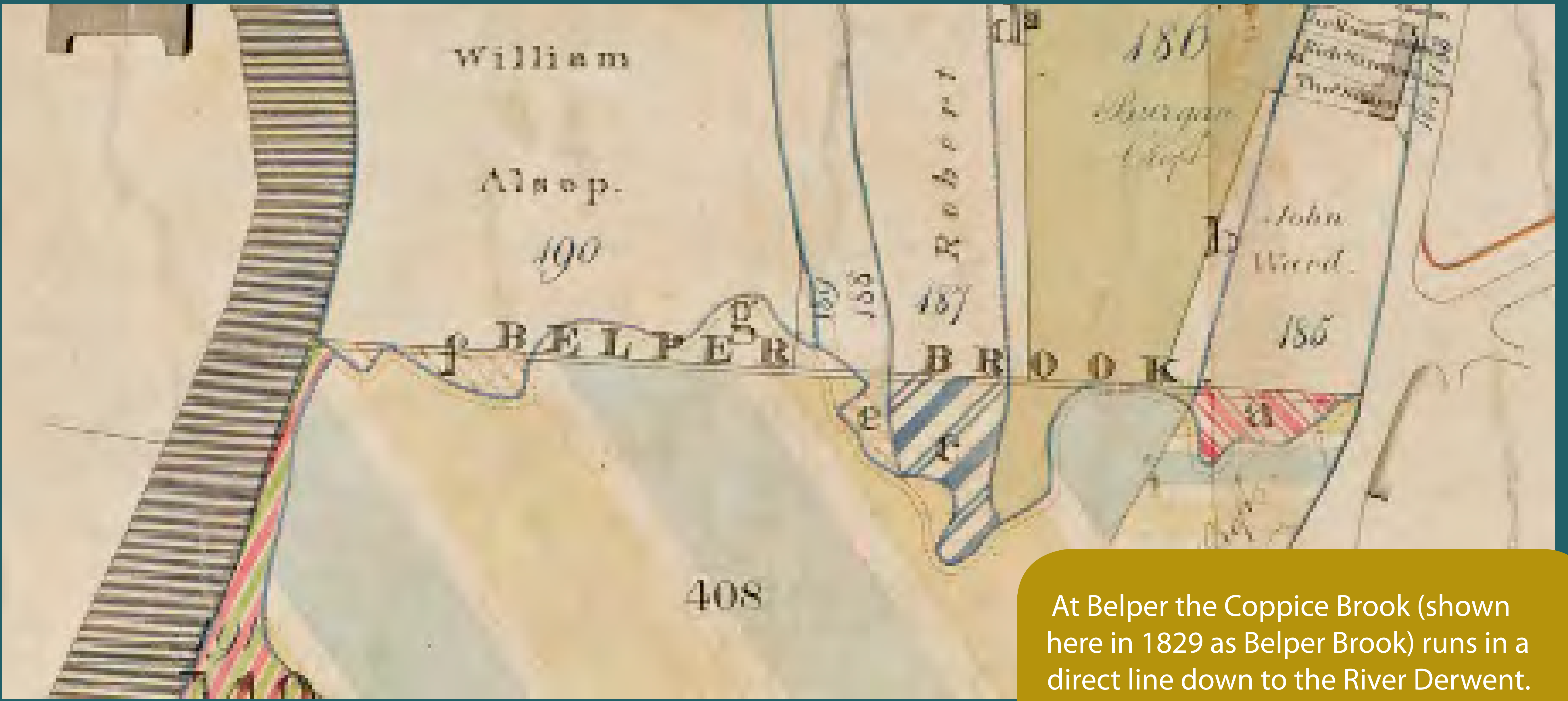


CHARTED TERRITORY

Changing our understanding of the world

Maps help us to understand how the world changes. We may think that the Derwent Valley has always looked the way it does now, but old maps show that what we regard as the natural environment has been changed over the past 250 years to suit both industry and local communities.



At Belper the Coppice Brook (shown here in 1829 as Belper Brook) runs in a direct line down to the River Derwent. This detail marks out both the original course of the brook as it meanders down to the river, and the straightened version.



This early 19th century map shows the route of the River Derwent through Belper before the need for large quantities of water to work the waterwheels in the mills led to the building of the Horseshoe Weir in 1797. The pink area shows where the land flooded when the weir was created, thereby changing the landscape around the river through what is now the River Gardens.



Old Cotton Mill Yard (now Osabrück Square) in Derby has changed beyond recognition with no hint of its past structures. This map of 1829 shows buildings in pink on the right hand side. The mill (left of the brook) had been designed to be one of the world's first fireproofed buildings, but was still destroyed by fire in 1853.

Charted Territory is a Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership project, funded by the Great Place Scheme and delivered by Derbyshire Record Office.