

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

12th August 2019

Dear Heather

**AVA/2019/0556: Ground floor rear single storey extension, demolition of ground floor infill extension between cottage and outside toilet, removal of stone walls to parking areas around Well House at 14 Well Lane, Milford.**

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:

The application site is located within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. It also forms part of the grade II listed building, Nos 8 to 12 (consec), No 12A and No 14 Well Lane and the Well House, north of No 14 Well Lane.

The proposed extension works are acceptable and would cause no harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, being associated with relatively modern fabric of the two storey extension, to the rear/side and discretely located under an existing decking structure, with the external materials and other visible elements generally being proposed to match the existing.

The revised arrangement to the Well House Wall is considered to be preserving its significance, with relatively minor alterations, which should re-use the existing stone in the re-building, using an appropriate lime mortar mix, with careful consideration being given to the bonding pattern of the amended section of re-built wall using the services of an experienced stonemason.

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