

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

3rd May 2018

Dear Andrew

18/00197/FUL: Improvement of existing outdoor terraces at 34 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:

34 Water Lane forms part of a group of early 19th century three-storey gritstone house similar to those found on The Hill. The houses are thought to have been constructed for the workers by Arkwright and so they are attributes of the DVMWHS and in general terms they are encompassed within the value of the creation of a new way of life as part of the factory system.

The need for the edge protection and around the higher-level terrace within the back garden area is understandable and justifiable in that it is required for the safe enjoyment of the garden. The visual impact of the new fencing should be mitigated, to a degree, as it is proposed that this will be painted in a mid-grey colour so as to ensure it is more visually recessive. From the photographs included in the application it is clear that a number of other gardens have utilised similar fencing as a means of edge-protection to the upper garden terraces. Although there will be a small negative impact brought about by the introduction of this element it is removable and it should not be visible from within the public realm.

However, the new terrace that is proposed above the modern single-storey extension is not considered to be appropriate. Whilst there are numerous rear extensions, of various ages and forms, along the rear of the row of terraces they are all relatively in-keeping and low-profile. The addition of the fencing would introduce an alien feature to the rear of the building/terraces and would result in an increase in the height of the rear extension to an unacceptable degree. It is therefore considered that this would impact on the integrity of the building and consequently have a negative impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

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', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Farmer

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