

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Laura Anthony
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire **DE5 3BT**

16th November 2018

Dear Laura

AVA/2018/0988: Conversion of windows at rear of house into French windows, replace external door with window, installation of solar panels on front elevation at 10 Rothwell Lane, 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 next week.

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:

This property is within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. Formerly a pair of semi-detached houses, built in the first half of the twentieth century, the now-combined dwelling occupies a prominent site on the north side of the recreation ground that contains Coppice Brook, which contains surviving stone field boundary walls and field gates, with something of its former agricultural character, despite modern development. The site is located within a residential area of older stone cottages, but also more modern houses on Stanton Avenue.

The changes to the window and door openings are not considered to have an impact on the appearance of the area. The introduction of the solar panels on the south roof slope facing the open space and the adjacent inner slopes of the two gable projections, is not particularly desirable given that it would change the appearance of the property. However, in mitigation, the panels would be ‘all-black’, of a certain limited life expectancy and have the benefit of providing alternative, fossil-free energy.

There would be no harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, as this is a reasonable alteration to a dwelling that makes no positive contribution to the textile narrative of the World Heritage Site.

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 Sarah Brooks, AVBC