

NP4B - ADDENDUM 1 – WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

World Heritage Status and what it means for Neighbourhood Planning

“Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.”

“What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.”

The above are statements from UNESCO’s website <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

The UK is a founding state and a member of the United Nations since 1945. The UK Government was a signatory to the Constitution of UNESCO in November 1945, but stepped away from the organisation in 1985, returning in July 1997. The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) was proposed by H.M. Government and inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2001, as one of three important industrial sites across the UK. DVMWHS is the only World Heritage Site in the East Midlands. Details of the site can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030>

The **Outstanding Universal Value** (OUV) of the Site was defined by the following criteria, agreed by UNESCO when the mills were inscribed. 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 UNESCO World Heritage Committee recorded 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 early 19th 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 towns.

The Derwent Valley Mills’ Statement of Outstanding Universal Value can be found at <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-world-heritage-status/statement-of-outstanding-universal-value/statement-of-outstanding-universal-value-2/>

A World Heritage Site (WHS) has within it the physical **Attributes** which give the WHS its OUV. Information on Attributes can be found at <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-world-heritage-status/statement-of-outstanding-universal-value/values-and-attributes/>

When the British Government signed up to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, its commitment to the protection of UK World Heritage Sites was made very clear, particularly in Article Four: *Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage... situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.*

To ensure the transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage, inappropriate change to the fabric of the attributes should be resisted through the planning system. One of our most challenging tasks relates to the attribute described as the *'relict' industrial landscape, where late 18th and early 19th century industrial development may still be seen in an 18th/ 19th century agricultural landscape*. As well as providing an important setting for the WHS, that green relict landscape is, in itself, an Attribute which contributes to its OUV.

Surrounding the WHS is a buffer zone. The buffer zone is the immediate setting of the WHS, and provides a defined landscape in which development needs to be small-scale and recessive in order that there are no negative impacts on OUV. The Buffer Zone does not include the entire setting of the WHS – there are areas where large or tall development outside the Buffer Zone could still impact on OUV (such as wind-farms or hi-rise flats)

Paragraph 126 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states: “heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource”. This resource, if lost within a World Heritage Site, can lead to the Site being placed on UNESCO’s World Heritage in Danger List, and if the damage is not reversed, can lead to deletion from the World Heritage List.

* * * * *