

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



Andrew Ecclestone
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

1st February 2018

Dear Andrew

18/00050/FUL: Single storey rear extension at The Barn, Bakers Lane, Cromford.

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 later this month.

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 received the following advice:

The barn is not listed but it is clearly of some historic significance as at least a mid-nineteenth century structure. It is one of a number of field-barn type buildings which are considered attributes of the WHS as components of its rural landscape. It is therefore important to preserve its agricultural appearance, particularly as it is located at high-level with the potential to impact on views towards it.

While in recent years the barn has been converted to a dwelling, and although this has resulted in the loss of authenticity, it still retains an agricultural presence within the immediate setting of the DVMWHS. Further changes have been brought about through the provision of areas for parking and the small extension to the north elevation although these are quite low-key changes.

Whilst the WHS Partnership does not object to the principle of the extension, it is not considered to be appropriate in its current form, which detracts from its agricultural typology and would give it the appearance of a house. Greater consideration should be given towards how the building could be extended to preserve its agricultural appearance in order to minimise its impact on the immediate setting, and therefore the OUV of the DVMWHS.

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'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC