

**Jane Parry**

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**From:** james milne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 September 2021 23:53  
**To:** Planning Admin  
**Subject:** R/2021/0728/PND Objection

**FAO: Dave Pedlow**

Dear Mr Pedlow,

I am writing to you to object to the planned demolition of the Dorman Long Tower, Teesside.

I first visited the Dorman Long Tower as a fine art master's degree student in 2013 and was immediately struck by its bold simplicity in the landscape.

I feel that the tower warrants retention for several reasons that I will list below:

The tower prominently bears the name **Dorman Long**, which is highly unusual for coal/coking bunkers in the UK.

The Dorman Long steelmaking company had global significance during the boom years of Britain's steel industry, therefore the tower is a dominant and proud link to an era of innovation and industrial confidence.

The tower's footprint occupies a small parcel of land and will therefore not impinge on the redevelopment being undertaken by Teesworks, and any comment to the contrary by them does not hold water.

Many comments have been made by Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen, Jacob Young MP, and Dr Tosh Warwick about honouring and displaying Teesside's vast (170 years) steelmaking heritage. The Dorman Long Tower is perfect to contextualise, house, archive and exhibit such material to the wider public. The Dorman Long Tower also has very good rail and road access/links for public access.

There is now a proven track record in the UK of former industrial buildings being utilised for culture, residential and other uses. For example, Bankside Power Station - Tate Modern, The Baltic Mill, Gateshead, Battersea Power Station and New Lanark Mills, Scotland. Not to mention the vast range of former steelmaking sites that have been successfully retained abroad for arts, culture, and wider public events. For example, Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, Germany, Steel Stacks, Bethlehem PA, Zollverein coal and coking complex, Germany.

<https://www.landschaftspark.de/en/>

<https://www.steelstacks.org/>

<https://visitworldheritage.com/en/eu/zollverein-coal-mine-industrial-complex-germany/b0b631c5-ea55-4717-9141-dcf745ee052d>

If the Dorman Long Tower is demolished, along with other built examples of Teesside's steelmaking heritage, we are robbing future generations. Access to a significant (structural) reminder of their heritage and history should be their right. Viewing images and photographs of buildings is different from experiencing a structure in real life.

As a prominent landmark the Dorman Long Tower has been a considerable source of inspiration for artists, photographers, crafts people, and historians. I strongly believe, if retained it would continue to act as such well into the future:

[http://farm3.clik.com/juliemacbean/photo\\_16567757.html#photos\\_id=16574725](http://farm3.clik.com/juliemacbean/photo_16567757.html#photos_id=16574725)

<http://www.carlmole.co.uk/port3BlackPath.html>

<https://www.mattwhitfieldart.co.uk/product/ghosts-of-the-tees-coke-ovens>

The Dorman Long Tower has a light-yellow ochre tone in its concrete. The tower, therefore, shifts and reacts to different light sources and ranges. This makes the tower aesthetically diverse and unique.

The Dorman Long Tower, while not a Brutalist building has been described as such. Given the recent critical reappraisal of Brutalist architecture in the UK, the Dorman Long Tower will continue to gain cultural significance in this field/discussion of architectural study.

I think it's worth remembering that very few primary steelmaking sites exist in the UK, therefore making any steelmaking architecture still standing very rare.

I think at the very least a temporary protection order should be placed on the Dorman Long Tower so that its future can be properly considered, something which has not been offered to it by Teesworks, Ben Houchen and Jacob Young MP.

Finally, I feel that you have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to house Teesside's steelmaking heritage in a building that is not only appropriate but also holds its own with other landmark structures in the area such as Newport Bridge, and the Tees Transporter bridge, all of which are related to Teesside's steelmaking heritage.

I hope this email will help inform any future decision you make...

Kind regards,

James Milne BA (hons) MFA MFA