

Arkwright Society: Cromford Mill



Formed in 1972, the Arkwright Society is an educational charity devoted to the rescue of industrial heritage buildings and helping to preserve the built and natural environment in and around Derbyshire.

In 1979 the Society purchased the site of Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mill, the world's first successful water powered cotton spinning mill built in 1771. In the early 1980s the Society began to implement its long term economic plan for the site, which for its historical significance and impact on the Industrial Revolution, was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2001.

On the site and in the surrounding Cromford area, the Society runs shops and restaurants; organises guided tours; provide conferencing and function rooms; and rents commercial and office space.

After receiving ERDF and Heritage Lottery (HLF) funding, in January 2012 the Society began working on redeveloping the largest building on the Cromford Mill site into units for creative businesses and a ground floor visitor's gateway to the heritage site. The space for creative businesses will offer up to 100 work stations in adjustable units.

The building redevelopment, which will cost £4.5million, had an ERDF intervention rate of 39 percent and was match funded by a variety of sources, including HLF; Derbyshire County Council; the John Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust; the Wolfson Foundation; the Pilgrim Trust; the Sylvia Waddilove Trust and individual donors.

The aim of the project is to encourage new business and the creation of new jobs; increase tourism; and encourage economic growth; whilst reclaiming a brownfield site and preserving the history of Cromford Mill.

Due to open in Autumn 2014, in Summer



Case Study

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2013 the building was already on track to meet its targets, including a 20 percent target occupancy rate on opening, with 25 percent of the spaces agreed to let and a further 25 percent under consideration.

Sarah McLeod, Chief Executive of the Arkwright Society, has provide, for any VCS organisations interested in applying for ERDF funding, some top tips including to:

- Keep all your information up to date;
- Be aware of the added risks if you need to buy in capacity building services; and
- Bear in mind the time limits of match funding sources.

“With any complex grant application process you learn a lot more about and review your project to make sure it works. We now know our project extremely well.”

Sarah McLeod, Chief Executive, Arkwright Society

The long term goal of the Society is to redevelop the whole of the Cromford Mill site, which will cost approximately £48million. The Society is looking to apply to the next ERDF programme and HLF to partly fund this.

For further information on the Arkwright Society visit www.arkwrightsociety.org.uk.

