Cromford Mills is a Grade 1 Listed building, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the birthplace of the modern factory system. The project aims to reinstate a waterwheel (first installed by Sir Richard Arkwright in 1776) to provide hydroelectric power at Cromford Mill (potential capacity 20 kW), get the existing hydro turbine at Cromford Corn Mill back in service (capacity 12 kW, last working in 2012), and install a water source heat pump at Cromford Mill to replace electric heating. The Mill is now a thriving local attraction and centre of learning. The Arkwright experience is a first-class holographic audio-visual experience that explains the history of the Mill. The Mill has over 200k visitors per year.

The Story
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Challenges & Risks
Fortunately the grid connection is sufficient on site. The whole community is behind the project and look forward to seeing the water wheel reinstated.

Lessons Learned
Securing funding for the capital costs has been the most challenging aspect of the project and is still not guaranteed.

Key Figures
- Project size: 40 kW
- Energy Generation: Hydro
- CO2 savings: 25 tonnes per year
- RCEF grant: £70,000 Stage 1 and stage 2.

Key Facts
- Hydro site deemed to be feasible in initial study.
- Community benefits: Parish Council does not have resources to maintain existing historic waterways. The Hydro scheme will enable this to be funded annually. The Wheel will attract more tourism.

Further Notes
- LEP area: D2N2
- Link for further info: Cromford Mills | The Birthplace of The Modern Factory System