

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Andrew Ecclestone
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

12th September 2018

Dear Andrew

18/00964/FUL: Installation of dormer window at 2 Scarthin, 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 today.

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 existing dwelling is not thought to be part of the earlier Arkwright village but it contributes positively to the setting of the WHS as a characterful, probably late Victorian property. The building appears to have been altered relatively little since it was originally constructed. A basic map regression exercise reveals that some form of housing may have existed on the site since the first edition OS (c1880) although given the current platform these appear to have been replaced by the existing property at a later period.

The proposals comprise of a large dormer structure, to the rear of the property, and the insertion of 2 roof lights to the front in order to allow the conversion of the roof void into habitable accommodation. The new dormer structure has the potential to be visible from attributes of the WHS, such as the surrounding components of the Cromford Village (c1840) identified in the inscription documentation. However, no basic visual assessment of this has been provided in the submission.

Notwithstanding this, it is considered that the dormer structure, in particular, would create an undesirable intrusion into what is currently a relatively un-altered roof-scape. While in itself, and in NPPF terms, this harm done to the setting of the DVMWHS may be considered to be low the proposed development has the potential to establish a dangerous precedent for additional alterations to the remaining houses in the terrace. If this was realised then this would result in a more substantial amount of harm done to the setting of the WHS. For this reason the DVMWHS Partnership objects to the proposed development as it has the potential to cause harm 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', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC