

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

4th July 2018

Dear Paul

**AVA/2018/0562: Proposed alterations and conversion of ancillary buildings to form an independent residential dwelling at 14A Laund Hill, 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 later this month.

The site 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 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:

While the building is unlisted it is clearly of historic merit and contributes positively to the immediate setting of the WHS. The building is probably an early 19th century agricultural dwelling above animal stalls at ground floor level. The surviving shop-front on the single storey range appears suggests that at least partially put to use for commercial purposes. This small ensemble is therefore considered to be an attribute of the WHS in contributing towards the social infrastructure related value as defined in the DVMWHS Management Plan.

The proposed development comprises a number of alterations to the early agricultural dwelling and later single storey range in order for it to be converted to a single independent residential dwelling unit. While there are no objections to this in principle there are some concerns over the overall design quality and that there are some insensitive changes proposed that could harm the attribute, and, a building which could be considered to be a non-designated heritage asset. It is important that the proposed development is of a suitably high-quality design, as set out under P 2.5 of the DVMWHS Management Plan, in order to minimise any potential adverse impacts on its OUV. Further recommendations are that the proposals are referred to the local planning authority’s conservation officer in order for them to input/comment on the proposals. This should help mitigate any small adverse impacts on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

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', written in a cursive style.

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator,  
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.  
cc Sarah Johnson, AVBC