

Jane Tucker

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To: planning
Subject: Land at Malt Kiln Brow (including Kirk Mill) application Number 3/2015/0766

For the Attention of Adrian Dowd

Land at Malt Kiln Brow (includes Kirk Mill, Grade II listed) Application No 3/2015/0766

The Association for Industrial Archaeology notes that this application is for the conversion of the Grade II listed Kirk Mill to hotel accommodation and the conversion of other buildings, the demolition of modern 20th century factory buildings and new build residential. The Association for Industrial Archaeology commented upon the listed building and planning applications made last year (2014). The Association welcomes the intention to re-use this important former cotton mill which Oxford Archaeology North has confirmed as a rare and surprisingly well preserved example of an Arkwright type water powered cotton mill of a 1785 date. Despite its subsequent re-use and the resultant alterations and additions and its deteriorating condition, it is still of considerable importance with its water wheel surviving together with some gearing and line shafting. The Archaeological Building Survey provides details of surviving evidence of its construction in the form of masons' marks, and carpenters' construction marks as well as the inserted columns with their unusual octagonal column bases. Externally, there is the interesting derrick crane. The proposals include the retention of the water wheel and its gears as well as the crane which is to be retained in situ.

Given the importance of this mill it is essential that it remains "readable", and that includes being able to identify the original building and its extensions. It is also essential that not just the water wheel is retained but maintained and that as many small features such as evidence of the line shafting are included so that users of the building can see how it functioned both externally and internally. These features should make the hotel an interesting destination. The setting of the mill with its water management system is also of importance because it enables the mill's setting to be understood and appreciated. It is pleasing to note that it is now proposed to retain the derrick crane.

Any features revealed as a result of the conversion works will need to be recorded at the appropriate level (paragraph 141 of the NPPF applies).

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