

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Shand House, Dale Road South, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RY

T: +44(0) 1629 536831

E: info@derwentvalleymills.org

www.derwentvalleymills.org



Paul Wilson
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

12th December 2017

Dear Paul

AVA/2017/1294: Outline planning application for residential development on land at Holly Cottage, Longwalls Lane, Blackbrook.

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 February.

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 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, Heritage and Design Service (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters), and have received the following advice:

The site is located alongside the former turnpike road (Ashbourne Road/A517) leading into Belper. Although a significant number of mid-20th century houses occupy land in Blackbrook, and have subsumed many of its more historic buildings and features, it retains its rural character and contributes positively to the immediate setting of the WHS.

The new development would occupy a small piece of land between Ashbourne Road and Hollybrook Cottage. The information submitted with the application, notably the Visual Impact Assessment, indicate that the new dwelling will have a strong presence from the A517. However, it will be seen against the wider urban context of Blackbrook and so its visual impact on the wider rural setting should be limited. Other views presented in the Visual Impact Assessment demonstrate the proposed dwelling will not be visible from within the wider rural setting or the WHS. Although the drawings are not yet fully developed they indicate that the dwelling is of a suitably modest scale for the site and it has distinguishably modern features which should allow it to be clearly interpreted as a new building.

Therefore the World Heritage Site Partnership does not object to the proposed development as it will have a negligible impact on the immediate setting of the WHS.

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', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Rachael Coates, AVBC