

Subject: Consultation Response 2023/91491 Prickleden Mills, Woodhead Road, Holmfirth
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The planning application is a submission related to the former site of Prickleden Mill. This site has been subject to a previous application that was assessed in 2011.

The primary change that has the potential to impact on archaeology is the change in parking proposals. The design and access statement identified the changes as

“The main change in layout is the omission of most of the surface level parking between the blocks. This has allowed for the creation of a large shared garden space with landscaping for the residents. This has been achieved by the creation of a below ground parking under-croft.”

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The proposal for the below ground parking will place this feature in the area of the former secondary smaller pond. It is not known if this feature was removed or backfilled when it was taken out of use. The former smaller pond will have had water channels entering and leaving the pond and these channels will have taken water to the former water wheels that were once on the site. The location of these former features and their design is uncertain. The excavations for the new below ground parking could therefore impact on the former water power features. These water power features are late in date for their construction and their design and construction is uncertain. The proposed below ground parking could therefore impact on these remains.

Recommended Course of Action

The proposed development may impact on buried remains relating to the use of water power on the site. I would recommend that a programme of archaeological works is undertaken to monitor the excavation of the below ground parking croft to record any water power features exposed by the excavations. This should be undertaken by an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the proposed below ground car parking.

Recommended Condition

"No development to take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording. This recording must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological organisation or consultant, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

Or, as an alternative to the above model condition, which was first introduced in 1990, the following condition is suggested by Historic England in their Historic Environment Good Practice Advice, Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, 2015 paragraph 37:

“No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of archaeological

investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI”

Detail of Archaeological Work

Details of the necessary archaeological work, in the form of a specification, will be provided to the developer, on written request, by the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in our capacity as Kirklees Council’s advisors on archaeological matters. The WY Archaeology Advisory Service will also be responsible for monitoring the work of the archaeological contractor commissioned by the developer to undertake this work, on behalf of the Planning Authority. From the 1st of April 2011 in accordance with the agreement of the Council Committee that oversees our work the WY Archaeology Advisory Service will charge the developer for these and concomitant services. Please note that the production of a specification may take up to three working weeks from receipt of a written request. It is in the applicant’s interest that they be made aware of this likely timescale.

The WY Archaeology Advisory Service can also provide a list of archaeological contractors who may be available to tender for the work. In order to aid the developer to meet the requirements of the above condition I would suggest that it might be helpful to add the following as a note to the planning permission:

“For further information please contact: Glyn Davies, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service: 0113 3782249.”

We would strongly suggest that the developer is advised that a reasonable period of time for the execution of the necessary archaeological work must be allowed for within the overall site timetable. Any commencement of work on site prior to the approval and implementation of an archaeological specification, and/or any failure to schedule work properly that results in inadequate archaeological recording, should be deemed by the Planning Department to be a breach of the planning condition.

Yours

Glyn

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