

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Shand House, Dale Road South, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RY

T: +44(0) 1629 536831

E: [info@derwentvalleymills.org](mailto:info@derwentvalleymills.org)

[www.derwentvalleymills.org](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org)



Mark Penford  
Amber Valley Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 3BT

30th August 2018

Dear Mark

**AVA/2018/0056: Restoration of 2 existing Cottages, replacement of former social club building with a new detached dwelling, construction of a terrace of 3 dwellings and conversion and extension of an existing barn to form a dwelling at Ambergate Sports and Social Club, Matlock Road, Ambergate.**

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 next month.

The site lies 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 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 have received the following advice:

The historic sensitivities pertaining to the DVMWHS are already well versed in previous consultation responses relating to the same planning application. The most recent advice provided by the WHS partnership, dated 16 April 2018, while broadly supportive of the proposed development, expressed concerns in relation to the unprecedented height of the 3 new dwellings.

Having reviewed the revised proposals for the 3 new dwellings it is considered that they are of a far more suitable scale or massing in relation to that of the agricultural buildings within the site, and, the existing dwellings along the former turnpike road. It is also considered that the proposals are of a suitably high design quality in accordance with the DVMWHS Management Plan.

In NPPF terms, it is considered that the proposed development will result in less than substantial harm albeit at the lower end of the scale. This is in view of the development occurring within the setting of historic agricultural buildings on the site, which are attributes of the WHS in themselves, and more broadly speaking that of the WHS and its linear attributes. However, any harm done should be mitigated through the development, which is of a suitably high design quality, but also because it should secure what may be considered the optimal viable use for this particular site. On balance it is considered that the proposed development should, overall, not adversely impact on the OUV of the DVMWHS.

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', written in a cursive style.

**Adrian Farmer**

Heritage Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.  
cc Sarah Johnson, AVBC