

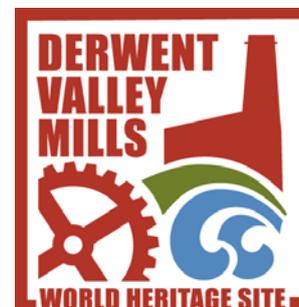
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sara Claxton
Development Control
Communities and Place
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

8th September 2021

Dear Sara

DER21/00964/FUL: Installation of a replacement 24m high monopole supporting nine antenna apertures, four cabinets, retention of four cabinets and relocation of 0.3m dish on land at North Avenue, Darley Abbey.

Please find below my response to the consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be passed to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Group for verification next month.

The application 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 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:

Comments were provided on a previous version of the application (ref **19/00591/FUL**) in May 2019 in which the sensitivities of the site in relation to the WHS are well versed. Additional comments were provided to the DVMWHS Partnership on 18 June 2021 asking the applicant again to provide a suitable visual impact assessment and heritage statement.

Notwithstanding the lack of a heritage statement in the re-submission, the visual appraisal submitted goes some way to demonstrate that the new pole should not be a great deal more visible than the existing communications mast. The plans submitted also show that the new plant equipment for the mast will not extend outside the existing timber fence compound and so its footprint should not encroach any further into the hitherto arrested rural landscape setting of the WHS.

Given that the land has already been developed and that the magnitude of change should be relatively small, it is my opinion that only a minor amount of harm should be done to the OUV of the WHS. However, in order to mitigate its visual impact as much as possible I would advise that the mast is painted a suitably dark and recessive colour; preferably a very dark grey or black. I trust that this can be controlled by means of a suitably worded condition by the local planning authority.

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 Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.