

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Gareth Griffiths
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

1st February 2018

Dear Gareth

17/01012/FUL: Change of use of premises from missionary training unit and bible school to hotel at Cromford Court, Derby Road, Matlock Bath.

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 existing building is clearly of historic merit in its own right as a Grade II Listed Building, but it is also an Attribute of the World Heritage Site. Dated 1901, it was originally built for J.T.W Lawton, the former manager at Masson Mills. It has had a mixed history since, being used as a dwelling, a hotel and as a missionary training unit and bible school.

The proposed development seeks to return the building to one of its former uses as a hotel which will hopefully allow it to be appreciated by a wider audience and interpreted as part of the broader DVMWHS narrative. The building is not as visible from within or around the WHS as it once was, and as there are few alterations to the external envelope it is not considered that these will have a significant impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS. It is to this end that the World Heritage Site Partnership does not object to the proposed development.

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 with some loops and flourishes.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC