

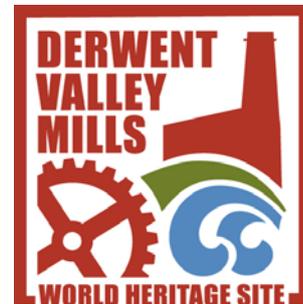
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Dr Mark Askey
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

6th July 2018

Dear Mark

18/00504/LBALT: Removal of en-suite and creation of new wet room at second floor level, insertion of rooflight and internal alterations, and, replacement of casement windows with sashes to second floor frontage at 3 North Street, 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 later this month.

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:

The proposed development relates to number 3 North Street, a Grade II* Listed Building. The dwelling is one of 27 houses along the street which are the first of Arkwright’s worker’s housing campaigns in Cromford. North Street consists of two long gritstone terraces which face each other across the broad street. According to the UNESCO World Heritage inscription documentation ‘the accommodation is superior to rural housing in Derbyshire at this date and North Street set a pattern for what was to follow elsewhere in Cromford, though it exhibits a higher standard of construction and design than some of the later houses in the community’. Therefore all dwellings on North Street are considered to be of the upmost significance and attributes for their contribution towards the social infrastructure related value as defined in the DVMWHS Management Plan. It is therefore essential that any changes to these, however small, are considered very carefully.

The proposed development comprises of a number of internal and external alterations to facilitate a larger wet room and increased storage space within what is currently a roof void above the rear ‘out-shut’. While the WHS Partnership does not object to the proposals in principle there are specific concerns over replacing the existing metal casement windows with timber sash windows. This is because most if not all of the terraces have either metal or timber casement windows at this level. It is considered that this alteration would impact negatively on the architectural unity and of a style which appears to be most consistently accepted as an authentic arrested historic reference point for the dwellings.

Therefore, it is considered that this alteration to the windows at the front of the property alone, would result in an unacceptable negative impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS and less than substantial harm on the designation to a degree which does not appear to be balanced with any justifiable public benefit brought by the proposals.

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