

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire **DE5 3BT**

25th May 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0262: Demolition of bungalow and construction of three dwellings at 74 Crich Lane, Belper.

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 have received the following advice:

The site is located within the Buffer Zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, designated to protect the setting of the Site, itself. Given that the application site is located within an established residential area and screened by woodland that occupies the rising hillside from the River Derwent valley to the ridge followed by Crich Lane, it is not considered that this part of the Buffer Zone contributes to the Outstanding Universal Value.

The proposed development would involve the loss of a relatively attractive bungalow and attractive gardens, set within a generous plot, fronted by a stone boundary wall, which is one of the earliest dwellings amongst this 20th century development of former allotment gardens.

While it would be regrettable to increase the density of this plot so intensively, as glimpse views to the wider surrounding landscape around the town would be lost, it is considered that that the development would not harm the significance of the World Heritage Site. However, consistent with the international importance of the area, a high quality of design would be required as an essential component in the overall planning assessment of the sustainability of the proposed development within the Buffer Zone.

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 Sarah Johnson, AVBC