

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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**Gareth Griffiths**  
**Development Management**  
**Derbyshire Dales District Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Matlock DE4 3NN**

30th April 2018

Dear Gareth

## **18/00242/FUL: Proposed agricultural produce storage shed on land South of Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford**

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

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 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Heritage and Design Service (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters), and received the following advice:

The storage shed adds another structure to an open area that would ideally be undeveloped, as the material consideration in this application is assessed to be the impact on the rural landscape setting of the world heritage site. However, the site is for the most part well screened and the shed much smaller than the existing timber clad structure. Rationalising the two sheds to read as one would be preferable, although, given the scale of the proposal, the functional justification in connection with the current use of the related land, its siting and orientation, it is not considered that there would be harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Its visual impact would be reduced, from the limited locations where it is visible, were the walls to be as recessive as the black finish proposed for the roof.

I hope these comments can be considered when a decision is made concerning 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 Dr Mark Askey, DDDC