

Corporate Objectives:

- 1. Achieve the priority actions in the Cultural Heritage Strategy 2006-11 (Priority level 3)*
- 2. Update the Cultural Heritage Strategy and produce the action plan for 2011-16 (Priority level 3)*

We continue to achieve the targets in the Cultural Heritage Strategy (97%), with 19 actions also now completed.

During the year, 7 major projects supported delivery of the Strategy, including the Calver Weir restoration and Silence Mine preservation. Residents from Hucklow and Foolow are restoring Silence Mine to conserve its heritage and wildlife, supported by compulsory purchase of the site by the Authority, a £27,000 Heritage Lottery Grant and advice from experts within the Authority.

A number of grant schemes administered by the Authority have further supported delivering the Strategy. The Historic Buildings Grant Scheme has provided £110,000 of funds for 34 projects including houses, barns, Calver Weir and St Paul's Church, Flash. The Archaeology Grant Scheme provided £12,500 funds for 8 projects including cave excavation in the Manifold Valley, a landscape survey at Aldwark and fencing out the excavated areas at Fin Cop hillfort. The Conservation Area Enhancement Grant has funded 8 projects to the value of £7,000 including wall rebuilding at Warslow and Hartington and restoration of the pinfold at Curbar.

We produced a further 4 conservation area appraisals so that 91 of the 109 conservation areas in the Park have been appraised/ reviewed. Over 64% of the Park has been archaeologically surveyed. The percentage of listed buildings at risk has remained stable at 6.6%.

We continued to work with residents and developers to incorporate appropriate enhancements to development schemes that are in keeping with the Park's cultural heritage, including the provision of pre-application advice.

Looking ahead to 2010/11

We will have been successful if we continue to deliver on the Cultural Heritage Strategy's actions.

Key actions for 2010/11 include:

- Undertaking the listed building quinquennial review*
- Continue the Calver Weir project*
- Pilot the integrated village management plan process through village officers*
- Delivery of cultural heritage grant schemes*
- Identify and act on the implications for the Authority of the Heritage Protection Reform*
- Review performance to date against the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the National Park and up-date the Strategy*
- Agree achievable targets with partners for the action plan 2011-16*
- Establish a monitoring process for the action plan 2011-16*

Calver Weir Restoration

The 110m long Calver Weir, on the River Derwent, powered one of the earliest cotton mills during the Industrial Revolution and upstream created Calver Marshes, which harbour scarce species such as harvest mice, water voles and orchids. It is a Listed Structure and Scheduled Monument that was on the Authority's Buildings at Risk register.

The community-led initiative to prevent its collapse has been supported with specialist and other input from the National Park Authority, a £1.244m Heritage Lottery Grant, additional sums from the Environment Agency (£165k) and English Heritage (£100k) and other funders (£58.8k) and in-kind contributions.

The project includes

- the continued water supply to Calver Mill via the 1km long goyt
- maintenance of the unique wetland habitats, provision of a fish pass
- control of Himalayan balsam and mink (to conserve water vole populations)
- works to benefit various threatened and/or Red Data book species
- access works to enhance physical access along footpaths on both banks of the river
- provision of interpretation and web-based information to improve intellectual access to the landscape, and to its natural and cultural heritage components
- educational and outreach activities into local primary and secondary schools and tertiary education establishments, nearby and further afield
- engagement with the local health agenda to provide opportunities for those with physical and mental health issues and differing abilities
- improved (low-key) visitor facilities and attractiveness for visitors to the National Park

The communities around Calver, Curbar and Froggatt have worked for the conservation of the Weir since the late 1990s, and since 2004 to raise the funds required. Engineering works started in the autumn of 2009 and will continue throughout 2010 to preserve a monument that forms part of the history of the local communities, who will be engaged in both its conservation and its future management and maintenance.