

# Interpretive Panels

**Telling the story of a site using interpretive panels ensures that visitors whenever they visit the area have access to this information, so this might make panels a desirable choice. It is worth remembering that panels do require maintenance which can lead to further costs. Panels also need to be carefully cited so that they do not encroach on the site itself, so careful consideration is needed before opting for panels.**

For more information on interpretation panels [Click here.](#)

## Interpretive Panels



### Strengths

- A strength of interpretive panels is that they are accessible at all times and available to all visitors.
- Panels also encourage visitors to stop and look.

### Weaknesses

- Panels can be intrusive if they are not carefully positioned.
- May require planning consent.
- Vulnerable to vandalism and fading.
- Panels need to be maintained, so that they can be read and do not look unsightly.

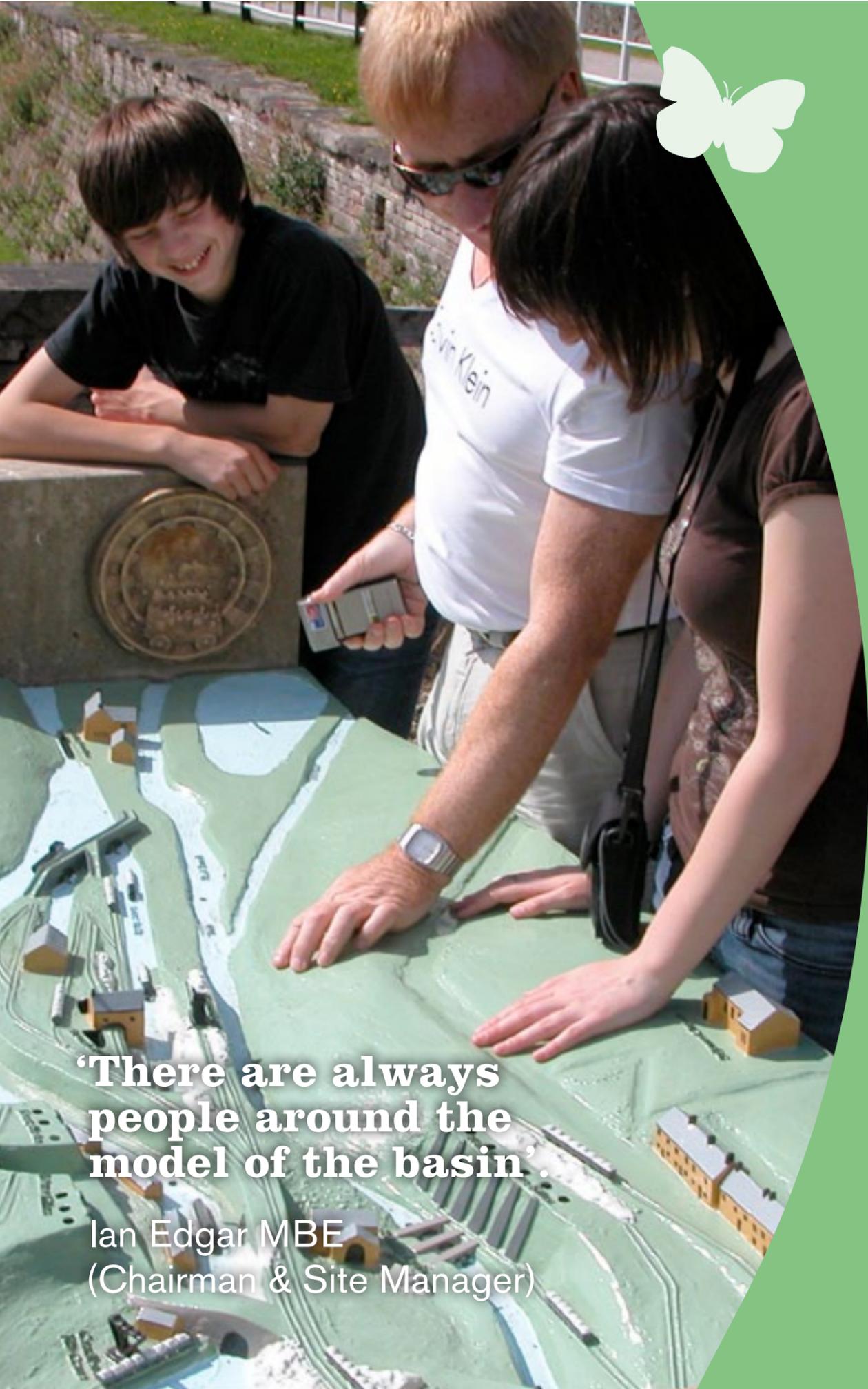
### Audience

- Day and staying visitors.
- Local people.
- Family groups.
- Education visitors.
- Special needs visitors.

### Costings

- Please see page 9 of the HLF Interpretation Guidelines [Click here.](#)





## Bugsworth Basin

**Bugsworth Basin in the Peak District is the only remaining canal/tramway interchange in the UK and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.**

Bugsworth Basin Heritage Trust found that visitors to the site were very curious. This obvious public interest led to the introduction of a range of interpretation including a 3D model, a detailed model, interpretation panels and a complimentary leaflet. The Trust are also working towards creating a permanent exhibition space.

There are numerous interpretation panels dotted around the site at points of interest, with a complimentary leaflet linking the panels together to tell the story of the site. The panels are made from cast aluminium or, in the case of ground mounted panels, cast phosphor bronze all with raised text and illustration as appropriate.

The site originally had panels made of laminated fibre glass which looked great initially, but as they are not waterproof and the water seeped through it made the panel unsightly and unreadable and meant that replacement panels were needed. It is really important to consider the maintenance of your panels and to look at the pro and cons of which material is chosen beforehand. The interpretation has been very successful at Bugsworth Basin. Part of this is down to effective marketing through making leaflets available in the local pubs, libraries, Tourist Information Offices or Centres, and the local museum. According to pedestrian counters 55,000 visitors explore the basins each year.

<http://www.brocross.com/iwps/>

**‘There are always people around the model of the basin’.**

Ian Edgar MBE  
(Chairman & Site Manager)