

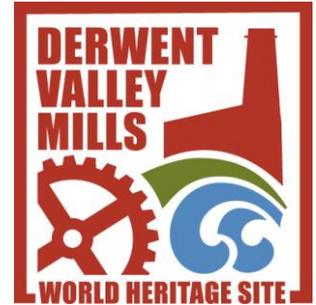
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Paul Wilson
Corporate Director
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
Bank Road
Matlock**

12th February 2015

Dear Mr Wilson,

15/00019/FUL

**CHANGE OF USE OF LAND FOR SITING OF 4 HOLIDAY LODGES, ERECTION OF
BUILDING FOR STABLE AND STORE AND AMENDED ACCESS**

THE WOODYARD, HOMESFORD

Please find below my response to the consultation concerning the above submission. These comments will be taken to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Panel for verification in March.

The site is within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. 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 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.

A Management Plan for the World Heritage Site was created in 2002, and most recently amended in 2007. The Plan has as the second of its seven aims to:

“establish guidelines for the future management of the site, and the buildings and land within it, so that the special character of the cultural landscape is protected and enhanced.” It also has as the sixth of its twenty-five objectives to: *“maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the Derwent Valley Mills cultural landscape.”*

I have consulted with Derbyshire County Council's Conservation and Design Section over this application, and have received the following advice:

As previously described, the site abuts the A6, a turnpike road introduced nearly two centuries ago. The A6 road is one of the key transport routes developed along the Derwent Valley and 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.

This application is similar in scale to the previous application also for four holiday lodges (14/00617/FUL). The current proposal represents the same level of permanently sited structures as the previous application but again involves a degree of enclosure of the site with 2.0m high fencing, with the northern part being used for a stable and store, which has planning permission. Nevertheless, the haphazardly-sited pitched roof lodges, of significant size, will be visible above the 2 metre high screen fencing and through landscaping that will not be substantial screening given that there would only be a relatively narrow strip remaining after allowing for the site layout.

Currently, the site is fronted by a low stone wall, topped by a robust saddleback coping, which is only breached by the existing opening. While this is the arrangement in the current revised application, it is not clear from the plans submitted whether these walls would need to be aligned to accommodate visibility sight lines. There is certainly less intervention than in the previous application, which, if correct, would avoid or reduce an undesirable break in the extensive continuity of this associated historic built structure along the A6 road.

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 as proposed will urbanise the setting of this section of the A6 by the introduction of this commercial operation. Furthermore, in an attempt to conceal this change of character, artificial screening and domestic landscape features would be introduced. In landscape terms, this will create a site with a domestic character that is incongruous to the naturalistic broadleaf woodland that surrounds it. This will negatively impact on the setting of the A6 – the former turnpike road as one of the Site's key attributes – and, therefore, the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

It is for this reason that the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership objects to development of this site.

I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning permissions for 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 Tanya Shaw DDDC.