

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
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10th July 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0602: Renewal application previously granted (28 July 2015 AVA/2015/0497) of outline permission for two houses on land between 13 and 16 Derby Road, 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 later this month.

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 immediately abuts the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. The proposal is for the renewal of outline permission for two detached dwellings to infill a vacant area of land within an established series of residential buildings fronting onto the east side of Derby Road (A6). The absence of development on the west side of Derby Road retains the rural landscape setting looking across the River Derwent and its lower valley slopes.

The original area of rural land between the Vicarage to the south and the former Derwent House to the north, has been incrementally developed, plot by plot, during the late-nineteenth century and first part of the twentieth century, to produce a variety of houses of different forms and styles. Following the erection of the first two rows (Nos 1-4 and 16-17), Nos 12 and 13 are detached houses, set back from the previously established building line, addressing the road in a different manner to their neighbours; No 12 is a more expressive house with half-timbered gable roof features, and No 13, set even further back, is a later, simpler version of this form of dwelling. To the south, from No 19 onwards, the houses begin to be progressively set-back to follow the alignment of Vicarage Road. The precedent for dwellings set back from the original building line is therefore established.

Consistent with previous advice, providing the form, massing details and materials of the proposed houses are appropriate to the context and of a suitably high standard, the infilling of this gap in an established residential section of Derby Road is not considered to be detrimental to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

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 Sarah Johnson, AVBC