Address:

About the application

Application number: 2024/92235	
What is the application for?:	Reserved Matters application (including considerations of appearance, scale, lay
Address of the site or building:	Land off, Blackmoorfoot Road and Felks Street, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 7AD
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

Please remove my address prior to publication. I strongly object to the proposed plans for the redevelopment of the Standard Fireworks site in Crosland Moor, which would demolish this historic location in favour of new housing.
Huddersfield's rich tapestry of history deserves to be celebrated, not obscured by modern housing developments that detract from the community's character. The Standard Fireworks site stands as a testament to local ingenuity and craftsmanship, and its site offers invaluable insights into manufacturing practices from the late 19th century onward. National policy, including Historic England's guidelines, emphasizes the necessity of preserving sites like this, sites that narrate the stories of our past and foster community pride (Kirklees Council, Site ID: MX1930). As such, any proposals for alteration or demolition must be critically examined in light of these established values.
Huddersfield's hidden histories have been obscured for many years by the overwhelming legacy of the textile industry. Established in the late 19th century, Standard Fireworks and their Crosland Moor site is notable for its architectural remnants and as a locus of innovation during a crucial period in the pyrotechnics industry. Any proposal for redevelopment or alteration on this site risks direct physical change to its historical fabric, potentially undermining the integrity of original structures, artifacts, and landscape features that embody this heritage. Moreover, changes in the setting, such as the introduction of modern infrastructure or residential developments, could detrimentally affect the visual and contextual relationship of the site to its surroundings, diluting the cultural narrative and disrupting the community's connection to its industrial past. Thus, careful consideration must be given to both preservation efforts and any proposed interventions to ensure that the significance of the Crosland Moor site is respected and maintained for future generations.

The Kirklees Heritage Strategy states that 'Kirklees is the stage where stories of our history and people are performed for an audience of those in our local communities, tourists, and investors. Our landscapes become backdrops to these shows – with moors and mills, historic houses and villages that help to inspire and intrigue those who live and visit here.' With this in mind we should not bury our history in favour of the

who live and visit here. With this in mind we should not bury our history in favour of the larger textile industry, or sell out to rich developers, but celebrate the innovators and entrepreneurs that helped to build Huddersfield as we know it today.
The Kirklees Heritage Strategy reinforces the importance of utilising local heritage to stimulate investment, tourism, and community identity, but if this site is allowed to be demolished and utilised for 700 homes, this contradicts the strategy in many ways.
The Kirklees Heritage Strategy 2024 emphasizes the critical importance of preserving mills and industrial heritage to honour local community narratives (Hawke et al., 2008, 1). The Standard site provides just such an opportunity. As globalization heightens awareness of 'local distinctiveness' and 'spirit of place,' the redevelopment of the Crosland Hill site presents an opportunity to integrate intangible heritage, such as oral histories and traditional crafts, into a space that celebrates both past and future.
Additionally, the environmental impact of demolishing this site cannot be overlooked. The existing structures and their surrounding landscape contribute to the unique visual character of the area, enhancing the scenic beauty of the Pennine Trail and the broader Peak District (Pendlebury, 2012, 304). The contrast between the historic industrial landscape and the rolling hills not only enriches the locality's aesthetic appeal but also fosters a sense of tranquillity and communal spirit. By prioritizing preservation, we can ensure that the natural environment is respected, and that significant trees and landscape features are maintained.
Standard Fireworks should be brought back to the community in a way that engages but also educates about the historical importance of the factory to the public. Research has shown that the public are very attached to this aspect of their heritage and this new development would have positive effects on the community and the landscape of the town.
There exists a unique opportunity to preserve the site's historical integrity while fostering community and ecological ideals. There is a deep connection between place and identity, suggesting that experiences and memories are closely tied to the surroundings. This relationship underscores the importance of the environments that surround us in forming our identities and community bonds (Cheape et al, 2009, 104-7). It has been increasingly emphasised by the government the importance of integrating conservation into the preparation of development plans (Pendlebury 2012 304). Providing increased woodland planting in the West Yorkshire region to conserve , enhance and enrich semi-urban areas particularly that which has already been develop also fits with the Env 6 Policy of the Regional Spatial Strategy (106). It would be prudent to also facilitate the use of solar panels on the roofs of many of the huts and buildings which falls in with ENV 5 to maximise improvements to energy efficiency and increase renewable energy capacity. The preservation of these structureswhile incorporating modern usage, aligns with sustainable development principles, making a compelling argument for the revitalisation of the distinctive site.
I urge decision-makers to consider the broader implications of demolishing this historic site. By prioritizing heritage over housing, we can ensure that future generations will continue to be inspired by and connect with the rich industrial past of Huddersfield. Let us work together to create a vibrant, dynamic space that not only commemorates our past but strengthens our community for the future.