

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

19th February 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0010: Erection of a residential dwelling on land to rear of 144A Kilbourne 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 later this month.

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 outline application is for a single dwelling of unspecified size and scale, on the rear garden of a relatively modern bungalow. Pottery Farm is close to the application site, separated only by a narrow stretch of agricultural land. This plot is wider than those of the early twentieth century terraced properties to the north and south, the gardens of which immediately adjacent to the open agricultural countryside of Bullsmoor. The open landscape is a contributory attribute of the World Heritage Site’s significance. While the fields are edged by the linear residential development, the houses form a regular and continuous visual edge, set behind the open spaces of the domestic rear gardens. There is no precedent for any buildings outside this logical pattern. The proposed dwelling would run contrary to this pattern, introducing a visible structure into the open landscape and agricultural setting of Pottery Farm.

Given that it would be contained within the established development, any harm caused to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, by its visual intrusion into the open countryside, would be limited. However, this harm would be minimised if the dwelling were limited to being no greater than a single storey as a two-storey dwelling would be incongruous in this context.

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 Sarah Johnson, AVBC