

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
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3rd September 2018

Dear Paul

AVA/2018/0573: Proposed new one bedroom house replacing unbuilt studio at 1 New 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). 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 vacant site is at the end of a row of two existing Victorian-era terraces. These are not known to be former Strutt properties although it is highly likely they would have been worker houses for either the textile, or other, industries. No detailed historic analysis of the site has been included in the application.

The site sits relatively close to Ivy Cottages, Cheapside, which are known to be former Strutt houses. Therefore the proposed development has the potential to impact on the setting of social infrastructure related attributes of the WHS as defined in the current Management Plan (2014-19).

Comments on the proposed development have been provided on the 15/07/2014 and later on 03/03/2015. Whilst there were no objections in principle to the proposed development concerns were expressed over the design quality. Having reviewed the proposed development it is considered that improvements in this regard still need to be made for it to be considered acceptable. Unfortunately certain elements of the design represent an unacceptable pastiche to which there is a danger it could blur history of domestic development in this area. The DVMWHS Partnership would therefore suggest that this aspect of the scheme is controlled through the input of Amber Valley’s conservation service in order to appropriately mitigate any potential adverse impacts to the OUV of the DVMWHS.

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.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Sarah Johnson, AVBC