WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Information about visiting New Lanark, the history of the site, downloadable guides, details of special events and information on learning resources can be found at the New Lanark Trust’s website: newlanark.org

To find out more about the wider area and the natural history of the Clyde Valley, see the back page of this leaflet for links to the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership.
Over 200 years ago the impressive sandstone cotton mills of New Lanark were built by an enterprising Scot, David Dale, in a dramatic gorge in Lanarkshire close to the famous Falls of Clyde. The village quickly became known all over the world under the enlightened management of Dale’s son-in-law, the social pioneer Robert Owen.

In 2001, UNESCO inscribed New Lanark as a World Heritage Site, in acknowledgement of its significant role in the development of model industrial settlements. The integration of planning and architecture with a humane concern on the part of employers for the wellbeing of workers is a milestone in social and industrial history.

New Lanark village remains a thriving community with a resident population, a visitor centre, a hotel and a range of small businesses. The New Lanark Trust, which owns much of the World Heritage Site, is committed to supporting the restoration and development of the village.

**Why was New Lanark?**

New Lanark was built around 1785 as a completely new cotton mill village powered by the waters of the famous Falls of Clyde. The village is built with local stone and is situated in a narrow steep-sided gorge through which the River Clyde flows.

In founding the village on such a difficult site Arkwright and Dale showed determination and confidence. They knew that very high profits could be made from a successful cotton mill utilising the natural water power available. Arkwright had invented a new kind of spinning machine, the waterframe. This led to the new factory age, and mill villages like New Lanark were established, powered by large water wheels revolutionising large scale textile production.

By 1799, New Lanark was the biggest cotton mill in Scotland and one of the largest factory sites in the world. Over 2,000 people lived or worked in the village. The mill continued manufacturing cotton for nearly 200 years, until 1968. This helps explain why the buildings in the village are so little changed.

**What can I see and do today?**

The buildings in the village today look much as they did in the early 19th century during Owen’s management. The imposing mill buildings, tenement rows of workers’ accommodation, the Institute for the Formation of Character and the Robert Owen’s School for Children, along with Robert Owen and David Dale’s Houses are all open to the public.

The original weir, lade and waterways which provided water power to the mills from the 1780s are still in use today. Woodland walks from the village give access to views of the Falls of Clyde and of the gorge.