

Derwent Valley Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas

Guidance Notes

The recognition of the importance of the Derwent Valley textile mills by inscription as a World Heritage Site presents a major opportunity for developing visitor-led regeneration. For the communities to benefit from investment from visitors it needs to be maintained as an attractive historic environment.

Owners of buildings within the World Heritage Site may be eligible for grants towards external structural repairs and the reinstatement of lost external architectural detail. At present the area grant schemes covering the World Heritage Site are the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) operating in the Cromford and Belper & Milford Conservation Areas. These partnership schemes aim to promote economic regeneration by providing grant assistance to property owners in Conservation Areas.

What does the Scheme aim to achieve?

- Rescue of under-used or disused historic buildings from neglect and potential damage or demolition.
- Re-use of historic buildings for sustainable, economically beneficial use.
- Reinstatement of lost architectural features.
- Enhancement of the village scene.

Is my building eligible and how much grant aid can I expect?

Most historic buildings within the Cromford Conservation Area are potentially eligible for grant. In Belper, grant assistance will generally be focused on the properties in Bridge Street and Chapel Street in order to maximise the regeneration benefit in relation to the level of funding available. The targeted buildings are the main historic buildings in poor repair or which have lost architectural detail, but the Partnership Scheme officers are able to provide advice on the likely eligibility of specific buildings.

Grants for 'repair' will normally be at a level of 60% for buildings in commercial and residential use. Grants for the 'reinstatement of lost architectural detail' will normally be at a level of 75% and at 80% for environmental enhancement.

What standards must the work meet?

All works must be carried out to appropriate standards in accordance with English Heritage guidance. Applicants are encouraged to employ professional design services where necessary. Where the cost of the grant eligible works exceeds £20,000 the services of a suitably qualified and experienced conservation professional advisor, usually an architect or building surveyor, will be a grant requirement.

What works are eligible?

Generally only repairs to the original structure or the reinstatement of lost details are eligible, such as work to roofs, chimneys, chimney pots, rainwater goods, brick and stonework, render, windows and doors, boundary walls and gates. Internal repairs are only eligible where they are directly related to external repairs or are essential to

the preservation of the building, for example, the eradication of dry rot. In exceptional circumstances, redecoration can be included if it is considered necessary as a result of an eligible repair.

Extensions, alterations, face-lifts and day to day maintenance are not eligible. Eligible and non-eligible work may well form part of the same programme, but the costs should always be kept separate.

Fees for professional advisors in connection with the building works are eligible for grant assistance and the involvement of suitably qualified, registered or accredited professionals is encouraged. The Partnership Scheme officers can advise on the level of fees that are eligible.

How do I apply?

Grant application forms for Cromford and Belper can be downloaded by clicking on the relevant link on the Derbyshire County Council website, under '**Environment, Conservation**'.

Alternatively paper copies of the application form and brief guidance notes can be obtained from Call Derbyshire, on **08456 058 058** or email us at **contactcentre@derbyshire.gov.uk**

For more information or an informal discussion about your proposal please contact:

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Derbyshire County Council tel: 01629 539803

or

for Cromford:

Dr Mark Askey, PSiCA Partnership Scheme Officer
Derbyshire Dales District Council tel: 01629 761360

for Belper & Milford

Rachael Coates, PSiCA Partnership Scheme Officer
Amber Valley Borough Council tel: 01773 841582