

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

31st August 2018

Dear Sara

DER/08/18/01228 and 08/18/01229: convert and alter the two ground floor units in East Mill and Middle Mill (currently use class B1c - light industrial), to two office spaces (use class B1a - office) in the Darley Abbey Mills complex.

Please find below the latest DVMWHS response to the consultation concerning the above applications. These comments will be taken to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Panel for verification in September.

The proposed development 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 have received the following advice:

Comments were provided previously on the application on March 19th and June 21st 2018 in which the sensitivities of the site in relation to the WHS were well versed. Although there were no objection to the proposed development in principle there were some concerns over the position of the new tank and that there was no consideration towards how this could be appropriately screened.

It is considered that there will be no adverse impacts on the OUV of the DVMWHS as any alterations are either reversible or being carried out in an authentic manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

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 Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.