

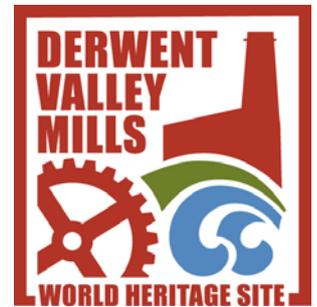
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

T: +44(0) 1629 536831

E: info@derwentvalleymills.org

www.derwentvalleymills.org



Mark Askey
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

6th June 2019

Dear Mark

19/00604/FUL: Internal alterations to provide new hotel bar, removal of internal partition and cupboard, installation of sliding folding partition, relocation of fireplace, modification to window to provide new external door and landscaping to courtyard at Willersley Castle Hotel, Mill Road, Cromford.

19/00605/LBALT: Internal and external alterations at Willersley Castle Hotel, Mill Road, 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:

Willersley Castle is a Grade II* building which was commissioned by Richard Arkwright in the late 18th century although he died before it was completed. The historic development of the building is well versed in the supporting Heritage Statement. It continued to be the seat of the Arkwright family until after the First World War and thereafter it has been owned and managed as a hotel by Christian Guild Holidays (except for a short time as a maternity hospital during the Second World War).

Its significance nationally is well versed with the statutory consultation response provided by Historic England. The significance of the building in relation to the World Heritage Site is of great importance, both in terms of its cultural landscape and as a mansion commissioned by one of the world’s foremost industrial pioneers. As such, it is an attribute of the World Heritage Site.

Given the significance of the attribute, the Heritage Statement, prepared by Mel Morris Conservation, provides a thorough and clear understanding of the building, and, an overall appreciation that the interior and exterior of the building has been subjected to numerous early alterations. These HS usefully illustrates how these alterations contribute to its historic development and significance. The impact of the proposals appear to have been proportionately and thoroughly assessed in the Heritage Statement and, from the evidence presented, the DVMWHS Partnership agrees that the alterations proposed should not, overall, impact on the significance of the building as they are removable interventions and/or are carried out with historic precedent. As such, the Partnership concurs with the Heritage Statement that these alterations should serve to enhance the significance of the building and potentially offer an alternative historic, and/or improved interpretation; in respect of understanding earlier historic layouts and uses within it.

Notwithstanding this, the local planning authority will need to ensure that suitable conditions are attached to any permission granted, ensuring that the building is recorded appropriately, prior to any work being commenced and to ensure that the work will be carried out to the highest possible standard.

The Christian Guild have been custodians of this attribute for many years, since 1927, and understandably alterations are necessary for any business to continue to be sustainable by meeting current demands and trends expected by paying guests. The Partnership is satisfied that the proposals will not harm the significance of this attribute and consequently the OUV of the DVMWHS, so under NPPF terms no harm should be done.

The DVMWHS Partnership supports this application as the proposals will assist the building in maintaining its optimal viable use as a hotel which can be accessed and interpreted by the public for hopefully many more years to come.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adrian Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Adrian Farmer

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

cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC