



New Life for
Remarkable Buildings

Victor Grayson
Kirklees Council
Planning and Development
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield
HD1 9EL

By email to: victor.grayson@kirklees.gov.uk

Our reference: 26054

11.06.2026

Dear Victor Grayson,

**Planning application 2026/62/90232/W | New Mills, Brougham Road, Marsden,
Huddersfield, HD7 6AZ**

SAVE Britain's Heritage supports the principle of the reuse of this site and adapting the existing mill buildings to new uses. We wish to offer the following comments regarding the ongoing listing application, and the proposed demolition of the wages office.

Proposal

This planning application seeks permission to convert the New Mills site in Marsden for residential, commercial and light industrial use. It proposes the demolition of the former wages office and the majority of the former weaving warehouses. The refurbishment of the East and remaining West Mills would be undertaken as a later phase.

Significance

The New Mills complex was constructed in the late 19th century for JE Crowther and Sons, and was also known as the Colne Valley Spinning Co.

Situated within the Marsden Conservation Area, the mill is described within the conservation area appraisal (2007) as a local landmark and a "*symbol of the dominance of the industry to the area and of the role the area played in the textile industry*". The mass and scale of the buildings in the mostly rural character of Marsden would have been phenomenal when built, and they still provide a striking composition against the dramatic backdrop of the Peak District National Park. The mill complex is made up of two main ranges rising four storeys in height, as well as associated towers and ancillary structures, a

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former boiler house, and a former waging office. The Italianate-style buildings feature ornate architectural detailing such as horizontal mouldings at the top of towers and floating footbridges between ranges. The wages office which faces onto Brougham Road is an imposing four-storey building decorated with string courses, a bracketed cornice and fine arch-topped windows and doorways at ground level, divided with ribbed pilasters. It provides an immediate juxtaposition in scale between the striking and dramatic mill and its residential setting, a characteristic that can be observed across the mill site which makes it both a landmark and a strong contributor to the significance of the Marsden Conservation Area.

Following the Industrial Revolution, the rural landscape of Marsden was transformed by the construction of the mills and improved infrastructure and transport connections. At the beginning of the 19th century most of the local population was involved in textile production and the mills continued to expand rapidly into the early 20th century – before the decline of the textile industry in the 1960s. Marsden's mills, such as New Mills, had a central role in shaping the town.

Our assessment

SAVE supported a listing application submitted to Historic England for New Mills on 22 January 2026 (ref no. 1494474), which we understand is still ongoing. We request that the Local Planning Authority defer determination of the above application until this listing assessment has been carried out.

We support the principle of the reuse of New Mills. We note the retention of significant buildings within the mill complex, including the East Mill and both the towers. However, we would like to see a creative approach to the retention of the wages office on Brougham Road, which under current plans would be demolished apart from a limited façade section to facilitate site access. We consider that the loss of the wages office would impact the significance of the mill complex as a whole by eroding its dramatic scale and landmark quality, which is observed in the conservation area appraisal as being an important part of the historic and architectural interest of the site. We note that section 4.4 of the Design and Access Statement examines the option of constructing a new building on the site of the wages office, which suggests that there is potential to retain a building on that part of the site, whilst still meeting access requirements.

Conclusion

SAVE supports the principle of the reuse of this site. We request that the Local Planning Authority defer determination of the above application until the listing assessment has been

carried out and would like to see the wages office creatively retained as an important part of the mill complex.

I trust these comments are useful to you and ask that you keep me informed of further developments.

Yours sincerely,

Lydia Franklin,
Conservation Officer