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Cc: [Development Management](#)
Subject: Application 25/00131/DOC -
Date: 04 March 2025 17:27:21
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Good afternoon Ryan

RE: Application 25/00131/DOC - Submission of details to comply with conditions 4 (Pipework, meter boxes and flues), 5 (Building Record Survey), 10 (Landscaping), 14 (Signage) and 24 (External Lighting) of planning permission 21/00394/VRCON - Marina Ropes Ltd, Cartridge Ropery, Brunswick Street, Heywood OL10 1HA

Thank you for consulting GMAAS on the above application to discharge Condition 5 attached to planning consent 21/00394/VRCON, which was intended to secure archaeological interests. The application site was occupied until recently by the Cartridge Ropery, which was established in the mid-19th century by William Healey and was designed to produce rope and twine. It was one of the largest and most important of a significant group of 19th-century rope works in the Rochdale area, and the last to remain in commercial production. The historic interest in the works was highlighted by a historic building investigation, which was carried out prior to demolition to satisfy Condition 4 attached to application 21/01796/FUL.

An archaeological 'strip, map and plan' evaluation was implemented following the demolition of the buildings to address Condition 5. This involved the excavation of two trenches, targeted on the footprint of former buildings of potential archaeological interest, and revealed well-preserved remains relating to the works' steam-power plant and the production and storage of gas. The excavation enabled the exposed remains to be recorded as fully as possible, within the constraints of localised ground contamination, fulfilling the requirements of Part (a) of Condition 5. The data recovered from the 'strip, map and plan' evaluation has been subject to analysis and the results presented in a final report, satisfying Part (b) of Condition 5. A copy of this report was submitted in support of the current application and has been accessioned to the Historic Environment Record as the final technical account. In addition, provision has been made to deposit the project archive with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), in line with Part (d) of Condition 5.

Whilst most of the requirements set out in Condition 5 have been fulfilled to GMAAS' satisfaction, an appropriate level of dissemination has yet to be secured in order to fulfil Part (c) the condition. A brief summary (c.300 words) of the work is being prepared for inclusion in the Annual Roundup of Archaeological Fieldwork that will be published in the *Post Medieval Archaeology* journal in due course but, in view of the historic interest in the former rope works, a higher level of dissemination that is accessible to local communities and visitors is required. GMAAS' view is that this could be addressed satisfactorily through the installation of a permanent information panel that explains the archaeological interest of the site and the rich industrial heritage of Heywood's 19th-century rope-making industry.

In summary, GMAAS is reluctant to advise that Condition 5 has been satisfied in full until a scheme of dissemination, including the installation of a permanent information panel that explains the archaeological and historic interest in the site, has been agreed and secured. GMAAS will be pleased to advise on the content of the panel and should be consulted on the draft design.

With kindest regards

Ian



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