

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



Sara Claxton
Development Control
Neighbourhoods
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

16th April 2018

Dear Sara

02/18/00167 and 02/18/00168: Change of use from motor car servicing and repair garage to cafe for use in connection with the West Mill wedding venue and mill managers accommodation including installation of new doors at Cotton Shed, Darley Abbey Mills, Haslams Lane, Derby.

Please find below the latest DVMWHS 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 proposed development 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 Cotton Shed is understood to be a later addition to this principal mill site within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Nevertheless it makes a positive contribution to the significance of both Darley Abbey Mills and the World Heritage Site as a whole. Accordingly, the philosophical approach to the proposed alterations, as set out in the supporting Heritage Design and Access Statement, is considered to provide an appropriate framework for the works. The proposals have been carefully and sensitively guided by the conservation principles of minimal intervention, reversibility and legibility of new interventions, so as to preserve or enhance the significance of the heritage asset.

The successful integration of the current alternative business use into the historic context, together with its proposed expansion, is recognised and welcomed. It is understood that the proposals in respect of the door head detail has been amended to retain the RSJ, which is acceptable.

In conclusion, it is considered that the proposed works would cause no harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. While the application includes comprehensive details of the proposed works, it is trusted that the Authority’s conservation specialists will ensure that the detailed implementation of the scheme will follow the conservation objectives to which the project aspires.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

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 Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.