

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Claire McLoughlin
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

25th July 2019

Dear Claire

AVA/2019/0100: Listed building consent for re-roofing two roof areas of the main building and the annex building roof at The Family Tree, Derby Road, Whatstandwell.

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 in September.

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 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 former Derwent Hotel and its outbuilding are listed in grade II and are within the Whatstandwell Conservation Area. The buildings occupy a site at the end of the grade II listed Whatstandwell road bridge, over the Derwent. They are also set at a prominent location alongside the converging linear features of the World Heritage Site, including the former turnpike road, the River Derwent, Cromford Canal and the railway.

The proposed works include the complete re-roofing of both parts of The Family Tree building and the listed outbuilding to the rear, the latter of which has been identified as the priority. The heritage statement intends that the works would be on a like-for-like basis, apart from the introduction of a breathable roofing membrane, re-using as much of the roof slate and tiles as possible.

It is considered that these necessary works would not impact on the significance of the World Heritage Site, but Amber Valley should ensure that the re-roofing works, including the detailed aspects of mortared verges, bedding of ridge tiles and pointing to stepped lead flashings, are carried out to a good quality and to best conservation and roofing practice, in order to ensure that the Site’s Outstanding Universal Value is preserved or enhanced.

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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Sarah Brooks, AVBC