

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sarah Pearce
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

25th July 2019

Dear Sarah

AVA/2019/0502: Demolition of existing bungalow and redevelopment of site as four houses with a shared private access road at 180 Crich Lane, 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 in September.

The site 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:

The proposed dwellings, which have been reduced since the previous application, would be contained within a site currently occupied by a single bungalow, towards the edge of the settlement, but within an established residential area.

A high level of design quality is a key aim within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan (2014-2019). Aim 1 is to protect, conserve and enhance the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value. Policy P 2.5 exists to ensure that new developments within the DVMWHS are of high quality design and construction through the planning process. As new development, the design quality should satisfy this aim, even within the buffer zone, which is designated to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

In consideration of good design principles and solutions, the response should ideally be informed by a site analysis of its context. Were the development to be granted permission, the local character and context should be respected, in terms of design, materials and landscaping. It would also be desirable to retain as much continuity as possible, currently provided by the dry stone wall to the front boundary.

Subject to the development being to a high quality of design, in all its various facets, it is considered that, in principle, the proposals would not have an adverse effect on the significance of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, through any impact on its setting and therefore not harmful to its Outstanding Universal Value.

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