A timeline of Wirksworth and the locality

Where an item is greyed out, this means that the issue is worthy of consideration but lacks certain evidence or archaeology to support it at the time of writing.

Part 1: Romans, Romano-British and Northumbrians. Pre-history to 679AD

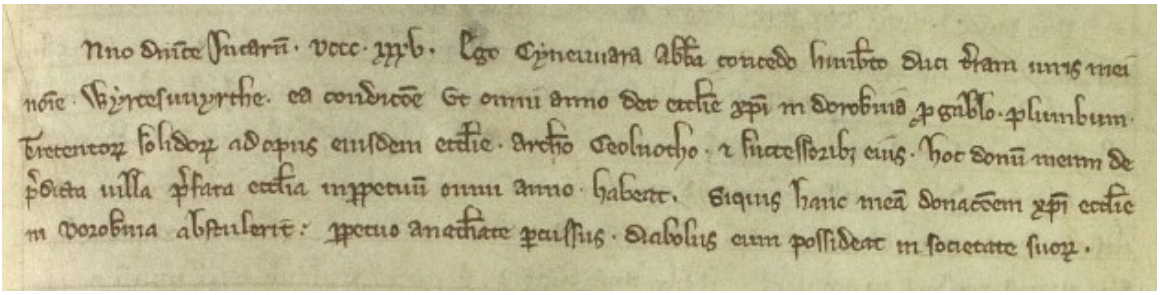
Date	Event
Bronze Age and Iron Age	The origins of Wirksworth are not yet well understood, but it is considered that the settlement could have first become established because the location was at the head of a fertile valley, was sheltered from the worst weather of the limestone uplands and had a number of warm springs to provide a reliable water source. Pre-historic pottery and artefacts have been found in the town and the immediate surroundings, such as a Palstave and Axe Head at Bolehill. There are also many burial mounds and cairns dating from the pre-historic period nearby, such as the Tatlows on Brassington Lane, Henlow on Pratthall Lane, Wigber Low on the Havenhill Brook, Stanburnlow at Stainsborough and Ravenslow at Ravenstor. Some of these were re-used during the Roman and Anglo-Saxon ages.
Around 52-57AD	The Romans establish forts at Broxtowe, Trent Vale, Little Chester and Templeborough: The Roman presence in the south and east of the Peak District appears to be established during the governorship of Aulus Didius Gallus. Trade in goods such as cereals or perhaps lead may perhaps have been taking place between its inhabitants and the Romans for some time as possibly evidenced by the late Iron Age / early Roman coin hoard found at Reynards Cave in Dovedale in 2014.
Around 69-79AD First century	The Romans establish forts at Middlewich, Brough and Melandra: Roman presence in the north and west of the Peak with Roman lead mining established. Evidence is provided by a lead ingot inscribed to Tiberius Claudius Triferna dating to between 69 and 79 AD which was found at Matlock Bank. Roman lead ingots Inscription from the ingot found on Cromford Nether Moor Wirksworth may be a Roman settlement developing from this time. The town appears to be at the junction of several Roman roads including The Street to Buxton and The Portway to Brough. The nature of the Roman road network makes Wirksworth a potential candidate to be the "lost" Roman town of Lutudarum. There were villas / farms along or near these Roman roads including two at Carsington, one each at Kniveton, Great Moot Low, Pearson's Farm and City Folds.
Second and	Pottery and artefacts from the second and third centuries have been found in and around Wirksworth including Derbyshire ware from St Mary's Gate, coins of Roman Emperors

third century	Constantius II and Aurelian from Cromford Hill and West End, pottery and spindle whorls from Pittywood Road. Roman Derbyshire Ware potsherd from St Mary's Gate
410 to c616	The Roman army is withdrawn in 410 and the Romano-British later told to defend themselves by Emperor Honorius. Britain is invaded by assorted groups. A long war of attrition begins, some parts of Britain are lost to invaders, some are kept by the British until 616, including the Peak District.
c616	The Battle of Chester takes place in 616 at which the Northumbrians defeat the British, and gain control of a region as far south as the Trent including the Peak District; Elmet (the district of Leeds); Heathfield (the district of Doncaster) and Lindsey (the district of Lincoln). Northumbrian rule of the Peak begins. Shortly afterwards there is a further battle at the River Idle, where the Northumbrians are defeated by King Raedwald of East Anglia. King Aethelfrith of Northumbria is killed, but this doesn't reduce Northumbrian power. The following year Edwin becomes King of Northumbria.
626	King Penda succeeds to Mercia and reigns until 655, but between 635 and 642 the Northumbrians attempt to install Eowa as King of Mercia and split Mercia into a part north of the Trent and a part south of the Trent. Edwin of Northumbria is overthrown in 632. A year later Northumbria is defeated by Cadwallon of Gwynedd and Penda of Mercia at the Battle of Hatfield Moor near Cuckney. The Northumbrians take Oswald as their king, strike back and kill Cadwallon in 634.
635	From 635 monks from Iona come into Britain at Bishop Aiden's of Northumbria's request to preach "to those provinces over which King Oswald reigned". The Peak is a province of Northumbria at this time. In 636 Morfael, a British leader, attacks a Northumbrian city called Caer Lwytgoed, takes the movable wealth (e.g. livestock) of that city and kills a bishop and a number of monks during the attack. The Wirksworth Stone: A Northumbrian Sarcophagus Lid The main panel shows a bishop holding a crozier being carried to heaven by angels.

	Note on possible related place-names requiring further investigation: Roman name: Lutudarum (Grey Oakwood); British and Welsh name: Cair Luit Coit, Caer Lwyt-goed (City of the Grey Wood) spuriously thought to be Lichfield - Lichfield contains no Northumbrian evidence; Northumbrian name: Urbs Ludeu, Urbs Iudeu, Urbs Judeu; (Issues with variations in place-name spellings are often due to written recording of oral histories). Mercian name: Wirksworth (Fortified enclosure / estate).
642	Penda kills King Oswald of Northumbria and Eowa at the Battle of the River Cock at Aberford (Maes Cogwy) on Ermine Street (western branch) near Tadcaster, and separates Mercia from Northumbria. This appears to be only the part of Mercia south of the Trent at that time. Oswiu (Oswy) becomes king of the Northumbrians.
655	Oswiu is besieged in Urbs Ludeu by King Penda of Mercia and King Cadafael of Gwynedd. Oswiu buys off the siege by bribing Penda and Cadafael to go away. "Oswiu delivered all the treasures that he had in the city into the hands of Penda, and Penda distributed them to the kings of the British, this is called the Restitution of Iudeu". However, Penda was still attempting to eject the Northumbrians completely from the Peak District. Later that year (in November) King Penda was killed at the Battle of Wingfield (Winwaed), where Ryknield Street passes close to the River Amber. The Mercians and their allies were defeated. Northumbrian overlordship of the Peak was briefly restored and Oswiu sets up Peada as King of Mercia.
658	Peada was murdered by the Mercian nobility in 658 who made his brother Wulfhere King of the Mercians. The Northumbrian supremacy collapses due to this Mercian rebellion. The Mercians gradually became dominant under Wulfhere. This period sees an ebb and flow in who is in control of the Peak District.
674	Northumbrian domination briefly re-established by Ecgferth of Northumbria. Death of Wulfhere: Ethelred becomes King of the Mercians.
679	Battle of the River Trent. The Mercians, under King Ethelred, are finally and completely victorious. Mercian government of the Peak District is now secure. The British (we now know them as the Welsh) retire and leave Mercia to the Mercians.

Part 2 Mercians, Vikings and Normans. 679AD to 1066

Date	Event
714	Abbess Ecgburg sends a lead coffin for St Guthlac to Crowland Abbey. The only place where lead was being mined in Mercia at this time is The Peak District.
750	A Sceatta coin dating from 750 AD was found by Cath Housley in Church Street in Wirksworth, in the spoil heap of an uncompleted archaeological excavation in 1986. A replica of the coin is in the Wirksworth Heritage Centre. Coins of this type are very rare except at abbeys (outside Northumbria) and its presence in Wirksworth could represent an additional indicator that there may have been an early abbey in Wirksworth. The Wirksworth Sceatta.

835	A Mercian charter from Abbess Cynewaru which names Wirksworth as a town grants her estate here to Duke Humberht, Prince of the Tomsaete (the Mercian Province of Tamworth) providing a rent of lead was paid to Canterbury cathedral. This is the earliest charter for a named town in the Peak District and tells us that Wirksworth was a town before Derby.  The Wirksworth Charter "In the year of the Incarnation 835, I Cynewaru, Abbess; grant to Humberht, Duke; jurisdiction of land in my possession at Wirksworth, on condition that he shall give an annual render of lead to the value of 300 shillings to Ceolnoth, Archbishop, his successors and to Christ Church, Canterbury. The above-named church should have this gift of mine from my aforesaid township every year. But if anyone should take away this my gift from Christ Church, Canterbury, may he be smitten with perpetual anathema, and may the devil possess him as one of his own."
842	First Viking attack on the coast of Mercia in the province of Lindsey (Lincolnshire). Viking attacks increase in frequency and strength with the Vikings attacking London (a Mercian city) and in due course rout King Beorhtwulf and the Mercian army in 851 in the south. Burgred becomes king in 852.
874	Viking "Great Army" overwinters at Repton. King Burgred of Mercia fails to dislodge them and is eventually driven into exile in Rome. Mercia falls into Viking hands. The Danes establish a settlement on the opposite bank of the Derwent to Little Chester and this settlement becomes Derby.
917	Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, recaptures Derby from the Danes. In an attempt to ensure the integration of the Danes into Mercia and the wider recovery of the whole of Mercia, a town charter is granted to Derby in the same year. The time frame from the arrival of the Viking great army and for the Mercian recovery, suggests that the period during which the Vikings might have held Wirksworth can be no more than 40 years and this accounts for their having very little impact - almost no Danish place-names exist west of the Derwent.
920	Edward the Elder of Wessex and Mercia (Aetheflaed having died in 918) constructs a burgh at Bakewell, this is also probably a political move rather than a strategic one, again part of the approach to secure Mercia from the Danes. It also represents the very beginning of the creation of the shires in the East Midlands, because the shire counties were created to support and pay for Edward's burgh forts. At this stage, the process was of little or no consequence to the administrative structure of the Mercian provinces, but in due course the shire counties would replace the Mercian provinces. In 926 a charter of King Athelstan to Duke Uhtred confirmed the purchase of land at Hope and Ashford from the Danes, this is part of a total process to recover the Peak District.
963	The last known Mercian charter in the historical record is for an estate at Ballidon in the Peak prepared for King Edgar who was the final king of a separate Mercia, from 955 to 959. England then being split between Wessex on the one hand and Mercia and Northumbria on the other. In 959 his brother Edwig died, having been King of Wessex, and Edgar became King of all England. Edgar is known as "the peaceful", he reigned until 977. The Ballidon charter is unusual in that it retains the styling of Mercian charters and also, most importantly, records The Peak under its Mercian province title of the Pecsaete.

	Without this written evidence it had been formerly thought that The Pecsaete has ceased to exist before this time, and that "Derbyshire" had been created but simply not mentioned until 1048. However, the charter implies that The Pecsaete was still regarded by the Mercian Royal Council as a functioning entity, and that this position prevailed at least while King Edgar reigned.
1048	Derbyshire first mentioned in a document (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: an earth-quake in Derbyshire). The process of creating the shire counties eventually resulted in the Mercian Province of The Peak being dismembered between four counties. The Province apparently having been comprised of perhaps eleven Hundreds/Wapentakes, one of which went to Cheshire, one or possibly more to Staffordshire, two to Nottinghamshire and the remaining seven forming the basis of "Derbyshire".

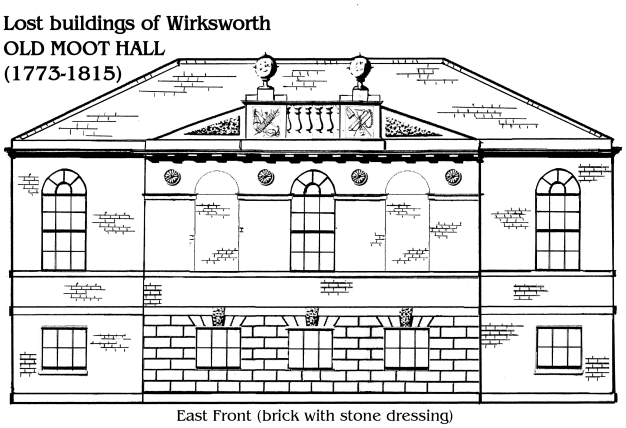
Part 3: The Norman Conquest to the end of the mediaeval age. 1066 to 1500

1066	Battle of Hastings.
1086	Domesday Book mentions Wirksworth being the chief town of its Wapentake and notes that the manor or estate of Wirksworth was the property of the King and had both a church and a priest as well as three lead works. There were 16 heads of household and 9 small holders, 4 ploughs and a quantity of woodland. It also had a number of 'berewicks' or outlying settlement sustaining the manor, with a further 36 heads of household and 13 smallholders. This would give a population of perhaps 1,270.
Twelfth century onward 1261	At some point after the writing of Domesday book in 1086, perhaps in the early 1100s, the De Ferrers had become Lords of the Manor of Wirksworth and had started to develop it. This was by a process known as burgaging, a sort of mediaeval economic development, recent archaeology in St John's Street appears to support this. Wirksworth is mentioned in the cartulary of Tutbury Priory in terms of a burgage plot also implying that Wirksworth was a borough at this period, one of only six in the county. However in 1269, Robert de Ferrers lost control of Wirksworth manor to Edmund, the brother of King Edward I. This appears to have resulted in the burgesses of Wirksworth becoming "Free Tenants" and the manor being split into a Royal Manor (roughly two thirds) and the Holland Manor (one third). A further possibly related change occurred in 1272 where the church was granted to the Dean of Lincoln.
1288	The Barmote Court was examined in an inquistion which was held in Ashbourne. The court is the means by which the lead mining industry is regulated. The inquisition found the court to be "of great antiquity". The court had (and still has) jurisdiction over the Soke (the small county) and Wapentake (district) of Wirksworth.
1297	The market at Wirksworth was first mentioned in a will of the kings' brother, Edmund. There was also a 'capital messuage' (a manor house), 100 acres of arable land, 23 acres of meadow, considerable rents from various tenants, a fulling mill, a water mill and other income.
1306	The market at Wirksworth received a new charter from King Edward l. In so far as the market is mentioned prior to the charter being granted, it is probable that the charter simply re-iterated the existing position of the market.
1380	The king, in the form of the Duchy of Lancaster, continued to hold Wirksworth, this didn't always run smoothly though. In 1380, 30 mares, 30 oxen, 30 cows and 20 bullocks worth 100 marks were taken from Duchy of Lancaster lands at Morley, Callow and Wirksworth by the Stathams of Morley who (in a feud) cut down John of Gaunt's trees to the value of £100, dug in his mine, assaulted his free tenants and serfs, destroyed their tenements and "practiced such oppressions at Ralph Statham's court" that many of his (John of Gaunts) tenants left. Ralph Statham died on the 13th June 1380 but his sons carried on their feud with the Duchy. On the 20th June 1381 Philip of Okeover, one of John of Gaunt's knights with his retainers, struck back at the Stathams with an attack on their lands at Callow. This feud must have continued in an on-off kind of way throughout the 1380s, as it is recorded again in 1387.

1474	The Duchy ordered 80 oak trees to be delivered from Shining Cliff wood for the construction of a new moot hall. It is not known whether this was the first but given that the inquiry of 1288 had found the Barmote Court to be of great antiquity, this might well be a rebuild of a previous building.

Part 4: From the medieval age to Georgian glory. 1500-1815

1513	The Miners Standard Measuring dish was made for the measuring of ore used in lead ingots. It was kept in the Moot Hall in Wirksworth for almost 500 years before being taken away by the Barmaster. A spare dish was made at the same time and kept in Tutbury Castle, it is now in the British Museum.
1563	A diocesan census was taken of households in Derbyshire and records that Derby parish contained 507 households and Wirksworth parish, the second largest by number of households, contained 470 households. "Households" are thought to equate to about 5 people, thus giving a rough estimate of population for the Wirksworth parish of about 2,350 at the time.
1583	Queen Elizabeth I granted a charter on the 27th of October 1583 for a Grammar School in Wirksworth. This was the first Grammar School in Derbyshire outside Derby. Also in this year construction began on the Almshouses in the churchyard, through money and rents donated by Agnes Fearne, Anthony Gell and Francis Bunting. These features were necessary because the dissolution of the monasteries and reform of the church by Henry VIII and the later dissolution of chantries in 1547 had caused an almost complete breakdown in national education and healthcare (as we would now call it).
1630	During the early 1600s Wirksworth was gradually being rebuilt from being a medieval town with timber cruck beam houses to being a town built in stone (and later, brick). Three stone houses in Wirksworth illustrate this; Babington House on Greenhill, The Old Manor House on Coldwell Street and Hopkinsons' House, also on Greenhill.
1649	A Parliamentary survey described the Moot Hall as being 'built of timber conteyning three bayes of building under which court room are six butchers shops on the western side'.
1670	The Hearth Tax return showed about 235 households paying tax. The majority paid for 1 hearth but those belonging to Edward Millward, Mr. Ballcoose and Mr. Browne had 8 hearths each.
1700	The Presbyterians built the first non-conformist chapel in the town on Coldwell Street, now the United Reform Chapel it contains an attractive horseshoe shaped gallery. Other chapels followed - Wesleyans in 1810, Baptists in 1816, Methodists in 1828 and a United Free Methodist chapel in 1886.
1709	The earliest surviving map of Wirksworth was drawn by Samuel Hutchinson, a schoolmaster from Carsington, showing the estate of Sir Philip Gell in the town. It shows a Middle Mill and Walk Mill and a market cross at the bottom of the market place approximately outside where Le Mistral is now.
1724	Babington House, originally known as Greenhill House, was used as a Workhouse or Poor House during this time. Details from an inspection in 1797 give weekly diets and details of the residents lives. It was used as the workhouse until 1829.
1732	Wirksworth Racecourse is recorded at Wirksworth Moor. Horse racing continued throughout the Georgian and early Victorian ages with a prize of 10 Guineas in 1733 (about £1,500). A major horse-racing festival took place on the 15th and 16th of September 1824 including racing over two days, a concert in the evening of the first day and a ball in the Assembly Room at the end of the second day (the Assembly Room is the ballroom of the Red Lion Hotel). Racing was moved to a new course at Carsington Pasture in 1846 but this appeared to be too far out of the town and the course closed in 1849.

1753	Symond's House in the Market Place was built for the Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster which an addition in the Palladian style designed by Joseph Pickford and added in 1770.
1757	A team of cricketers for Wirksworth is recorded as having played for the town, this is the first mention of cricket anywhere in Derbyshire.
1772	A short-lived china factory flourished in China House Yard. It produced fine decorated tea sets with a delicate flower pattern, but it ceased in 1777.
1773	The Moot Hall was built opposite the Red Lion Inn to replace its crumbling mediaeval predecessor. The style of the 1773 hall, a large and handsome Palladian two-storey building of brick and stone, reflects the importance of the town and the lead mining industry of the time. At this point Wirksworth was still a major town in Derbyshire, and still one of the four largest in the county.  East Front (brick with stone dressing) Drawing by Anton Shone 2016
1779	The Hurt family from Alderwasley built, or re-built, Wirksworth Hall on Coldwell Street. It was demolished in 1922 due to subsidence.
1780	Sir Richard Arkwright acquired Haarlem Mill and rebuilt it to house a reciprocating steam engine to refill the millpond with water. By 1789 this mill employed 200 people. John Toplis opened the first bank in Wirkworth in St Johns Street. 1780 has been described as Wirksworth's "Annus Mirabilis" that is Wirksworth's most glorious year, all the developments of the late 1700s had come together to provide considerable prosperity, Wirksworth was important, its lead industry busy and its town centre had fine Palladian architecture and an urban dignity now lost.
1791	A House of Correction (prison) was built above Wash Green. It was described in 1805 as having a keepers house, 2 courtyards, one for men and the other for women, with sleeping cells and a day room as well as a small dungeon. It closed in 1827 when Derby acquired a new gaol.
1798	The Wirksworth Regiment: Major John Blackwell becomes a commander of the Wirksworth Militia ("Loyal Volunteers") and remained so for some 10 years: his Drill Book has survived. The militia comprised, originally, of a large number of small companies formed locally throughout Derbyshire in relation to the Napoleonic War. In 1808, the Derbyshire militia companies, then stationed at Dover, were formed into five regiments, these being the Derby, Belper, Chatsworth, Scarsdale and Wirksworth Regiments and the volunteers were encouraged to join as paid soldiery at that time. The Wirksworth Regiment recruited 700 soldiers. For many years a large portrait hung in the Red Lion Hotel, of Napoleon leaving his commanders at Versailles (after his defeat at Waterloo) and this was no doubt a conversation piece, as the Wirksworth Regiment and its officers used the Red Lion for many of their gatherings during and after that war.
1801	First national census. Wirksworth had a population of 3,474.

Part 5: Victorian Decline and modern revival

1815	The 1773 Moot Hall was demolished and replaced by a far smaller and far less handsome building. This in many ways represents the decline in the fortunes of Wirksworth and the demise of the lead mining industry. Lead mining had gradually shrunk during this period and limestone quarrying and tape making began to take over as the main industries. However, they did not employ large numbers of people and as the industrial revolution gathered pace many towns in Derbyshire grew much more quickly than Wirksworth, so that by the 1850s Wirksworth was no longer important as a key town in the county and much of its important role in the past was forgotten.
1823	Miners digging in the Dream Cave near Wirksworth find the remains of a pre-historic Woolly Rhino.
1827	Well Dressing was re-established in Wirksworth, after piped water was provided in the town. It no doubt revived a much earlier custom, possibly pagan in its origin.
1830	The Cromford and High Peak Railway opened passing Wirksworth at Steeple Grange and provided a goods wharf on the Middleton Road.
1838	The Wirksworth Gas, Light and Coke Company was formed and begins to supply gas to the town for heating and lights. The gas works manager's house is called Avalon House, at the corner of Warmbrook and Summer Lane and the gas works were also on the corner of Summer Lane on both sides.
1842	A magistrate's house was built on North End with a police cell in its basement. Later becoming a doctor's surgery and more recently a bed and breakfast establishment.
1851	The National School was opened at the end of North End, now one of two primary schools.
1867	The railway up the Ecclesbourne valley opened, a branch line of the Midland Railway from Derby. This allowed local milk to be exported to the populated areas further south. It. also acted as significant boost to the quarrying trade, transporting stone until finally closing in 1989. At its high point some half a million tons of limestone were being quarried in Wirksworth and taken to be used in many locations by rail. The limestone quarrying industry was Wirksworth's major industry from just prior to the arrival of the railway until 1989.
1867	Babington House used a cottage hospital, founded by the efforts of Georgina Hurt. It had 22 beds and provision for 3 maternity patients and remained as Wirksworth's hospital until 1928, when it was replaced by Waltham House.
1871	New Town Hall constructed. Wirksworth was run throughout the middle ages right up until 1877 by its Vestry (a church committee) and its manorial courts and bailiffs.
1877	Wirksworth Local Board established to oversee highways and other local matters.
1895	Wirksworth Urban District Council formed.
1880s	Wirksworth had five tape mills, producing red tape for legal documents. This was the other major industry of the town besides quarrying and agriculture.
1896	The Church of England opened a school on North End, this is currently one of the two primary schools in the town.
1907	The Anthony Gell Grammar School moved into new buildings designed by George Widdows, on a new site on the Hannages.
1914	The First World War began and many men joined the army or were later called up to serve in the army. By the end of the war four years later the male population of the country had been decimated. In this age cinema was being developed and Wirksworth's first cinema is noted as having been started in the Town Hall.

1920s	George Widdows (now the County Architect) designed buildings for a Secondary Technical School which was built at Wash Green. This now houses Wirksworth's Junior School.
1921	Revival of the ancient custom of 'Clypping' the parish church. The congregation surround the church holding hands and sing on the nearest Sunday to September 8th, the feast of St. Mary the Virgin to whom the church is dedicated.
1927	Waltham House was bought for £1350 using legacies and donations for use as a cottage hospital. A further sum was raised at the Carnival that year to furnish the hospital. It later became a maternity hospital, then the Health Centre and is now a Care Centre for elderly people.
1935	Wirkworth Cinema opened on St John's Street, it could seat 525 people and was in competition in the years before the Second World War with the cinema in the Town Hall. It carried on until 1967 and then continued as a bingo hall for a few years before becoming a warehouse and a builder's merchants ("Stones"). Next door, the Memorial Hall was originally a Dance Hall.
1941	Harrison Drive was constructed through the former Baileycroft Quarry and was the only major road project to improve the town centre approaches. At this time many of the men in the town were being called up to fight in the Second World War.
1965	The Anthony Gell Grammar School became comprehensive and expanded on the Hannages site. In 1965 the town's major industry was limestone quarrying and half a million tons of limestone were being carried by rail from the town for use in the steelmaking, construction and sugar beet industries.
1970s	West Derbyshire District Council declared Wirksworth a General Improvement Area, over half the medieval buildings in Derbyshire at risk at the time were found to be in Wirksworth.
1978	The Civic Trust chose Wirksworth for a pilot regeneration project which led to a Europa Nostra Award in 1983. Many derelict properties were restored during this time. The decline of the town throughout the 1960s and 1970s was acute. Wirksworth had the cheapest houses in Derbyshire, the town was dirty and unpleasant from quarry blasting, it had poor public transport, a neglected road network, potholes in every street and was on the very verge of civic collapse. There were a number of quarries around the town which had provided employment but all gradually closed and the last, Middlepeak, ceased to operate in 1989, in consequence not only was the town "in tatters" it also suffered from high unemployment.
1984	Arising from the efforts to regenerate Wirksworth and the Europa Nostra award in 1983, the Wirksworth Heritage Centre was started whose purpose was to consider Wirksworth's history and its sense of place.
1985	The Steeple Grange Railway Society was formed to create a narrow gauge railway on the former Killer's Branch of the Cromford and High Peak Railway at Steeple Grange. This was one of the first steps in the revival of Wirksworth and marked the very start of Wirksworth's transformation into a town whose principal industry would become tourism.
1990	The National Stone Centre opened on the site of five former quarries with the purpose of telling the history of stone and featuring the geology and paleontology of the locality. It was a major step forward in Wirksworth recreating its image.
1995	The first Wirksworth Festival Art and Architecture Trail, at the beginning of September, was held to coincide with the ancient tradition of 'Clypping' the parish church. Check date an alternative source says 1979.
2002	Wirksworth Railway Station was re-opened as part of an effort by a local company, Wyvernrail Plc to provide Wirksworth with a community railway. This culminated in 2011

	with the re-opening of the whole of the line along the Ecclesbourne Valley to an interchange with the national railway network at Duffield. This was a tremendous step forward in tourism as the railway attracts large numbers of visitors as well as improving the town's poor communications.
2013	Derbyshire Eco Centre opens on Porter Lane in Wirksworth. Although the Eco Centre is an educational establishment rather than a tourist attraction it nevertheless helps raise the profile of the locality and provides a range of courses of various kinds.
2016	Mount Cook Outdoor Centre opened to provide courses for young people and others and outdoor adventure activities, it occupies a large site at Steeple Grange in part of the one of the many former limestone quarries near the National Stone Centre.
The Modern Day	Modern Day Wirksworth is a town with several recent housing developments such as those at Yokecliffe, Spring Close, Derby Road and around Ravenstor. There have been small industrial estates created at New Bridge, Water Lane, Kingsfield and Ravenstor Road providing employment in addition to the town's main industry, tourism. Wirksworth has quietly developed from its difficult twentieth century past, following the decline of the limestone quarrying industry, and has seen new facilities created in the town such as the Leisure Centre, the Hannage Brook Medical Centre, Wirksworth Swimming Pool, the Waltham House Care Centre, the Harrison Drive Co-op and the Northern Light Cinema. These developments, together, have helped to make Wirksworth an attractive place to live in the Peak District and in consequence the population of Wirksworth ward is now nearly 6,000 residents, having steadily grown again over the last 20 years.

Anton Shone
Mary Wiltshire
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