

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Laura Anthony**  
**Amber Valley Borough Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Ripley**  
**Derbyshire**                      **DE5 3BT**

18th March 2019

Dear Laura

**AVA/2019/0075: Large extension to provide a family dwelling with undercover outside amenities, open internal courtyard, re-organised stone walls to the front with hardstanding and a garage at 9 Joseph Street, 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). 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:

This site is within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area and adjacent to a number of listed buildings. The existing dwelling on the site dates from the 1930s and reputedly built by a local builder, the family business still in existence today. Nevertheless, it is not considered that the dwelling contributes any intrinsic significance to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

A high level of design quality is a key aim within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014-2019. Aim 1 is to protect, conserve and enhance the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value. Policy P 2.5 exists to ensure new developments in the DVMWHS are of high quality design and construction through the planning process.

The site is situated in the historic core of Strutt’s millworkers housing, opposite the distinctive ‘Cluster’ houses. The proposed extension and alterations to the unlisted dwelling are acknowledged as being significant in the Design & Access Statement. The openness of the site results in the proposals being highly prominent, as illustrated in the submitted visual representations. While an extension to this dwelling would not be unacceptable in principle, its proposed materials and colours would have undue prominence which would distract from the attributes that contribute to the Site’s significance. The application of large areas of light materials not typical of those in the historic area, together with a varied collection of forms, styles and details, would be harmful to its significance and, therefore, not preserve or enhance its OUV.

In summary, while enhancement of the site is welcome in principle, in its current scale and form, the proposal for this site would be harmful to the OUV of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

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