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

23rd July 2019

Dear Sara

19/00507/FUL: Erection of a 75 metre flood defence wall with hard landscaping and associated works at the rear of Riverside Chambers and Cathedral View, Full Street, 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 September.

The proposed development lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) 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 have received the following advice:

Comments were provided on the application previously on 8 May 2019. While there was no overriding objection to the proposed development there were some concerns over the overall design quality in that it represents a missed design opportunity. Since these comments were made there appears to have been a fresh batch of design information submitted during June 2019. A series of 'soft landscaping' plans and other supplementary drawings have been submitted which help to illustrate that that there is some intention to integrate the flood defence wall within the broader remodelling of the Riverside Gardens. While on the face of it this appears to be of a high quality design its success will be determined by the details and quality of materials used which can be suitably conditioned and controlled with input from Derby City's conservation officer.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Farmer
Heritage Co-ordinator,
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.