

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Alan Redmond**  
**Amber Valley Borough Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Ripley**  
**Derbyshire**                      **DE5 3BT**

22nd January 2019

Dear Alan

**AVA/2018/1132: Erection of 3 new dwellings and access driveway from highway at 28 Cemetery 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 later this month.

The site lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Buffer Zone, although the site frontage is immediately adjacent to the 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 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 twentieth century dwellings on the upper side of Cemetery Road, to the east, are not visible when travelling along the road, from the north. Rather, the relict 18th century landscape, on which the textile industry in the Derwent Valley was, for a period, imposed, provides the dominant character as the lane rises up on the eastern bank of the river valley. This Attribute of the World Heritage Site contributes to its Outstanding Universal Value, and the reason for it being inscribed on the World Heritage List, as a place of international significance.

The proposed houses would either break out entirely from the current screening vegetation, as with plots 1 and 2, or would require a new vehicular access in order to serve plot 3. The houses, despite having been given more than typical attention in terms of their appearance, would be highly visible and introduce an unacceptable urbanisation of an otherwise rural character.

Therefore, it is considered that, in its intrinsic principle, the proposed development would be harmful to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and permission would not therefore be justified by any public benefit.

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

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.  
cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC