

CHARTED TERRITORY

Introduction

Welcome to a celebration of some of the colourful, amazing and sometimes surprising maps of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



Hand-coloured estate map of Willersley Farm, 1759

Maps come in all sizes, can be surprisingly beautiful, and are created for a variety of purposes. By linking the present to the past and looking to the future, maps help us to understand how the world we now inhabit has changed.

Local volunteers have catalogued more than 200 maps and plans held at Derbyshire Record Office, some of which have also been digitised.

Through these maps we see the expansion of the mills and communities along Derbyshire's Derwent Valley, internationally renowned as the birthplace of the factory system.



Map of Belper and Duffield estate, 1829

Snaking 15 miles down the river valley from Matlock Bath to Derby, the World Heritage Site contains a fascinating series of historic mill complexes.



Map of Belper and Milford, early 19th Century

Many of the maps featured in the exhibition are from the archive of the Strutt family, who owned a large amount of land and property in the area. Jedediah Strutt (1726-1792) established silk mills in Derby and cotton mills at Milford and Belper; he also funded and worked closely with Sir Richard Arkwright (1732-1792) the industrialist who first developed modern factories.



Strutt estate map, 1829



Portrait of Jedediah Strutt, by Joseph Wright of Derby
Image courtesy of Belper Historical Society

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