



## The impact of technological advances on the Elvaston Estate

Before and after the 1st World War Derby was at the centre of industrial development across the country. Industrial giants included Rolls Royce, Leys-Ewart, Midland Railway and Aitons.

The wealthy landowners very quickly used the new industrial developments to enhance the productivity of their estates. In Elvaston the Earl was able to pump water from the lake which was fed by the Derwent to a header tank set above the buildings of the walled garden. Hidden within these walls were pipes supporting the heating system for the green houses.

As with other estates Elvaston became self-sufficient for luxury fruit and vegetables. For more staple produce the Estate relied on the work of the tenant farmers.



Wall of Kitchen garden Showing greenhouse roof supports.

The Earl's awareness of changing technology prompted him to buy a motorised vehicle, a Wolseley. Clearly his wife felt left out so he bought her a Hudson-Essex motor car. Both had their own chauffeurs Mr Alfred Mould and Mr Gillingham. Both were competent mechanics and were not part of the House staff.



The Earl's Wolseley



Her Ladyship's Essex

With conscription and the increasing demands of the war effort sharper focus was placed on women working in industry. This gave a great opportunity for those in Elvaston to improve their education and working futures. In the munitions factories and other war industries women earned substantially higher wages. Improving public transport also aided the ability of women to accept jobs further from home.

In the period just prior to the outbreak of World War 1 many industries operated within 2.5 miles of Derby and in 1916 British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company was opened in Spondon, very close to the Elvaston estate.

The effect on the Estate was significant. (See New Opportunities panel)

The war affected the lifestyle of the Earl and his family very little. The 8<sup>th</sup> Earl was past the age for military service but was responsible for the setting up of the local defence force. He continued to play Polo and organise competitions. However, the viability of the Castle started to be undermined by the increasing overhead costs of the technology used on the Estate and the lack of available skilled labour to service it.



Header Tank, Elvaston Estate.



Blacksmith's, Engine House and Carpenters workshops at Elvaston

The Castle had its own gas making plant and Ice House. Coal and coke was brought by horse and cart from the railway yard at Borrowash.

With his interest in engineering the Earl had a small enclosed machinery area in the courtyard. The machinery was driven from overhead shafting and belt from a gas engine driving a Direct Current Motor.



Draft driven lathe

### Employment in Derby 1911

Occupation	Number of men employed	Number of women employed
Railway workers	4,755	13
Coach and wagon making	2,141	7
Heavy industry	7,697	97
Electrical engineering	588	91
Textiles	1,472	3,481
Domestic service	33	2,641

In 1914 some 129,446 women were not in paid occupation, By 1918 this had reduced to 12,496. Many of these were infirm, aged, or persons of independent means.

