

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Dr Mark Askey**  
**Development Management**  
**Derbyshire Dales District Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Matlock DE4 3NN**

3rd March 2021

Dear Mark

**20/01183/LBALT: Construction of steps and access ramp to replace temporary ramp at Buildings 8 and 9 Cromford Mill, Mill Road, Cromford.**

Please find below the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership response to the consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be passed to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Group for verification in April.

The site lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) and is a key element of its inscription. 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 maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its culture, economy, unique heritage and landscape 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 2020. It has as the first of its nine aims to: “protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS to ensure its transmission to future generations.” In accordance with this aim, and with reference to the operational guidance in Section 20 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:

A similar ramp has already been installed to provide better access to the toilets located in Building 9. The proposed ramp, to the café, appears to be of a very similar design and given the difference in height it is understandable why it is needed. The proposed ramp is an improvement on the temporary ramp but as with any intervention of this kind it ultimately adds more visual clutter which will have a small negative impact on the OUV of the WHS. However, the DVMWHS Partnership believes that this impact should be mitigated through the public benefit the ramp brings in improving access to visitors of varying abilities.

It is important that the new ramp should be installed to a similar high standard of detailing as of that installed to provide improved access to the toilets. This should be administered by the Local Planning Authority by appropriate condition(s).

The Partnership asks that 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Adrian' and the last name 'Farmer' clearly distinguishable.

**Adrian Farmer**

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