

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Julia Stewart
Development Control
Neighbourhoods
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

18th September 2017

Dear Julia

08/17/01117: Erection of dwelling house on land at New Road, Darley Abbey.

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 October.

The proposed development 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 Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Site was defined by the following criteria, agreed by UNESCO when the mills were inscribed. 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 UNESCO World Heritage Committee recorded 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 have received the following advice.

Comments were provided previously for development in the same location (within the parcel of former allotments) in July 2017 which the World Heritage Site Partnership considers are also relevant in this case:

The site is located on a parcel of land between a number of listed worker houses built by the Evans family between 1796 and 1830. These are understood to be quite intact, are Attributes of the World Heritage Site and contribute to the narrative of the development of the Darley Abbey Mills complex. A basic map regression exercise indicates that the land the site is located on is likely to have been a former allotment site. Although overgrown it is considered that this undeveloped piece of land remains interpretable as a former allotment site for the houses and so it is important in contributing to the understanding of the historic development pattern.

The proposed development is for a three storey ‘town house’ style dwelling. Although there is precedent for this type of house along New Road, they are Attributes of the WHS and the development site has a significant historic relationship to these. It is considered that any housing development on this site would cause incremental damage to the integrity of the WHS. Housing development of this kind would require special justification and it must be of a suitably high design standard. Unfortunately the design illustrated falls short of this and represents bogus heritage.

It is therefore considered by the World Heritage Site Partnership that the proposed development would have a negative impact on the integrity of the WHS and consequently on its OUV.

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, flowing style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.