

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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

17th January 2019

Dear Mark

## **AVA/2018/0757: Extension to existing agricultural shed at Gorses Farm, Gorses, Belper Lane End.**

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 later this month.

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 have received the following advice:

This farmstead is located within the relict 18th century rural landscape setting to the arrested textile industry which developed in the Derwent valley. That setting contributes to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

The application documents are poor in terms of describing the impact of the proposal on the landscape context. However, it is clear that this prominent and remote building would be extended towards Gorses Lane and would impact proportionally; the low quality concrete base would increase in depth as ground levels fall away in two directions, as would the overall height of the visible walls.

The modern agricultural buildings grouped around the original stone building of the farmstead have their own impact, but are consolidated around the farmyard and read as a group. Nevertheless, their light grey metal cladding and naturally finished (Yorkshire) timber cladding offer little towards the potential recessive appearance compared to other materials and surface colours. In terms of the current proposal, to increase the presence of building remotely from the immediate farmstead group is not desirable, particularly where there is an adverse impact on the open landscape character. Should the extension be justified on operational groups, some mitigation would be required to minimise the impact on the open landscape character, preferably by fully cladding the building in a dark, recessive material and surface finish.

As the application stands, the proposed works would have a detrimental impact on the open landscape character. The loss of landscape character would harm the contribution that this attribute makes to the significance of the World Heritage Site as expressed in its Outstanding Universal Value. The harm would be ‘less than substantial’.

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 with some loops and flourishes.

**Adrian Farmer**

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