

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**

9th April 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0131: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement at Alpha 15 Hindersitch Lane, Whatstandwell.

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 application site is located immediately adjacent to the Whatstandwell Conservation Area, designated in 1994. Whatstandwell is a rural settlement, set within an agricultural landscape, with locally distinctive vernacular Derbyshire dwellings, built of local stone. The village contains farmsteads and typical key community buildings, including a school, railway station, public houses and the former Primitive Methodist Chapel (Chantry House).

The pattern of historic development of the settlement is very much determined by the natural topography, with dwellings along Hindersitch Lane, Shaw Hill and Top Lane following the lanes as they rise up the hillside from Main Road. By artificially exploiting land on the down-side of the lane, the more modern dwellings, on the west side of Hindersitch Lane, have generally failed to respect the logical, historic development for building only on the up-side of the slope of the hillside and result in a negative impact as they encroach into the rural landscape.

From New Road, Alderwasley, across the valley, the ribbon development is all that interrupts the open rural landscape of the eastern valley slopes for this section of the World Heritage Site. Any further encroachment would impact on the rural landscape setting of the World Heritage Site.

The proposals can readily be criticised for failing to respect both the setting of the adjacent conservation area, and to exploit the opportunities of the site through an appropriate site analysis. A proper appreciation of both these fundamental design processes would produce a solution that better reflected and contributed towards local distinctiveness. Reluctantly, however, given that the site is already developed, it is considered the harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site would not be sufficiently great to sustain an objection. I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning this development.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Sarah Johnson, AVBC