

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 Penford
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

10th September 2019

Dear Mark

AVA/2019/0672: Conversion of existing pig barns to 8 self-catering units, demolition of existing hay barn and erection of one barn to provide site office and function space at Home Farm, New Road, Alderwasley

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) 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 application site is located within the Alderwasley Conservation Area, in close proximity to a number of listed buildings.

We are not aware of the application being supported by a Heritage Statement, or indeed a Design and Access Statement, which would be useful in assessing the impact on the various designated heritage assets, as well as the non-designated heritage assets, the pig and hay barns possibly being of that status. Nevertheless, the proposed conversion appears to be sensitively handled, using existing openings, repairing and retaining as much of the existing fabric as possible in terms of the window frames and doors. This approach would meet the Site’s requirements of authenticity and integrity. Should the hay barn be of little significance, the new barn occupies a site that is screened from views outside the site, such that the impact on the surrounding open landscape setting of the world heritage site is not impacted upon.

Subject to the detailed aspects of the design being to the satisfaction of the Borough’s Conservation Officer, it is considered that the proposed development would not be harmful to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. In principle, the self-catering units should contribute to the provision of tourist accommodation for visitors to the Site.

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