

From: Davies, Glyn
Sent: 17 October 2024 17:14
To: DC Admin
Subject: Consultation Response 2024/92705 Ramsden Building, University of Huddersfield,

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I have reviewed the application relating to the Ramsden Building at the university of Huddersfield. This building was originally built in the 1880s as the Huddersfield Technical School & Mechanics' Institute which was formed from the merger in 1883 of the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute and the Huddersfield Female Educational Institute.

The building is grade 2 listed and was originally built for the education and training of staff for the textile and related industries. The 1900 plan of the site during enlargement included a large weaving shed in the centre and a large chimney originally with an associated gas engine. The original building was designed to educate students in a number of fields with the aim of educating carpenters, clerks, dyers, mechanic, printers, shoemakers, spinners, weavers and wheelwrights. When joined with the Huddersfield Female Educational institute classes were offered to them in the three Rs, history, geography, singing and sewing.

Over the 20th century the Huddersfield Technical School & Mechanics' Institute became Huddersfield Polytechnic and now Huddersfield University.

An Historic Buildings Assessment has been produced on the building and this has been submitted with the application. It is proposed that the refurbishment of this building will, wherever possible, reveal and appreciate those historic elements of the historic fabric that have survived later use and refurbishment of the building. The Historic Buildings Assessment has identified the history and significance of the buildings and this recommends that the proposed works should be undertaken alongside a scheme of recording (or a structural watching brief). This should be undertaken in conjunction with the refurbishment to include photographic recording of newly exposed features and an annotated record of building plans. The aim will be to produce a permanent record of the works carried out. This should be undertaken with the aim of recording any previously unexposed features but also with the aim of identifying and surviving features that relate to the former weaving shed, the chimney and the former associated gas engine. It is not certain what if any features remains that relate to these structures but any such remains should be recorded photographically and recorded on plans of the building.

Recommended Course of Action

Should planning permission be granted then the WYAAS recommend that the building is subject to an appropriate level of archaeological recording by a structural watching brief.

This work can be secured by a suitably worded condition being placed on any grant of planning consent awarded by Calderdale Council.

Recommended Planning Condition

WYAAS recommends that an appropriate level of archaeological observation and recording (a structural watching brief) is carried out during construction work. This work can be secured by the attachment of a suitable condition to any grant of planning permission awarded. In accordance with 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 Investigation

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 Councils 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.

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 5353145.”

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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