

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

14th December 2018

Dear Sara

DER 09/18/01438: Change of use from car servicing and repair garage to cafe for use in connection with the West Mill wedding venue and mill manager's accommodation at Cotton Shed and Spinning Shed, Darley Abbey Mills.

Please find below the 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 January.

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 Polishing Shed was constructed between 1881 and 1899, and is attached to the Grade II* North Mill and so forms part of the Darley Abbey Mills complex. The former cotton mill complex is of great importance to the WHS as an attribute which contributes to the power-harnessing and production related value as defined in the DVMWHS Management Plan. In more recent years the mill complex has seen a number of changes of use, as a mixed-use commercial development, as part of a wider masterplan for the site which have helped to sustain the heritage asset.

From the information submitted with the application it is understood that proposals to convert the northern most unit (Cotton Shed), from a garage to use as a café in association with the West Mill Wedding Venue, was approved earlier this year. As the neighbouring unit (Spinning Shed) has become vacant this application seeks permission to further extend the café into this area, forming one large space and unit.

In order to achieve this the proposals require a number of internal and external alterations which are considered to be relatively minor. Internally the most notable alterations include the removal of a modern breeze-block wall, the formation of a new $\frac{3}{4}$ height toilet pod, the construction of a timber mezzanine level and the re-location of the existing kitchen facility. Externally, the only alteration appears to be the removal of a modern timber casement window and replacement with a pair of new timber doors to match the adjacent existing doors.

As the proposals do not appear to require the removal of any historically significant building fabric, and they are wholly reversible, then it is considered that there should be no harm done to the significance of the building and consequently the OUV of the DVMWHS.

As it is anticipated that there will be groundworks required in conjunction with the proposed development the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership would advise that Derby City seeks suitable archaeological input and ensure that the proposal is appropriately conditioned. In addition, as the proposed development should also ensure the continued use and sustainability of the site, the Partnership supports the application.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'F'.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator,

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.