

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

3rd May 2019

Dear Andrew

19/00372/FUL: Replacement garage, two storey extension to rear and single storey extension to front at Holly Cottage, Bakers Lane, 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 this month.

The site lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Buffer Zone. 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:

Although Holly Cottage is not listed, it is clearly of some historic merit as a 19th century vernacular rural cottage. It is located in quite a prominent position along Baker’s Lane which appears to have views overlooking the lower rural landscape and Cromford. As a relatively intact rural dwelling it is considered to be an attribute of the WHS for its contribution to the social infrastructure related value and so it is important that any changes considered are done so with great sensitivity.

Whilst the World Heritage Site Partnership does not object to the proposed development in principle it is considered that it is not currently of a sufficient design quality in accordance with the current DVMWHS Management Plan. Advice provided during the most recent Conservation Area Forum meeting, dated April 16, should be taken into consideration to align the proposals more closely with this criteria. This would also help mitigate any adverse impacts on the immediate setting of the WHS and consequently 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