

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sarah Pearce  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

20th January 2018

Dear Sarah

**AVA/2017/1320 & 1321: Replacement of single glazed timber windows, external doors and flat felt roof structure that form two external link corridors like for like in form, appearance, configuration and colour at Babington Hospital, Derby Road, Belper.**

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 February.

The site lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS). 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 retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for the Derwent Valley Mills was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2010. The SOUV refers to the following UNESCO criteria, which the World Heritage Committee agreed were met at the time of inscription. 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 SOUV records 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Heritage and Design Service (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters), and have received the following advice:

Babington Hospital, and various elements of the site, are listed in grade II and wholly within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. The glazed corridors are modern additions, to the rear of the main entrance frontage, within the rear courtyard to the west. As stated in the Heritage Statement, there is no impact on exterior views of the building. While the structures have something of a negative impact on the building’s appearance, the need for the covered walkways still exists and assists with how the building functions; there is also a precedent that the corridors exist.

As their replacement is on a like-for-like basis, there will be no additional adverse effect on the building or indeed the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. While it would be desirable to replace the structure with a design and materials of higher quality, the decision to keep the status quo is not unacceptable. In summary, there would be no adverse effect on the OUV of the World Heritage Site as a result of the proposed works.

I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning this development.

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.  
cc Sarah Johnson, AVBC