

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Paul Wilson
Corporate Director
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Town Hall
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6 October 2015

Dear Mr Wilson

15/00642/FUL: Seven pitch traveler site and pitch for site manager at Homesford Woodyard.

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

The 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.” 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 and Design Section (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters) over this application, and have received the following advice.

The application differs little in principle from the previous applications relating to the change of use of the land to traveller pitches or holiday lodges. Consequently it does not address the comments made on February 4 2014 and later, in a revised application, on March 26 2014. As was previously mentioned, the site abuts the A6, a turnpike road introduced nearly two centuries ago. The A6 is one of the key transport routes developed along the Derwent Valley and is a key attribute of the World Heritage site.

One of the reasons why the Derwent Valley Mills Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO is because it is an industrial landscape arrested in a rural setting. The development of the site as proposed will urbanise the setting of this section of the A6 and introduce incongruous landscape features, i.e., the managed hedgerow and formally laid out trees. 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 and will therefore negatively impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

It is for this reason the Conservation and Design Section has recommended to the World Heritage Site Partnership that it again objects to development of this site in principle, as it has in the past.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Adrian Farmer'.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.