

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Laura Anthony
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
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25th July 2019

Dear Laura

AVA/2019/0508: Resubmission of AVA/2019/0075 - 2 x 2 storey side extensions, single storey side extension, rear single storey canopy, internal courtyard, re-organised stone walls to the front boundary, hard standing and a detached garage single storey at 9 Joseph Street, 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). 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 site is located within the Belper and Milford Conservation Area and adjacent to a number of listed buildings. The existing dwelling on the site dates from the 1930s and was reputedly built by a local builder, the business still being in existence today. Nevertheless, it is not considered that the dwelling contributes any intrinsic significance to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. The site however, is situated in the historic core of Strutt’s millworkers housing, opposite the distinctive ‘Cluster’ houses.

The revised extensions and alterations to the unlisted dwelling have been reduced and revised in response to concerns that the openness of the site would result in the proposals being highly prominent, exacerbated by the proposed materials and colours, which would have distracted from the attributes that contribute to the significance of the world heritage site. The larger areas of light materials, not typical of those in the historic area, have been reduced and amended in favour of more recessive finishes; the original collection of forms, styles and details have also been rationalised to present a more cohesive design composition that references the host building, while maintaining the original concept of incorporating more contemporary accommodation and internal layout.

In part, the original proposals were assessed against the aim of achieving a high level of design quality, as set out in 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 (OUV). Policy P 2.5 exists to ensure that new developments within the DVMWHS are of high quality design and construction through the planning process.

In summary, subject to the detailed design and production stages of the project continuing to meet the criteria of high design quality, it is considered the current development could preserve the character and appearance of this sensitive historic area and not be harmful to the significance of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, as defined by 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 that reads "Adrian Farmer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC