

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Sara John**  
**Senior Planning Officer**  
**Development Control**  
**Neighbourhoods**  
**Derby City Council**  
**The Council House**  
**Corporation Street**  
**Derby DE1 2FS**

24th May 2016

Dear Sara

**Ref: DER/02/16/00160: Outline application with full details of 'Package One' for flood defence works along the river corridor, including sites from Darley Abbey, Little Chester, Chester Green, North Riverside, Bass Rec', Pride Park, to Alvaston Park, Derby.**

Please find below my response to the latest consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be taken to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Panel for verification in June.

Part of the proposed development lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The Derwent Valley Mills were inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 2001. The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, on behalf of HM Government is pledged to conserve the unique and important cultural landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site; to protect its outstanding universal value (OUV), to interpret and promote its assets; and to enhance its character, appearance and economic well-being in a sustainable manner.

The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Site was defined by the following criteria, agreed by UNESCO when the mills were inscribed. They are:

- C(ii) That the site exhibits “an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design”;
- C(iv) That the site is “an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape, which illustrates a significant stage in human history”.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee recorded that these criteria were met for the following reasons:

- C(ii) The Derwent Valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new types of building were erected to house the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright in the late 18th century.

C(iv) In the Derwent Valley for the first time there was large-scale industrial production in a hitherto rural landscape. The need to provide housing and other facilities for workers and managers resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial settlements.

A Management Plan for the World Heritage Site was created in 2002, and updated in 2014. It has as the first of its nine aims to: “protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.” In accordance with this aim, and with reference to Section 12.1 of the Management Plan, I have consulted with Derbyshire County Council’s Conservation and Design Section (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters) over this application, and have received the following advice.

As previously stated, while the proposed works will impact on the visual environment of the various locations, it is considered that the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of this part of the World Heritage Site is likely to be minimal. However, the aspects of the proposed interventions that will have a bearing on Outstanding Universal Value are in their response to the issues of ‘authenticity’ and ‘design quality’.

The advice of your built environment Conservation Team Leader is supported with regard to the quality of detailing and the useful role of landscaping in the more sensitive areas. Again, it is noted that, for the locations included under this application to vary conditions, the opportunity presented for a creative response to the area’s status of ‘world’ importance has not been seized. The proposed barrier structures generally have a relatively basic ‘engineered’ appearance, with concrete barriers being clad with brickwork. The brick specification, coursing patterns, detailing of brick copings piers and other wall features are still to be agreed with the local planning authority. The brickwork cladding incorporates a garden wall bond and a tile creasing to the brick copings, which are acceptable, but not particularly remarkable. It is hoped that the choice of brickwork will result in something with more aesthetic appeal than plain red engineering bricks, which would be inappropriate to this sensitive context.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.