

## FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Name of Project	Small Heritage Adoption
Delivery Partner	PDNPA
Name of Person Completing Report	Catherine Parker Heath
Start Date of Project	January 2018
End Date of Project	June 2022
Date of Report	May 2022



## Aims and Objectives of the Project

- Enable communities of place and interest to identify, record, and research heritage assets across the SWP.
- Initiate programmes of repair, conservation or consolidation when opportunities arise.
- Recruit and train volunteers to undertake identification, recording and, where possible, conservation management.
- Provide for the long-term sustainability of heritage assets by adoption by volunteers
- Raise interest, awareness and enjoyment of the heritage of the South West Peak through providing further information and interpretation for other users

## **Project Delivery**

The project began hand-in-hand with the Barns and Buildings Project (BB). The Cultural Heritage Officer (CHO) recruited and trained volunteers to carry out level 1 landscape surveys (alongside level 1 building surveys) to identify and record the condition, location and heritage significance of heritage assets across the South West Peak (SWP). This aimed to provide data to update existing records on the Peak District National Park Authority's (PDNPA) Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR) and County Historic Environment Records (HERs), and provide new data on assets not previously recorded. A pilot survey was carried out to fine-tune the methodology and volunteers were trained throughout the length of the project with the last training session held in August 2021. These moved online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Level 1 surveys continued throughout the life of the project although the impact of Covid-19 and resultant lockdowns and PDNPA policy regarding volunteering, prevented this for a time. 125km<sup>2</sup> were surveyed walking public rights of way, with a further 48km<sup>2</sup> partially surveyed.

As volunteers recorded assets, they were asked to indicate any they thought would be appropriate for adoption. In some cases, individuals came forward to ask if they could adopt an asset, in others a suitable group/individual was approached such as High Peak Scouts regarding Gradbach Limekiln. Conservation works focussed on individual assets such as Dale Mine, Gradbach Limekiln, Butterton Sundial and a number of milestones, with those at Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln delivered as large archaeological projects in their own right.

In early 2021, in light of the pandemic and difficulties in being able to work with volunteers and adopters as intended during much of 2020, the Cultural Heritage Officer (CHO) focussed on creating sustainable volunteer groups that could record and monitor, and effectively adopt, a whole category of heritage assets such as limekilns and milestones. The volunteers involved in these groups, indicated that, beyond the end of the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme, they would like the focus to cover the whole of the Peak District National Park and not just the South West Peak. There is now an established Peak District Milestone Group that is affiliated with the Milestone Society, made up of SWPLP volunteers.

Throughout the project, the CHO gave talks and presentations to a variety of local groups and societies, gave a number of radio interviews, appeared on BBC Countryfile, joined Tony Robinson and the Time Team on stage as part of Buxton Festival, and organised a Spring Lecture Series. These were all to promote the heritage of the SWP and the work of this and the BB project and work of the wider SWPLPS.

The CHO worked closely with volunteers to create a number of interpretation and engagement initiatives. Together they created trails, updated existing ones, developed an augmented reality app, put on guided walks, and created ArcGIS Story Maps.

Training in conservation skills was also provided by the CHO in lime mortaring and drystone walling as part of the bigger conservation projects, as well as how to restore milestones. This training was delivered by experts in their field.

Extra to the immediate aims of the project, the CHO with volunteers carried out an earthwork survey of two Bronze Age barrows and a walk over survey of Merryton Low following wild fires in summer 2018. In addition, the CHO gave advice as required to other project officers - Farm Link Workers and Grasslands Officer - regarding heritage.

### Staff resource

A full time Cultural Heritage Officer (CHO), Catherine Parker Heath, delivered this project and the Barns and Buildings project over four years.

### Budget resource

The initial planned project budget for Small Heritage Adoption was £53,000 (figures excluding VAT) and was subdivided as follows, showing planned and actual costs incurred against each budget heading:

NLHF budget heading	Example items	Intended	Actual cost
		cost	
Repair and conservation work	Costs of conservation and adoption of	£16,000	£24,421
	heritage assets by community groups and representatives		
Equipment and materials	Materials for volunteers for on-site	£5,000	£1,482
(capital)	conservation works		
Professional fees (capital)	Professional fees for site work	£4,000	£1,499
New staff costs	Additional subsistence (salary included in	£1,200	£89
	Barns and Buildings project)		
Training for volunteers		£4,000	£1,551
Travel for staff		£2,400	£660
Travel and expenses for		£4,000	£2,645
volunteers			
Equipment and materials	PPE, welfare kit, clothes, tools and equipment	£12,400	£2,641
(activity)			
Other costs (activity)	Room hire for public events	£1,800	£1,007
Professional fees (activity)	Augmented reality project, design costs	£0	£13,175
Publicity and promotion		£1,000	£96
Contingency		£400	
Inflation		£800	
TOTAL		£53,000	£49,170

In addition, the project received volunteer time valued at £60,126. The project was funded by grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, the Association for Industrial Archaeology and the PDNPA, with additional income from donations and crowd funding.

Partnership working – team involvement, steering group etc

Support for the delivery of this project came from a range of colleagues and partners. No formal steering group was established:

- SWPLPS Programme Manager Karen Shelley-Jones
- Programme Administrator Sara Smithson
- PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team
- Farm Link Workers Andy Farmer, Dave Cooper
- PDNPA Senior Farm Advisor Suzanne Fowkes
- PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team (CHT) Anna Badcock, Natalie Ward, Sue Adams, Rebecca Waddington
- Historic England Nick Carter, Benjamin Parker, Jez Bretherton
- Vocational Training Officer Helen Betts (repairs to Barn Trail; drystone wall at New York Farm)
- Apprentices data inputting, level 1 surveys photography.

### Volunteers

This project could not have been delivered without volunteer input.

- 89 separate individuals completed training in level 1 building surveys. 8 individuals did the training twice, the second time as a refresher and 2 volunteers attended on multiple occasions to give support to the CHO (shared with BB)
- 55 of these volunteers took part in a scheduled level 1 surveys after training with further support from the CHO (shared with BB)
- 23 of these volunteers carried out unscheduled surveys in their own time (shared with BB)
- 23 volunteers took part in the Understanding Dale Mine Project
- 16 volunteers took part in the Gradbach Limekiln Project
- 15 volunteers carried out the survey of Merryton Low Bowl Barrows
- 12 volunteers attended training in how to restore milestones
- 11 volunteers contributed to the Errwood Hall app
- 9 volunteers attended a workshop on geophysics and resistivity surveys
- 5 volunteers contributed to data entry.

Some of these volunteers were the same individuals. In total 109 separate volunteers were involved in the Small Heritage Adoption Project.

#### Consultants and contractors

- Dr John Barnatt carried out excavations and research at Dale Mine
- Mark Womersley of Womersley's Ltd. worked on the conservation of Dale mine and Gradbach Limekiln and provided training in lime-mortaring
- Alistair Hunter of McMillan Hunter sundials restored Butterton Sundial
- John Higgins of the Milestone Society provided training in milestone restoration
- Jill Scrine of the Milestone Society provided advice
- Ros Westwood, Curator, Buxton Museum provided advice and support regarding a number of assets including Errwood Hall

• Joe Perry, Curator Potteries Museum provided advice and support regarding archiving

### Community involvement

#### History societies

- Butterton History Society (sundial adoption, milestone adoption)
- Swythamley History Society (Danebridge adoption)
- Elkstonians (information events prior to Pilot Scheme re level 1 surveys)
- Tudor Farming Interpretation Group (archaeology trail adoption, guided walks, archive and mosaic group visits)
- Milestone Society (PD Milestone Group, annual conference)
- Buxton Local History Society
- Rainow History Society.

### Schools, youth groups & universities

- High Peak Scouts (Gradbach Limekiln adoption, level 1 surveys, general heritage/archaeology workshops x 3)
- Sussex Scout Group (visit to limekiln)
- Harpur Hill and St Anne's Primary Schools Buxton (letter box Trail)
- Manifold Academy, Warslow (Warslow Barn trail, Under Whitle Archaeology Trail)
- Fairfield Juniors (Errwood Hall AR app)
- St Bartholomew's (Under Whitle Archaeology Trail)
- Buxton Community School (Goyt valley trip)
- Buxton and Leek College Outdoor Education students (level 1 surveys)
- Lady Manners (work experience student)
- Sheffield University 3 work experience students fieldwork and data inputting for both BB and SHA projects.

### Parish councils

- Grindon Parish Council, Warslow Parish Council (information event, identifying assets in parish & possible trail, with Engaging Communities)
- Hartington Upper Quarter Parish Council (re potential adoption of Glutton Bridge phone box)

### Other

- VICTA Visually Impaired Children and Young People
- Peak District Mosaic and Asha Group
- Buxton Fringe and local Buxton community and Morrisons Buxton (Buxton letterbox trail)
- Tarmac Tunstead (Gradbach Limekiln project)
- Individuals who have adopted assets
- Volunteer Rangers (adoptions, guided tours and adoption of Dale Mine)

### Talks promoting the work of BB and SHA were given at

- Butterton (Village Hall);
- Ipstones (History Society)

- Whaley Bridge (Footsteps Café)
- Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent (Archaeological Society)
- Hollinsclough (History Live)
- Buxton Civic Association (BCA)
- Derbyshire Archaeology Day, Chesterfield x 2
- SWP Farmers Group (talk and tour)

The wider public has engaged with trails, the app, attended talks and presentations, and watched BBC Countryfile etc.

## What Has (and has not) Been Achieved

#### Outputs

	Intended Output	Delivered Output	
1	400 new heritage assets identified and recorded & supplied to the relevant Historic Environment Record and the PDNPA HBSMR	<b>531</b> : Data sent to PDNPA HBSMR to be shared with County HERs in due course	
2	500 previously recognised heritage assets recorded more fully & supplied to the relevant Historic Environment Record and the PDNPA HBSMR	<b>399</b> : Data sent to PDNPA HBSMR to be shared with County HERs in due course	
3	25 heritage assets adopted by communities of place and interest	<b>46</b> : 33 on archaeology trail; 4 mileposts (also now all mileposts in Staffordshire Moorlands area of SWP by PD Milestone Group); Dale Mine; Gradbach Limekiln; Dane Bridge; Butterton Sundial; Hobcroft Barn; 4 troughs	
4	65 volunteers trained (12 days training)	109: 38 training days	
5	300 volunteer days at skilled rate	336:	
6	5 Interpretation initiatives successfully concluded	5: Barn trail/guided walks/Hobcroft 'museum'/online material; Dale Mine plaque/guided walks/online material; Gradbach limekiln plaque/online material/guided walk around industries; Errwood Hall App/online material/schools pack; Buxton Letterbox trail/online trail/postcards/badges/Xmas trail	
7	15 School/community groups worked with -	<b>25</b> : 8 local history societies; 11 schools/colleges/universities; 3 parish councils; 3 other	
8	75 Learning activities/resources delivered -	88: 38 Training days 9 site visits: BCS Y8 guided visit to site, Buxton and Leek College level 1 surveys, VICTA visit to Under Whitle Farm, PD Mosaic and Asha Group visit to Buxton, PD Mosaic and Asha Group visit	

The number of existing assets to be updated seems low, although the number of barn records updated added to this total brings it close to the target figure. However, many assets already recorded in the SWP and on the County HERs are in fact listed buildings which were not the focus of this project. It would have been useful to ascertain exactly how many assets are already on the HER for the exact area of the SWP and take the number of listed buildings away from this number to see if the target of 500 was in fact realistic. However this proved to be a difficult task, as it was not possible to search within the boundary of the South West Peak using Earthlight (the PDNPA's GIS system), and the PDNPA HBSMR data officer was unable to do this easily either.

Outputs 8, 9 10 & 11 overlap as trails and guided walks are examples of learning activities, some of which had their own learning resources connected to them.

In some cases, where the targets were linked with those from the BB project it was difficult to decide which activity belonged to which project and whether activities that crossed over would be seen as double counting. Between the BB project and the SHA project, there were an enormous amount of targets and activities achieved in terms of engagement, interpretation, participation and learning.

In addition to these targets the CHO achieved the following:

- 3 x Moorlands Radio Interviews, 1 x BBC Radio Derby interview
- Site evaluations for Cistern's Clough Bridge, Field House Dam and Pond, and Robins Clough Colliery (for Future Farmscapes), an assessment of ridge and furrow in a field in Onecote (for Glorious Grasslands). These all have associated reports and drawings.
- Merryton Low Barrows earthwork surveys and walkover survey following wildfire. This has an associated method statement and report.

#### Key Outputs

Volunteer engagement – 109 trained and 336 volunteer days given. The project could not have been delivered without them.

Although not a defined target, the consolidation of Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln have been great successes.

The target for adoptions was exceeded and the formation of the Peak District Milestone Group means this group now has all milestones in the Staffordshire Moorland part of the SWP to care for.

#### Outcomes

	Intended Outcome	Delivered Outcome
1	Heritage will be better managed	Heritage is better managed through data on a large number of assets and 46 adoptions (and more including all the milestones in the Staffs Moorlands area of the SWP). This means these assets will be monitored for years to come.
2	Heritage will be in better condition	Heritage is in better condition as two sites have been consolidated, a sundial has been restored, troughs have

		been cleared and now the formation of the Peak District Milestone Group will be able to repaint cast iron mileposts across the SWP initially and then the wider Peak District. Before the end of the project three mileposts will be painted (late May/June 2022).
3	Heritage will be better identified/recorded	Previously known assets have been updated, either re- interpreted, more accurate locations gathered and photos taken. 531 new assets have been recorded and added the PDNPA HBSMR and subsequently the county HERs. The data are now available, including photographs, for others to make use of in the future.
4	People will have developed skills	People have developed skills in level 1 surveys, excavation skills, conservation techniques including drystone walling and lime mortaring. They have also developed skills in research and interpretation of heritage.
5	People will have learnt about heritage	People have learnt about heritage – volunteers through attending training days and participating in work, and the general public including school children through attending talks and presentations, walking the trails, and engaging with online trails and tours.
6	People will have volunteered time	109 volunteers have given their time particularly for the SHA project amounting to 336 skilled days
7	Environmental impacts will be reduced	Digital resources have been produced which help to interpret sites without requiring visits and instil positive messages with a wide audience. Where possible local resources and contractors have been used for training and practical work.
8	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	This project along with the BB project have engaged younger people such as providing work placements for 3 university students. One of these used the data on barns to write his undergraduate dissertation and the other chose to write his masters dissertation on historic field boundaries in the South West Peak. The project has also engaged with college students, Young Archaeologists Club and school children.
9	The local area/communities will be a better place to live, work or visit	The projects at Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln ensure that the very things that give the landscape its character are retained, they look better and people are impressed to see original features. Interpretation plaques at these sites make them more interesting places to visit. In addition an Augmented Reality app for Errwood Hall, as well as the online trails, means people can learn more before heading out making their visits more meaningful.

Key Outcomes

Heritage is now better identified and recorded, through level 1 surveys, data that is shared with the PDNPA Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record, which in turn will be shared with the relevant County HERs. This data is publicly accessible and can be utilised by all in the future for research purposes and management of this resource. In addition, archives for the two big projects will be deposited with the Potteries Museum and their digital archives uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service online repository.

Another key outcome is that people have volunteered time. 106 individual volunteers have engaged with the SHA project and have given 336 skilled days. As above, in relation to outputs, this is key and the project would not have continued without them. New friendships and connections have been made between these people, and many want to continue volunteering in some capacity.

People have learnt about heritage. The volunteers through their training and engaging with different aspects of the project have learned much about the heritage around them. In addition, the many talks, presentations to wider public, including TV appearance on BBC Countryfile and appearance with Time Team, trails, online resources, and an Augmented Reality app mean the wider public have indeed learnt about heritage and have the potential to for the years to come.

Heritage will be in better condition – the consolidation of Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln ensures these two assets will remains for years to come. The foundation of the Peak District Milestone Group means there is now a new enthusiasm in the Milestone Society for the practical work of repainting cast iron mileposts.

## What Made The Difference

Volunteers made the difference, the number of them, their enthusiasm, and the camaraderie. Some volunteers were already very skilled in lots of different areas and were able to share this knowledge and expertise.

# **Challenges**

One of the challenges faced was working alongside volunteers in the creation of trails and the AR app. Encouraging people to stick to deadlines and managing the differences in opinions was sometimes frustrating but in the end, success was achieved maintaining good relationships between people.

There were a number of potential projects that the CHO was not able to take forward largely due to time and the processes that needed to be followed. These included the adoption of the Buxton lime houses by Buxton Civic Association (BCA) and interpretation of Lismore Fields in Buxton, the adoption of Glutton Bridge Post box by the parish council and the adoption of Micah Salts grave by Buxton Local History Society. However, there are a limited number of hours in the day, and there is little that the CHO could have done to speed these projects up. There is still the potential for these to go ahead in the future, however, as the groundwork has been laid. BCA is in discussions with the owners of the lime houses who will gift them to BCA if they get planning permission to develop the rest of the site.

There has been a lack of desire for volunteers to take on responsibility to set up constituted volunteer groups that can carry on some of this work. Not knowing what will happen at the end of this project

has caused a hiatus in getting alternatives going as it has been difficult to know how these will be supported or sustained afterwards. As the Peak District Milestone Group will be affiliated with the Milestone Society they have that protection and guidance, and importantly insurance. For any individuals who have adopted assets who are not volunteer rangers or part of a constituted group already (e.g. Butterton History Group or the Tudor Farming Interpretation Group) it is difficult to know where they will sit.

## **Case Studies**

See separate document for Gradbach Limekiln

## <u>Legacy</u>

#### Skills/knowledge/experience

- 89 volunteers trained in level 1 landscape survey (shared with SHA project)
- 11 volunteers developed AR app for Errwood Hall researching and writing content
- 39 volunteers undertaken training in conservation techniques lime mortaring and drystone walling at Dale Mine and Gradbach
- 39 volunteers experienced in excavation techniques thorough work at Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln
- 15 volunteers carried out the survey of Merryton Low Bowl Barrows
- 12 volunteers attended training in how to restore milestones
- 11 volunteers contributed to the Errwood Hall app
- 9 volunteers attended a workshop on geophysics and resistivity surveys
- 5 volunteers contributed to data entry.
- 5 Volunteers trained in data processing
- 2 undergraduate archaeology students on work placement/experience: (shared with SHA project)
  - Samuel Timson wrote their dissertation on field barns using data collected through level 1 surveys and is now undertaking a MA in Cultural Heritage Management at the University of Sheffield
  - Matthew Crowder wrote his dissertation on historic field boundaries in the South West Peak and is now employed by Archaeological Research Services based in Bakewell
- 1 postgraduate work experience, Poppy Forshaw-Perrrin, is now working for an Archaeological Geophysics company in Yorkshire (shared with SHA project)
- 1 KS4 Student, who worked on Gradbach Limekiln is now study Archaeology at Durham University
- CHO with further project management experience including Level 4 Associate Project Management qualification and accreditation with the Association for Project Management (shared with SHA project)

#### Capital Works

- Dale Mine excavated and consolidated, now in a stable long-term condition with an adoption agreement in place.
- Gradbach Limekiln excavated and consolidated, now in a stable long-term condition with an adoption agreement in place.

#### Data

- Level 1 survey data of 732 assets and 200 field barns
- Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln archives deposited in the Potteries Museum and uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service and OASIS
- Reports on Dale Mine and Gradbach Limekiln
- Project designs, method statements or Written Schemes of Investigation for all projects
- Merryton Low report and archive
- Site assessment reports
- Report on level 1 surveys

### Equipment

Some shared with SHA:

- Surveying kits ranging poles, photo scales and north arrows
- Extendable measuring pole
- 360 degrees camera
- Panasonic Lumix camera
- Ladders

#### Connections/collaboration

There has been extensive collaboration with a wide range of individuals and communities:

- Dr John Barnatt
- Mark Womersely
- PDNPA and tenant
- Landowners of heritage assets
- PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team
- Derwentwise
- United Utilities
- Forestry England
- Buxton Museum
- Buxton Civic Association
- Various local history groups Tudor Farming interpretation Group, Elkstonians, Butterton History Society, History Live, Whaley Bridge Local History Society, Rainow History Society, Swythamley History Society, Ipstones History Society, Potteries Archaeology Society
- Derbyshire County Archaeologist, Steve Baker
- Potteries Museum
- Tudor Farming Interpretation Group

- High Peak U3A
- MoD, Landmark
- Nottingham Diocese
- Milestone Society
- Buxton festival Fringe
- High Peak Scouts
- Tarmac
- University of Sheffield
- Schools

### Educational Resources/Other Resources

- Level 1 Survey Handbook
- Leaflet of barn trail
- Letterbox trail leaflet, postcards and badges
- ArcGIS story map of letterbox trail, UW archaeology trail, Lost Industries of Gradbach, Field House Dam, 10,000 years in a day
- Goyt Valley Schools Pack
- Errwood Hall AR app, schools pack and online information

## Lessons Learned

A steering group would have been useful for this project, with regular meetings for the project from the beginning. As part of this, the project would have benefitted from closer contact with Historic England representatives. There were three different HE staff in place during the lifetime of the project with only one that the CHO connected with regularly. Likewise, a steering group that included the PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team would have enabled the team to allocate time to be involved. There was often a sense of lack of capacity and the CHO was reluctant to put more work on people's desks. Whilst the Cultural Heritage Team was very helpful and supportive as much as they could be, a more formal arrangement may have been advantageous, however, with limited budgets and capacity at PDNPA this would have been unlikely.

Forcing timely decisions to be made and more confidence in giving others deadlines so not 'seeing how thing go' or let decisions run on. Document and write minutes of all meetings with volunteers or nominate someone to do this.

A better and more robust configuration management system/filing system would have been better from the start and regularly (weekly) keeping on top of emails and versions of documents would have meant less to do at the end.

More and regular social media coverage with input from a full time communications officer would have made a difference to advertising an adoption campaign and getting the word out. This could have helped with a better and more sustained crowdfunding attempt for Dale Mine too.

Much of the above is linked to time and the feeling that there was not enough of it to do everything. This was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic which of course was out of the hands of the CHO. However, lack of capacity (which comes down to money) is a recurring theme when discussing legacy and the circumstances of partners. Individuals do not have enough time to do everything they need or feel they should do, which leads to fire-fighting which then leads to stress and feelings of incompetence.

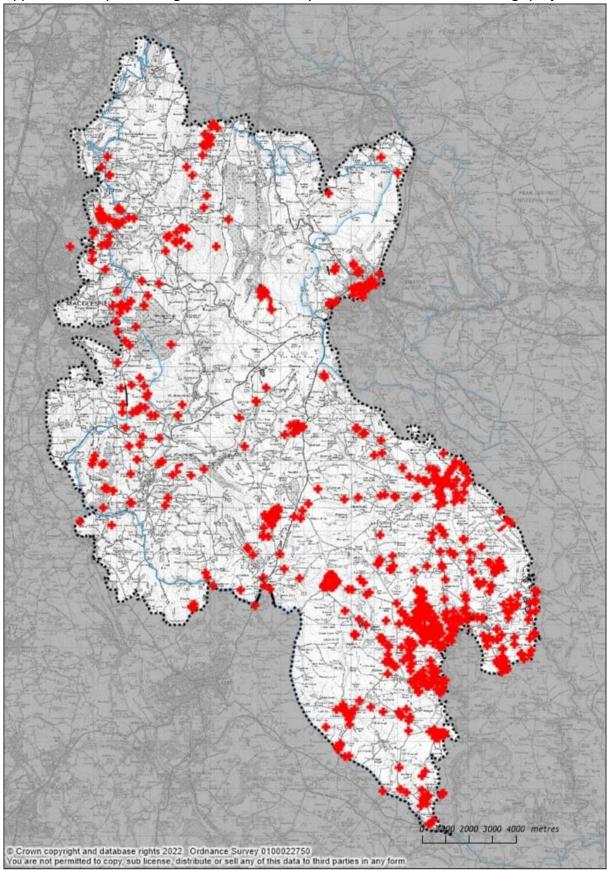
There is limited capacity in partner organisations to ensure a robust legacy for this project. That's not to say there is not a legacy, and organisations are doing what they can to enable volunteers to have a place in the future, but it is not ideal.

## The Big Headline

People made this project successful – Volunteers with massive amounts of interest, skills, and willingness along with collaboration with a wide variety of history societies and community groups.



Volunteers working alongside experts to excavate, interpret and consolidate Dale Mine



Appendix 1. Map of heritage assets recorded by this and the barns and Buildings project