

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Room S7, North Block, County Hall, Smedley Street, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

T: +44(0) 1629 536831

E: info@derwentvalleymills.org

www.derwentvalleymills.org



Gareth Griffiths
Development Management
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Matlock DE4 3NN

13th April 2021

Dear Gareth

21/00334/FUL: Installation of three heat pump units to eastern elevation at Scarthin Books, Scarthin, Cromford.

Please find below the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership response to the consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be passed to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Group for verification later this month.

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 maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its culture, economy, unique heritage and landscape 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 2020. It has as the first of its nine aims to: “protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS to ensure its transmission to future generations.” In accordance with this aim, and with reference to the operational guidance in Section 20 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:

Scarthin Books, whilst not a listed building, is clearly of historic and architectural merit. The building stands in a relatively prominent location overlooking the Greyhound (Mill) Pond, a significant element of the WHS itself, and, its polite Georgian symmetrical façade contributes positively to the character of the WHS.

In the absence of a heritage statement, the building is present on the first edition OS map and it is identified in the WHS inscription documentation as being part of the Cromford Village c.1840. Given the evidence available, it is assumed that the building was built during the Georgian era and that while the building was presumably originally built as a house, it was later adapted to include a shopfront on to Scarthin Road. The point at which the building was altered in this way has not been presented in the information submitted by the applicant although it is likely that the existing shop front, given its architectural style, is likely to be relatively authentic. Therefore, the building is considered to be an important element of the WHS for its contribution towards the socio-economic related attribute (No. 2) as defined in the current DVMWHS Management Plan 2020-25

<https://managementplan.derwentvalleymills.org/part-a/1-2-1-statement-of-outstanding-universal-value/>).

The proposed development comprises the installation of three 900 (w) x 770 (h) x 320 (d) mm heat pump units on the east facing elevation of the building. From information provided it is presumed these will be supplied in white. It is clear from views available on Google Earth Street View that the units will be visible from numerous viewpoints within the public realm including from along Scarthin, the A5012 and numerous positions around Cromford Mill Pond, therefore having an unacceptable negative impact on the appearance of the building and on the immediate setting of other elements of the DVMWHS in the immediate vicinity.

While the intentions of the applicant to reduce the carbon footprint are laudable, on this occasion the Partnership cannot support the application as it is likely to have a negative impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS. In NPPF terms, this harm may be considered to be at the low end of the scale, however, this represents cumulative harm and could ultimately set a precedent for other historic buildings within the WHS.

The Partnership asks that these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning this development.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Farmer

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