

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Joseph Baldwin
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

2nd May 2018

Dear Joseph

18/00293/FUL: Single storey front extension at Barnwell 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 in July.

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 received the following advice:

This property lies within a relatively modern residential area, on the edge of the settlement of Cromford, adjacent to the open rural landscape.

The proposal is for an extension to the front of the property, maintaining a constant floor level, which runs contrary to the site topography. The elevated position of the site would result in the extension being prominent and having an impact on the dwellings which have paid some regard to its edge of settlement context. In detail, the forward projecting extension would terminate in a glazed feature gable, which would have more impact than a roof form that continued the hipped roof vocabulary. In mitigation the coursed stone would potentially present an appropriate material for this context.

In summary, despite the potential impact described, the extension would be contained within an established domestic curtilage and residential area. It is considered that there would be minimal effect on the rural landscape setting of the World Heritage Site and therefore negligible harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

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 a large initial 'A'.

Adrian Farmer

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

cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC