**DERBY**

**Derby** is a [city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_status_in_the_United_Kingdom) in [Derbyshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derbyshire), England. It lies on the banks of the [River Derwent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Derwent,_Derbyshire) in the south of Derbyshire, of which it was traditionally the [county town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_town).[[nb 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-3) Derby gained city status in 1977, and by the [2011 census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_Census_2011) its population was 248,700.

Derby was settled by Romans – who established the town of [Derventio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derventio_Coritanorum" \o "Derventio Coritanorum) – Saxons and Vikings, who made Derby one of the [Five Boroughs of the Danelaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Boroughs_of_the_Danelaw). Initially a [market town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_town), Derby grew rapidly in the industrial era. Home to [Lombe's Mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lombe%27s_Mill" \o "Lombe's Mill), an early British factory, Derby has a claim to be one of the birthplaces of the [Industrial Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution). It contains the southern part of the [Derwent Valley Mills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derwent_Valley_Mills) World Heritage Site. With the arrival of the railways in the 19th century, Derby became a centre of the [British rail industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail_transport_in_the_United_Kingdom).

Derby is a centre for advanced transport manufacturing, being home to the world's second largest aero-engine manufacturer: [Rolls-Royce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Group_PLC). [Bombardier Transportation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardier_Transportation) are based at the [Derby Litchurch Lane Works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Litchurch_Lane_Works) and were for many years the UK's only train manufacturers. [Toyota Manufacturing UK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota_Manufacturing_UK)'s automobile headquarters is southwest of the city at [Burnaston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnaston" \o "Burnaston). To the east lies [Nottingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham), separated by the [M1 motorway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1_motorway).

**Origins**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Derby&action=edit&section=2)]

The tower of [Derby Cathedral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Cathedral).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-4)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Derbyshire_Cathedral.jpg)

View of Derby Cathedral's facing clock tower

The Roman camp of '[Derventio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derventio_(Little_Chester)" \o "Derventio (Little Chester))' is considered to have been located at [Little Chester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Chester)/Chester Green ([grid reference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordnance_Survey_National_Grid) [SK353375](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/en/52.933746540075;-1.4762642348555_region:GB_scale:25000?pagename=Derby)), the site of the old Roman fort. Later the town was one of the '[Five Boroughs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Burghs)' (fortified towns) of the [Danelaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danelaw), until it was captured by [Lady Aethelflaed of Mercia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%86thelfl%C3%A6d) in July 917, subsequent to which the town was annexed to the Kingdom of Mercia.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-5)

The [Viking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking) name *Djúra-bý*, recorded in [Old English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English_language) as *Deoraby*, means "Village of the Deer". However, the origin of the name 'Derby' has had multiple influences; a variation of the original Roman name 'Derventio' with pronunciation of the letter 'v' as 'b', becoming Derbentio, and later Derby, along with a link to the river Derwent – from the [Celtic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_languages) meaning "valley thick with oaks"[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-6) – which flows through the city, triggering a shortened version of *Derwent by*, meaning 'Derwent settlement'.

The town name does appear as 'Darbye' in early maps, such as that of [John Speed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Speed), 1610.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-7)

Modern research (2004) into the history and [archaeology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeology) of Derby has provided evidence that the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons would have co-existed, occupying two areas of land surrounded by water. The [*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxon_Chronicle) (c. 900) says that "Derby is divided by water". These areas of land were known as *Norþworþig* ("Northworthy", = "north enclosure") and Deoraby, and were at the "Irongate" (north) side of Derby.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-8)

**16th–18th centuries**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Derby&action=edit&section=3)]

During the [Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Civil_War) of 1642–1646, Derby was garrisoned by [Parliamentary troops](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Model_Army) commanded by [Sir John Gell, 1st Baronet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_Gell,_1st_Baronet), who was appointed Governor of Derby in 1643. These troops took part in the defence of nearby [Nottingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham), the Siege of [Lichfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lichfield), the [Battle of Hopton Heath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hopton_Heath) and many other engagements in [Nottinghamshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottinghamshire), Staffordshire and [Cheshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheshire), as well as successfully defending Derbyshire against [Royalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royalist) armies.

A hundred years later, [Bonnie Prince Charlie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Edward_Stuart) set up camp at Derby on 4 December 1745, whilst on his way south to seize the British crown. The prince called at [The George Inn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Derbyshire_Blues#The_George_Inn) on Irongate, where the [Duke of Devonshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_of_Devonshire) had set up his headquarters, and demanded [billets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billet) for his 9,000 troops.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bonniequest.jpg)

Statue of Bonnie Prince Charlie on Cathedral Green

He stayed at [Exeter House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exeter_House), Full Street where he held his *"*[*council of war*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_war)*"*. A replica of the room is on display at [Derby Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Museum_and_Art_Gallery) in the city centre. He had received misleading information about an army coming to meet him south of Derby. Although he wished to continue with his quest, he was over-ruled by his fellow officers. He abandoned his invasion at [Swarkestone Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swarkestone_Bridge" \o "Swarkestone Bridge) on the [River Trent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Trent) just a few miles south of Derby. As a testament to his belief in his cause, the prince – who on the march from [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) had walked at the front of the column – made the return journey on horseback at the rear of the bedraggled and tired army.

**Industrial Revolution**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Derby&action=edit&section=4)]

Derby and Derbyshire were among the centres of Britain's [Industrial Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution). In 1717, Derby was the site of the first [water-powered silk mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Industrial_Museum) in Britain, built by [John Lombe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lombe) and [George Sorocold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Sorocold), after Lombe had reputedly stolen the secrets of [silk-throwing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_throwing) from [Piedmont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedmont) in Italy (he is alleged to have been poisoned by the Piedmontese as revenge in 1722).[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

In 1759, [Jedediah Strutt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jedediah_Strutt" \o "Jedediah Strutt) patented and built a machine called the Derby Rib Attachment[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-nationalarchives.gov.uk-9) that revolutionised the manufacture of hose. This attachment was used on the Rev. Lee's [Framework Knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stocking_frame) Machine; it was placed in front of – and worked in unison with – Lee's Frame, to produce ribbed hose (stockings). The partners were Jedediah Strutt, William Woollatt (who had been joined in 1758 by John Bloodworth and Thomas Stafford, all leading [hosiers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosier) in Derby). The patent was obtained in January 1759. After three years, Bloodworth and Stafford were paid off, and Samuel Need – a hosier of [Nottingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham) – joined the partnership. The firm was known as Need, Strutt and Woollatt. The patent expired in 1773,[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-nationalarchives.gov.uk-9) though the partnership continued until 1781 when Need died.

Messrs Wright, the bankers of Nottingham, recommended that [Richard Arkwright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Arkwright) apply to Strutt and Need for finance for his cotton [spinning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinning_(textiles)) mill. The first mill opened in Nottingham in 1770 and was driven by horses. In 1771 Richard Arkwright, Samuel Need and Jedediah Strutt built the world's first commercially successful [water-powered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water-power) cotton spinning mill at [Cromford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cromford" \o "Cromford), Derbyshire, developing a form of power that was to be a [catalyst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalyst) for the Industrial Revolution.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-Cromford_Mills-11)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-Eclectica-12)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-1st_water_powered_Cotton_Spinning_Mill_in_the_World-13)

This was followed in [Derbyshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derbyshire) by Jedediah Strutt's cotton spinning mills at [Belper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belper" \o "Belper). They were: South Mill, the first, 1775; North Mill, 1784, which was destroyed by fire on 12 January 1803 and then rebuilt; it started work again at the end of 1804; West Mill, 1792, commenced working 1796; Reeling Mill, 1897; Round Mill, which took 10 years to build, from 1803 to 1813, and commenced working in 1816; and Milford Mills, 1778. The Belper and [Milford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford,_Derbyshire) mills were *not* built in partnership with Arkwright. These mills were all Strutt owned and financed.

Other notable 18th-century figures with connections to Derby include the painter [Joseph Wright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Wright_of_Derby), known as Wright of Derby, who was known for his innovative use of light in his paintings and was an associate of the [Royal Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Academy); and [John Whitehurst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Whitehurst), a [clockmaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clockmaker) and philosopher. [Erasmus Darwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Darwin), doctor, scientist, philosopher and grandfather of [Charles Darwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Darwin), whose practice was based in [Lichfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lichfield), Staffordshire was a frequent visitor to Derby, having founded the [Derby Philosophical Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Philosophical_Society).

Derby's place in the country's philosophical and political life continued with Henry Hutchinson who was an active member of the [Fabian Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Society). On his death in 1894, he left the society an amount in his will which was instrumental in founding the [London School of Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_School_of_Economics)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-14)

The beginning of nineteenth century saw Derby emerging as an engineering centre with manufacturers such as [James Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Fox_(engineer)), who exported machine tools to Russia.

In 1840, the [North Midland Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Midland_Railway) set up [its works in Derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Works) and, when it merged with the [Midland Counties Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midland_Counties_Railway) and the [Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_and_Derby_Junction_Railway), to form the [Midland Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midland_Railway), Derby became its headquarters.

The connection with the railway encouraged others, notably [Andrew Handyside](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Handyside_and_Company), [Charles Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Fox_(civil_and_railway_engineer)) and his son [Francis Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Fox_(engineer)).

A permanent military presence was established in the city with the completion of [Normanton Barracks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normanton_Barracks) in 1877.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-15)

Derby was one of the boroughs reformed by the [Municipal Corporations Act 1835](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Corporations_Act_1835), and it became a [county borough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_borough) with the [Local Government Act 1888](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_Government_Act_1888). The borough expanded in 1877 to include [Little Chester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Chester) and [Litchurch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Litchurch" \o "Litchurch), and then in 1890 to include New Normanton and Rowditch. The borough did not increase substantially again until 1968, when under a recommendation of the Local Government Boundary Commission it was expanded into large parts of the rural district of [Belper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belper" \o "Belper), [Repton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repton_Rural_District" \o "Repton Rural District) and [South East Derbyshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_East_Derbyshire_Rural_District). This vastly increased Derby's population from 132,408 in the 1961 census to 219,578 in the 1971 census.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-16)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Silkmill1.jpg)

[Derby Silk Mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Silk_Mill) is part of the [Derwent Valley Mills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derwent_Valley_Mills) World Heritage Site

Despite being one of the areas of Britain [furthest from the sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_points_of_the_United_Kingdom), Derby holds a special place in the history of marine safety – it was as MP for Derby that [Samuel Plimsoll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Plimsoll) introduced his bills for a '[Plimsoll line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plimsoll_line)' (and other marine safety measures). This failed on first introduction, but was successful in 1876 and contributed to Plimsoll's re-election as an MP.

**20th century to present day**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Derby&action=edit&section=5)]

An industrial boom began in Derby when [Rolls-Royce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Limited) opened a car and aircraft factory in the town in 1907. In 1923, the Midland Railway became part of the [London, Midland and Scottish Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London,_Midland_and_Scottish_Railway) with headquarters in London. However, Derby remained a major rail manufacturing centre, second only to [Crewe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crewe_Works) and [Wolverton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolverton_railway_works" \o "Wolverton railway works). Moreover, it remained a design and development centre and in the 'thirties, on the direction of [Lord Stamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Stamp,_1st_Baron_Stamp), the [LMS Scientific Research Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LMS_Scientific_Research_Laboratory) was opened on London Road.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

In 1911 the Derby Wireless Club was formed by a group of local engineers and experimenters. It was to be the first radio or 'wireless club' in the country.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-17)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-18)

In World War I, Derby was targeted by German [Zeppelin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeppelin) air bombers, who killed five people in a 1916 raid on the town.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-19)

All Saints Church was designated as a cathedral in 1927, signalling that the town was ready for city status.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-20)

Production and repair work continued at the railway works. In December 1947 the [Locomotive Works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Works) unveiled Britain's first mainline passenger [diesel-electric locomotive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diesel_locomotive) – ["Number 10000"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Rail_Class_D16/1). In 1958 production switched over to diesel locomotives completely. Meanwhile, the [Carriage & Wagon Works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby_Litchurch_Lane_Works) were building the first of the [Diesel Multiple Units](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diesel_Multiple_Units) which were to take over many of the services.

In 1964 the [British Rail Research Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Rail_Research_Division) opened to study all aspects of railway engineering from first principles. Its first success was in drastically improving the reliability and speed of goods trains, work which led to the development of the [Advanced Passenger Train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Passenger_Train).

Derby was awarded city status on 7 June 1977 by [Queen Elizabeth II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II_of_the_United_Kingdom) to mark the [25th anniversary of her ascension to the throne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Jubilee_of_Elizabeth_II).[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-22) The Queen presented the "charter scroll" or 'letters patent' in person on 28 July 1977 on the steps of the Council House to the then Mayor Councillor Jeffrey Tillet (Conservative).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-23) Until then, Derby had been one of the few towns in England with a cathedral but not city status.

Despite its strategic industries (rail and [aero-engine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_engine)), Derby suffered comparatively little damage in both [world wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_war) (contrast [Bristol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol) and [Filton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filton)). This may in part have been due to the jamming against the German radio-beam navigations systems (X-Verfahren and [Knickebein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knickebein" \o "Knickebein), camouflage and decoy techniques ('[Starfish sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starfish_site)') were built, mainly south of the town, e.g. out in fields near [Foremark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foremark" \o "Foremark) (ref. Kirk, Felix & Bartnik, 2002, see talk; see also[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derby#cite_note-24)).

Derby has also become a significant [cultural centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_centre) for the [deaf community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deaf_community) in Britain. Many deaf people move to Derby because of its strong [sign language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sign_language)-using community. It is estimated that the deaf population in Derby is at least three times higher than the national average, and that only London has a larger deaf population. The Royal School for the Deaf on Ashbourne Road provides education in [British Sign Language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Sign_Language) and English.