



John Macholc
Head of Planning Services
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices
Church Walk
CLITHEROE
BB7 2RA

Phone: 07847 200073

Email: Lancashire.archaeology@gmail.com

Your ref: 3/2018/0361

Date: 27th June 2018

FAO S Kilmartin

Dear Mr Macholc,

Planning Application 3/2018/0361:

**Full application for the demolition of existing structures and removal of culvert to Sabden Brook; development of 30 dwellings including re-construction of former Marbil office buildings as new dwellings; reconstruction of base of mill chimney as an ecology tower and associated access and landscaping.
Former Victoria Mill, Watt Street, Sabden BB7 9ED**

Following from my letter of 15th May I have been in communication with Mr Tobin Rayner of Allen Archaeology, who have been commissioned to undertake a trial excavation and building recording at Victoria Mill prior to the application being determined. Mr Rayner has supplied me with a first draft of a report on the work undertaken. Whilst the report is clearly a work in progress I am reasonably happy with the level of recording undertaken.

The trial excavation included the cutting of two trenches in the area where an earlier engine house may have been located. They recovered remains of buried floors and walls, which may have represented part of a boiler complex. Weak sides and the proximity of built structures made it difficult to extend the trenches to see the full extent of the remains and, when asbestos contamination was suspected, the excavation and hand-recording was halted.

Given the above I am happy for the proposed building recording and trial excavation condition to be omitted from any consent granted to the application. Further trial excavation following the demolition (to ground level) of the mill buildings, particularly the oldest building at the northern edge of the site, could be required, but I am not convinced that this would be justified (or indeed possible) if asbestos is present in any significant quantity.

Yours sincerely

Peter Iles