

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

11th October 2018

Dear Sara

DER 09/18/01485: Erection of a boat storage building at Derwent Rowing Club, North Parade, Derby.

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 November.

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 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 application site lies within the Strutts Park Conservation Area. The new building would be located in a position which would block views of the River Derwent which is a key feature of the DVMWHS. Whilst this would not impact greatly on the OUV of the WHS, the proposal is not of a sufficient design quality to help mitigate any adverse impacts in this sensitive and historic riverside context. Though the overall size and general massing of the building is considered to be acceptable, the proposed development, in its current form, falls short of Aim One of the DVMWHS Management Plan (To Protect, Conserve and Enhance the OUV of the DVMWHS), Policy 2.5 which strives to ensure that ‘new developments within the DVMWHS are of a high quality design and construction’. This should be achieved through a continual dialogue with the local planning authorities planning and, importantly, conservation officer resource.

In short, whilst the WHS Partnership holds no objection to the proposed development in principle, this is under the proviso that the above advice is incorporated into future revisions.

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.