

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Laura Anthony
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire **DE5 3BT**

10th September 2019

Dear Laura

AVA/2019/0811: Metal storage container to side of shop at 2 Over 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 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:

This site is located within the Buffer Zone, which is designated to protect the ‘immediate’ setting of the Site. While Over Lane is remote from the Site, towards its most easterly boundary, the application site is highly prominent by virtue of its location at a road intersection. The intervention of an item that is radically different from the traditional building process, created for a totally different transportation and storage context, could be fundamentally incongruous within a suburban context and not without its adverse impact. Such structures have been the subject of creative adaptations to enhance what is an efficient functional solution to a particular need, although no such modifications are proposed in this application.

In order to meet the expectations for design quality within the World Heritage Site and its setting, as included in the DVMWHS Management Plan, and to mitigate the impact of the container, its siting should be confirmed to be in as discreet a position as possible, relative to the adjacent building. Furthermore, the container should be finished in a dark, recessive colour, to be agreed. The container should not have any signage attached to it, we would also advise.

Subject to the satisfactory agreement of these considerations, it is considered that there would be no harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, through this intervention into its setting.

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