**EXPLORE LUMSDALE**

**The Arkwright Society** owns the land in the upper Lumsdale Valley on which are situated the mills, ponds, waterfall and nature reserve. This area was scheduled as an ancient monument by Historic England in 2014.

**The Heritage Lottery Fund** awarded the Arkwright Society a generous grant in 2014 towards the reinstatement of the Middle Pond, and the desilting and landscaping of the Lower Pond.

**ACCESS & PARKING**

We advise starting your visit at the top of the valley.

The Lumsdale Project area is both a nature reserve and a very important historical site. The waterfall and most of the ruined mills are situated in a steep gorge.

Access to and within the site is on foot only, with limited disabled access. There are no refreshment or toilet facilities in the valley. There is also no visitor parking at the ponds but there is parking opposite Highfields (Upper) School (DE4 5NA).

There is a nearby bus stop at the top of Lumsdale on the Chesterfield Road.

If you would like become a volunteer with the Lumsdale Project please contact Julian Burgess on 01629 55317. For further information about the Project and the work of the Arkwright Society contact Cromford Mill on 01629 824297 or visit the website: http://www.cromfordmills.org.uk/lumsdale

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**The Lumsdale Project** is managed for the Arkwright Society by a group of local people who also organise various fund-raising events. The Project’s approach is to repair and consolidate the archaeological remains while maintaining the valley’s green and peaceful atmosphere. This strategy was inherited from the late Marjorie Mills who first leased and then, in 1996, bequeathed the site to the Arkwright Society.

There are **guided walks** of the Lumsdale Valley led by volunteers: details are available from the Arkwright Society (next page).
The Lumsdale valley, on the edge of Matlock, is one of the best water-powered industrial archaeological sites in Great Britain: it is unusual to see so extensive a use of water power in such a relatively small area.

By the 17th century there was at least one mill in the upper part of the valley. By the early 18th century there were at least two mills - one grinding corn and the other fulling cloth. During the 18th century two cupolas were smelting lead. In the 1780s Watts, Lowe & Company began extensive development of the lower Lumsdale estate.

**The Ponds and Mills**

The mills were powered by water from the Bentley Brook using a series of holding ponds and leats. All the mills except the Bone Mill are situated in a beautiful wooded gorge with a waterfall.

**The Upper Pond** was part of the re-development in the 1780s to provide sufficient water supply for the cotton mill lower down the valley. It now exists as a nature reserve bounded on the southern side by the remains of a large dam wall.

**The Bone Mill** pre-dates the first pond and was in use throughout the 17th century. It was used for various purposes over the years but its final use was for crushing bone.

The Middle Pond was also part of the 1780s development but became silted up and overgrown. It was re-instated in 2014 thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Pond Cottages** include the building erected in 1749 to house two furnaces to smelt lead. On the other side of the lane there was a counting house and ore house. By 1789 the plant was out of use and was converted by William Milnes into cottages for cotton mill workers employed by Watts, Lowe and Co.

**The Lower Pond** was the site of a quarry until the 1850s when it was converted into a reservoir contained by a large dam.

**The Chimney:** the flues leading to the chimney were from the Lower Bleach Works and possibly other mills.

**The Saw Mill** was built soon after 1850 and was used to grind minerals for paint. Its final use was as a saw mill.

**The Paint Mill** is one of the oldest mills in the valley, possibly dating from the 1600s. One early use was for bleaching. Other uses included the grinding of corn and barytes and it was also a lead works.

**The Grinding Mill** was used for grinding corn and minerals and dates from the 1770s.

**The Upper Bleach Works** are not open to the public at present as the remains are very fragile. Most of the buildings here date from the early 19th century.

**The Lower Bleach Works** were originally the three-storey cotton mill built by Watts, Lowe & Co. It later became a bleach works and finally closed in 1929.

The Arkwright Society is a registered charity (number 515526).