

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

19th June 2018

Dear Sara

DER/03/17/00271: Construct new tennis courts and access path, 3G artificial sports pitch and informal sports area with sports wall and outdoor gym equipment at Darley Playing Fields, Old Chester Road, 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 in July.

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 site sits on the adjacent side of the River Derwent to Darley Abbey Park which was gifted to the local population by the Evans family for recreational use. Although Darley Playing Fields are not thought to be part of this gift it is still considered to be an important green space which broadly expands on this recreational theme and social infrastructure-related value. A simple map regression exercise, using the first edition OS, reveals that the land now forming Darley Playing Fields was once enclosed agricultural land which is broadly still interpretable today.

Comments were provided previously by the partnership on similar proposals on 8 May 2017. The overarching advice to the partnership was that although there would be a small adverse visual impact on the WHS it was considered that this would potentially be mitigated through the continual recreational use of the site. Although the additional four tennis courts represent further visual intrusion they are located reasonably close to the enclosed other tennis courts and, in the round, they should be seen to be very much part of the multi-games facilities contained within this area of the site. Therefore, it is still considered that the overall proposed development constitutes as a small adverse visual impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS and that that this level of harm should be mitigated given that this will help secure the optimal viable use of the site for continued recreational purposes in accordance with paragraph 134 of the NPPF.

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.