

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Andrew Ecclestone
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

2nd May 2018

Dear Andrew

18/00333/FUL: Proposed detached garage at 23 Water 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). 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:

Although the existing property is not listed it is clearly of some historic significance and provides a positive contribution to the setting of important attributes within the DVMWHS. As with other similar properties on the same side of the road more recent extensions and outbuildings have been added in various shapes and forms. The proposed new garage would be completely detached and located approximately 3m away from the dwelling and it is set back from the property giving it a submissive position in relation to it.

Whilst the proposed development will have a negligible impact on the integrity of the DVMWHS, the DVMWHS Partnership supports the recommendations made by the conservation officer at Derbyshire Dales District Council to help mitigate its visual impact. This is principally in relation to the application of more appropriate materials so that the garage is more clearly discernible as a modern built feature and thus better preserves the integrity of the DVMWHS and minimises its impact on its OUV.

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 style with a large initial 'A' and 'F'.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC