

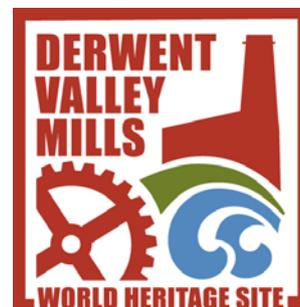
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sara John
Development Control
Communities and Place
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

19th April 2021

Dear Sara

Re-consultation – DER20/01542/FUL: Creation of a cycleway at land to the north of Haslams Lane, Derby (between River Derwent and Derby to Duffield railway line).

Please find below my response to the re-consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be passed to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Group for verification later this month.

The application 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 18th 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:

The historic sensitivities associated with the site are already well versed in the DVMWHS Partnership’s previous consultation response dated 22 January 2021. Whilst the Partnership did not object to the proposed development in principle there were some concerns relating to the width of the track and the proposed use of tarmac along parts of the new trail. The Partnership advised that a Heritage Impact Assessment should be produced, in accordance with ICOMOS guidance, to help understand the impact of the proposed development.

The Partnership is now satisfied that the Heritage Impact Assessment submitted satisfies the guidance set out by ICOMOS. However, we do not agree with paragraphs 7.2.4 and 7.2.5 which state ‘no harm done to the DVMWHS’ and that work will result in a ‘neutral impact’. In its current form it is the opinion of the Partnership that the proposed development will result in a level of harm, albeit very low, to the setting of the WHS. This is because the introduction of a tarmac surface finish is an alien and urbanising material within this historic rural environment. Therefore, in order to mitigate this harm as much as possible, and as per our original advice, we would suggest that the trail is surfaced with a well compacted hoggin which will be more rural in its appearance.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Farmer', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Farmer

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

cc Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.