

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
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25th June 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0050: Revised house designs and supporting documentation at Primrose Wood, 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 revised house designs and layout have addressed concerns about the appropriate qualitative response for this site in the Buffer Zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The proposals are closer in concept to the original outline planning application, which received the support of the Partnership. The architectural expression is more of its time and suitably lightweight, visually, through its form and materials. In their proposed form, I consider that there would be no harm to the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value. However, it is considered that a few minor amendments would be beneficial. In particular, the nominal projection of the ground floor front bedroom/office is visually weak and poorly articulated. Although not an OUV matter, the resultant flat roof would be a potential weakness for water ingress and an on-going maintenance liability.

This unresolved design intention would be visible to the front of all four dwellings. If the timber clad upper storey gable were to be flush with, or itself slightly forward of the rendered wall, then the simple expression of the main rectangular mass of the houses, would be regained. The success of the final product will depend on the attention to detail and choice of materials. Though not appropriate for the Partnership to comment on the specific details of the development, it would be advantageous for the LPA to require the submission of:

- Details of the fascias and eaves condition;
- Details of zinc verge flashing;
- Details of balustrading to bedroom balcony;
- Samples of external materials, including finished colour;
- Details of photovoltaic panels;
- Details of passive ventilation stack;
- Details of garage doors;
- Samples of dry-stone boundary wall;

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