

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sara John
Senior Planning Officer
Development Control
Neighbourhoods
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

8th February 2017

Dear Sara

Ref: DER/01/17/00041: Outline application with full details of 'Package 1' for flood defence works along the river corridor.

Please find below my response to the latest consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be taken to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Panel for verification in March.

Part of the proposed development lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. 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 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 and Design Section (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters) over this application, and received the following advice:

As previously stated, while the proposed works will impact on the visual environment of the various locations, it is considered that the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of this part of the World Heritage Site is likely to be minimal. However, the aspects of the proposed interventions that will have a bearing on Outstanding Universal Value are in their response to the issues of ‘authenticity’ and ‘design quality’. It is considered that the changes as submitted as part of this application for a variation of condition 4 do not alter our position on the proposed development.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'F'.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.