

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sarah Pearce  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

12th August 2019

Dear Sarah

**AVA/2019/0570: Demolition of the existing house and the erection of three new dwellings at 36 Hazelwood Road, Duffield.**

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) Buffer Zone. 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 existing Victorian dwelling on the site is the former Richmond House, dating from the late 19th century, when a number of large houses – including Spring Hill, The Oaks (Hazelview) and Hazelbrow - of quite high status, set in large grounds, were established along the road from Duffield to Hazelwood. While their owners must have built these with the proceeds of business wealth, there is no known evidence of this being connected with the textile industry.

While the further loss of evidence of the growth of Duffield, would be regrettable, it is not considered that the proposed development would be harmful to the significance (Outstanding Universal Value) of the World Heritage Site, as it is expressed through the contribution of its designated immediate setting of the Buffer Zone. However, in deference to this place as having world significance, the design of any replacement dwellings should be of an appropriately high quality, using natural materials and acknowledging the local distinctiveness of the place. The contribution of the significant tree assets of the site would be better avoided in their totality, rather than merely limiting the impact of the increased density of an additional two dwellings, as stated in the Design and Access Statement. The relevant emerging policies on design quality and authenticity within the DVMWHS Management Plan, also need to be taken into account through the design development process.

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'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.  
cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC