

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Alan Redmond**  
**Amber Valley Borough Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Ripley**  
**Derbyshire**                      **DE5 3BT**

4th November 2019

Dear Alan

## **AVA/2019/0922: Detached dwelling at The Haining 1 Ashbourne Road, Belper.**

Please find below my response to the consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be passed 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) 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 site is located immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site. The application is in outline with all matters reserved except for the access, which would be through the residential development, within which the plot sits. Consequently, no details are provided on the scale or design of the single, detached dwelling to assess the impact of the dwellings on their context, either from the World Heritage Site or the Buffer Zone.

In terms of assessing the impact of the proposed development, the Buffer Zone should be considered as having equal weight to the World Heritage Site, since the Site’s setting forms an integral part of its significance. While there is no objection, in principle, to the development on this land for a single dwelling, the quality of design, for an area recognised as being of world significance, should meet the required standard set out in the current DVMWHS Management Plan. With particular reference to this issue, the next iteration of the DVMWHS Management Plan, which is out for public consultation, will set out a ‘design rationale’ for the Site and its Buffer Zone.

In conclusion, it is considered that the proposed development would be acceptable, in principle, and would not be harmful to the significance of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site were its design to be of an appropriate quality and responsive to its context.

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