

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Heather Wynne**  
**Amber Valley Borough Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Ripley**  
**Derbyshire**                      **DE5 3BT**

6th June 2019

Dear Heather

**AVA/2019/0361: Single storey rear extension to dwelling house at 111 Bridge 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:

The proposed extension is to the rear of the building and is for a single storey, replacing two smaller extensions. Although not generally visible from the public realm, people accessing the properties at the rear would experience the extension against the surrounding group of buildings, which have developed into a visual pleasing collection through the cumulative addition of traditional building forms. With its flat roof form and blank rendered wall, the proposed extension makes no reference to this traditional context, in the pursuit of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area and the World Heritage Site.

The impact of this rear extension on the significance of the World Heritage Site would not be great; however, insofar as the dwelling is an attribute of the World Heritage Site, the extension would not be of a sufficiently high quality of design to meet the aims of the DVMWHS Management Plan to conserve and enhance its significance.

In summary, while the principle of the demolition and replacement of the rear extensions is considered to be acceptable, it is considered that the design should contribute a greater value to the built environment within the historic core of Belper.

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