

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

3rd August 2017

Dear Sara

**03/17/00297: Erection of apartment block (26 apartments) on land between The Furnace Public House and 45 Duke Street, Derby.**

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

The proposed development lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Buffer Zone. 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.

Comments were previously made on 4th May 2017 on the proposed development, in which the historic sensitivities with respect to the DVMWHS are well versed. Whilst there was no objection to the proposed development in principle there were some concerns over the design quality of the apartment block and over the proposed public realm and landscaping. These concerns were principally directed towards the river facing side of the development. Consequently, it was recommended that the proposed development should be referred to an independent design review panel to ensure that the design was of a suitably high standard in accordance with the DVMWHS Management Plan.

Having reviewed the design proposals it is considered that this advice has not been taken on board as the design appears to have changed very little. Further, there does not appear to be any mention of the potential impact on the WHS by the proposed development which would also be useful in developing the design further. Therefore, at present, it is considered that the design is still not developed sufficiently to a high enough standard to be considered acceptable in this sensitive historic environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.