

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

25th July 2019

Dear Heather

**AVA/2019/0569: Erection of a single storey front porch extension, replacement of front facing windows and cladding of single storey side elevation at 8 Damside, 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 in September.

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 cottage and attached outbuilding is located within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. The cottage has recently had its render removed to reveal the underlying stonework. Given the investment and effort in the updating of the property, it is unfortunate that more traditional elements do not form part of the proposals. The replacement of an artificial roof covering for another artificial material offers little in the way of enhancement; the porch would be better being simple, like the example cited, with no rooflight or side windows; the main windows to the cottage are not necessarily an improvement, exchanging casement windows for sashes, although there is the opportunity to improve the finish on the uPVC frames and the false leaded lights; the timber cladding may be better exchanged for render and the brick slips are an exercise in inappropriate, applied over-cladding.

While the work cannot be described as traditionally-inspired or conservation-led, the scale of the impact on the robust significance of the World Heritage Site, leads to the conclusion that its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) will not be harmed. Nevertheless, any improvements that Amber Valley might be able to secure in terms of more authentic, natural and traditional materials would contribute to the better presentation of the Site's historic building stock in this designated conservation area, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

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".

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC