

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

7th August 2018

Dear Sara

DER/06/18/00914: Retention of the installation of an outdoor seating area and extraction ducting at Darleys, Old Lane, Darley Abbey.

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 September.

The proposed development lies outside but abutting 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 with members of the DVMWHS Conservation and Planning Panel at a site visit held on Friday 20th July, and have received the following advice:

The proposed development site forms part of the Darley Abbey Mills complex. More specifically, the site is located on a wedge shaped piece of land between the West Mill and the restaurant building, both Grade II Listed Buildings, with views overlooking the River Derwent.

The cotton mill site was first developed in 1782 by the Evans family with later subsequent phases, including the West Mill, added during the early part of the 19th century. The broader context of the site includes the factory village developed by the Evans family within the same period. The site is therefore considered to be an attribute of the DVMWHS for its contribution towards the power harnessing and production related value, with its broader context contributing to the social infrastructure related value, as defined in the WHS Management Plan (2014-19).

The proposed development will require the removal of an existing area of timber decking, used as an external seating area as part of the restaurant offer. It is understood that the applicant has replaced this with a split-level area of timber decking within the same area. It is understood from the application documentation that the existing timber decking had suffered from severe decay and so it was in need of replacement.

While the timber and/or composite decking area has become more extensive the application documentation sufficiently demonstrates that it is has been executed to a high design quality. The photographs submitted indicate that its visual impact, when looking towards it, should remain very small. It is considered that the area of decking serves to promote the connection between the river and the mill complex, facilitating the interpretation of the WHS. The external seating area should also help towards the continued sustainability of the building through its use as a restaurant.

To this end the Derwent Valley Mills WHS Partnership considers that the proposed development should amount to no harm done to the DVMWHS and will not impact on its OUV.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.