

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

13th August 2019

Dear Sarah

**AVA/2019/0588: Change of use of storage and distribution buildings to museum; demolition of adjoining building; minor alterations to exterior, internal layout of site roads, and access; and use of site circulation roads as access and driving route for exhibits at Motoring Heritage Centre, Former Wire Works, Matlock Road, Ambergate.**

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 proposed Motoring Heritage Centre would essentially be established within one of the existing buildings on the site, involving external and internal alterations and the change of use. An external balcony area would be formed on the river bank, which logically exploits the connection with this valued asset for wider enjoyment. It is expected that the detailing construction of the balcony and its guarding will be to a good quality of contemporary design, guided by its industrial aesthetic context and the spirit of the innovation that the enterprise seeks to celebrate, and thereby avoiding any dishonest or de-valuing pastiche. A smaller building is proposed to be demolished, but it is unlikely to contribute any significance to the World Heritage Site.

Any proposed signage at the entrance, on the A6, should be of a high quality, of an appropriate and proportionate scale and of a type that would not adversely impact on the rural character of the former turnpike road.

It is considered that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and, would potentially make a positive contribution to the area as a tourist destination.

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