

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Liz Prior
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

12th December 2017

Dear Liz

AVA/2017/1240: Replace sloped toilet roof with lowered flat roof decking area (retrospective) at 45 Chesterfield Road, Belper.

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). 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 proposed dwelling is within the DVMWHS although it is some distance from the more central WHS attributes in Belper. The terraces, within which No.45 is included, are believed to be Strutt houses and whilst many of these have suffered from a number of inappropriate alterations they contribute positively to the character of the WHS.

The proposed development is to the rear of the building and comprises a new terrace structure, with a 1m high (approx.) timber balustrade, atop a former out-building. It also appears that a new uPVC patio-type window has been inserted to the rear elevation although this is not clear from the drawings and photographs submitted. It is possible to see the former outbuilding from Swinney Lane and with the provision of the new terrace and patio-door (assuming this has been inserted) has the potential to impact on views of the historic terraces and on their historic integrity. Unfortunately, no views have been provided from Swinney Lane to illustrate how visible the new development is. The heritage statement is lacking in detail and reads more as a statement of what has been done rather than providing information on the historic significance of the building and why the proposals are justified.

Therefore in view of the lack of information provided with the application the World Heritage Site Partnership is unable to fully comment on the proposed development and its potential impact on the OUV 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