

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sarah Arbon
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

6th June 2019

Dear Sarah

19/00460/FUL: Installation of outdoor swimming pool, erection of timber shed, fountain, replacement greenhouse and BBQ area, erection of replacement entrance gates and removable metal railings and associated landscaping works at The Old Vicarage, Intake 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). 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:

The proposed development sits within the curtilage and forms part of the Grade II listed ‘Old Vicarage’, built c.1841 by Richard Arkwright II. As it was built during this period, it is a key social building in the formation of the industrial settlement of Cromford and so an important attribute of the DVMWHS.

Proposals within the application are varied in scale and with them the potential impact on OUV will ultimately differ. There are a number of relatively minor work items proposed comprising reinstated greenhouse, water feature, BBQ, replacement gates and general landscaping. Given their scale and location within the site it is considered that these should be dealt with through the local planning authority and that appropriate advice should be sought from their conservation officer to mitigate any adverse impacts.

It is unclear as to what extant approval, if any, exists for a swimming pool on the site as no details of the application reference 17/0038/FUL could be found on the DDDC planning search page. Notwithstanding this, or the presence of any previous infilled swimming pool, the insertion of a swimming pool in this location, complete with ancillary pump house, is not considered to be an appropriate development. The lawn area to the east of the property appears to be in a relatively authentic state and a swimming pool, although a very low-level feature, is nonetheless considered to be an alien feature within this sensitive historic context.

To this end the DVMWHS Partnership objects to the proposed swimming pool as it would have an adverse impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS. It is considered that the proposals would constitute harm under the NPPF.

I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning this development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Adrian Farmer', written in dark ink.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC