

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

21st June 2018

Dear Andrew

18/00530/FUL: Single storey side extension at The Beeches, Upperwood Road, Matlock Bath.

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:

The proposed development site relates to a 19th century gothic revival style detached villa. Whilst imposing in its locality it does not appear to be visible from within more far reaching areas of the Buffer Zone or World Heritage Site due to the surrounding topography, other built features and mature trees. Its contribution to the immediate setting of the World Heritage Site lies in its contribution as a characterful period property which demonstrates increasing affluence within the area although it is not specifically known how or if this is directly connected to the textile industry.

The proposed development comprises a new single-storey garden room featuring a pitched roof and smaller flat roof area with an embattled parapet. Whilst the WHS Partnership holds no objection to the proposed development in principle, it is considered that a more honest modern design, rather than an attempt to slavishly copy its historic details, would be appropriate in this particular location. This is in order to facilitate a clear interpretation of the archaeology of the host building and to help maintain the integrity of immediate setting of the WHS and so minimise any harm done to its OUV. Given its relatively low-key location within the Buffer Zone it is considered that this aspect can be suitably controlled by the planning and conservation service at the local planning authority.

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