

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sarah Arbon
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

18th September 2019

Dear Sarah

19/00873/FUL: Proposed replacement barn at Bow Wood House, Lea Road, Lea Bridge.

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 received the following advice:

A simple map regression exercise indicates that the existing dwelling and barn are likely to be mid twentieth century developments and so they are not considered to contribute to the historic significance of the WHS or its immediate setting. Views from Google Earth Street View indicate that the existing barn is well screened from view due to the presence of existing mature trees and other well established vegetation which surround it.

Plans submitted with the proposed development indicate that the replacement barn type structure will occupy the same footprint as the existing ancillary structure. The elevations also indicate that the new structure will be very similar in appearance, clad with a simple corrugated sheet system, and height at both ridge and eaves level. As no, or very few existing trees, are to be removed the new barn should remain relatively well hidden from view by surrounding trees and vegetation.

Whilst the World Heritage Site Partnership holds no objection to the proposed development in principle we would advise that the colour of the cladding is of a suitably dark and recessive colour. A very dark grey or black would be preferable to help ensure that the new barn remains as recessive as possible and so minimise any impact on the immediate setting of the DVMWHS and consequently its OUV. I trust that this aspect can be suitably conditioned and controlled by the local planning authority.

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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Adrian' being more prominent than the last name 'Farmer'.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

cc Dr Mark Askey, DDDC