

What do people in Derbyshire think is the instrumental value of heritage? A study based on the views of the public and of heritage managers on museums, stately homes and the Derwent Valley Mills world heritage site.

The presentation is based on research carried out for a doctoral study at the University of Sheffield, which involves working collaboratively with Derbyshire County Council's Cultural and Community Services department. Distinctive aspects of the study are that it collects the views of both the public and culture managers on the value of culture in Derbyshire, and across five different types of culture: libraries, museums, arts festivals, stately homes and the Derwent Valley Mills (DVM) world heritage site. A mixed methods approach was used, involving three focus groups with managers, combined with open-ended questionnaires; five focus groups with the public; and an online quantitative questionnaire with the public. The presentation will cover the results in relation to museums, stately homes and DVM, and in relation to instrumental value, typically considered to mean social and economic forms of value. Museums and stately homes were valued highly and similarly for several forms of social value, such as education and community identity, but stately homes were valued higher than museums for economic value, such as bringing in money to the local area. The low level of awareness and use of DVM among the public sample made incorporating its results difficult, but some indications of value were still possible.

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