

MILFORD The Strutt Inheritance

Welcome to Milford, part of the **Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site**. This board is one of a series which describe features of interest in this internationally important landscape.

The World Heritage Site occupies a 15-mile stretch of the Derwent Valley between Matlock Bath and Derby. The maps on the far right of the board will help you to get your bearings.

There are many other places to visit along the Valley, either within the site or further afield. The rich heritage of the entire Derwent Valley is recognised through its promotion as the National Heritage Corridor™.

Your nearest visitor information point is the Derwent Valley Visitor Centre in Belper North Mill.

THE HISTORY OF MILFORD

Milford was named for its river-crossing, on an ancient route from Derby to the Peak District. The power of the Derwent was used from medieval times to run a corn-mill, dyeing and fulling mills, and iron and scythe forges.

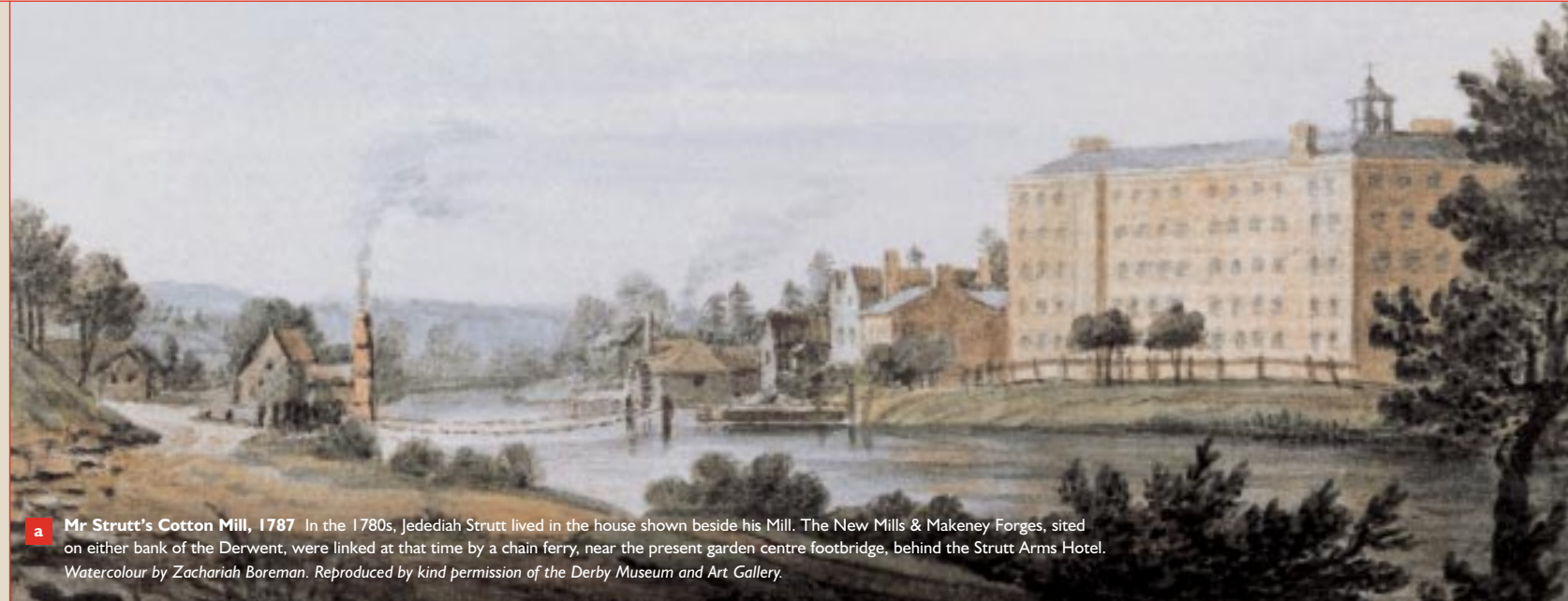
Jedediah Strutt, a farmer turned hosier, recognised the potential of the site. Inventor of the Derby rib machine, Strutt owned a Derby silk mill, and had set up cotton mills in Belper.

In 1781, he bought land in Milford to build a cotton-spinning mill. It was one of a series of textile mills constructed on the Derwent between Matlock and Derby during the Industrial Revolution.

These pioneering developments, which included the creation of new communities to house and cater for the workforce they required, are now recognised as being of international importance.

The Milford Mill complex eventually included spinning, bleaching and dyeing mills, as well as foundries, joiners' workshops, a gas-works and a corn-mill. The Warehouse, constructed in 1793, was an early attempt by William Strutt, Jedediah's eldest son, to design a fire-proof multi-storey structure. Later, and more successful, attempts at fire-proofing are embodied in the Dyehouse building, near the bridge.

Whilst almost all the early mill buildings were demolished in the 1950s and '60s, much of the associated industrial housing has survived. Many of these houses were built by the Strutts, from the late 18th century onwards, transforming Milford from a riverside hamlet into a company village. The Strutts also built the school, created several farms to supply produce for their workers, and helped establish the village's various religious and social buildings.



a Mr Strutt's Cotton Mill, 1787 In the 1780s, Jedediah Strutt lived in the house shown beside his Mill. The New Mills & Makeney Forges, sited on either bank of the Derwent, were linked at that time by a chain ferry, near the present garden centre footbridge, behind the Strutt Arms Hotel. Watercolour by Zachariah Boreman. Reproduced by kind permission of the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.



b Milford, looking southwards from the Rock, 1905 The tall central building is the corn Mill built by the Strutts in 1820, on the site of the old forges. It is now part of the garden centre. The road bridge, opened in 1793, was principally funded by Jedediah Strutt.



c Footbridge between Milford Mill buildings The main road was formerly crossed by an overhead gangway, linking the two parts of the Mill complex. Parts of its supports can still be seen in the roadside wall of the surviving Dyehouse. It was taken down in the late 1930s, as it had become an obstruction to double-decker buses.



d The Old Lock-up This lock-up stood until 1964 on the south side of the road, by the Mill entrance. Besides holding officially-detained offenders, it was also used by the Strutts for workers who had broken Mill rules. Even disobedient school-children were sometimes sent there. The building was later used as a barber's shop and a china shop.



e Milford House Now a residential and nursing home for the elderly, Milford House stands by the main road a short distance south of here. It was built in 1792 for Jedediah Strutt. Designed in a style reflecting his new status, it overlooked the mills which steadily increased his wealth.



f Tollbar Cottage, about 1870 This toll-house collected charges for use of the bridge and turnpike roads. The bridge was widened in 1906 to provide space for pavements, and the toll-house was partly demolished. Its remains can be seen down beside the far end of the bridge.



g Mill & Weirs, Milford, looking north towards the bridge This part of the Milford Mill complex was built during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It stood until 1964 behind the Strutt Arms Hotel, on land now partly occupied by the Mill House public house. It was powered by water from the Derwent channelled into a goyt. The wheel-pits may still be seen near the Mill House. The bell above the goyt, beside the Dyehouse, once hung in the Mill clock-tower.



h Suspension Bridge, Milford This bridge was designed and built by William Strutt, Jedediah's eldest son, on the site of the ancient ford. An extremely early example, having been completed in 1826, it was unfortunately demolished soon after World War 2. The garden centre foot-bridge has since replaced it.

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS World Heritage Site

This map shows the full extent of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site – from Matlock Bath in the north to Derby in the south



PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 MASSON MILLS
- 2 CROMFORD VILLAGE
- 3 WILLERSLEY CASTLE
- 4 CROMFORD MILL
- 5 ST. MARY'S CHURCH (CROMFORD)
- 6 CROMFORD CANAL
- 7 HIGH PEAK JUNCTION WORKSHOPS
- 8 LEAWOOD PUMPHOUSE
- 9 JOHN SMEDLEY'S MILL
- 10 BELPER RIVER GARDENS
- 11 BELPER NORTH MILL (DERWENT VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE)
- 12 BELPER TOWN
- 13 MILFORD VILLAGE
- 14 DARLEY ABBEY VILLAGE
- 15 DARLEY PARK
- 16 DERBY SILK MILL & INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

KEY:
 — A6
 - - RAILWAY
 — RIVER DERWENT

