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

Heather Wynne
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

29th October 2020

Dear Heather

AVA/2020/0759: Single storey rear extension and erection of external staircase at the White Hart Hotel, Town Street, Duffield.

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 in November.

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 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:

This site is located within the Duffield Conservation Area. The application is for a rear extension for increased toilet provision and a new escape staircase at the White Hart Hotel. This work is associated with internal works to enhance the business, not requiring planning permission to this unlisted building. Given its scale and location, it is considered that the works would not harm the significance of the WHS, by its contribution towards its setting.

In terms of the presentation of the WHS, however, it is worth noting that the building originally displayed a skilful use of materials, a carefully considered contextual blend of distinctive brickwork and natural stone walling and dressings; the combination of these materials culminates in the delightfully expressive chimneys. Commendably for the time, this took into account local distinctiveness and interpreted it within a successful and satisfactory building design, through the expression and application of its materials. Its appearance has recently been materially altered, and adversely so, by the loss of this interplay by the painting of the brickwork.

It is proposed to build the new extension in brickwork, painted in the same colour as the newly painted gables on the building, so as not to replicate the bespoke brickwork of the original building. Due to the subservient scale and location of the extension, it is considered that painted brickwork would not impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning this development.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Adrian Farmer

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