

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sara John
Development Control
Communities and Place
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

8th May 2019

Dear Sara

19/00509/FUL: Flood defence and landscaping works to include the condition of 171 metre flood defence walls, the installation of lighting and CCTV at Riverside Gardens, Morledge, 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 June.

The proposed development lies outside the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) and its 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 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 Heritage Impact Statement submitted with the application indicates that the site was substantially redeveloped during the middle of the 20th century. It was during this period in which all of the industrial historic features associated with the development of the WHS, with the exception of the weir to the north of the site, were removed. Although the site is now of very little historic significance to the WHS it currently forms a relatively tranquil landscaped area of land which complements the riverside context and wider setting of the DVMWHS.

The application documentation indicates that the proposed flood defence wall, and other associated components, will form part of an extension to the flood defence proposals approved in 2015. As the design of the proposals are very similar with the earlier approved scheme it is considered that they will at least be consistent in their appearance and identifiable as a modern insertion.

Although the DVMWHS Partnership does not object to the proposed development it is worth mentioning again that the scheme represents a missed design opportunity for a well-designed contemporary structure, as opposed to the very bland engineered solution submitted. An improved design could have helped to mitigate some of the adverse impacts it will have on the setting of the DVMWHS and consequently its OUV.

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.