

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Shand House, Dale Road South, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RY

T: +44(0) 1629 536831

E: info@derwentvalleymills.org

www.derwentvalleymills.org



Sarah Pearce
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

8th May 2019

Dear Sarah

AVA/2019/0333: Application for approval of reserved matters following the approval of AVA/2018/0602 regarding land between 13 and 16 Derby Road, 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 in June.

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:

The two detached dwellings have approval in principle, with the current application relating to the reserved matters, including their external design and works. In terms of siting, scale and massing, the response is reasonably sympathetic to the context of different styles and period of houses. In detail, however, the style makes a notional reference to early-20th century detail in the doors and windows. The reality of the detail to modern standards, incorporating double glazing and composite doors, is that the detailed reference would be an inferior, corrupted version of the authentic joinery items. Curiously, a number of external elements are unspecified and subject to further approval of the client’s specification. At the appropriate time, the planning authority should ensure that a high standard of design is achieved, ideally incorporating honest detail that is representative of its time.

It is important that as much of the existing dry stone boundary wall is preserved in order to make its contribution to the historic character along the former turnpike road and opposite the River Derwent. Subject to a satisfactory solution for these detailed considerations, there should be no harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills 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'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Adrian Farmer

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

cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC