DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/06A, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BSI 6PN

27 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

APP/P1045/W/15/3087227: Change of use of land for siting of 4 holiday lodges, erection of building for stable and store and new access at The Woodyard, Homesford (14/00617/FUL).

This site is 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 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 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."

The site abuts the A6, a turnpike road introduced nearly two centuries ago. The A6 road is a key attribute of the World Heritage Site. Furthermore, the former turnpike road, and its associated structures are included on the Historic Environment Record (HER), for Derbyshire, for its historic significance and its origins as a private turnpike created by Richard Arkwright.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership has consistently opposed development on this site. One reason the Derwent Valley was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO is because it is an industrial landscape arrested in a rural setting. Development of the site will urbanise the setting of this section of the A6, introducing artificial screening and domestic landscape features. This will create a site with a domestic character that is incongruous to the naturalistic broadleaf woodland that surrounds it, which will negatively impact on the setting of the A6 and, therefore, the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

It is for this reason the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership continues to object to development of this site in principle, as it has in the past.

Yours sincerely

Mark Suggitt

Director

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

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