

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Heather Wynne
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
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13th June 2019

Dear Heather

AVA/2019/0411: Listed building consent for removal of wall between kitchen and dining room, replacement of windows and doors, replace door and window with one larger window, replace 3 sash windows to front elevation with double glazed timber windows of same design at 34 Long Row, 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 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 have received the following advice:

This listed millworker’s cottage is an important attribute contributes to its significance, as defined by its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The two-storey rear extension is stated to date from the 1970s. The removal of the modern internal wall is acceptable and would not further impact on the historic layout of the dwelling. Equally, the minor changes to the openings and the replacement of the modern casement windows would not further increase the adverse impact of the extension.

However, the replacement of the front sash windows, particularly with alterations to incorporate double glazed units, would be a loss of authenticity and integrity that would be harmful to the Site’s OUV. While the existing sashes are unlikely to be original, they are appropriately detailed and may even have been inserted with public money through the long-running grant scheme that has totally transformed the heritage value of the Clusters, to best conservation principles. Given that the sash windows are of an appropriate style and detail, the incorporation of double glazing would not preserve the special interest of the World Heritage Site or the Belper and Milford Conservation Area. Secondary glazing would be an acceptable method of improving the efficiency of the windows while preserving their heritage value.

While the proposal for the rear elevation are acceptable, there would be ‘less than substantial’ harm to the Site’s OUV were the front sash windows to be replaced, as proposed in the application.

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 Sarah Brooks, AVBC