

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Claire McLoughlin  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

6th December 2018

Dear Claire

**AVA/2018/1009: Proposed ground floor and first floor rear extensions at 11 Banks Buildings, Chevin Road, Milford.**

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 January.

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:

The site is within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area and the application relates to a former workers’ cottage, contained within a long row of houses that follow the curve of the River Derwent and Chevin Road. The row of houses date from the first quarter of the twentieth century and are assessed as attributes of the World Heritage Site.

The proposal is for an extension to the rear of the property on a former rear yard to the dwelling, now occupied by raised decking. The building would be unprecedented encroachment into the open land to the rear of the properties, which is naturally defined and historically limited to the change in level and associated retaining wall.

There would not be any impact on the character or appearance of the conservation area, given that it is to the rear and a good design response in all other respects. In respect of its effect on the World Heritage Site, while the proposal would affect an attribute of the Site, there would be no loss of its overall significance and contribution. While it is understood that these properties are within the Green Belt, and the extension would encroach on the open land behind the properties, the extension would relate directly to an existing building within that group. The larger rural landscape setting would not be affected by this domestic extension and, therefore, there would be no harm to the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value.

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 Brooks, AVBC