to key groups, organisations and individuals to provide them with the skills to pass on to others, whether leading surveys or

taking part. These will be focused at strategic times of year to create maximum impact and over the five years build up a clear picture of how the biodiversity of the Dearne is changing.

**Detailed Surveys** - As part of the second phase more detailed work will be carried out through partners and by commissioning a specialist team of consultants. They will carry out detailed surveys and continue to engage with the local community. The strategy as set out in the DVLP Environmental and Biodiversity Review is to:

- Co-ordinate existing recording effort, and obtain and make best use of existing data sources.
- Fill in the gaps in data by commissioning desk-based, habitat, and species survey work to inform habitat restoration or creation work.
- Offer training and experience in ecological survey techniques by running an accredited 'work-shadowing' scheme for all survey work.
- Involve the existing community of local amateur Naturalists to help to promote involvement in exploring local environments.
- Offer education in ecological and environmental subjects by running identification workshops and surveying-courses in the Dearne Valley.
- Utilise online and digital recording methods (including National Recording programmes and phone apps) to attract younger generation.
- Influence land use planning decisions to achieve sustainable development

This project will be closely integrated with the interpretation project to bring to the forefront the history of the sites, why they are there and what they have to offer in heritage, environmental and biodiversity terms. For



many people they are not aware that the open space they are enjoying is as a direct consequence of the mining industry. There will also be close links with the arts programme with the potential to take advantage of the views and vantage point, by creating viewing platforms, having public arts trails or even just recording the views and sites through photography.

Opportunities for working in partnership will be further developed over the course of the programme, in particular with Buglife. They are developing a strategy for the conservation of our most important brownfields and looking to change public opinion on the value of the sites. Projects of particular relevance to the DVLP are 'Fallin Bing from Coalfield to Brownfield' project and 'West Glamorgan Stepping Stones for Wildlife' project.

At the time of writing the LCAP they are developing a significant Dearne Valley focused project to complement the DVLP and the DVGH NIA. This is seeking external funding and if this is secured it will create the opportunity to integrate into the work of DVLP.

The prioritised sites and indication of which years they will be focused on are listed below. Additional sites will be identified as the programme develops:

### Priority

- Phoenix Park (1)
- New Park Springs (1)
- Denaby Main (1)
- Wombwell Woods (1)
- Old Mill, Conisbrough (1)
- New Hall Farm (2)
- West Haigh Woods (2)
- Barnsley Main (2)
- Dearne Valley Parkway / Manvers Way (1 onwards)
- Barnburgh (2)

- Parkhill Brickworks (2)

### Secondary

- Cliff Wood (3)
- Potter Holes Plantation (3)
- Monk Bretton / Hoyle Mill (3)
- Bow Broom (3)
- Horsefair Park (3)
- Cudworth Common (3)
- Ferrymoor Flash (3)
- Manvers (3)
- Howell Wood (3)
- Cortonwood (3)
- Darfield Main (3)
- Houghton Main / Houghton Common (3)

### **Project Aim -**

- To identify the former colliery sites across the Dearne Valley.
- To increase understanding of how each of the sites has been reclaimed and impacts on the wildlife and nature that has resulted.
- To increased understanding of what wildlife and nature exists in former pit top sites, grasser verges and woodlands in the Dearne Valley.
- To protect and enhance existing woodlands.
- To raise awareness and understanding of the woodlands of the Dearne Valley.
- To develop new survey skills within the local community.
- To involve the local community with the ongoing management of these sites.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- To involve the community in surveys of the biodiversity of the Dearne Valley.
- To increase people's understanding and appreciation of the biodiversity of the area in which they live.
- To increase the information on the biodiversity in the Dearne Valley.
- To identify where there are gaps in information or inconsistencies in data collection and rectify them.
- To help people in the Dearne develop new skills.

### Project Lead - DVLP

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council, Doncaster Council, Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area, OPAL project, Buglife, Barnsley Biodiversity Trust.

**Land Ownership** – The sites are in various ownerships

**Audience** – Local community. Special interest groups. Local authorities. Landowners. Visitors to the area.

### Outputs and Outcomes -

- 24 colliery sites remotely assessed using aerial photography / Google Earth etc and digitised
- 24 desk top surveys carried out
- 15,000m<sup>2</sup> verges surveyed
- 15 woodlands surveyed and assessed
- 10 sites surveyed with local communities
- 15 community training days held
- 80 volunteer survey events held
- 60 specialist recording days held
- 6 seminars held
- 175 volunteer days contributed

- 1 document produced to celebrate the biodiversity of the Dearne Valley

### Project Costs -

Total Project Cost	£78,100
Cash	£12,00
HLF (amount)	£66,100
HLF (as a %)	85%

**Timescale** – Detailed programme to be developed during year 1.

**Management and Maintenance** – The various landowners have existing maintenance budgets for the sites. By working with the site owners and increasing their understanding of the sites, producing site management plans, it is intended to maximise the use of available budgets.

**Procurement** - Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – The only sites included will be those with willing landowners who want to be part of the project and therefore allow access to the sites.



**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Damage to sensitive landscapes. Lack of sites to investigate.

Suitably qualified and experienced consultants will be appointed. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. Previous work by the NIA has clearly identified sufficient sites.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover all sites.

A clear budget for each element will be established and closely monitored. Sites will be prioritised and work only undertaken if sufficient budget is available.

**Links to other projects –**

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project

HD2: Protecting Key Sites – The wider sites of Barnsley Main and Hemingfield Colliery can link into the survey programme.

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively – the findings for the surveys feed directly into this project.

ED5: Reconnecting with the Dearne: There are opportunities for the approach developed through the surveys to link in with the projects related to the river and water courses.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – there are opportunities for the findings of the surveys to feed into the marketing and promotion of the area.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the physical access improvements will increase access to the sites.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the findings of the surveys can feed into the signage and interpretation programme.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – The findings of the surveys can be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

DD11: The skills developed by those taking part in the surveys can link in with the capacity programme.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The findings of the surveys can feed into the learning and education programme.

**Legacy –**

- Increased understanding and knowledge of the environmental heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Enhanced skills of the communities in the Dearne in relation to the environment and biodiversity.



## ED4: CREATING AND MANAGING SITES MORE EFFECTIVELY

**Project Description** - This project is looking at the opportunities to create and manage environmental sites more effectively, looking at new ways of working and increasing the biodiversity of the area. It is closely linked with ED3 Surveying the Dearne with the community engagement and findings from there used as a starting point for practical improvements to sites. Improvements will be made directly resulting from the community engagement and new ways of managing sites will be trialled, reviewed and disseminated. These sites will fall into three broad categories:

- Former colliery, industrial and associated sites
- Roadside verges
- Woodlands

Specific sites have been prioritised through the development process, others will be developed through the surveying process. It will:

- Involve the local communities in the development and management of sites – including “Friends of” Groups, community volunteering and community management.
- Implement a range of simple practical improvements – benches, gates, access, etc. to increase usage.
- Improve and establish woodlands and local nature sites to improve their biodiversity.
- Carry out a range of environmental improvements (both through volunteers and contractors)
- Co-ordinate the development of best practice in site management, trialling and assessing new ways of working in

the process developing clear management plans for key sites.

**Former colliery, industrial and associated sites**– The DVLP will work with the owners or those responsible for key sites in surveying the sites, engaging with the local community and identifying practical improvements to the sites. This will increase community usage but will also be used to develop community participation through practical volunteering, community consultation and site based activities.

Activities will include scrub clearance, coppicing, tree guard removal, Himalayan balsam clearance, expansion of small wetland areas, pond creation, hedge laying, high pruning, path maintenance, fencing, thinning of woodlands and wildflower meadow creation.

There will also be a focus on looking at new ways of managing greenspaces. This builds on work carried out by the DVGH Nature Improvement Area working with greenspace management staff at Doncaster Council. A series of workshops were held along with site visits to look at how specification and maintenance can be changed to improve biodiversity. An ongoing series of workshops will be held bringing the three local authorities together, developing consistent approaches, sharing best practice and supporting through the development of resources such as specifications.

Key sites to initially focus on will be the same as those through the survey project:

### Priority

- Phoenix Park (1)
- New Park Springs (1)
- Denaby Main (1)
- Old Mill, Conisbrough (1)
- New Hall Farm (2)
- Barnsley Main (2)
- Barnburgh (2)
- Parkhill Brickworks (2)



Secondary

- Monk Bretton / Hoyle Mill (3)
- Bow Broom (3)
- Horsefair Park (3)
- Cudworth Common (3)
- Ferrymoor Flash (3)
- Manvers (3)
- Cortonwood (3)
- Darfield Main (3)
- Houghton Main / Houghton Common (3)

**Roadside Verges** – The surveying of roadside verges will be used as a starting point, from which planting and management plans of key roadside verges across the Dearne Valley will be developed. This will improve the biodiversity and assist with the longer term management and maintenance. This is an extension of the successful pilot work carried out in 2012 and 2013 by Rotherham Council.

The Dearne has seen significant road building in recent years with roads such as the Dearne Valley Parkway and Manvers Way cutting through the area, as part of the economic regeneration plans for the area. These dual (and large single) carriageway roads provide ample opportunities for improvements to the central reservations and roadside verges. Roadside verges will be selected for inclusion after careful surveys and will be marked with posts and signage to identify their inclusion. Each stretch of verge will have its own management plan, developed by the relevant local authority. The focus for the early phase of the project will be Manvers Way with Dearne Valley Parkway and Bolton Road at either end of it. As indicated this road has cut through the area and is highly visible and very well used. By focusing on this stretch it also has the advantage that it covers all three local authority areas providing an immediate opportunity for joint working. It also has a good diversity of widths and styles of verges allowing for differing management

techniques to be used and replicated across the Dearne Valley.



Standard management plans will be developed across the Dearne, that can be adopted and adapted for specific and special sites. There will also be opportunities to trial low intensity approaches or different management approaches to see what works best. This will allow for protocols to be adopted by the local authorities. The DVLPP will bring together the three local authorities to form a working party to look how they can learn from each other and ensure consistency across the Dearne. Where identified additional seeding, will be carried out by the local authorities or where appropriate volunteers to increase the species within verges.

Communities will be encouraged to “adopt” a verge with the potential for them to be involved from survey, through seeding all the way to monitoring. They can provide the eyes



and ears of any damage, misuse or threats the verges faces as well as carry out surveys (linked to the rest of the programme) on the types and quantities of species.

**Woodlands** – There will be two key strands in relation to woodlands.

- Creation, Enhancement and Interpretation. The project will work with partners to identify sites for new planting which will include areas of rare wet woodland, a national habitat priority. Wet woodland (WW) is one of the rarest habitats in Britain and is classed as a “priority habitat” under the UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP). The creation of new woodland and WW areas will encourage and support a variety bird species such as Willow Tit and mammals such as otters, water voles and bats.
- There are approximately 11 Ancient Woodland Sites which have been planted with non-native trees – and known as PAWS. For example these include West Haigh Wood, Wombwell Wood and Cliff Wood. These woods are considered “threatened” and restoration work is required to bring them back toward a semi-natural woodland habitat. In addition there are many other neglected woodlands in the Valley, support will be provided to the landowners to help bring these back into sustainable management and thereby enhancing woodland habitat.

Priority sites are:

- Wombwell Woods (1)
- West Haigh Woods (2)
- Cliff Wood (3)
- Potter Holes Plantation (3)
- Howell Wood (3)

Further sites will be identified during Year 1.

**Project Aim** –

- To trial and adopt new management and maintenance approaches.
- To learn from best practice and shared experiences.
- To implement a programme of practical improvements to key environmental sites.
- To increase the biodiversity of the verges within the Dearne Valley.
- To increase understanding of biodiversity of the verges within the Dearne Valley.
- To involve the community in the “adoption” of verges.
- To create new woodlands.
- To protect and enhance existing woodlands.
- To involve the communities in the creation and management of woodlands.
- To raise awareness and understanding of the woodlands of the Dearne Valley.

**Project Lead** - DVLP

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council, Doncaster Council, Dearne Valley Green Heart NIA, OPAL Project, Buglife, Land Trust, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Woodland Trust, Barnsley Biodiversity Trust

**Land Ownership** – All sites are in public ownership.

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities. Land owners. Visitors to the area.

**Outputs and Outcomes** -

- 10 site management plans produced
- 5 woodland management plans produced



- 8 workshops held
- 15 training days held
- 12 keys sites having practical improvement works carried out on them
- 10 hectares of new wood planted
- 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of new verges seeded
- 100 volunteer days contributed
- 50 people actively involved
- 5 priority woodlands interpreted

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£187,619
Cash	£104,812
HLF (amount)	£82,807
HLF (as a %)	44%

**Timescale – Year 1 onwards**

**Management and Maintenance –** The local authorities are already responsible for the management and maintenance of the verges. There is the potential through trialling different approaches to reduce costs.

**Procurement -** Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender

online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents –** The sites are in the ownership of the partners to the project.

**Project Risks –**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Suitable works aren't carried out.

The DVLP will work closely with all the partners to document and record the project. No work will be commissioned until it has been approved by the DVLP. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget has been established and will be closely monitored by the DVLP working with the partners. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

**Links to other projects –**

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into this project.

HD2: Protecting Key Sites – The wider sites of Barnsley Main and Hemingfield Colliery can link into management programme.

ED5: Reconnecting with the Dearne: There are opportunities for the approach developed through the land management to link in with the projects related to the river and water courses.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – all sites can be promoted through website and promotion of the DVLP.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the physical access improvements will increase access to the sites.



## **The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the key sites will feed into the signage and interpretation programme.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – The key sites be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The key sites can feed into the learning and education programme.

### **Legacy –**

- Increased understanding and knowledge of the environmental heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Enhanced skills of the communities in the Dearne in relation to the environment and biodiversity.
- Improved management and maintenance of key sites within the Dearne Valley.



## ED5: RECONNECTING THE RIVER DEARNE

**Project Description** – This project will focus on the River Dearne, with the aim of removing physical barriers at a critical point on the River Dearne to assist with fish migration, increase habitats and improve water quality. This would be another vital step in continuing the improvement of the River Dearne and its connection with the River Don.

The River Dearne is physically at the heart of the Dearne Valley, with its origins in the Pennines, running through to the North Sea via the Rivers Don, Ouse and Humber. It is also economically, historically and socially at the heart of the area - what it was, what it became and what it can become in the future. It has been a driving force for change in the area, being one of the key reasons for industry of all sorts developing in the Dearne Valley.

At the height of industry within the Dearne the river became polluted and undervalued as it was used as a way of disposing of waste. It has taken decades for the water quality to improve, but it has done and wildlife has returned. There are still problem areas and people are still disconnected from the river both physically and emotionally.

**River Dearne Connectivity** – The DVLPP will work with The Don Catchment Rivers Trust to improve the connectivity and ecological quality of the River Dearne by introducing schemes to overcome existing barriers to fish migration and naturalise historically straightened sections of channel on the River Dearne. The work proposed is to be carried out at in the vicinity of the junction between the River Dearne and Knoll Beck. This will involve:

- Manufacture and installation of Low Cost Baffles on Bolton upon Dearne weir.

- Manufacture and installation of Low Cost Baffles on Old Moor lower weir.
- Removal of sheet pile weir Old Moor upper weir.
- Installation of Groynes below Old Moor on the River Dearne.



Due to past land drainage and flood defence works, the River Dearne is canalised and relatively featureless for approximately 600 metres below the two weirs. This section of river is a Heavily Modified Water Body (HMWB) with the lower weir being a 'significant' barrier to fish. The Don Catchment Rivers Trust undertook feasibility work investigating the feasibility of the removal of one of the weirs and an easement or a fish pass on the other. A series of groynes below the weir was also being investigated. The groynes would increase flow variability and a diversity of habitat on the canalised stretch, increasing in-channel morphological diversity

The result would be the provision of a good spawning and nursery environment for fish from the Dearne. There would be water quality benefits as a result of the re-mobilisation of sediments which in turn will be of benefit to invertebrates and, of course, an improvement in the general ecology

### Project Aim –

- To ensure the River Dearne has an adequate flow of water free of pollution.



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- To create a free and unobstructed river passage for migrating fish.
- To create habitats for diverse and rich native fauna and flora.
- To prevent excessive and harmful bank erosion.
- To create appropriate access to, and development of, the river environment to help improve people's quality of life and the economy.
- To conserve river features and restore original river landscapes where appropriate.
- To ensure future generations have a better understanding of river catchments and river catchment management.
- To promote and increase participation in river stewardship schemes in the Dearne Valley.

**Project Lead** – Don Catchment Rivers Trust

**Project Partners** – DVLP, RSPB, Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council, Environment Agency, Natural England.

**Land Ownership** – The project will only work on sites in public ownership.

**Audience** – Local community. Local authorities. Visitors to the area.

**Outputs and Outcomes** –

- 600m stretch of river corridor directly improved and naturalised
- 2 fish passages installed
- 1 weir removed
- 12km of the River Dearne between the River Don and Great Houghton will have connectivity re-established, extending potential for upstream movement on the main river for a range of fish species
- Increased opportunities for a range of coarse fish species to colonise the river and spawn within one season
- A range of LBAP species benefitting including Daubentons Bat, Water Vole, Otter, Bittern and Salmon

### Project Costs -

Total Project Cost	£154,100
Cash	£54,600
HLF (amount)	£99,500
HLF (as a %)	65%

**Timescale** – All feasibility work carried out and detailed design developed. Project to be implemented during Year 2.

**Management and Maintenance** - There are no management and maintenance implications for the DVLP. Improvements to the river will reduce the management requirements.

**Procurement** – The DVLP will work closely with the Trust to ensure that all procurement guidance is followed. This will be highlighted in conditions of grant with the requirement that. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender



online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – The Environment Agency are a key partner in this project.

**Project Risks** - Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Damage to sensitive environmental assets.

Suitably qualified and experienced consultants have been appointed. A clear detailed design had been produced and method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored. Clear support from the partner organisations is already in place.

**Financial** – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work has been established and closely monitored. A clear brief will be issued to consultants.

### **Links to other projects –**

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the project will be promoted through the DVLP.

DD7: Exploring the Dearne – the TPT is adjacent to the river at this point providing opportunities for people to see and learn more about the river.

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – the site will be included as part of the signage and interpretation programme.

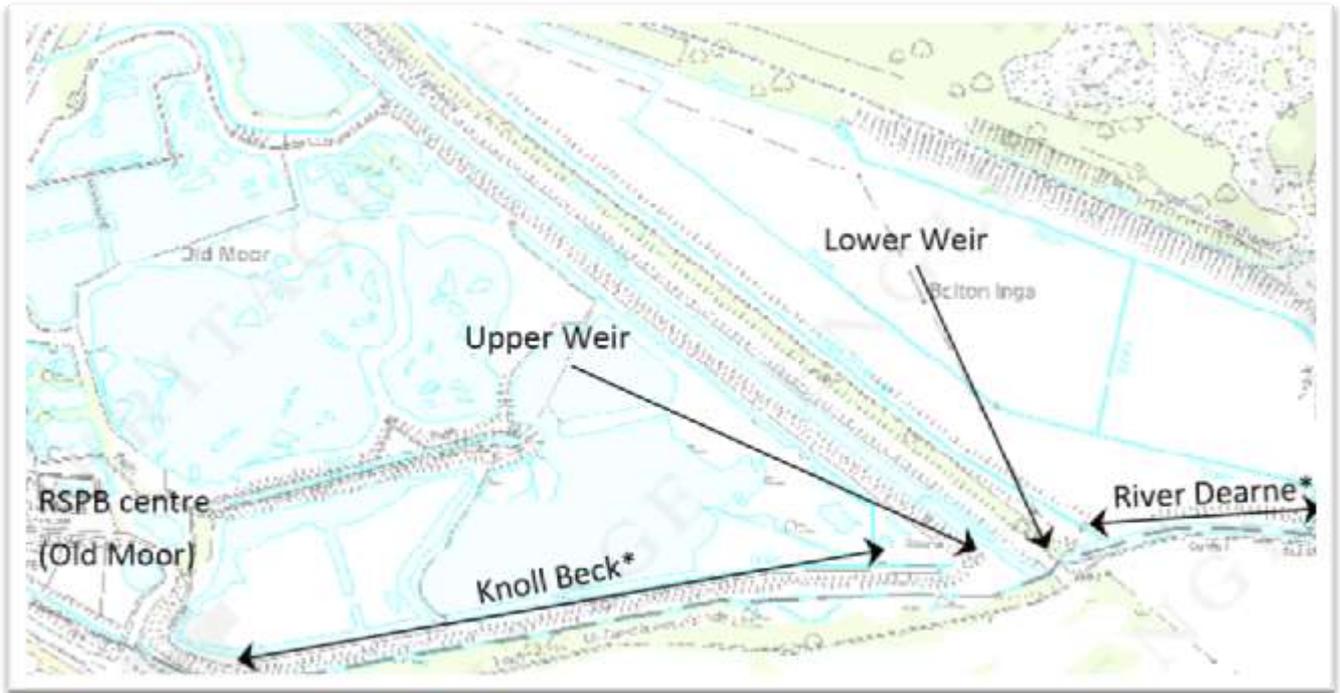
DD9: Art of the Dearne – The river will be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – The site will provide an opportunity for outdoor learning.

### **Legacy –**

- Enhanced connectivity of the River Dearne, linking into the wider river network.
- Increased awareness amongst the local community of the River Dearne.
- Enhanced natural habitat for a range of species.
- A permanently naturalised stretch of the River Dearne.





### **THEME 3 – DISCOVERING THE DEARNE**

This theme will aim to make local people and visitors more aware of what is in the Dearne. It will use the arts to engage with people to collect and celebrate the stories of the Dearne. It will encourage more people to visit the area, providing more information about what is in the area and making it easier people to move around and find their way.

#### **DD6: PROMOTING THE DEARNE**

**Project Description** – Marketing, promotion, publications and information sharing led by the DVLP is essential to the success of the scheme. This is primarily the promotion of the DVLP’s own activities and programme but also the promotion of the wider Dearne Valley and the range of opportunities it presents. There will be a co-ordinated use of printed materials (leaflets, books, brochures, posters, etc) with new media (websites, apps, etc) to best suit the various audiences within the Dearne.

There are two key strands to the project:

**Design, Marketing and Print Costs** - The design costs related to the production of marketing and printed materials for the DVLP. The production of marketing material to promote the work of the DVLP and the Dearne as a whole.

**Website, Apps and Social Media** – The use of online and app based media to promote, receive and share information about the DVLP and the Dearne.

A communications strategy has been developed as part of the development phase and this will guide the marketing and promotion throughout the lifetime of the Dearne. A “brand” for the DVLP has already been established and adopted and that also has clear guidelines for its use. This will ensure there is a consistent approach to everything that the DVLP produces.

**Communications Strategy** - The adopted communications strategy has:

- Identified key messages (in support of the core Dearne Valley ‘brand’ and associated DVLP ‘brand’, its aims, projects and activities).
- Identified key stakeholders and audiences (active and potential including partners, ambassadors, residents, businesses and visitors).
- Identified potential key media and communication tools (including owned, earned and paid-for media such as promotional material, PR, online resources advertising).
- Outlined communication processes - the rules, roles and responsibilities (eg for the publication and distribution of materials, writing of press releases, contributions of spokespeople, online and social media management, promotional events etc).
- Suggested means of monitoring the quality of communication activity; evaluating and reviewing its impact upon, and contribution to, the DVLP’s aims.

**Branding Guidelines** – A visual identity (logo, colour palette and font) has been established for the DVLP. The guidelines provide specific rules explaining how to use the logo and setting out the principles for creative and consistent interpretation of our visual identity.

**Approach** – The DVLP will take the following approach to promote its work and the wealth of opportunities in the Dearne.

- Printed materials – All printed materials will be presented and produced within a clearly defined and distinctive DVLP brand – provided by the DVLP’s professional designers - to ensure they have a consistent approach. Printed materials will have clear distribution in place to ensure

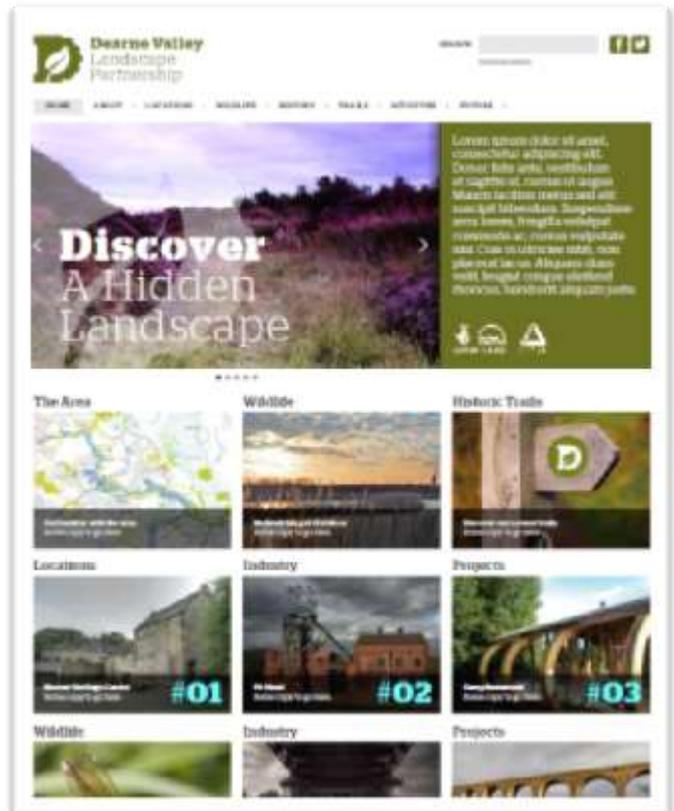


## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

they reach the audiences for which they are intended.

- Website – A comprehensive website will be developed to explain and promote the work of the DVLP and the wealth of activities and opportunities there are within the Dearne. It will include background information on the area, the DVLP, the activities, contact details as well as providing a central point for DVLP resources (where applicable) and news releases. It will link to the sites of partners, include a blog and have the opportunity to upload photos, surveys and information. The website will also be used as a management tool, allowing project managers and key partners access to certain parts of the site (via passwords) to obtain meeting minutes, project documents, evaluation reports, etc.
- Social media – A Facebook page and Twitter account have been established for the DVLP. This will help raise the profile of the programme and engage with the local community. It will be updated on a regular basis, sharing progress of the DVLP and receiving immediate feedback.
- Public relations – The published and broadcast media - including newspapers, magazines, radio, television and associated news websites – are key vehicles to reach a range of audiences both within the Dearne Valley, regionally, nationally and across specialist interest areas. PR support will be commissioned to support the work of the DVLP.
- Advertising – Paid-for advertising can have a role in the marketing mix to promote the Dearne Valley and what it has to offer. Advertising options may include bus advertising, street display

board posters, printed media display adverts, radio advertising.



- Promotional events – There will be investment in good quality DVLP branded display stand materials for use at events or public location. These opportunities allow for face to face promotion to spread key messages, distribute leaflets, seek two-way feedback etc.
- Apps - A series of apps (for smartphones and tablets) will be developed to complement the websites. There will be two approaches. Apps to promote the events, activities and attractions within the Dearne and apps for recording and submitting information (such as wildlife sightings). These allow people when they are out and about to record sightings (including GPS information) and submit them to the central databases.



**Project Aim -**

- To launch the DVLP programme and establish a clear and strong identity for - and understanding of – its work.
- To promote and communicate the work of the DVLP – highlighting what’s new, what’s improved, what’s been achieved, what’s available, what’s happening.
- To raise and enhance the profile of the Dearne Valley – develop its ‘sense of place’ and its reputation as a great place to live, work and visit.
- To inform, inspire and encourage more active participation in the Dearne Valley and the opportunities afforded by its landscape - across all audiences and all relevant geographical communities (local, regional, national) and communities of interest (eg cycling, arts, rambling).
- To protect the reputation of the DVLP by managing expectations, dealing with any issues raised, preparing for any adverse attention.
- To establish effective communication processes across the DVLP to develop and maintain relationships with all stakeholders and facilitate sustainable partnership working and community-wide involvement for the Dearne Valley going forward.
- To provide a clear, accessible, user friendly source of information on the DVLP and its work
- To provide management tools to assist with the running of the DVLP
- To encourage people to contribute to the work of the DVLP by submitting information, photographs and comments.

- To provide a centralised database resources on the environment, heritage and biodiversity of the Dearne.
- To provide the hardware and software necessary to implement the DVLP

**Project Lead - DVLP**

**Project Partners** – All project partners across the programme.

**Land Ownership** – There are no land ownership issues.

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities. Visitor attractions and sites.

**Outputs and Outcomes -**

- 4 brochures designed, produced and circulated
- 12 leaflets designed, produced and circulated
- 24 different posters designed, produced and circulated
- 6 pop up banners designed, produced and circulated
- PR support engaged
- 2 advertising campaigns
- 1 website developed
- 2 smartphone apps developed

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£94,700
Cash	£30,000
HLF (amount)	£64,700
HLF (as a %)	68%

**Timescale** – Year 1 onwards

**Management and Maintenance** – Update and maintenances costs for the website and apps have been built into the project budget.



**Procurement** – Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents area required.

### **Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with best practice. The site is not accessible or well used. There are no suitable domain names. There is a lack of clarity regarding key messages. There is no consistency between project partners. The support of funders (particularly HLF) is not acknowledged in the work of the DVLP.

The interpretation and communications strategies have already set out clear approaches to website and app requirements and design. The acknowledged accessibility standards will be adhered to. Usage of the website and downloads of the app will be closely monitored and feedback sought and acted upon. A series of relevant and appropriate domain names have already been registered.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work will be established and closely monitored by the DVLP working with the partners. Work will

only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

### **Links to other projects –**

All projects in the programme will be promoted on the website and featured in the leaflets / brochures.

### **Legacy –**

- An enhanced identity for the Dearne Valley.
- A wider awareness and understanding of the Dearne Valley.



## DD7: EXPLORING THE DEARNE

Encouraging more people to visit, walk, cycle and horse ride in the Dearne through improving physical access.

**Project Description** – This is a series of linked initiatives aimed at encouraging people to walk, cycle and ride horses to explore the Dearne. It will focus on a series of physical improvements:

**Identifying barriers** – Focusing on the physical and perceptual barriers, by surveying routes and sites to identify what is stopping people using sites.

**Removing barriers** - Focusing on key locations where improvements to paths or connecting gaps will have maximum impact. It will also focus on the introduction of physical improvements at key locations that will have maximum benefit to visitors and users of the area.

This project will run in parallel with Promoting the Dearne. It must be made as easy as possible for people to be able to find the sites and to be able to get to them easily. If they have been encouraged to visit then they must have a good experience, making them want to visit again.

Significant work has previously been carried out by the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership (with their Interpretation Study - as distinct from the DVLP Interpretation Strategy), the Trans Pennine Trail and the Public Rights of Way Officers within the three local authorities. The Dearne is fortunate in having the Trans Pennine Trail running through its heart, along with an extensive public rights of way network. These are generally to a high standard, are extended across the area, link key sites and are well used. What are required though are site specific measures to identify problems and remove barriers to usage.

**Identifying Barriers (Accessible Heritage)** - The DVLP will work closely with the WEA (Workers' Educational Association)

to improve access (physical and intellectual) to the heritage and environment within the Dearne.

This will be achieved through seven courses over a three year period, working with targeted groups (learning difficulties, physical difficulties, deaf groups, and mental health groups). The courses will be structured as follows, with two types to be delivered:



### Course 1: Heritage from the footpaths (60 hours)

- 20 week course walking key sections of footpaths in the local area – photographing and recording places of interest identifying places that need further research. Groups will visit local history groups, archives etc. to find out more
- 8 week course to produce a simple leaflet/website and film describing what can be seen on the stretch of footpath chosen - using social media for social purpose.

### Course 2: Assessing / Auditing Heritage Sites (60 hours)

- Guided by the DVLP, key sites will be identified and visited over 1 year (these are likely to include those already identified such as Conisbrough Castle, Elsecar Heritage Centre, Dearne & Dove Canal, Wombwell Wood, West



Haigh Woods, Worsbrough Mill & Country Park, Barnsley Main Pithead, Monk Bretton Priory, Parkhill Brickworks, Rockingham Pottery Works, Carlton Main brickworks, Dearne Valley Country Park, Maurice Dobson Museum, Swinton Locks, and Elsecar Reservoir, amongst many other sites.)

- During each visit the site will be 'tested' and 'assessed' on the accessibility of its facilities and materials. This will be measured against pre-agreed criteria and fed back to the relevant site management organisation. It may also be linked with websites such as DisabledGo: <http://www.disabledgo.com>.
- After each visit a group appropriate accessible guide will be produced. This guide will be made readily available to the organisation who manages the site.

This approach will be embedded into the work of the DVLP with linkages established with sites, attractions, partners and the community. This project has the potential to add to all elements of the DVLP, whilst at the same time benefitting itself by encouraging the participants to be involved in other projects within the programme.

**Removing Barriers** – This will use both the work of the WEA in Identifying Barriers and the Green Heart Core Circuit identified within the DVGH Interpretation Strategy. Physical improvement will be carried out on the core circuit walk and at key sites.

The proposed core circuit walk around the Green Heart is, in the main, already in existence. The walk would link the important ecological sites of Edderthorpe Flash, Wombwell Ings, Gypsy Marsh, Old Moor, Bolton Ings and Adwick Washland with local communities. Sections of route which need improvements and the removal of barriers to access have been highlighted and will be the initial areas of focus. See figure 1.

The priorities identified in the Interpretation Study will be reviewed with the details developed, the costs established and the work needed prioritised. This will be developed in partnership with the PROW officers at all three local authorities and the TPT programme team (who are also based within Barnsley Council).

Barriers identified through the Accessible Heritage can be addressed through this fund.



Opportunities to increase greater usage of the area will also be encouraged through physical improvements such as horse mounting blocks, hitching rails, bike racks, seating, picnic tables and other measures to improve access.

### Project Aim -

- To record heritage that can be seen from local footpaths that are accessible to those with mobility problems and to promote (and improve) confidence in using them.
- To realise and promote the relationship between heritage activity and health and wellbeing.
- To enhance local people's understanding of their diverse heritage through active participation and research.
- To undertake both physical and intellectual accessibility audits of local



heritage sites and develop mechanisms to enable the dissemination this information.

- To produce a range of accessible educational and informational guides to local heritage sites. (Including using social media and ICT platforms where possible and appropriate).
- To identify and address any gaps in the pedestrian and cycle networks in the core area.
- To increase physical access to key sites within the Dearne.
- To strengthen links between key sites within the core of the Dearne.
- To increase usage of the pedestrian and cycle networks within the Dearne.

**Project Lead** – DVLP / WEA

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council. Rotherham Council. Doncaster Council. Trans Pennine Trail. RSPB Old Moor. Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area

**Land Ownership** – All routes are in the ownership of the local authorities or partner organisations.

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities. Visitors to the area.

**Outputs and Outcomes** -

- Section of DVLP website providing clear details of course activities, and student / volunteer blogs
- Digital and printed accessibility guide covering the DVLP area
- Audit report of accessible heritage in the DVLP area
- 60 students involved
- 6 learning groups involved
- 12 Radar kissing gates installed

- 45 gates installed
- 12 “K” gates installed
- 12 motorbike barriers installed
- 10 horse mounting blocks installed
- 1200m of fencing installed
- 20 cycles stands installed
- 750m of path upgraded to bound surface (Flexipave)

**Project Costs** -

Total Project Cost	£223,099
Cash	£123,752
HLF (amount)	£99,347
HLF (as a %)	45%

**Timescale** – Year 1 project development. Year 2 to 5 implementation.

**Management and Maintenance** – The local authorities have existing management and maintenance budgets for the path and cycle network.

**Procurement** – The DVLP will work closely with the WEA to ensure that all procurement guidance is followed. This will be highlighted in conditions of grant with the requirement that. Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be



carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents are required

### **Project Risks -**

**Operational** – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Suitable works aren't carried out.

No work will be commissioned until it has been approved by the DVLP. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored.

**Operational** – Non-compliance with best practice. Insufficient take up from participants. Lack of sites to survey.

All work will be carried out by suitably experienced tutors. This project builds on previously successful projects led by the WEA where there was good take up. The development phase has clearly identified significant numbers of potential sites.

**Financial** – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

Detailed costings will be further developed. A clear budget has been established and will be closely monitored by the DVLP. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget. It is acknowledged within the limited budget available that it will not be possible to carry out improvements to all areas. Therefore based on the existing work areas will be prioritised based on need, achievability and impact.

### **Links to other projects –**

**HD1:** Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project

**HD2:** Protecting Key Sites – physical improvement will be informed by the Accessible Heritage project.

**ED3:** Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project

**ED4:** Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively - physical improvement will be informed by the Accessible Heritage project. Access to key sites will be improved.

**ED5:** Reconnecting the River Dearne - physical improvements will be informed by the Accessible Heritage project. Access to key points on the river will be improved.

**DD6:** Promoting the Dearne – the project will be promoted through the DVLP.

**DD8:** Signposting the Dearne – signage and interpretation improvements will be directly informed by the Accessible Heritage project.

**DD9:** Art of the Dearne – Accessibility issues will be used as a starting point for engagement and arts activity.

**SD10:** Community Grants – further opportunities to improve accessibility could be funded through applications from local groups.

**SD11:** Developing Capacity – Accessibility issues and this project will feed into the capacity building programme.

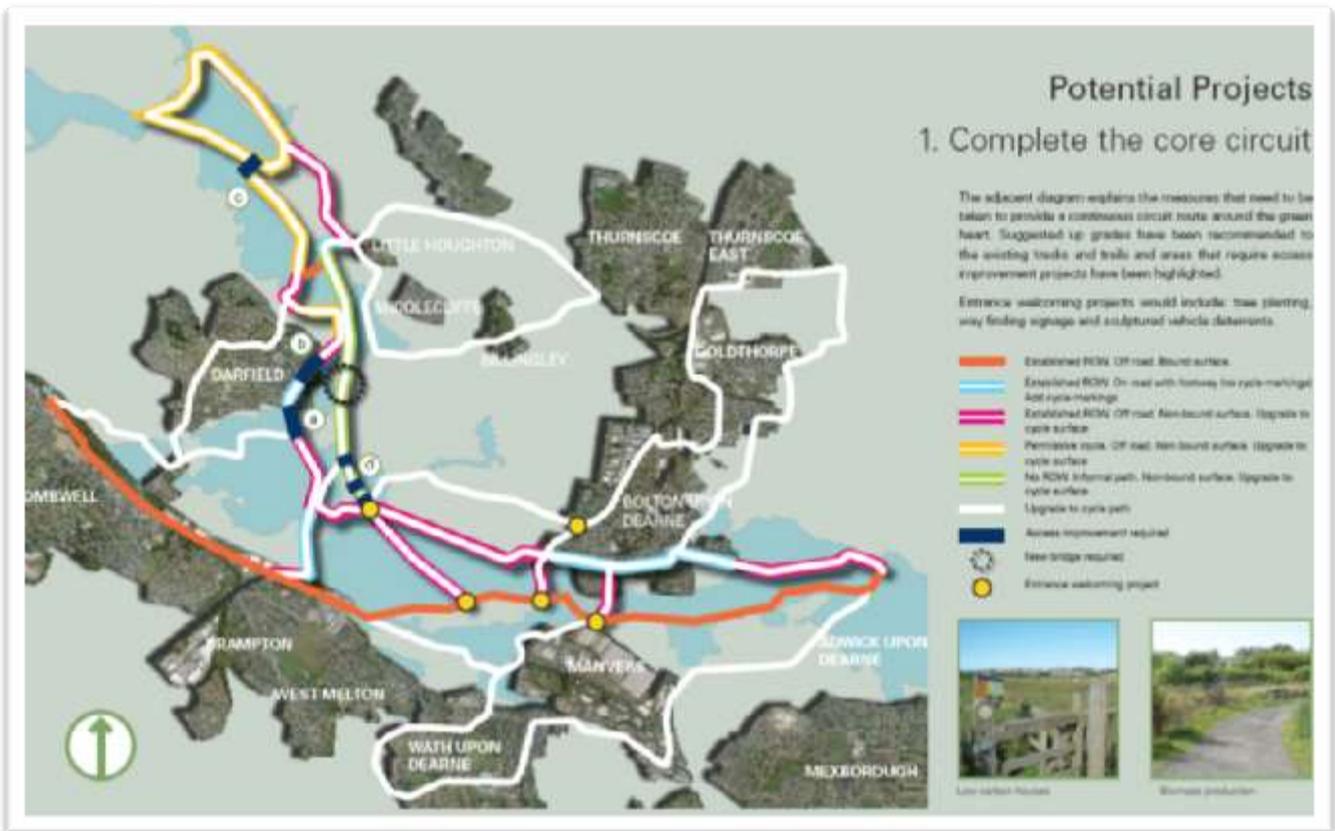
**DD12:** Learning from the Dearne – the learning programme will be informed by the Accessible Heritage Project.

### **Legacy –**

- Increased awareness and understanding of accessibility issues amongst the community and site managers.
- Key sites and locations will have improved accessibility (in all forms).
- There will be increased usage of the area from all sectors of the community.
- The “core circuit” of the Dearne Valley will be improved, completing long term plans.



Figure 1 – Completing the Core Circuit



## DD8: SIGNPOSTING THE DEARNE

Improving signage, information points and interpretation primarily from the Trans Pennine Trail to key sites. Bringing specialists together with community volunteers to develop the interpretation and signage at key sites, transport hubs and gateway sites.

**Project Description** – This is a series of linked initiatives aimed at encouraging people to walk, cycle and ride horses to explore the Dearne. Specific walks and routes will be promoted and people will be able to learn more about the Dearne as they move around it. The network of public rights of way and in particular the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) are an asset for the Dearne. It is possible to walk all the way from Conisbrough at the extreme east of the DVLP through to Barnsley in the extreme west of the area just using the TPT. It is vital that people visiting the area can easily find their way around the area. This will be achieved through:



**Signage** – Ensuring there is clear and consistent signage across the area to direct people to and between key sites and locations.

**Arrival Points** – Focusing on the key arrival points within the Dearne (stations, car parks, major visitor attractions) to ensure there is clear information and signage regarding what is in the Dearne.

**Interpretation** – Introducing high quality interpretation at key sites in the Dearne, developed in conjunction with the local community.

**Leaflets, Guides, Geocaches and Guided Walks** – Establishing a series of themed, circular walks.

**Viewing Points** – creating new and highlighting existing viewing points across the Dearne Valley that provide views of the valley and access to the river.

Signposting the Dearne will be guided by the recommendations of the Dearne Valley Green Heart Interpretation Study which placed a significant emphasis on strategic routes in the area and the key arrival points. It identified seven strategic routes within the Dearne Valley along with themes, these are:

- Dearne Valley Green Heart Core Circuit.
- Darfield - river culture and social history route.
- Wombwell - nature route.
- Manvers - sport route.
- Goldthorpe - sustainable lifestyles route.
- Thurnscoe - Industrial heritage route.
- Wath – Agriculture.

Figure 1 below shows the routes. The DVGH Interpretation Study provides full details of each of the routes, the themes and the points of interest. These will be used as the basis for the development of the routes and walks programme, as well the promotion of existing walks within the area. The project will focus on:

**Signage** - Through the development phase, the Signage and Waymarking Design Guide was developed and adopted for the DVLP. Improved signage along the routes, at gateway sites and at key points directed to places of interest is closely link to site



improvements, marketing and path improvements. The signage work carried out by the local authorities through their public rights of way officers and the work of the TPT will be complemented by the signage programme of the DVLP. The Design Guide has already been adopted by all partners and will be used as the guiding document for all signage across the Dearne. Design standards have been set, materials suggested, dimensions agreed and priorities considered. Full details of the approach are contained within the Design Guide, provided in support of the LCAP. Through the establishment of a working group between the three local authorities, the recommendations of the Interpretation Study will be reviewed and signage prioritised on the following basis:

- Install directional signs on promoted paths that are not currently signposted.
- Replace directional paths signs that are illegible/worn/damaged.
- Replace directional path signs that do not meet best practice standards.

**Arrival Points** - The area is well connected by rail with 10 stations in the Dearne. Signage and information boards will be established at railway stations, car parks and major attractions to introduce the key destinations and what there is in the rest of the Dearne. There will be clear directions and consistent signage from these points, including indicating the time take to walk and cycle to destinations. See figure 2 for the priority arrival points. At the arrival points there will be maps to orientate people and guide them through locations. This builds on a successful ERDF funded scheme in Barnsley that promoted and linked a series of sites through the provision of consistent and recognisable maps promoting the area. Tourist Information Points will be introduced at key locations both permanent and temporary (portable and flexible for use at a variety of sites). These will be developed in line with the

guidance of the interpretation strategy. TIP's will be primarily used as a marketing and orientation tools and as such will be highly visible to the traveling visitor, easy to find and easy to access. There will be two different sizes of TIP used in Dearne Valley:

- Medium sized TIPs: these are small roofed wall structure built of stone, metal or wood. These will be built at key sites on strategic routes.
- Small sized TIPs: these are small A0 or A1 sized structures of varying designs depending on the location. These double up as trail head panels at the beginning of a trail and would be built at all key sites.

**Interpretation** – As part of the development phase an interpretation strategy was commissioned to guide the DVLP's approach to interpretation. This is a comprehensive strategy that is provided in support of the LCAP. Individual assessments and recommendations have been produced for each key site and this will be reviewed at the start of the implementation phase to take into account the available budgets, the priorities within the programme and the links with other projects. The sites are listed below with them prioritised for implementation:

### Priority

- Barnsley Main (1)
- Hemingfield Pumping Station (1)
- Robert Glassby arch (1)
- Hoyland Lowe Stand (1)
- Maurice Dobson Museum (1)
- Swinton Locks Activity Centre (1)
- Park Hill Brickworks (2)
- Wombwell Woods (2)
- Dearne Valley Park (2)
- Worsbrough Mill and Reservoir (2)



- Elsecar Reservoir (2)
- Elsecar Heritage Railway (2)
- New Hall Farm, Darfield (2)
- Phoenix Park (2)
- Mexborough Market (2)
- Adwick Washlands (2)
- Barnburgh Pit Top (2)

### Secondary

- Monk Bretton Priory (3)
- Wentworth Castle (3)
- Rockley Engine House (3)
- Tankersley Park (3)
- Wigfield Farm (3)
- Bolton Brick Ponds (3)
- Wath Park (3)
- Conisbrough (castle, mill piece, town centre, Kilner factory) (3)
- RSPB Old Moor (3)
- Broomhill Flash (3)
- Edderthorpe Flash (4)
- West Haigh Woods (4)
- Denaby Ings (4)
- Gypsy Marsh (4)
- Little Broomhill (4)
- Rockingham Pottery (4)

The DVLP will work with local community groups, friends of groups and site managers to provide a series of interpretation boards and a leaflet at key locations. This will allow for local relevant stories and information to be conveyed to visitors to the area. There will also be a strong element of learning as the DVLP will provide training and guidance on what makes good interpretation, leaving a legacy of skills and knowledge. There will be consistent standards and quality of boards

across the area, allowing for consistent messages to be conveyed and the cross promotion of sites. If people visit one site and the interpretation makes them aware of the wider context and other sites then they are more likely to visit those other sites. Full guideline costs have been produced as part of the DVLP Interpretation Strategy.

**Leaflets, Guides, Geocaches and Guided Walks** – The DVLP will produce leaflets and guides on walks in the Dearne. These will include the themes, set out in the Interpretation Study, but will also link in with the interpretation project, the work of the WEA and the activities of the range of groups and attractions in the area. High quality leaflets and online resources will be produced that provide clear guides for walks for people of all abilities and interests. There is the potential to compile these in a book of “Walks of the Dearne”. Points of interest will be clearly marked in the guides, whether this is an interesting piece of heritage or details of biodiversity in that area.

The DVLP will work with local community groups in helping them with existing town and village trails that they may have already. The DVLP will be able to support them in producing high quality, accessible leaflets, linked to the interpretation project.

Volunteers will be supported and trained to lead guided walks, which will take people on interesting routes through the area. They will highlight points of interest and talk about the heritage and environment of the area. This will be taken further with DVLP and partner organisation staff leading walks based on an oral history approach. This will allow people to talk about the area as they walk through, using this walk as a starting point to discuss their memories of the area and record them through the use of audio, video and the arts programme.

Geocaching is contemporary twist on the hide and seek treasure hunt idea. A waterproof container, containing a log book and small



items (of low monetary value – such as plastic toys, badges, etc) to trade are placed within the landscape. The co-ordinates along with details of the location are registered on a geocache website. People can then obtain the co-ordinates from the website and put them on a GPS receiver, most commonly now a smartphone. They hunt to find the cache, record their details in the log book, swap items (if they choose to) and register they've found it online. The container is returned for the next person to find. There is the potential to have a series of linked caches which also contain information about the area they are located in – such as information about a heritage feature or the landscape they are in. There is an opportunity to guide people through the landscape to locations they may not have gone, to finding about the heritage and landscape as they go. The DVLP will work with partners across the Dearne in placing and promoting geocaches that can help tell the Stories of the Dearne.

**Viewing Points** – There is an opportunity to re-connect people with the river through the creation of strategic viewing points along the bank. Outline locations have been identified at points where public rights of way, the Trans Pennine Trail and key visitor attractions come together with the River Dearne.

- Dearne Valley Park
- Scorah Wood
- Cudworth Common
- Darfield
- Old Moor / Knoll Beck
- Brookfields Park
- Adwick Washlands
- Mexborough
- Denaby Ings
- Conisbrough
- Sprotbrough Gorge

With relatively little physical work, points can be created where people can be right by the side of the river. This could include physical platforms, public art, vegetation clearance, seats or paths. In others it would be the physical marking of points, similar to trig points, which people can look for in order to see the river. These points will be incorporated into the walking routes that are to be established and included within the leaflets and promotion of the area. The River Dearne will form a central part of the interpretation and arts programme.

### **Project Aim** –

- To create a critical mass of users.
- To connect all communities.
- To coordinate and improve the consistency of directional signs within the Dearne Valley.
- To improve linkages between existing routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.
- To support the 'destination brand' of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership – strengthening the area's local identity and sense of place.
- To encourage people to walk in the Dearne through the production of leaflets / guides, the leading of walks and the co-ordination of geocaches.
- To increase people's understanding of the heritage and environment of the Dearne Valley.
- To take a consistent, high quality approach to interpretation in the Dearne Valley.
- To enhance the level of understanding of the heritage and environment of the Dearne Valley.
- To develop new skills in interpretation.
- To provide boards and panels that are professionally planned, written and



designed. Where possible they should be environmentally friendly and long lasting (10-years plus).

- To focus on a series of easily accessible interconnected key sites that have strong relevant stories to tell.
- To establish strong main interpretive themes that is supported by program themes which in turn are supported by sub-themes.
- To focus on a broad audience base, from special interest to the family holiday market and has the potential to attract new markets.
- To be as accessible to as many people as possible.
- To add value to the local economy.
- To use interpretive media that is cost effective, low maintenance and works best for the target audience.
- To re-connect people with the River Dearne.

**Project Lead – DVLP**

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council. Rotherham Council. Doncaster Council. Trans Pennine Trail. RSPB Old Moor. Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area

**Land Ownership** – All routes are in the ownership of the local authorities or partner organisations.

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities. Visitors to the area.

**Outputs and Outcomes -**

- 60 fingerposts installed
- 75 waymarkers installed
- 12 orientation panels installed
- 40 walks led
- 15 geocache trails produced

- 8 viewing platforms established
- 25 interpretation panels installed
- 4 tourist information points installed

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£162,523
Cash	£77,500
HLF (amount)	£85,023
HLF (as a %)	52%

**Timescale** – Year 1 project development. Year 2 to 5 implementation.

**Management and Maintenance** – The local authorities have existing management and maintenance budgets for the path and cycle network. All new signage will be adopted within existing sites.

**Procurement** – Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents are required



**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Suitable works aren't carried out.

No work will be commissioned until it has been approved by the DVLP. Method statements will be produced and approved before work starts on site and subsequently monitored.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

Detailed costings will be further developed. A clear budget has been established and will be closely monitored by the DVLP. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget. It is acknowledged within the limited budget available that it will not be possible to carry out improvements to all areas. Therefore based on the existing work areas will be prioritised based on need, achievability and impact.

**Links to other projects –**

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the interpretation, leaflets and guides.

HD2: Protecting Key Sites – key sites will have new interpretation.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the interpretation, leaflets and guides.

ED4: Creating and Managing Sites More Effectively - key sites will have new interpretation. Access to key sites will be improved.

ED5: Reconnecting the River Dearne - key sites will have new interpretation. Access to key points on the river will be improved.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the project will be promoted through the DVLP.

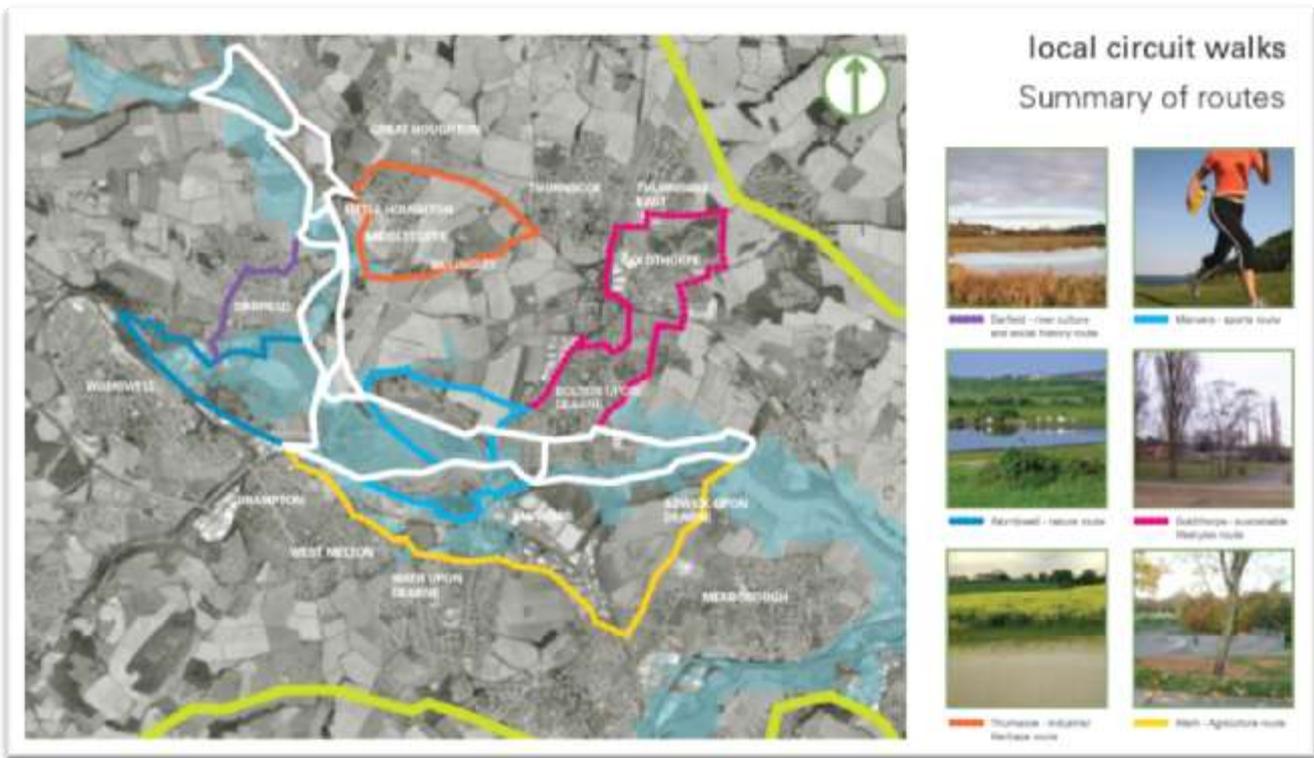
**Legacy –**

- Increased awareness and understanding of the heritage and environment of the Dearne.
- Key sites and locations will have improved accessibility (in all forms).
- There will be increased usage of the area from all sectors of the community.
- The “core circuit” of the Dearne Valley will be improved, completing long term plans.

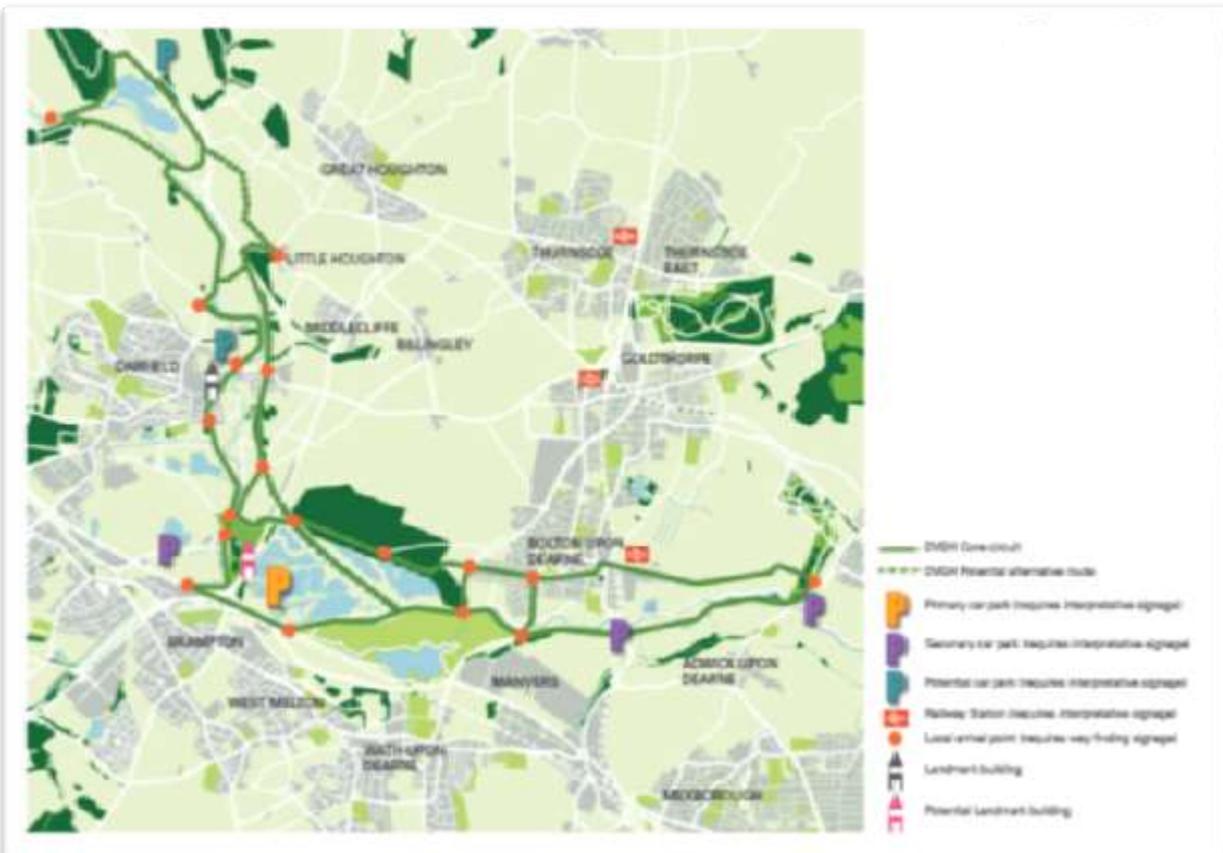


**The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

**Figure 1 – local circuit walks**



**Figure 2 – arrival points**



## DD9: ART OF THE DEARNE

Using arts and community engagement to collect and tell the stories of the Dearne and the people through oral history, photography, exhibitions, creative writing, memory walks, willow working, art camps, classes and land art.

**Project Description** - The DVLP will lead on the delivery of a comprehensive and co-ordinated arts programme working with a range of artists, arts organisations and communities across the Dearne. As well as being an identified strand of the programme, the activities will be woven into the projects across the programme. The arts present an opportunity to engage in creative ways with all sections of the community covering all the key themes and objectives of the DVLP. The two key strands will be:

- Collecting and telling the stories of the place and the people.
- Producing work and projects inspired by the landscapes and heritage of the Dearne Valley.

The projects will be developed with the local communities and the arts organisations based within the Dearne Valley. This will include:

- Exhibitions and outreach programme: Four major exhibitions of local relevance. The DVLP will not commission the exhibitions directly but work in partnership with the three local authorities in the Dearne, linking with and shaping their exhibition programme. These will take place at a range of larger venues, complemented by smaller “satellite” and “pop-up” exhibitions at smaller community venues. The outline programme is:
  - A Celebration of Glass - Linking contemporary glass making with the traditions of manufacturing of glass products in the area. Looking back at how, why and

where industry developed, what remains. It includes the opportunity to work with the glass manufacturers still operating in the area.

- Rockingham Pottery – A celebration of the nationally renowned Rockingham Pottery including the Rockingham Pattern Book and Rockingham Porcelain. This provides the opportunity to link together exhibitions at Riverside House in Rotherham, Experience Barnsley and community buildings across the area.
- KES – Celebrating 50 years since the publication in 1968 of Kestrel for a Knave on which the film was based. The film was filmed at many locations within the Dearne.
- Oaks Disaster – Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oaks Disaster, the largest loss of life in a mining accident in England.
- Public art and sculpture trails: Looking at strategic commissions within communities. Working in partnership with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to look at the location of existing works from their collection as well as the commissioning of new pieces for the area.
- Residency Programmes – Supporting a programme of bringing photographers, writers, artists and poets into the area over an extended period to engage with local communities, leading on workshops and developing new pieces of work.
- Oral history workshops – working with local community members, friends groups and schools on oral history projects (using creative writing,



visual arts, photography or film) to celebrate sites and feed into signage and interpretation

- Performances, Celebratory events and festivals – taking the opportunity to stage and support events and activities within the Dearne, building on the themes of the DVLP. Bringing performances into the area, based within the landscapes of the Dearne.
- Participatory arts – Working with darts (Doncaster Arts) to deliver a range of participatory arts projects involving communities across the Dearne. Within Mexborough there are opportunities to work with the Doncaster's Arts Council funded Creative People and Places project 'Right Up Our Street'.
- Camps and Takeover Days - Working with UPLIFT on their models of working with local people. Artists would work alongside communities to encourage individuals to inhabit, value and invest in what they have on their doorstep. There will be a series of UPLIFT camps, festivals and creative projects that enliven local history and improve access.

The Art of the Dearne project is an opportunity to bring together a range of creative and arts organisations from within the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham areas. Significant development work has already taken place to develop an overarching approach but this will be developed in detail at the outset of the implementation phase with a steering group made up of darts (Doncaster Community Arts), DVLP, Barnsley Arts and Museums Service, the UPLIFT project and others. Annual programmes of activity will be developed at the outset of each year.

### Project Aims -

- To encourage people to experience and enjoy their environment, heritage and culture through arts activities.
- To engage families, young people and hard to reach groups in creative and positive activity.
- To promote the Dearne Valley through creative activity.
- To increase visitors to the area.
- To increase access to collections held in the various museum's collections.
- To involve the local community in the development of exhibitions.
- To strengthen links between the Arts and Museums Services across the three local authorities.
- To increase the number of exhibitions in the area.
- To create the opportunity for outreach work linked to exhibitions.
- To increase usage of local cultural facilities.
- To increase community engagement in local areas.

### Outputs and Outcomes -

- 4 exhibitions held
- 8 new venues used for exhibitions
- 28,000 people attending the exhibitions
- 4 annual programmes of arts activities
- 50 creative practitioner days
- 4 artist in residences programmes
- 24 workshops held
- 12 creative delivery projects
- 4 residencies



- 85 volunteer days contributed.

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£171,300
Cash	£49,020
HLF (amount)	£122,280
HLF (as a %)	71%

**Timescale** – November onwards

**Management and Maintenance** – There are no management and maintenance implications.

**Procurement** - Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents are required.

**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with statutory regulations and best practice. Insufficient materials for exhibitions.

All work will be carried out by suitably qualified curatorial staff, in line with accepted standards of museum best practice.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work will be established and closely monitored by the DVLP working with the partners. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

**Links to other projects –**

The arts programme has the opportunity to feed into, support and engage with all elements of the programme.

**Legacy –**

- Increased awareness and understanding of the heritage and environment of the Dearne.
- Increased understanding and participation in the arts.
- Stronger links between the arts, heritage and the environment.



## **THEME 4 – STRENGTHENING THE DEARNE**

This theme will support the communities of the Dearne through training, grants, networks and capacity building. It will aim to help people play an active part in their local community.

### **SD10: DVLP GRANTS PROGRAMME**

**Project Description** - The DVLP will offer grants of between £500 and £2,000 to local community groups and organisations in order to further the aims and objectives of the DVLP. This flexible fund will run throughout the lifetime of the DVLP. It will provide the opportunity to work with groups to develop their own projects to complement the main activities of the DVLP. By keeping the grants to relatively small amounts and having as streamlined and non-bureaucratic process as possible this will allow the grants programme to be responsive and flexible.

The DVLP project management team will be able to encourage and support groups not only in the development of applications but also in their implementation and monitoring. The aim is for groups to not only deliver high quality projects but improve their understanding of project delivery, grants and reporting. This will have sustainable benefit in terms of preparing them for future, larger grant applications. It will give them a track record of grant delivery but also equip them with the skills to manage larger grants.

The grants programme will be administered by the programme management team with close monitoring and regular evaluation carried out. A grants programme panel will be established, administered by the DVLP but providing independent input into the approval process. The programme management team will assess all applications received, providing recommendations to present to the panel. The panel will meet on bi-monthly basis to consider the applications

received and assessed in the intervening period. The panel will aim to provide a strategic overview to the distribution of grants to ensure that they meet the aims and objectives of the DVLP as well as having an equitable spread of grants geographically and by project type. Where grant applications aren't successful practical feedback will be provided by the programme management team. Support will be offered in improving future grant applications with alternatives sources of funding suggested. The proposed make up of the grants panel is:

- DVLP Programme Management Team (servicing the panel)
- Officer representation Barnsley Council
- Officer representation Doncaster Council
- Officer representation Rotherham Council

The aim will to be to ensure a mix of skills and background on the panel. This will be a revolving programme of representatives who will change on a regular basis.

### **Project Aim -**

- To provide support to groups and organisations across the Dearne in delivering projects that meet the aims and objectives of the DVLP.
- To establish links with a range of groups and organisations in the Dearne.
- To develop the skills of local groups and organisations in the development, submission and monitoring of grant funding.
- To provide a flexible and responsive source of grant funding for DVLP linked activities within the Dearne.



**Project Lead** - DVLP

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council, Doncaster Council, Rotherham Council.

**Land Ownership** – not applicable

**Audience** – Local community groups and organisations

**Outputs and Outcomes** -

- 50 grants distributed
- 50 community groups supported

**Project Costs** -

Total Project Cost	£62,500
Cash	£12,500
HLF (amount)	£50,000
HLF (as a %)	80%

**Timescale** – Midway year 1 to midway Year 5

**Management and Maintenance** – Any management and maintenance implications will be borne by the grant applicants.

**Procurement** - Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – Consents will vary from project to project. They will be the responsibility of grant applicants.

**Project Risks** -

Operational – Low take up of grants.

The grants programme will be promoted by all partners. Based on the development phase there appears to be clear demand for this type of grant funding.

Financial – Misuse of grant funding. Insufficient funds to meet all grant applications.

Clear guidance will be produced and grant recipients will be asked to sign a grant agreement before funding is provided. The programme management team will closely monitor the delivery of projects and will carry out spot checks on a certain number of grant applications every year.

**Links to other projects** –

There are opportunities for the grants scheme to support groups, organisations and individuals who are involved in the rest of the programme. Building on activities they have been involved in and wanting to develop them further.

**Legacy** –

- The experience and confidence of local community and heritage groups will be strengthened for future projects.
- A range of project will be delivered across the Dearne that will have a wide ranging impact.



## SD11: DEVELOPING CAPACITY

Supporting the development of groups and individuals through training and advice.

**Project Description** – The DVLP will support the development of individuals and organisations through targeted training, co-ordination, information sharing, forums and workshops. This is in order to develop the skills, experience and abilities of both individuals and organisations. This will be achieved through the following:

- Forums and Networks
- Workshops and Courses

By increasing the skills, experiences and confidence of local individuals and groups this will provide a long term legacy and strengthen the community. In addition the DVLP will work closely with local volunteer agencies and the three local authorities in supporting volunteering opportunities within projects, sites and organisations directly related to the work of the DVLP.

**Forums and Networks** – This will provide an opportunity to bring individuals, organisations and special interest groups together around specific fields of interest. These will be co-ordinated and supported by the DVLP with the intention of them having a life beyond the DVLP. These will inform the work of the DVLP but will also focus on wider issues relating to the Dearne Valley. The networks will provide the opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. These networks will be both meeting based and virtual, through the use of newsletters and online forums, established through the DVLP website. It is proposed they will cover the following areas:

- **Heritage and Environmental Network:** A network of friends groups, landowners, voluntary individuals, attraction managers and professionals to focus on the key issues affecting the heritage and environment of the

Dearne. A chance to share experiences and learn from each other, address key issues and see how the DVLP can help address them, to learn from each other.

- **Young People’s Panel:** A panel involving young people to feed into the work of the DVLP. Modelled on the approach taken by Experience Barnsley in relation to programming, projects and support.
- **Learning Network:** Bringing together education providers, schools, learning organisations to discuss opportunities and develop the programme.
- **Community Champions:** The community champions approach is to build on the network of individuals across the Dearne. These are people who live or work there, who have a real love or understanding of the Dearne. Its heritage, its environment, the learning opportunities and opportunities for volunteering. Through network meetings they will be provided with regularly updated information packs on the Dearne and the work of the DVLP. Being a champion would be entirely voluntary but special events and activities will be arranged for them. This could be an invitation to a preview night of a new exhibition or tickets for a talk on the history of the area. This network of contacts can also be used by other organisations to circulate details of their activities.

**Workshops and Courses** – These workshops and courses will be focused on supporting the development of groups and individuals. They will develop their expertise in carrying out their activities. These courses will either be developed in house by the DVLP team or through the commissioning of external experts to deliver workshops or short courses. The suggested list is as follows:



## The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

- Leading Guided Walks – how to establish, develop, lead and manage walks in the Dearne Valley.
- Managing Volunteers – how to create volunteering opportunities, how to manage and support volunteers.
- Health and Safety – how to manage projects safely.
- Developing funding applications – how to target funding and develop successful funding applications.
- Learning Outside the Classroom – the principles of outdoor classrooms.
- Oral History – the principles and techniques of oral history.
- Interpretation – what makes good and bad interpretation, key messages and good design.
- Leaflets and Brochures – good design and getting the content right.
- Engaging Local People in their area – how to involve people (and keep them involved) in their projects and activities.
- Setting up a website – how to set up a website, different approaches, good design and key information.
- Active Interpretation – how to talk about your site and project. Getting the message across.
- Geocaching – setting up your own geocaches, what they are and how you can maximise the benefits.

### Project Aim –

- To create a network of advocates for the work of the DVLP and the opportunities within the Dearne Valley.
- To spread the details of the work of the DVLP through informal but structured networks.

- To develop the skills, experience and confidence of key individuals within the Dearne Valley.
- To establish a range of special interest networks and forums.
- To support individuals, groups and organisations across the Dearne by bringing them together and giving them the opportunity to share information and learn together.
- To create a range of networks that will support and feed into the work of the DVLP.

### Project Lead - DVLP

**Project Partners** – Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council, Doncaster Council, RSPB Old Moor, Wentworth Castle, venues and attractions across the Dearne.

**Land Ownership** – There are no ownership issues to consider.

**Audience** – Local communities. Sites and attractions. Local authorities. Friends of Groups. Visitors to the area.

### Outputs and Outcomes -

- 4 forums and networks established
- 55 capacity building workshops held
- 250 people benefiting from capacity building workshops

### Project Costs -

Total Project Cost	£59,420
Cash	£0
HLF (amount)	£59,420
HLF (as a %)	100%

### Timescale –

Year 1 onwards

**Management and Maintenance** – There are no management and maintenance issues to consider.



**Procurement** - Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents are required

**Project Risks** -

Operational – Staff time is insufficient to service the networks. There is insufficient demand and support. There is no demand for workshops.

The operation of the networks will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are effective and necessary. Research has demonstrated the need for workshops but the programme will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work will be established and closely monitored by the DVLP working with the partners. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

Operational – Non-compliance with best practice.

A best practice approach for the courses will be developed.

**Links to other projects** –

HD1: Archaeology of the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – community investigations can feed into the project.

DD6: Promoting the Dearne – the activities will be marketed and promoted through this project.

DD12: Learning from the Dearne – There will be opportunities to link directly between capacity building and training.

**Legacy** –

- The experience and confidence of local community and heritage groups will be strengthened for future projects.
- Long term partnerships and networks will be established.



**SD12: LEARNING FROM THE DEARNE**

Maximising the use of historic sites, landscapes and facilities within the Dearne to encourage and support learning.

**Project Description** – This project will aim to use the assets and opportunities that the Dearne Valley has as the starting point for learning.

This will include:

- **Learning from the Dearne** – using the cultural and environmental heritage resources of the Dearne to engage people in learning.
- **Residential Internships** – to support and expand the residential internship programme at RSPB Old Moor to provide practical learning opportunities.
- **Education and Family Learning Packs** – to develop education and learning resources linked directly to key sites across the Dearne.

Opportunities for learning will be woven across the work of the DVLP both as integrated and stand alone elements. The aim is for all projects to support the objective of people learning more about the heritage, environment and biodiversity of the Dearne. The approach to learning will take advantage of the range of venues, sites, education providers and organisations that there are in the area to provide a range of activities for people to learn from.

**Learning from the Dearne** – The learning programme aims to build on the organisations, resources and opportunities that exist in the Dearne to use them as a basis for learning. This will focus on two key strands:

- Supporting learning outside the classroom through formal accreditation

- Supporting the achievement of education and qualifications at key sites within the Dearne



Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge – The DVLP will support the accreditation of at least 20 key sites or providers within the Dearne to achieve the quality badge standard. The accreditation through the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom will ensure that sites and providers across the Dearne are recognised for the good quality learning outside the classroom that they offer. The badge has the advantage that it:

- Significantly reduces red tape for teachers when planning visits.
- Benchmarks effective risk management.
- Gives schools the freedom and confidence to incorporate more learning outside the classroom into the curriculum.

There will be development work with the sites to support them in achieving the accreditation. This will include information packs, seminars and direct support. The Badge lasts for two years and the DVLP will look to achieve accreditation again within the lifetime of the DVLP, following an evaluation of its impact and benefits.



The initial suggested list, to focus on achieving accreditation during year 2 are:

- Maurice Dobson Museum
- RSPB Old Moor
- Worsbrough Mill
- Elsecar Heritage Centre
- Wentworth Castle
- Wentworth Woodhouse
- Elsecar Heritage Railway
- Dearne Valley Playhouse
- Conisbrough Castle
- Monk Bretton Priory

There are then further opportunities for other sites and providers to achieve accreditation from year three onwards. RSPB Old Moor and Kingswood Dearne Valley have already achieved the quality badge and the DVLP will look to work them to share experiences and maintain the standard.

Education and Qualifications - The DVLP will support a programme of arts, environmental and heritage learning based on the resources of the Dearne. The River Dearne is a focal point for the DVLP. This is then interconnected with other water courses, washlands, ings and canals across the Dearne. Part of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation (a system of navigable inland waterways) runs through the Dearne Valley.

Swinton Lock Activity Centre is an education, arts and environmental centre developed to meet the learning and leisure needs of members of the communities of the Dearne Valley. They are based directly next to the canal. They offer a number of arts, heritage and environmental programmes to both adults and children of which at least 40% are disabled. The centre also owns two narrow boats used for training and pleasure trips, one of these boats is fully accessible. The DVLP will look to support the refurbishment of one of the narrow boats to ensure it is fully

accessible and can also be used for residential courses. This will include seating, accessible lifts, floors, engine, maintenance, painting, blacking, signage, kitchen facilities, toilet facilities and furnishings. This will increase the capacity to deliver further courses and increase the number of participants, for which there is already a waiting list. This will also provide a learning opportunity as volunteers will be able to work on the refurbishment and be involved in the process.

The centre is a unique resource not available anywhere else within the Dearne Valley. This project would offer a high number of people from the local communities an opportunity to discover, participate, learn and protect the local environment, heritage, waterside and wildlife. Swinton Lock has a positive history of engaging the most difficult to reach groups through a multitude of activities and qualifications with a success rate of 100 per cent in the majority of areas. They would not deliver the entire programme but this would be the hub, from which other sites across the Dearne would also be used for the education and qualifications programme.

All elements will be developed by specialists with a detailed project plan established with them during year 1. The programme will then be delivered by Swinton Lock Activity Centre and other partners from Year 2 onwards. They are an approved centre for Open College Network qualifications, AQA basic unit awards and National Community Boat Handling Qualifications. In addition the DVLP will introduce a programme to support participation in the John Muir Awards and Arts Awards.

John Muir Awards – These awards promote educational, social and personal development through engagement with wild places and involvement in conservation. They encourage an environmental agenda within organisations and ensure that social circumstances don't exclude people from opportunities to experience wild places. Whilst clearly having an environmental focus



the DVLP will look to integrate this approach with a strong heritage element. Support will be offered to achieve the Discover, Explorer and Conserver Awards using the resources of the Dearne Valley.

**Arts Awards** – These awards support anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders. Arts Award offers a flexible framework that can work with any arts, cultural or media activity. As they work towards Arts Award, children and young people collect evidence of what they have done and reflect on their experiences. At Discover, Explore and Bronze they can choose to use the specially designed arts logs – or they can create their own to fit the project or the young people. Evidence can also be collected in any format that works for them and you: a folder, sketchbook, video diary, a website or blog. There are opportunities to link in with the John Muir Awards, the wider arts programme and meet many of the heritage objectives of the programme.

Through Swinton Lock Activity Centre a clear programmes will be established in a range of topic areas, building on their work already:

- Boat handling
- Environmental and Wildlife
- Volunteer Development
- Learning about your local heritage

This element of the programme will be particularly focused on education for those aged 12 and beyond, including adults. There will be a particular focus on hard to reach groups, including those excluded from school, SEN, NEETs, people with mental health, drug or alcohol problems or the long term unemployed. Equally important it will be about engaging people who may not already be engaged in education or learning through an accessible, safe and creative way.

**Residential Internships** - The existing programme of residential internships operated by RSPB Old Moor will be built upon. Interns will be provided with accommodation at RSPB Old Moor with

placements lasting for six months. There are opportunities for experience in:

- Practical habitat and estate management.
- Surveying and research work.
- Assisting with the visitor experience team.
- Helping with events.
- Working at a range of sites in the Dearne Valley.
- Occasional work with livestock.
- Linking in with the DVLP project management team and supporting the delivery of the programme.

Generally two thirds of interns tend to focus on conservation work and the other third on public engagement.

In return for their work on the site and other RSPB sites in the area, interns are provided with support, practical training and recognised certificates to support their future career opportunities. This can include:

- Travel expenses to and from the placement or accommodation if residential.
- Supervision, coaching and support throughout the internship.
- Appropriate training and qualifications (for example in such areas as first aid at work, pesticides, brush cutter use, chainsaws, driving off road, manual handling, dry stone walling, , chainsaw use, safe use of pesticides, etc).
- Advice and support on writing your CV and application forms, as well as interview skills.

The DVLP will support on average six internships a year for four years of the programme. Applications to the internship programme will be open to anyone aged over 18 years of age. Based on previous experience



of the RSPB over 75% of those on internships find employment after they leave.

**Learning Resources and Family Learning Packs:** The DVLP will assemble site specific education and learning materials for key sites across the Dearne Valley. The aim is to work with the key sites in developing and assembling resources to support the learning objectives of sites, the DVLP and the HLF. This will not only develop consistently high quality resources that meet the requirements of schools and families but will also develop the skills and understanding of those at the key sites. There will be two key strands:

Learning Resources – The DVLP will provide collections of artefacts and learning materials linked to each site. This will create a range of learning and educational resources for sites across the area, setting them in the wider context of the history and development of the Dearne Valley. This would be a mix of both physical and digital resources available to schools throughout the Dearne and beyond.

The DVLP will bring specialists in to work with local groups, utilising the existing resources, the local archives, museums and the findings of DVLP based research such as archaeology. Clear learning outcomes will be established for each site with artefacts assembled and materials produced to meet these objectives. These collections will be complemented by a series of linked downloadable resources available to download directly by the schools from the DVLP website.

These resources can be used by schools visiting sites, or used in the classroom to learn more about each site (before or after a visit). This will also enable teachers to plan for visits and quickly assess if the site is suitable and what the constraints might be. Historical maps for specific sites will also be produced to look at changes through time. Copyright free images will be provided so

they can be widely used. The resources will provide opportunities for:

- Cultural Learning and Creativity
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- National Curriculum Key Skills (due to the changes in the National Curriculum the details of the links will be established during Year 1)
- Artefact handling

These resources will be developed in close conjunction with the Museums Services of the three local authorities. This will ensure they meet their own local priorities, but also support the opportunities for outreach sessions with schools that each Museum Service may want to run.

Family Learning Packs – The learning resources for schools will be adapted for the sites to provide family learning packs for those visiting the sites. These will have common themes and objectives running through them but will be more focused on enjoyment and exploring sites. The DVLP will bring in specialists to work with local groups and organisations to develop the packs. They will complement any existing resources but be focused on DVLP aims and objectives, establishing a certain quality standard. The linking of the learning resources and family learning packs also creates the opportunity bringing the learning from school into the home. So children on a school visit may then encourage a family visit, creating opportunities to learn with their family about the site and the area. The packs will be tailored to the requirements of each of the various sites, taking a range of approaches. This will include:

- Worksheets
- Maps and trail guides
- Activity backpacks (magnifying glasses, word searches, feel the object, puzzles, lenses, etc).



- Digital resources

The target audience will be families with younger children (below 12) but older children will not be excluded.

The priority sites or areas to focus on for the learning resources and packs (with suggested years) are:

- Maurice Dobson Museum (1)
- RSPB Old Moor (1)
- Worsbrough Mill (2)
- Elsecar Heritage Centre (2)
- Wentworth Castle (2)
- Phoenix Park (2)
- New Park Springs (2)
- Mexborough (2)
- TPT (2)
- Hemingfield Colliery (3)
- Hoyland Lowe Stand (3)
- Cadeby Colliery Site (3)
- Elsecar Heritage Railway (3)
- Adwick Washlands (3)
- Cudworth Common (4)

All elements will be developed by specialists with a detailed project plan established during year 1. All approaches will be trialled before being developed fully and best practice at other sites or venues used as a starting point.

### **Project Aim -**

- To provide a range of relevant and accessible education and learning opportunities for the local community.
- To develop the skills and qualifications of local people.
- To encourage people to learn more about the heritage, environment and biodiversity of the Dearne Valley.

- To encourage more schools to take part in the DVLP.
- To link into the emerging national curriculum.
- To provide a range of resources to support the work of the DVLP.
- To support a unique canal side community resource accessible to all the diverse communities used by all ages and abilities and used as a resource for local schools.
- To provide a range of accredited and non-accredited courses for a wide variety of ages and abilities, primarily meeting the needs of those who face the greatest barriers to learning.

### **Project Lead - DVLP**

**Project Partners** – Swinton Lock Activity Centre, RSPB Old Moor, key sites, Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council, Doncaster Council.

**Land Ownership** – There are no land ownership issues.

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities. Local education providers. Local training

**Audience** – Local community. Local businesses. Local authorities.

### **Outputs and Outcomes -**

- 10 learning packs produced
- 10 family learning packs produced
- 20 sites obtaining Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge
- 450 young people achieving arts awards
- 150 people achieving John Muir awards
- 2,000 young people benefiting from environmental, wildlife and heritage programme



- 750 adults participating in environmental, wildlife and heritage programme
- 6,000 benefitting from education boat trips
- 350 people achieving AQA basic unit awards
- 150 people achieving National Community Boat Handling Qualifications
- 24 people benefiting from RSPB internships

**Project Costs -**

Total Project Cost	£198,079
Cash	£78,600
HLF (amount)	£119,479
HLF (as a %)	60%

**Timescale** – Year 2 onwards

**Management and Maintenance** – There are no management and maintenance issues.

**Procurement** - Work will be commissioned in line with DVLP procurement strategy.

- £0 - £2,500: Value for money will be demonstrated by seeking at least two written quotations for goods, works and services.
- £2,500 - £50,000: At least three competitive quotes will be sought for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a formal invitation to quote and a clear brief / specification.
- £50,000 - £172,514 (supplies and services) or £4,322,012 (works): A full, competitive tendering exercise will be carried out for goods, works and services. This will use the Yortender online procurement system with a detailed brief and full specification.

**Consents** – No consents area required.

**Project Risks -**

Operational – Non-compliance with best practice. There are no suitable education and training providers. There isn't any take up on the course.

Established and recognised training and education providers will be used. The skills audit has identified a range of local relevant training providers. The demographic information shows the potential for learning opportunities. Existing courses in the area have proved popular. Established and recognised education specialist and schools will be involved in the project. A best practice approach outreach work developed by the DVLP, based on the expertise and achievements of Barnsley and Rotherham Council. The Audience Development and Community Engagement Strategy has clearly identified a need to outreach provision and the barriers to participation to be aware of. The development work during Year One will ensure a programme is developed to meet the needs of the schools.

Financial – Cost overruns. Insufficient budget to cover the work.

A clear budget for the work will be established and closely monitored by the DVLP working with the partners. Work will only be commissioned once costings are confirmed and they fall within the available budget.

**Links to other projects -**

HD1: Archaeology and Geology of the Dearne – Learning opportunities to link in with the community digs. Information discovered through the surveys can feed into the learning packs.

ED3: Surveying the Dearne – Learning opportunities to link in with the community digs. Information discovered through the surveys can feed into the learning packs.



## **The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership**

DD8: Signposting the Dearne – Opportunities to link the interpretation boards into the learning packs.

DD9: Art of the Dearne – Links through the arts awards programme.

### **Legacy –**

- Learning packs and resources linked to key sites that can be used along with the development of increased understanding of learning requirements.
- Increased understanding and support for learning outside the classroom.
- New skills and experiences developed through the internship programme.
- New skills and education established through the learning programme, leading to a greater appreciation of education.



## 5.5 DELIVERING THE DVLP

The staffing and management structure needed to deliver the DVLP.

**Staffing** - This is the staffing and running costs needed to deliver and evaluate the DVLP. It includes four posts:

**Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Development Manager:** Responsible for the delivery of the landscape partnership, setting the strategic direction, leading on the day to day operation, management of staff / consultants / contractors, working with partners, reporting to funders / partners and leading where needed on the direct delivery of key projects. (full time)

**Community Heritage, Environmental and Interpretation Officer** (x 2 posts): Working on community heritage and environmental projects, with a particular focus on working with local people to involve them in projects and record their stories. Also responsible for the implementation of the interpretation strategy including key sites, publications and websites and support for volunteering across the DVLP programme. People will be appointed to the posts with complementary skills in order to establish a team with broad experiences. (full time)

**Project Support Assistant:** Providing finance, administrative and project support to the rest of the team. Assisting with the delivery of projects, assembling information needed for grant returns, servicing meetings, raising orders and managing the office. (part time 0.6)

**Variations from Stage 1** - The stage 1 application had identified a Volunteering and Participation Officer as one of the posts within the implementation team. As a result of research during the development phase it was considered that this would be a duplication of existing resources within the Dearne voluntary and local government organisations. Since the submission of the Stage 1 (February 2012) there has been an

increased focus in the area on volunteering in terms of assembling databases of volunteers and working with organisations in supporting volunteering. Rather than duplicate this it is felt that it is a better use of resources to maximise the project development and delivery support, which can then link into the volunteer support carried out by other organisations.

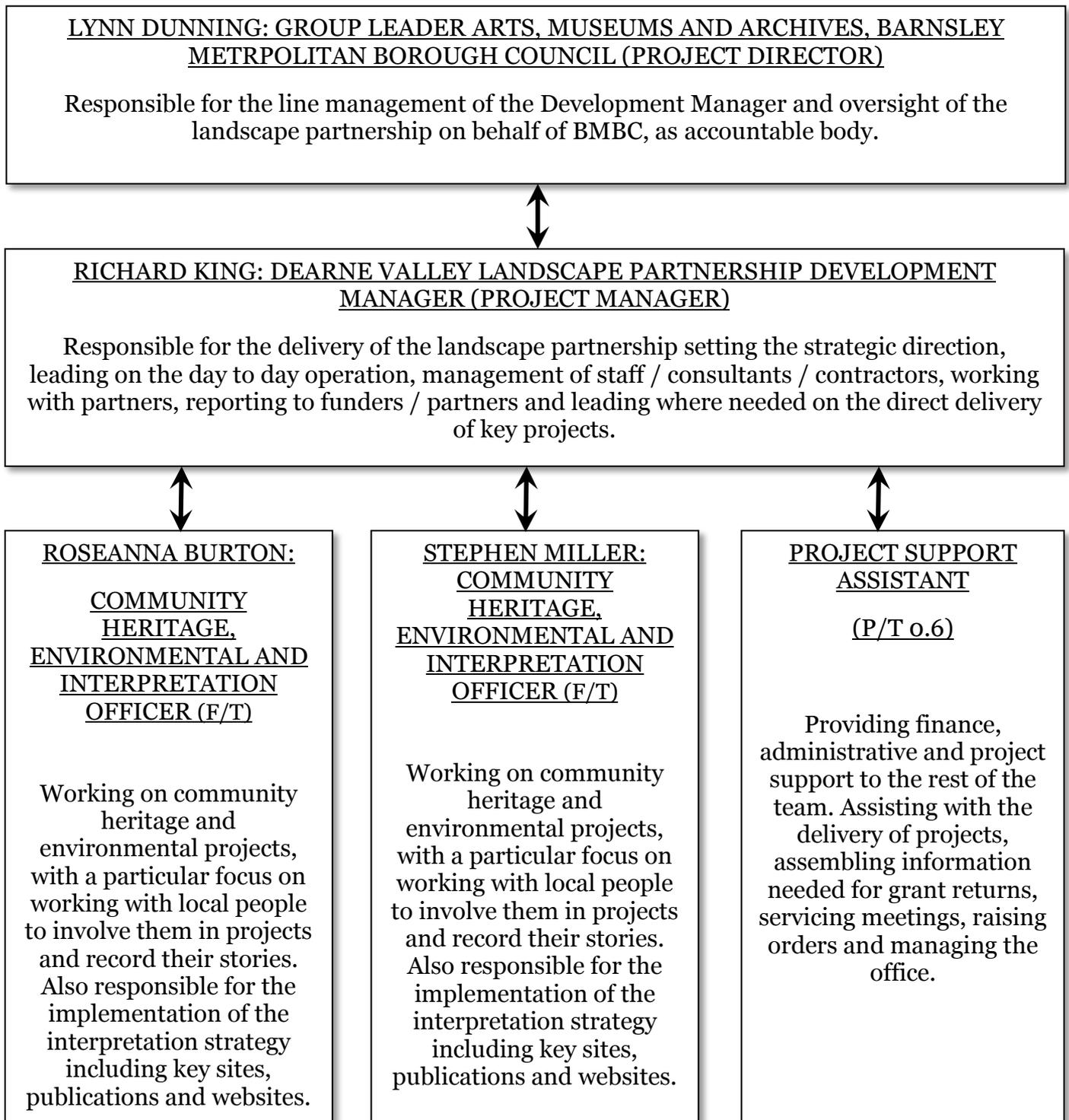
**Running Costs** - The running costs for the operation of the DVLP have been estimated to cover the following: travel, staff recruitment, office rental, service charges, legal costs, stationery, printing, phones and broadband. An allocation for monitoring and evaluation has also been included within this budget – full details of the monitoring and evaluation programme are included in Appendix 7.

**Location** - It is the intention that the DVLP to be based within the Dearne Valley area, to make it more accessible. The potential for co-location with one or more of the other organisations active within the area are being explored.

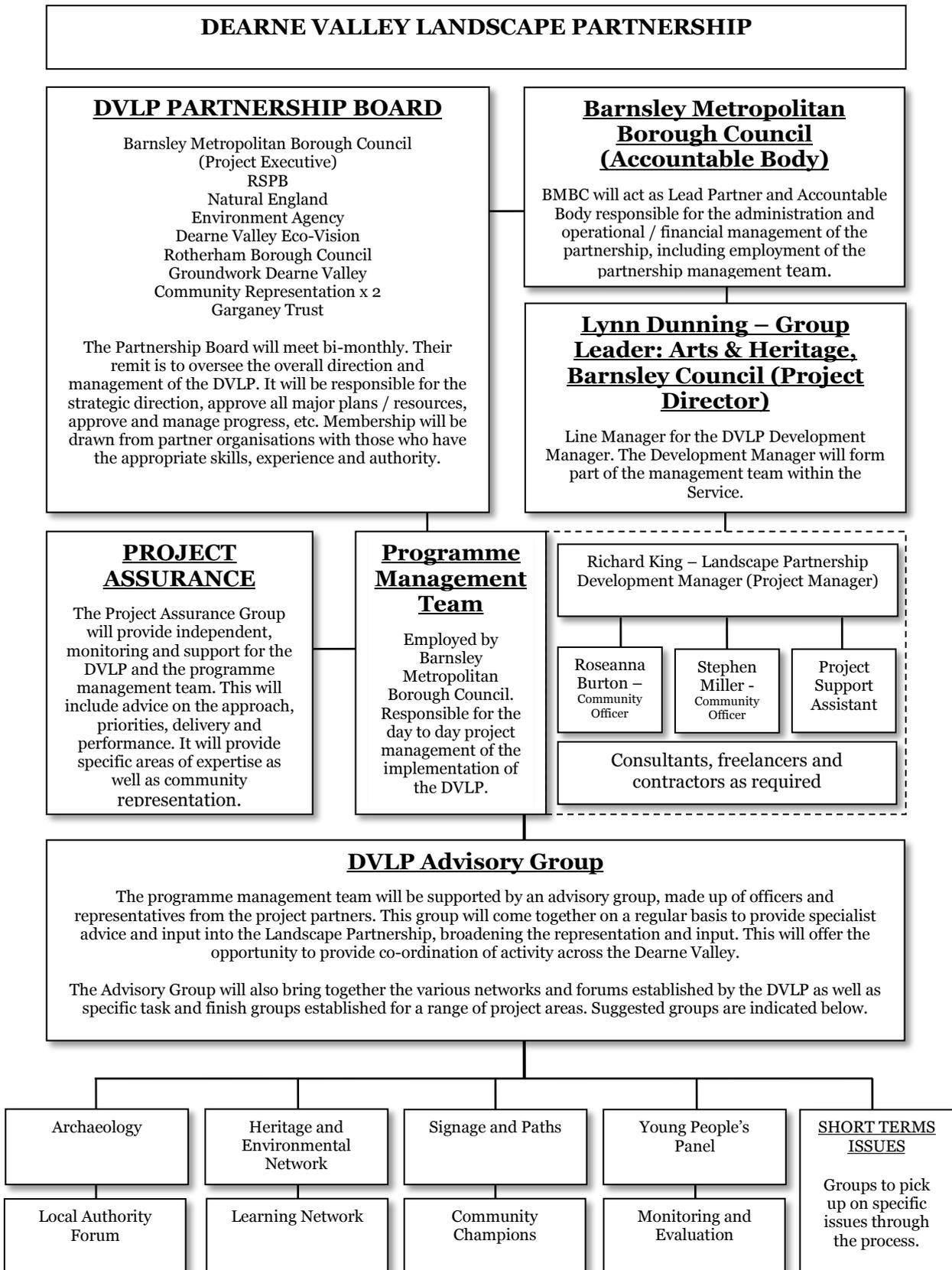
**Partnership Structure** – A formal partnership agreement is in place, signed by all the key partners. The Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of the DVLP, taking a strategic overview. A chair and vice-chair will be elected annually, with the Board meeting quarterly. “Task and Finish” advisory groups will be set up to advise the board and support the delivery of the DVLP.



**Staffing Structure**



**Management Structure**



**Running Costs**

Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Staff	£116,679	£124,470	£125,715	£126,972	£117,026	£610,861
Travel and Recruitment	£2,920	£3,120	£2,640	£3,120	£2,480	£14,280
Office and Running costs	£14,130	£10,412	£10,485	£10,558	£9,632	£55,217
Evaluation and Monitoring	£909	£3,636	£6,136	£14,318	£0	£24,999
Total	£134,348	£141,638	£144,976	£154,968	£129,138	£705,358



## **6. SUSTAINABILITY**

**6.1 Approach** - The DVLP is committed to leaving a lasting legacy within the Dearne Valley – physically, socially and economically. A co-ordinated programme of capital projects has the potential to have a tangible and sustainable impact upon the Dearne. This, coupled with improved physical access, community participation initiatives and interpretation, will “Reveal the Hidden Dearne” to local communities, helping engender a greater sense of place and ownership.

The DVLP is committed to supporting the additional listing of industrial heritage features where applicable. For example, the focus provided by the DVLP was instrumental in securing the listing of Barnsley Main. This will promote further statutory protection which will lead to the long-term safeguarding of heritage assets. Bringing partners together to develop and implement joint management strategies for the biodiversity assets (for example, woodland and ponds) will ensure their sustainability well beyond the lifetime of the DVLP.

The aim is also to lead to a change in how the area is perceived by those who live in, work in, invest in or visit the area. The DVLP will encourage a greater understanding from the community, visitors, businesses and stakeholders of the importance of the area’s industrial heritage, biodiversity and environment. This will result in increased respect and stewardship of the heritage. Hopefully helping secure further investment into the Dearne as a whole, beyond the lifetime of the DVLP funding. This in turn will help to “mainstream” the aims and objectives of the DVLP into those of individuals, groups, businesses and organisations that have an influence on the area.

The development phase has strengthened the understanding of the area and provided additional focus to the aims and objectives of the DVLP. The programme clearly reflects the

views and wishes of those in the area, with projects identified to respond to local need. The commissioning of a range of clear strategies and guidelines will provide a framework within which the DVLP can operate. That clarity of approach reduces the potential for confusion and strengthens all elements of the partnership.

**6.2 Exit Strategy** - Throughout the implementation phase alternative, additional and future sources of funding and income generation will be carefully considered by the Project Board. There is the aim of investigating whether the DVLP has a life beyond the five year period of HLF investment. The purpose of the three and a half year external review (see Section 7 – Evaluation) is to demonstrate the value of the approach of the DVLP and use this as the basis of seeking further funding. The partner organisations within DVGH are experienced in identifying and sourcing external monies and partnership funding bids. It is also acknowledged that the interim review may identify that DVLP would not continue beyond its five years. On a practical level no legal agreements or contracts for staff, accommodation, projects or initiatives will be entered into that extend beyond the lifetime of the Partnership. This will ensure there are no legal or financial obligations on any of the partner organisations.

**6.3 Project Sustainability** – Issues of sustainability will be considered at the outset of the programme and individual projects. This is in line with the Prince 2 project management principles. Any implications beyond the end of the DVLP will be considered and addressed. This will include clear, realistic and robust management and maintenance plans for appropriate physical projects to ensure they are maintained throughout their practical lifespan to ensure they have a value and worth. There will be an emphasis on investing in quality. By achieving the highest standards of project management and delivery then this will not



only improve the end results but show the best approach to delivering projects that others can learn from.

A key element of the approach of the DVLP is to help support and strengthen the individuals, groups and organisations within the Dearne Valley. This will be through such things as advice on interpretation, how to produce good leaflets, project management, funding applications and working together. By increasing capacity, experience and knowledge it will mean these groups are better equipped in the future to develop further projects.

**6.4 Partnership Sustainability** – The DVLP has grown out of many years of partnership working in the Dearne that has resulted in the area being designated as a Nature Improvement Area and the securing of Landscape Partnership funding. The Dearne Valley Eco-Vision, under the umbrella of the Sheffield City Region has also emerged from this work, to focus on the economic transformation of the area.

This partnership working has resulted in a range of physical, economic and community projects in the area that has already begun to transform the area and its perceptions. All three local authorities are committed to the transformation of the Dearne through these initiatives and all partners are actively involved in the range of initiatives.

The partnership around the DVLP has therefore emerged naturally, rather than being artificially applied, ensuring a greater strength and resilience. Clear and open communication, the sharing of information and reviewing progress with all partners will add to the strength of the partnership. Any problems will be addressed in an honest and open manner to ensure that the partnership remains in place.

As indicated in Section 7 Evaluation - a structured approach to evaluation of achievements and lessons learned throughout the lifetime of the scheme will be published.

This will ensure that others can benefit from the legacy of the DVLP.

**6.5 Reviewing Progress** – As can be seen from Section 7 – Evaluation, the DVLP sees monitoring and evaluation as a core part of the work not an add on. The five key objectives of the monitoring and evaluation strategy are directly applicable to sustainability:

- To demonstrate that the DVLP is having a positive impact
- To demonstrate the value of investing time and money in the DVLP
- To help improve practice and to deliver the DVLP to a high standard
- If some things don't work, to understand why
- To help strengthen the Partnership.

The DVLP is keen to learn as it goes along. There will be regular internal evaluation and strategic use of external monitoring. If there is no awareness of how well, or otherwise the DVLP is performing and achieving, then any problems can't be resolved and the DVLP can't be sustained. Any problems will be identified, shared and resolved, with internal lessons learned.

**6.6 Learning from the DVLP** – The DVLP is keen to establish a best practice approach. Learning from others but equally sharing lessons learned with others. It has been clear from the development stage of the DVLP that there is a willingness and openness amongst other LPs nationwide to share and learn from each other. This approach will be maintained by the DVLP, on an ongoing basis and as part of a final evaluation. As a number of the key topics of the evaluation focus on impact, the DVLP wants to clearly demonstrate the impact of the investment and its approach. This will look at changes in perceptions, changes in approach, changes in ways of working and how the DVLP has made a positive difference.



## 7. EVALUATION

**7.1 Introduction** - As indicated in the Stage 1 application a monitoring and evaluation strategy has been developed for the implementation phase. This was developed by Resources for Change, who also produced the Audience Development Strategy and Community Engagement Plan. A full copy of the document is provided in support of the LCAP.

The monitoring and evaluation strategy is based on Resources for Change's considerable experience of working on other landscape partnerships across the country. It was developed during December 2013 through a review of the proposed approach to the DVLP. It included a workshop with key partners from Doncaster and Rotherham, from differing fields of expertise. This was to ensure a robust approach that is relevant to the DVLP and will result in a meaningful and useful approach. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has five key objectives:

- To demonstrate that the DVLP is having a positive impact.
- To demonstrate the value of investing time and money in the DVLP.
- To help improve practice and to deliver the DVLP to a high standard.
- If some things don't work, to understand why.
- To help strengthen the Partnership.

The DVLP evaluation will have the following key features:

- It will be a core part of the DVLP, rather than an add-on, to be seen as part of good project management and as a tool for improvement.
- It will be as non-bureaucratic as possible.
- It will be help to celebrate achievements.

- It will be constructive, reflecting on past work in order to inform future delivery. Inevitably, there will be difficult or problematic issues to consider, but this will be done in a way that is focussed on lesson-learning for the future, for the benefit of the DVLP and partners.
- It will be participatory, with all partners committing time to it, in a timely manner.
- There will be an external evaluator, bringing in objectivity and an 'outside eye'.
- It will be clearly targeted, so that all partners are clear about what is and is not being included in the evaluation.
- It will be inclusive, aiming to hear from across the spectrum of stakeholders.
- It will follow a Theory of Change approach, i.e. activities – outputs – outcomes.

Key Topics have been established that will guide what information is gathered and used for the evaluation (and by implication, what information is not gathered or used).

- Impact
  - Changing lives.
  - Changing places.
  - Changing people's perceptions of places.
  - Groups becoming more sustainable and resilient.
  - Individuals and groups becoming more skilled.
  - Natural and built heritage becoming:
    - More accessed.
    - More known.



- In better condition.
- More of it.
- Local people have more understanding and awareness of the distinctive heritage and landscape of the Dearne Valley, and its variety.
- Contributing to local economic benefit.
- **Delivery**
  - The Partnership working well together.
  - A high standard of work being actioned.
- **Added value**
  - Additional benefits to partner organisations.
  - Funding leveraged in to the Dearne Valley.
  - Increased volunteer input.
  - More skills and knowledge brought in to the Dearne Valley.

Overall monitoring of the performance of the DVLP will be led by the Development Manager with the support of the programme management team. A monitoring and evaluation workshop will be held at the early stages of the implementation phase and repeated as necessary through the lifetime of the programme. This is to ensure all project partners are clear of what is expected of them in terms of monitoring progress, reporting spend / outputs and evaluation. The outputs required to monitor progress for HLF be will be held centrally by the programme management team and used for reporting to HLF as well as monitoring and assessing progress as the programme proceeds. To demonstrate the fundamental importance of monitoring and evaluation, an evaluation sub-group will be established at the outset of the implementation phase. It will comprise representatives from across the DVLP, such

as staff, partners, volunteers, trainees and community group members. Its members will:

- Champion the evaluation to others in the DVLP
- Provide ideas, advice and help.
- Actively contribute to the analysis and learning through the Validation and Recommendations Workshops in each evaluation round.

It is hoped that members will benefit at a personal level through gaining evaluation related knowledge and skills. Measures of success have been identified within the strategy and will be assessed both quantitatively and qualitatively. Whilst meeting the formal monitoring requirements of the HLF, the DVLP aims to take a creative approach to evaluation through the use of film, audio and creativity. There will be a particular focus on case studies and the positive impacts that the DVLP will have on individuals and groups. In terms of timings of evaluation, the approach will be as follows:

### INTERNAL

- Annual internal evaluation to feed into the annual business planning and into an annual learning and celebration event.

### EXTERNAL

- 18 months: First check on progress Are we heading in the right direction? Are we doing it right?
- 3 – 3 ½ years: First check on impact, and legacy planning. Are we beginning to have an impact? Is it the impact we're aiming for? What can we learn from our work so far to help us plan for the future, after the end of this HLF funding?
- 4 ½ years: Impact and legacy. What difference have we made? What legacy are we leaving?



## **8. ADOPTION AND REVIEW**

The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Landscape Conservation Action Plan was led by the Landscape Partnership Development Officer, in close consultation with the range of partners. The Partnership that was formed around the Stage 1 Bid, have maintained their involvement and have been kept updated throughout the development phase. Progress updates have been circulated with draft and final versions of the LCAP circulated to all project partners and those who submitted project proposals (whether they were included in the final LCAP or not). A formal presentation was made to a working group in December 2013 of the draft project list. The comments from the meeting were used to further refine both the project list and the LCAP.

The LCAP is integral and essential to the implementation phase of the DVLP. It will guide the work of the programme delivery team but it provides the basis of understanding for all those who are part of the DVLP, or wish to be part of it.

The LCAP will be used as the basis for monitoring and evaluation, as well as reporting to the accountable body, the Partnership Board and the HLF.

Progress on delivery of the DVLP will be reviewed annually against the LCAP, with a forward plan for each forthcoming year produced to take account of any changes in circumstances if some project cannot proceed.

A copy of the LCAP will be available to download from the DVLP website once it is established. Copies will be held by all members of the Partnership, as well as all those involved in the delivery of the projects within the programme. Copies of the LCAP will be freely available to anyone who requests a copy.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

There are a range of documents sitting behind this LCAP which have informed and shaped the DVLP. Some of these were commissioned directly for the landscape partnership, others are existing documents. These documents will be referred to throughout the LCAP but full copies are provided as appendices.

*Dearne Valley Green Heart Interpretation Study:* Commissioned by RSPB Old Moor. Landscape Projects / Spearfish. 2012.

*Dearne Valley Green Heart Landscape Character Assessment:* Commissioned by RSPB Old Moor. Fiona Fyfe - Fiona Fyfe Associates. 2012.

*Dearne Valley Green Heart Biodiversity: Phase 1 Habitat Mapping / Species Mapping:* Commissioned by RSPB Old Moor. Landscape Projects / Geoff Carr Ecology. 2012/

*DVLP Signage and Wayfinding Guide:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Paul Mahony - Countryside . 2013.

*DVLP Audience Development Plan and Community Engagement Strategy:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Helen Fairweather - Resources for Change. 2013.

*DVLP Environmental and Biodiversity Review:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Louise Hill – MRB Ecology and Consulting. 2013.

*DVLP Communications Strategy:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Steph Pollard / Kate Betts – Capital B Media. 2013.

*Dearne Valley Heritage Audit:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Anna Badcock / Dave Aspden - ArcHeritage. 2013.

*Dearne Valley Green Heart Interpretation Strategy:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Heritage Destination Consulting. 2013.

*DVLP Branding Guidelines:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Chris Woodhams / Catherine Carley – The Cafeteria/ 2013

*DVLP Skills and Training Review and Strategy:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Voluntary Action Barnsley. 2013.

*DVLP Building Conditions Survey:* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Allan Smith / Martyn Brooker – Rance Booth Smith Architects. 2014.

*DVLP Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy –* Commissioned by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. Irene Evison – Resources of Change. 2013.

*Landscape Partnership Second Round Help Notes (and other documents):* Heritage Lottery Fund. 2010

*Natural Environment White Paper - The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature:* DEFRA (2011)

*Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services:* DEFRA, 2011

*Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network:* DEFRA, 2010

*National Heritage Protection Plan:* English Heritage, 20



For more information please contact:

Richard King  
Landscape Partnership Development Officer  
Arts, Museums and Archives Service  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
PO Box 597  
Barnsley  
S70 9EW

[richardking@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:richardking@barnsley.gov.uk)

01226 772131

Version 3.0/14Oct14/PtoS

