

Historic Building Assessment

# FOREST MILL BACUP

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For Orion Heritage

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Historic Building Assessment

# FOREST MILL BACUP

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Client: Orion Heritage

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Local Authority: Rossendale Borough Council

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NGR: 386898,488649

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Planning App:

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## L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Table of Figures*

*Table of Plates*

*Table of Appendices*

*Abstract*

1. Introduction
2. Project Background
3. Historical Background
4. Historic Building Assessment
5. Summary & Conclusions

*Sources Consulted*

*Figures*

*Appendices*

# TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail

Figure 3 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1894

Figure 4 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1912

Figure 5 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1932

Figure 6 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1947

Figure 7 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1956

Figure 8 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1962

Figure 9 - Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1977

Figure 10 - Extent of Survey

Figure 11 - Northern Elevation

Figure 12 - Western Elevation

Figure 13 - Southern Elevation

Figure 14 - Extension Plan

Figure 15 - Ground Floor Plan

Figure 16 - First Floor Plan

Figure 17 - Second Floor Plan

Figure 18 - Phasing Plan

# TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1: Northern elevation of the mill

Plate 2: Eastern extent of the northern elevation

Plate 3: Window form, northern elevation

Plate 4: Northern elevation

Plate 5: Junction of eastern and western parts of the northern elevation

Plate 6: Fire escape on the northern elevation

Plate 7: Markings on the northern elevation

Plate 8: Eastern extent of the northern elevation

Plate 9: Eastern section of the northern elevation, showing modifications

Plate 10: Blocked arches on the northern elevation

Plate 11: Inserted doorway on the north elevation

Plate 12: Western elevation of the mill

Plate 13: Stone source plaque on western elevation

Plate 14: Western elevation

Plate 15: Western elevation of water sprinkler tower

Plate 16: Wall for the southern extension, as viewed from the courtyard

Plate 17: Southern elevation of the mill, showing fenestration of the tower

Plate 18: Third floor of the water sprinkler tower

Plate 19: Southern elevation of the mill

Plate 20: Eastern elevation of the engine house

Plate 21: Exposed eastern cross section

Plate 22: Column and girder type

Plate 23: Western elevation of extension D

Plate 24: Southern elevation of extension A

Plate 25: Southern elevation of extension A2

Plate 26: Western elevation of extension E

Plate 27: Lower courtyard, looking north to Henrietta Street

Plate 28: Junction of extension C and E, looking south

Plate 29: North elevation of extension C

## TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Chronology

Appendix 2 - Contact Sheet

# Abstract

Forest Mill in Bacup has had permission granted for demolition of the structure, with the exclusion of the water sprinkler tower. This document outlines the results of a historic building survey carried out on the building in September 2015.

The history of the mill is closely linked to the history of Bacup. It was built in 1854 by James Howarth and Brothers at a time when Bacup was fast becoming an industrial centre, based around the textile industry. The mill is a three storey structure, of local Haslingden Flag stone, which has been dressed in a pitch faced style and laid in regular courses. The main body of the mill has a flat roof, with a gable roof over the engine house, saw-tooth roof over what may have been the weaving sheds, and a pitch roof over late 20<sup>th</sup> century extension to the west. The decorative style of the mill is typical of a mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century mill.

A total of seven phases of development were identified from 1854 through to 1979. The original 1854 mill was a much smaller structure than the current complex. Formed by a three storey, nine bay, stone building, off Henrietta Street. Large scale extensions were undertaken between 1870 and 1894, and then again between 1894 and 1912. Further expansion was undertaken between 1947 and 1956, with smaller scale extensions built between 1956 and 1962.

The first stages of demolition occurred in 1977 with the demolition of the western elevation, and again in 1979 with the chimney stack to the rear of the building.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1.Planning consent has been granted for the demolition of Forest Mill, with the exception of the water sprinkler tower which is to be retained. As a condition of consent a level III historic building recording survey was required on the standing structure.
- 1.2.This document outlines the results of the historic building recording carried out on 7<sup>th</sup> September and has been researched and prepared by Blair Poole and Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Orion Heritage.
- 1.3.The site is located at Forest Mill, Henrietta Street, Bacup, Lancashire, OL13 0AY. At National Grid Reference: (SD) 386898,488649 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.4.The site fronts Henrietta Street and is bounded by Market Street to the west and Commerce Street to the south (FIGURE 2).
- 1.5.The local authority is Rossendale Borough Council who take archaeological advice from Lancashire County Council.
- 1.6.The site does not fall within a Conservation Area and does not contain any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or locally listed buildings on it. However, the mill forms a part of the textile mill heritage of the area.
- 1.7.The assessment is based on the results of an assessment of the standing structure, documentary and cartographic research, as well as published and unpublished literature.
- 1.8.At the time of survey the eastern extent of the building had been demolished and access to the southern elevation was restricted. Due to health and safety implications access was not granted to the building to assess the internal layout.



## 2. Project Background

### 2.1.PLANNING

2.1.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment. Additional guidance to help implement these policies is given in the retained Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (DCLG, EH, DCMS 2010). Additional guidance has been published online in the form of Planning Practice Guidance (2014).

2.1.2. Rossendale Borough Council adopted the Rossendale Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) in November 2011 as the basis for the Local Plan Framework. Policy 16 relates to development proposals, which affect heritage assets. Point 7 of section 16 states:

Maximising the potential for the re-use of buildings of historic or local interest for appropriate uses to ensure their future longevity. However, where this is not possible/appropriate, considerate and sensitive redevelopment will be supported, subject to advice from the Council's Conservation Team and English Heritage.

2.1.3. The study site does not lie within a Conservation Area, or contain any Listed Buildings, locally listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields.

2.1.4. Planning consent has been granted for the demolition of the standing building, with the exclusion of the water sprinkler tower.

### 2.2.AIMS OF THE ASSESSMENT

2.2.1. It is not the aim of this document to present a complete history of Bacup, rather this represents an assessment of the standing structure in the context of its development and the results of on site recording in order to form a permanent record of the structure prior to demolition.

2.2.2. The site works will comply with English Heritage level III standards, where applicable, as laid out in Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good

recording practice (2006).

### 3. Historical Background

- 3.1. By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Bacup had become home to a burgeoning woollen and silk weaving industry. This had initially been a small scale industry, with goods produced in small quantities at local farms around the Rossendale valley. (ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL 2011).
- 3.2. From the 1770s there was a shift to the more dominant cotton production industry. Smaller industries also flourished in the valley and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was producing 68 million pounds of yarn and 210 million yards of cloth per year.
- 3.3. Although cotton manufacture arrived in Bacup in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the first cotton mills constructed around this time, woollen cloth manufacture was still the main industry in Bacup into the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This slowly changed to follow the general trend in the surrounding area and by 1844 cotton cloth was Bacup's main product.
- 3.4. The population of the town also expanded in this time, with an estimated increase of 460% between 1801 and 1851. Bacup was still regarded as not much more than a village at this time, although by 1844 it had 22 cotton mills and four to five woollen cloth mills. This decade saw the first mentions of Bacup as a 'town', and by the 1870s Bacup was being described as a 'large' town (ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL, 2011).
- 3.5. It is in this context that Forest Mill was constructed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as a spinning and weaving mill. Forest Mill was built in 1854 by James Howarth and Brothers.
- 3.6. The mill first appears on 6" Ordnance Survey map of England and Wales in 1894 (FIGURE 3), before this it is shown as open land on the 1849 OS map. An early reference of ownership of the site area was for a John Lord, who grew '*fruit, vegetables and hay on the rich pasture land*'.
- 3.7. The footprint of the mill shown on the 1894 OS map may not represent the original layout, as in 1870 the mill is recorded as being damaged by both flood and then fire. The flood is said to have filled the building with over six feet of water, and the fire causing significant damage. The original mill is recorded as housing a weaving

shed with 300 looms.

- 3.8. A trade directory from 1891 lists the owners of Forest Mill as James Haworth and Brothers; accredited with 15,000 spindles, 208/228 machine twist and 350 looms.
- 3.9. The mill was advertised for sale by auction in 1897 and was described as having “*three steam boilers, economisers, steam engines (a beam engine and small horizontal engines) and mill gearing. The machinery comprised five double beat lap machines by Walker & Hacking, 17 single carding engines, four drawing frames by Walker & Hacking, eight slubbing frames by Walker & Hacking, ten single press roving frames, five ring frames of 256 spindles by Walker & Hacking, eight ring frames of 272 spindles, seven flier throstle frames of 256 spindles, four and a half pairs of self-acting mules, comprising 5,998 spindles by Walker & Hacking, and 331 patent power looms by Hardman & Brothers.*”
- 3.10. This shows that by 1897 there had been a slight reduction in the number of looms available, which may suggest a decline in demand that may have led to the sale.
- 3.11. In 1902 a change of ownership took place, with Messrs Riley Brothers taking control of business, with the intention of cotton spinning and weaving at the mill, updating the building and investing in machinery. However within three years by 1905, Forest Mill was once again for sale, along with “*2,688 condenser weft mule spindles and 264 plain and twill looms*”. This shows a continued decline in the fortunes of the mill.
- 3.12. By September that same year the mill was purchased by a Mr Thomas Houghton of Oswaldtwistle, it was listed as housing 2,688 spindles and 400 looms. This suggests that Mr Houghton invested a great deal into the mill in order to increase production.
- 3.13. The mill continued to function as a textile mill into the 1960s. It was purchased by Bacup Town Council in 1964, and leased until 1974 to the firm Due Mill (a subsidiary of Durie & Miller), and then to The Valley Refrigeration and Shopfitting Ltd, in 1977.
- 3.14. In September of 1979 the first stones of the mill’s chimney began to be demolished, and it was reduced to half its original height. By the October it had been completely removed, although the water tower survives.

- 3.15. A map regression exercise was carried out on the mill to determine a development sequence for the building. The earliest OS map, dated 1849, does not show the building, as this pre-dates the construction by six years. As such, the earliest map showing evidence of the mill building is the 1894 OS Map of Bacup (FIGURE 3). It should be noted that the original 1854 building was damaged by flood and fire in 1870. As such, it is possible that the first cartographic depiction of the mill is of a modified, potentially second, structure.
- 3.16. The 1894 OS map shows a large building fronting Henrietta Street to the North and abutting the River Irwell to the East; a series of four outbuildings stand along Market Street to the west. Forest mill forms one of many mills along the river and spread throughout the town of Bacup. The footprint of the mill in 1894 fills the current footprint of the three storey grey stone mill building, water tower, and a single storey extension to the south. Several outbuildings can be seen to the west.
- 3.17. The 1912 OS map (FIGURE 4) is the first to refer to the mill as Forest Mill. By this time the building has expanded to enclose the open yard area to the west of the mill. A small extension has been added on the south side of the building. The two smaller buildings along Market Street, have been connected to create one long L-shaped building, now the only outbuilding. In 1902 Messrs Riley Brothers bought the mill, notably with the intention of updating the building. The changes in the mill are most likely associated with this period of expansion and new ownership. The mill changed hands again in 1905 to Mr Thomas Houghton of Oswaldtwistle, while no building work is mentioned in reference to him, he could have also made structural changes to the mill.
- 3.18. The 1932 OS map (FIGURE 5) shows very little change. The main building of Forest Mill remains the same, while the outbuilding reverts back to a single oblong building, the same size as the 1894 OS on the corner of Henrietta and Market Street. The dogleg of the building is completely demolished.
- 3.19. The mill remains the same until the 1956 OS map (FIGURE 7), where a large oblong structure has been built onto the southeast corner of the building, on a northeast-southwest alignment. The OS map does not make it clear that it is part of the mill compound at this time, however by the 1962 OS map (FIGURE 8) it is obviously part

of the same structure. This is the last map to state the name as Forest Mill, from 1962 onwards, it is purely referred to as 'Mill'.

3.20. The 1962 OS map shows a series of small rectangular extensions along the east and northeast side of the building, these jut out of the main body of the mill. The outbuilding on the corner of Henrietta Street and Market Street, has also been redesigned, with an extension on its east side, and reshaping on the southern end.

3.21. The 1977 OS map (FIGURE 9) shows the final stage of building modifications, removing a section of the northwest corner of the building and returning it to the original length where it fronts Henrietta street. The mill now sits within the current footprint for the building. In 1977 the council leased the building to a new occupant, this last phase of building work could be associated with this company and indeed the signage for their business remained above the garage doors where the modifications had been made when the building survey was undertaken in September 2015.

3.22. Records show that there was one further stage of works in 1979, the removal of the great chimney stack at the southeast end of the grey stone, three storey, building. However the 1988 OS map shows a very basic outline of the building and is not detailed enough to depict any changes from the 1977 OS map.

## 4. Historic Building Assessment

4.1. A level III historic building recording survey was carried out at Forest Mill, Bacup. Demolition of the structure had already begun prior to the survey being undertaken and areas of the southern extension and outbuildings were still in use by a third party businesses. As such only two elevations, west and north, could be fully surveyed, with a visual and photographic record made of the third, southern, elevation. The fourth, eastern, elevation had been demolished. Internal access to the structure was not granted due to safety implications (FIGURE 10).

4.2. The structure is a purpose built 19<sup>th</sup> century textile mill, originally intended for wool and cotton manufacture, later converted to only cotton. Constructed in 1854 the main mill frontage is constructed of pitch faced local Haslingden Flag stone, and has later stone and brick extensions to the south and east.

### EXTERNAL ELEVATIONS

#### NORTH ELEVATION



Plate 1: Northern elevation of the mill

4.3. The northern elevation (PLATE 1) fronts onto Henrietta Street and is an impressive 18 bay, three storey, façade of regular coursed grey Haslingden Flag stone with a traditional pitched face dressing (FIGURE 11). The stonework varies in length, with individual stones measuring between 300mm long to 600mm long, bonded by a hard dark grey mortar.

4.4. The eastern extent of the northern façade had already undergone some demolition works at the time of survey. However, the ground floor and part of the western extent of the first floor was still visible in this area (PLATE 2 & FIGURE 11).



Plate 2: Eastern extent of the northern elevation



Plate 3: Window form, northern elevation

4.5. The fenestration was of a single type, consisting of rectangular stone lintels and



matching sills, surrounding wooden frame six pane windows. The central two panes formed a hopper window, opening internally (PLATE 3). Of the windows along the northern elevation several had been blocked up using 20<sup>th</sup> century breeze blocks or bricks. In the western section of the elevation the fourth window from the west, at ground floor level, had been converted to a door, with large transom light above it. A flood barrier had been attached to the lower section of the door.

4.6. Between bays three and four a yellow brick buttress (PLATE 4) had been built against the elevation. This was not keyed into the structure, rather it had been bonded by mortar joints. It is likely that this represents an enclosed vent for the mill and matches the location of toilets on the ground floor layout (FIGURE 15).



Plate 4: Northern elevation

4.7. The roof line of the mill was marked by a short parapet with flat coping stone course. The height of the parapet could not be ascertained on site due to access restrictions, however it could be seen to be three courses high. Based on the coursing height of 300mm seen on the façade, this would equate to 900mm with a further 100mm coping stone atop.

4.8. At the eastern end of the western section on this elevation, at first floor level, was a small metal gridded vent that had been cut into the stonework (PLATE 5). This is clearly a later modification to the structure. Directly below it, at ground floor level was a smaller metal gridded vent, also cut into the elevation as a later modification. These appear to be 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, likely part of late 20<sup>th</sup> century modernisation works.



Plate 5: Junction of eastern and western parts of the northern elevation

4.9. Sited at first and second floor level, at bay eight was an iron framed fire escape (PLATE 5). The style of the fire escape was typical of early 20<sup>th</sup> century designs, with squared brackets for exit balconies and square cross section railings on the balcony (PLATE 6).



Plate 6: Fire escape on the northern elevation

4.10. The ladder railings were of matching square section rods and the system was bolted

to the façade. No ground floor element survived, however holes in the fabric of the building are thought to relate to the ground floor section of the fire escape.

4.11. A cluster of marks carved into the stonework at ground floor and first floor level were noted mid point between the fire escape and buttress. These comprised a combination of arrow symbols, pointing in numerous directions, crosses, and hachure symbols (PLATE 7). Initially these were thought to be masons marks. However, they appear to be more recent, some quite fresh, and appear on the façade, not normally a place masons would leave their marks. As such it is likely that these represent a form of graffiti.



Plate 7: Markings on the northern elevation

4.12. The eastern section of the north elevation, as noted above, had undergone some demolition; as such, only the ground floor survived in any discernible way (PLATE 8). Although the stonework and fenestration of the northern elevation was consistent, the eastern extent of the façade stepped out by 860mm. It is likely that following a large fire in 1870 the building was extended to the east. This would account for the stepped façade. The short timeframe between construction phases, 1854 to 1870, would account for the similarity in workmanship and materials.



Plate 8: Eastern extent of the northern elevation

4.13. Along this section of the elevation were a series of doors and blocked windows. No original features had been preserved to any significant degree in this area, each window void either blocked by brickwork or converted to a doorway (PLATE 9).



Plate 9: Eastern section of the northern elevation, showing modifications

4.14. The conversions included insertion of steel lintels to support the widened doorways, with wooden frames, and use of modern thermalite bricks to block up the windows. The materials used in the modifications are typical of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and this may relate to upgrading works when the council took control of the property in the 1960s.

4.15. There are three features of interest in this section of the northern elevation

including a small bricked up opening and two modified arches (PLATES 9 & 10). The blocked opening is shorter than the window forms and is marked by upright stones either side, with a stone lintel. The opening had been bricked up with thermalite bricks. The lower section comprised three courses of the local stone, with a coping course. The uprights and lintel appear to be an original feature, however the low stone coursing is of a different dressing form and in ashlar bond, suggesting it has been inserted. This is thought to be an earlier side entrance, which went out of use in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 10: Blocked arches on the northern elevation

- 4.16. The blocked arches (PLATE 10) measure 3.5m in height and are each 2.7m wide. These are thought to be blocked up entrances originally used for vehicular access. Stone has been used to infill the arches and a door and window occupy the east and west arch respectively. Both door and window are clearly later modifications to the structure.
- 4.17. There is significant repair work in this area, and the inserted double door to the west of the arches occupies a large area of later stonework (PLATE 11). This may suggest that there were originally four arches present and that the western arches were replaced by the large double doors (requiring a steel lintel); and as such, evidence of the arches has since been destroyed. Although this is conjecture, the scale of disturbance in this area matches the proposed extent of two additional arches.



Plate 11: Inserted doorway on the north elevation

## WESTERN ELEVATION

4.18. The western elevation fronted onto Market Street and represents the public façade seen from the main road passing the mill (PLATE 12 & FIGURE 12).



Plate 12: Western elevation of the mill

4.19. It should be noted that the ground floor of the current elevation dates to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Cartographic research suggests that the mill was extended off this elevation between 1894 and 1912; and then this extension was subsequently demolished between 1962 and 1977. Scarring on the standing elevation suggests that the extension was only a single storey structure, with the first and second floor continuing to show the original features of the mill.

4.20. The elevation is a three storey, three bay, structure with the water sprinkler tower located to the south of the elevation standing a further storey higher (FIGURE 12). The whole of this elevation is of pitch faced local stonework in a regular course bond. As with the northern elevation a parapet wall can be seen at the top of the elevation with a stone coping course. A small plaque at ground floor level, to the north of the doors, states the origin of the stone (PLATE 13).

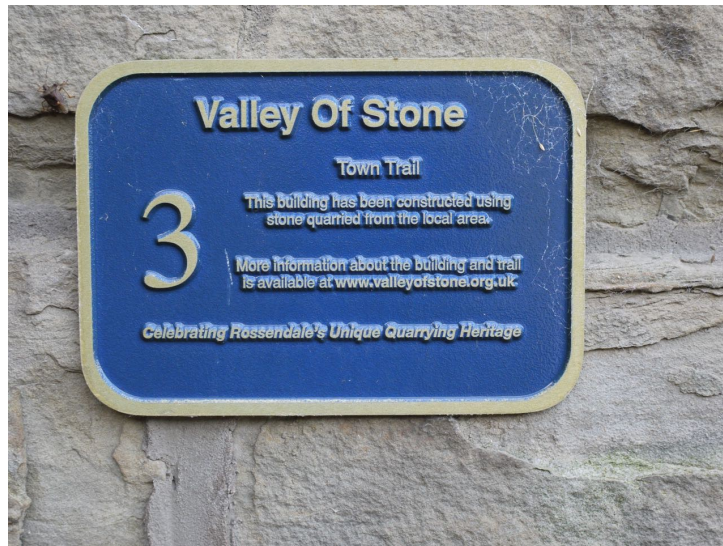


Plate 13: Stone source plaque on western elevation

- 4.21. At ground floor level the stonework has clearly been replaced and is of slightly lighter and fresher appearance. This supports the assumption that the ground floor underwent alterations in the past.
- 4.22. The fenestration matches that of the northern facade with six pane wooden framed windows, stone lintels, and stone sills. At ground floor level a window has been blocked using the same stone seen in the main repair of this façade (PLATE 14).
- 4.23. At ground floor level two large wooden doorways can be seen, divided by a large stone pillar. Above the doors is a large rectangular sign for valley Refrigeration and Shopfitting. The doors form part of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century modifications and, although mainly obscured by the sign, a large concrete lintel can be seen. This differs from the steel lintels seen associated with the late 20<sup>th</sup> century modifications. The use of concrete suggests 20<sup>th</sup> century modifications, rather than late 19<sup>th</sup> century, pushing the date closer to 1912.



Plate 14: Western elevation

4.24. The doors are of three large wooden panels, with a smaller doorway set into the southernmost panel of each doorway.

4.25. At the northern end of the elevation is a 2m high brick and stone wall. The brick faces the yard area, with stone facing onto Henrietta Street. This is bonded to the main façade, rather than keyed in, and represents a later boundary wall, thought to be mid 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

#### **WATER SPRINKLER TOWER**

4.26. The water sprinkler tower is visible from north, west and east elevations, however its full height can only be seen on its western elevation (FIGURE 12 & PLATE 15).





Plate 15: *Western elevation of water sprinkler tower*

4.27. The tower has a square footprint and is of the same stone construction as the northern and western elevations and forms a visible landmark in the area. The ground floor section of the tower is obscured by a 3m high wall (PLATE 16).



Plate 16: *Wall for the southern extension, as viewed from the courtyard*

4.28. There are no windows or scarring for windows present on the northern elevation of the tower. However, on the western elevation there are two blocked voids, one at first and second floor respectively. These are of a different form to the windows seen on the previous elevations, albeit the same dimensions, with stone sills and lintels, but also stone uprights framing the voids. The form is similar to the blocked doorway seen at the eastern end of the northern elevation (PLATE 9). It may be that these were loading doors for materials stored on the upper floors.

4.29. The tower is keyed into the building and forms part of the complete southern elevation suggesting that it is a contemporary element of the building from the original construction phase (PLATE 17). On the southern elevation the tower has two windows at first and second floor levels. These windows match the form seen on the northern and western elevations, of six pane, wooden frame, windows with stone lintels and sills.



Plate 17: Southern elevation of the mill, showing fenestration of the tower

4.30. On the western elevation of the tower, at third floor level, is a large, thin, arched window. This is of wooden frame with stone quoins forming upright decoration either side of the window and a single course stone archway above the window (PLATE 18). The window sits in a recessed area of stonework, which forms a sort of frame for the window, with the appearance of columns at the edges of the tower. This recess is also present on the southern elevation at third floor level (PLATE 17).



Plate 18: Third floor of the water sprinkler tower

- 4.31. Below the arched window on the western elevation is an iron faced clock. Within the recessed stonework on the western elevation is a large stone nameplate, above the arched window, which reads 'FOREST MILLS'.
- 4.32. The top of the tower is marked by a series of four merlons dividing three embrasures over a stepped series of three stone string courses (FIGURE 12). These are thought to surround the water tank.
- 4.33. The tower is an impressive symbol typical of the approach to industrial building construction of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mill buildings dominated the surrounding area and the mill owners were proud of their mills. Although industrial in function these buildings were constructed with a decorative style that hinted at the owner's wealth and status, as well as serving as an advert to traders.

#### **SOUTHERN ELEVATION**

- 4.34. The southern elevation of the mill building was not accessible as the yard to the south, and the single storey extension, were in use by a third party and had been locked up. As such, a total station survey was carried out on the accessible areas and a photographic survey was taken from appropriate vantage points.
- 4.35. This elevation comprised three main surviving sections. The water tower formed the western two bays, with a further nine bays forming the main body of the mill. At the eastern end a large extension forms the final section of the mill. This extension measures approximately three bays (PLATE 19 & FIGURE 13).



Plate 19: Southern elevation of the mill

- 4.36. The main body of the mill matches the northern façade, with evenly spaced six pane, wooden frame, windows at first and second floor levels, each with stone lintel and sill. The stone is pitch faced local Haslingden Flag in regular courses, with a stone coping course at the top of a short parapet wall.
- 4.37. The eastern extent is marked by an extension constructed in the same stone style as the rest of the elevation. It is thought that this is part of the post 1870 reworking of the mill and a faint building scar can be seen between this section of the elevation and the main body of the mill. The roof of this extension is a pitched, slate covered, roof, along an east-west axis. The western gable is visible from a vantage point to the west of the site. Dog tooth dentilation, using the local stone, can be seen as a form of decoration just below the eaves.
- 4.38. A large, thin, blocked window can be seen in this section of the elevation. This has been painted red, although the underlying stonework is visible in parts. It is likely that this extension was the engine house, located close to the chimney and water course.
- 4.39. The ground floor element of this elevation was obscured by a single storey extension, detailed below. Although the bulk of the extension is thought to date to between 1870 and 1894, post fire damage, it is certainly an extension. A glimpse of the internal layout though the front doors showed a series of blocked windows along the ground floor wall between the mill and extension. This is also recorded on the ground floor plan (FIGURE 15) suggesting that this had originally been an

external wall.

4.40. Between ground floor and first floor level the saw-tooth roof of the southern extension can be seen. This roof form, although developed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, became popular in Lancashire during the 1850s.

#### **EASTERN ELEVATION**

4.41. The eastern elevation had been demolished prior to site attendance. This allowed a view of the cross section of the mill and a view of the eastern elevation of what is thought to be the engine house (PLATE 20).

4.42. The eastern elevation of the engine house was of the same regular course stonework as seen previously and the upper wall of the eastern end of the mill could be seen to be tied into the construction of the engine house. This shows that these two areas were built contemporaneously.



Plate 20: Eastern elevation of the engine house

4.43. There are three main features of this wall. Two arched windows and a doorway (PLATE 20). A large cross shaped wall tie is present at second floor level between the two windows. The southern window is a double height arched window with a single course stone arch at the top and no surviving sill. However, brick repair suggests that there was originally a sill present. The northern window matches the form and dimensions of the large window seen on the southern elevation of the engine house (FIGURE 13). This also has a single course brick arch lintel and its stone sill survives in tact.



Plate 21: Exposed eastern cross section

- 4.44. At first floor level a doorway is present, below the southern window. This matches the door form seen elsewhere, with stone lintel and uprights. Modifications to the structure have removed the sill, where an inserted floor (now demolished) appears to have been. The stonework at ground floor level suggests that this was an external wall and had been incorporated into the building at a later date.
- 4.45. The cross section of the building revealed a system of arched steel girders sitting on evenly spaced steel upright columns (PLATE 21). Brick internal dividing walls were also visible. At second floor level a blocked window was identified, mainly obscured by plaster and paint, to the immediate north of the angled brick wall bounding the engine house wall. This suggests that this wall may have originally been an external wall and further supports the theory that the mill was extended prior to 1894.



Plate 22: Column and girder type

4.46. Examples of the column and girder type were identified within the demolition debris on site (PLATE 22).

### **EXTENSIONS**

4.47. The mill has a series of extensions, which date to between 1870 and 1962. These have been given identifying letters from A to E (FIGURE 14) and will be discussed below. Extension D was not examined due to access issues. The visible elements of extension D could be seen to be of red brick in English Garden Wall bond, with concrete lintels and sills surrounding metal framed, small pane, windows (PLATE 23).



Plate 23: Western elevation of extension D

4.48. Extension A has been separated into two areas, the large southern extension to the mill and a smaller area at the southwestern corner of the mill, A1 and A2

respectively. A2 was initially an outbuilding, however following later extension construction it now forms part of the body of the mill (PLATE 24).



Plate 24: Southern elevation of extension A

- 4.49. The southern façade of the southern extension incorporates sections of A1, A2 and B (FIGURE 14). The eastern and western extents represent extensions A1 and A2 respectively and are constructed of local stone with regular courses. The finish is slightly rougher than the pitch faced dressing seen on the main mill. Extension B has a much rougher stonework finish and coursing.
- 4.50. The eastern section of the elevation, A1, has a raised parapet with embrasures similar to the tower parapet. The seven merlons hide the saw-tooth roof system from view. A series of alternating windows and doors can be seen below the first six merlons. These do not have stone lintels or sills and appear to be utilitarian in design, with no decorative features. Below the seventh (westernmost) merlon is an inserted double width, double height, doorway with steel girder lintel and metal roller shutter.
- 4.51. The central section of the southern elevation represents extension B. In this area the embrasures cease and a coping stone course can be seen to cap the wall, which extends to cover extension A2 as well. Extension B has no doors, windows or scarring present.
- 4.52. The southern elevation of extension A2 has the same stonework as seen in A1, however a doorway can be seen at the western end (PLATE 25). This matches the



door openings seen elsewhere on the main mill building, with stone lintels and uprights.



Plate 25: Southern elevation of extension A2

4.53. The western end of the elevation shows a different stone finish, where the western elevation begins. This suggests that the frontage onto Market Street was refaced when the outbuilding became part of the mill.

4.54. The western elevation of the extension mainly comprises extension E, the 1956 to 1962 extension to the structure (PLATE 26).



Plate 26: Western elevation of extension E

4.55. The southern extent of this elevation is of high quality local stone, in regular courses and represents part of extension A2, an 1870 to 1894 outbuilding. The

remaining section of this elevation is of red brick in English Garden Wall bond. Stepped brick corbels can be seen where the principal rafters are present for the roof system. The roof is a pitched roof of corrugated metal along a north-south alignment. A wooden, double, garage door is located at the southern end of the elevation.

4.56. In this area the land slopes down into a low courtyard to the north of the extension (FIGURE 14). In this area a stone retaining wall marks the barrier between Market Street/Henrietta Street and the lower courtyard (PLATE 27).



Plate 27: Lower courtyard, looking north to Henrietta Street

4.57. An angled wall forms the northern extent of extension E, which turns east to lead to extension C (PLATE 28).



Plate 28: Junction of extension C and E, looking south

4.58. This extension has been built in an attempt to match the main body of the mill (PLATE 29) and first appears on the 1962 OS map. However, the construction form matches that of earlier extensions and is not thought to be contemporary with extension E, which dates to between 1956 and 1962. It is thought that this stone extension dates to an earlier construction phase.



Plate 29: North elevation of extension C

4.59. The façade of C is of local stone in regular courses and a short parapet with coping stone course can be seen at the top of the wall. The roof is a flat roof, leading to the main wall of extension B, where it is bonded to, not keyed into, extension B.

4.60. The five evenly spaced windows have stone lintels and sills, with metal grilles covering them. However, they also have stone quoin decoration along the uprights.

This decorative style is also seen on the doorways at the western end and in the centre of the elevation. These doors have stone lintels and quoin style decorations along the uprights. The slight difference in decoration and construction form, and the fact that it is bonded to extension B, suggests that this extension dates to between 1912 and 1956.

#### **INTERNAL LAYOUT**

4.61.No access was granted to the building due to health and safety constraints. However, previous plans of the building were sourced. These have been scaled and cross checked against the measured elevations and visual inspection on site. Figures 15, 16 and 17 show the layout as it was in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5. Summary & Conclusions

- 5.1. Forest Mill in Bacup is a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century textile mill. Permission has been granted for demolition of the structure, with the exclusion of the water sprinkler tower, which is a local landmark. This document outlines the results of a historic building survey carried out on the building in September 2015.
- 5.2. The site is located to the south of Henrietta Street, Bacup, Lancashire, OL13 0AY. At National Grid Reference: (SD) 386898,488649. The work was commissioned by Orion Heritage.
- 5.3. Although the building is not Listed or Scheduled, its age and the significance of the Water Sprinkler Tower as a local landmark, led to a request for the historic fabric to be recorded prior to demolition and the building to be analysed in order to determine its development sequence.
- 5.4. The history of the mill is closely linked to the history of Bacup. It was built in 1854 by James Howarth and Brothers at a time when Bacup was fast becoming an industrial centre, based around the textile industry.
- 5.5. The mill is a three storey structure, of local Haslingden Flag stone, which has been dressed in a pitch faced style and laid in regular courses. The main body of the mill has a flat roof, with a gable roof over the engine house, saw-tooth roof over what may have been the weaving sheds, and a pitch roof over a late 20<sup>th</sup> century extension to the west. The decorative style of the mill is typical of a mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century mill, with stone façade incorporating decorative elements such as dressed stone lintels and sills, recessed stone panels on the tower, and a large carved name stone on the tower.
- 5.6. Forest mill went through many phases of building work between 1894 and 1979, with expansion of the weaving sheds, modifications to outbuildings and small scale extension work.
- 5.7. Initially the mill appears to have been a smaller structure off Henrietta Street, with large scale expansion to the mill floor and weaving sheds between 1854 and 1894, possibly after the fire of 1870.
- 5.8. The 1912 and 1956 OS maps show the two greatest periods of activity, with

modifications made to the main body of the building, enlarging the mill to the south and west sides.

5.9. It is believed that the original 1854 building still survives within the current mill structure, though highly modified, and the mill still resides on its original location, within its original grounds.

5.10. A summary chronology of the mill can be found in APPENDIX 1 of this document. Below is a summary of the phased development of the mill complex.

#### 5.11. Phasing (FIGURE 18)

- ◇ Phase 1 – 1854 – Construction of the original mill
- ◇ Phase 2 – 1870-1894 – Extension of the mill to the east, off Henrietta Street, and to the south, expanding the mill floor and the weaving sheds. This includes extension A1 and A2.
- ◇ Phase 3 – 1894-1912 – Further expansion to the weaving sheds and mill floor. This time to the west of the structure, seen as extension B. This may be associated with the 1902 and 1905 owners upgrades.
- ◇ Phase 4 – 1912-1956 – Extension C constructed to the north of the 1894-1912 extension (B).
- ◇ Phase 5 – 1947-1956 – A large brick building, D, is constructed to the southeast corner of the mill.
- ◇ Phase 6 – 1956-1962 – A single storey brick extension, E, was constructed on the western face of B.
- ◇ Phase 7 – 1964-1977 – This represents the demolition of the western façade of the 1894 to 1912 mill expansion, returning it to its original location. In 1979 the demolition of the chimney stack was undertaken.

5.12. It is clear that the original mill building survived from 1854, albeit with numerous extension works, which led to a complex more than six times the size of the original structure by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The mill is a good example of mills of this date, with similar examples surviving in the surrounding area. The decorative nature of utilitarian buildings allowed mill owners to display their wealth and status. Forest

Mill fits this profile well, with an impressive water tower and engine house, large name stone fronting onto the busy thoroughfare of Market Street, and prime location by the river.

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**CARTOGRAPHIC**

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1851

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1894

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1912

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1932

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1947

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1956

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1962

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1967

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1977

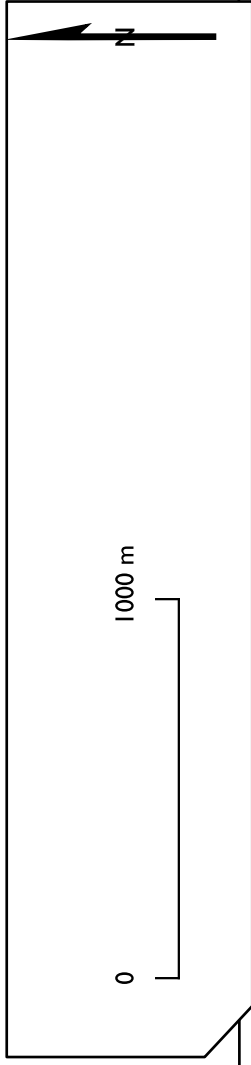
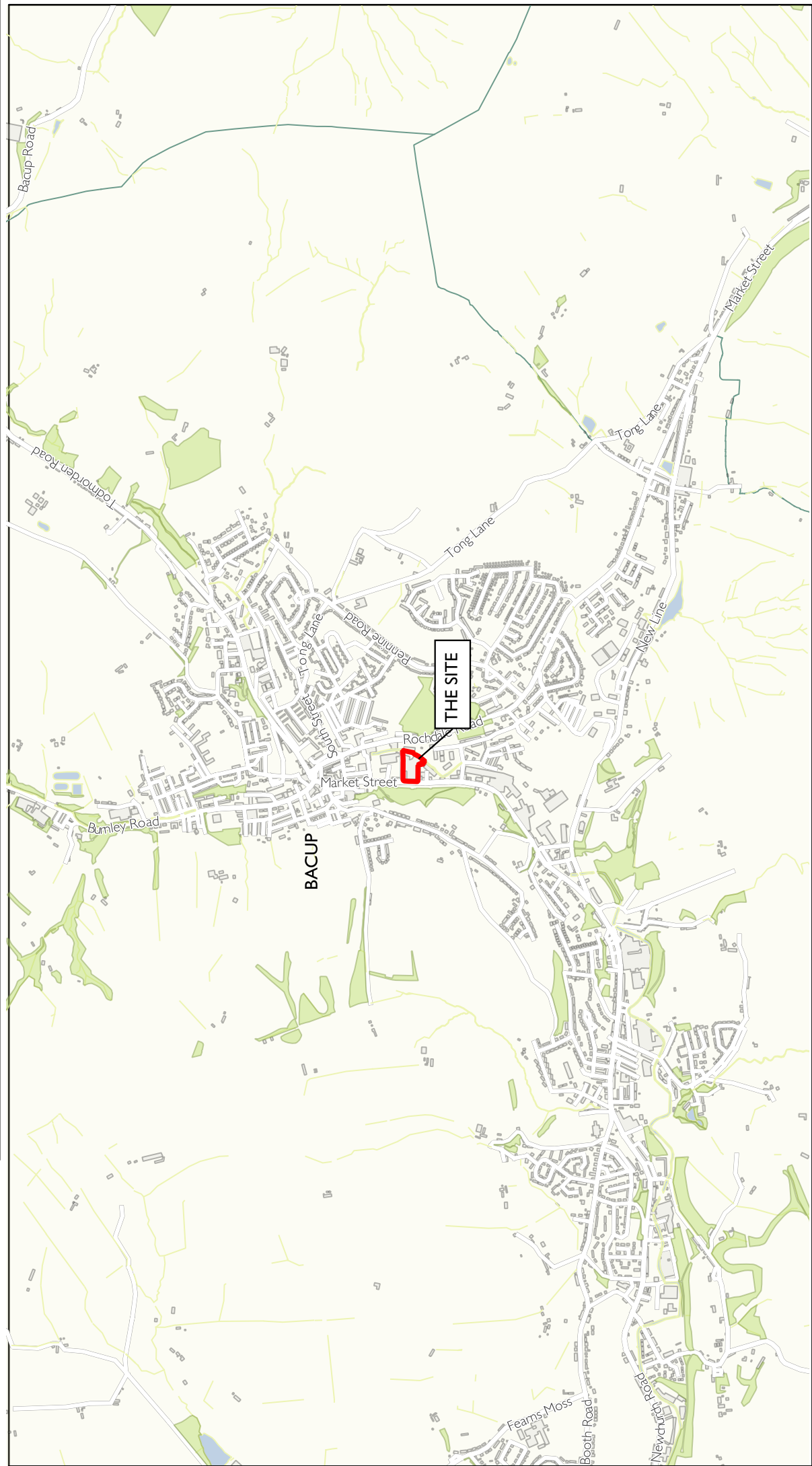
ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1988

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 2014

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# FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

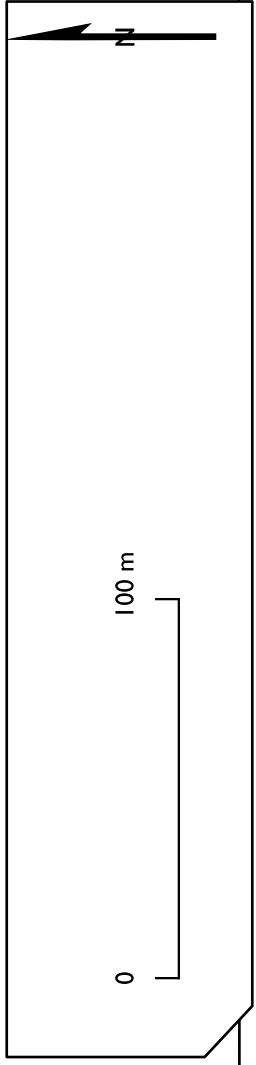
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

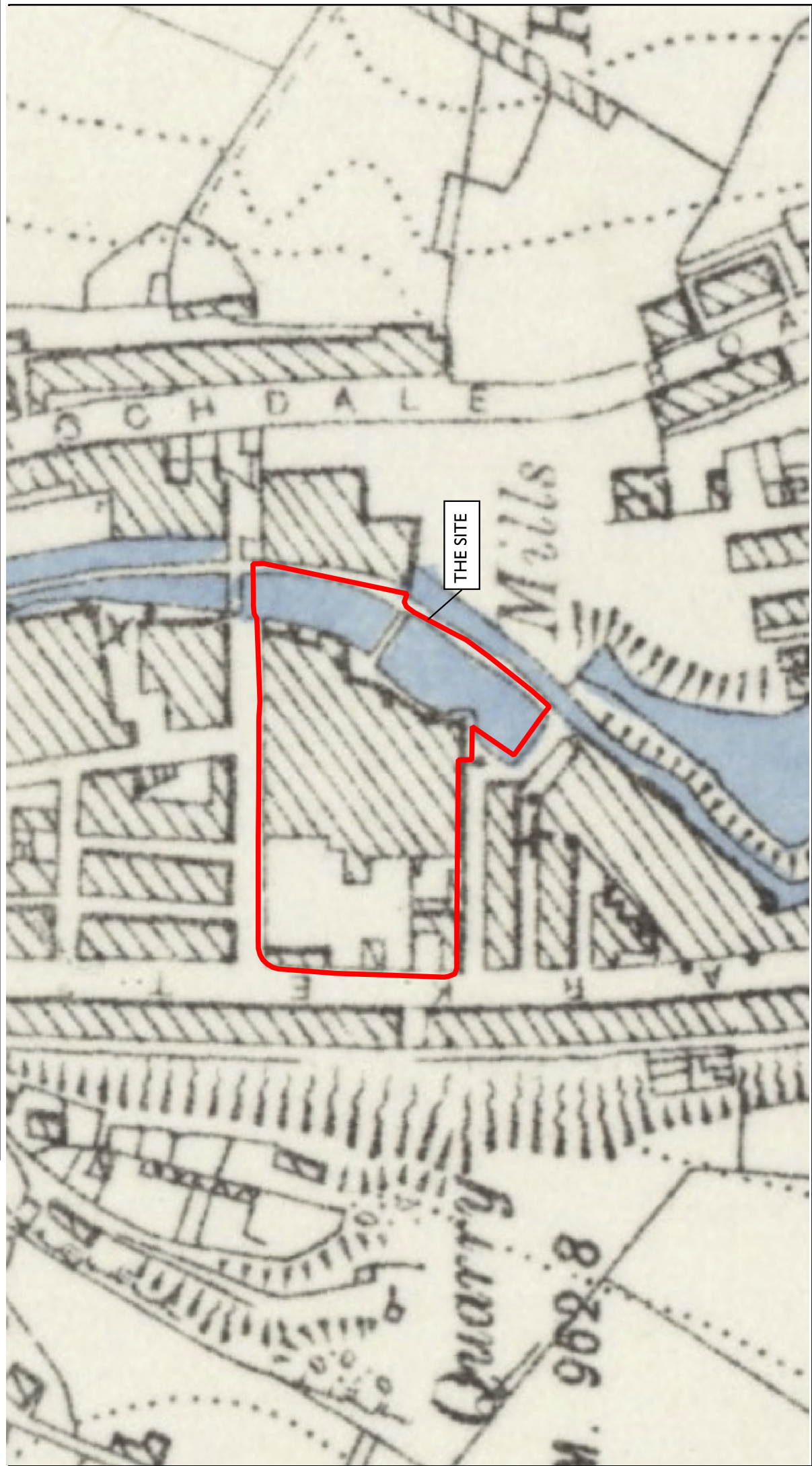
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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FIGURE 3 // 1894 OS Map



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DESCRIPTION // Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1894

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FIGURE 4 // 1912 OS Map



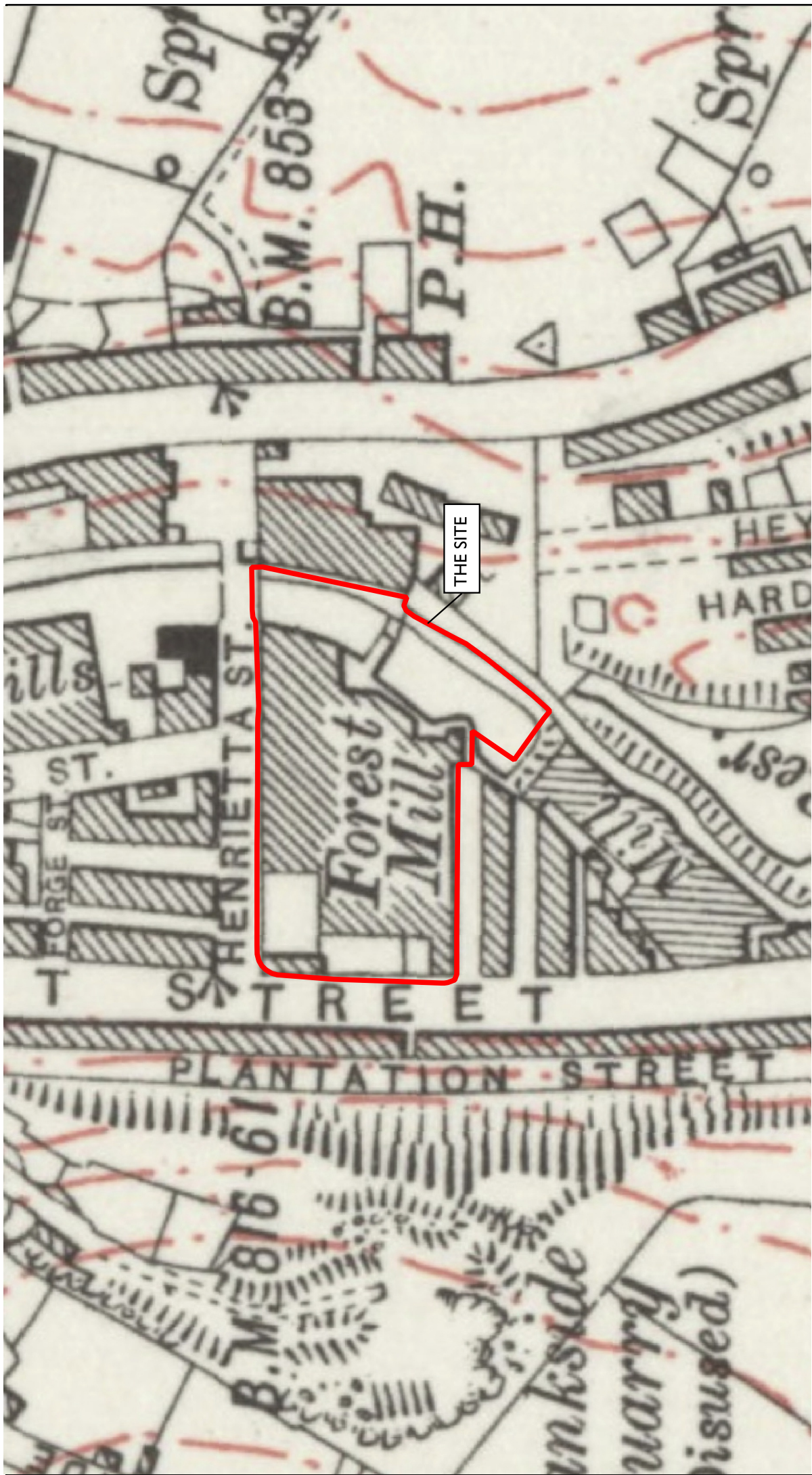
PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

DESCRIPTION // Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1912

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FIGURE 5 // 1932 OS Map



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DESCRIPTION // Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1932

DOC REF: LP1967C-HBR-v1

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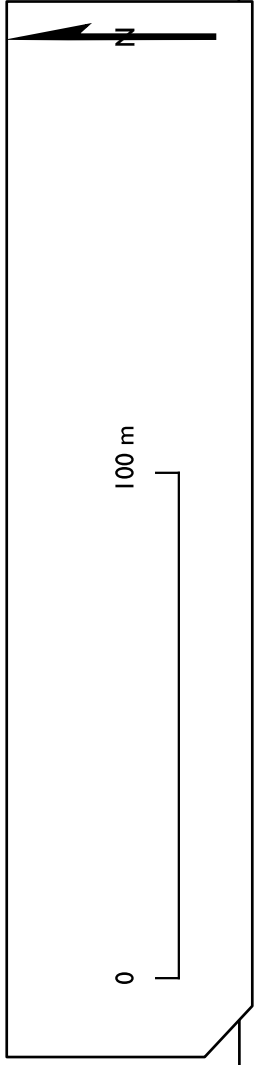
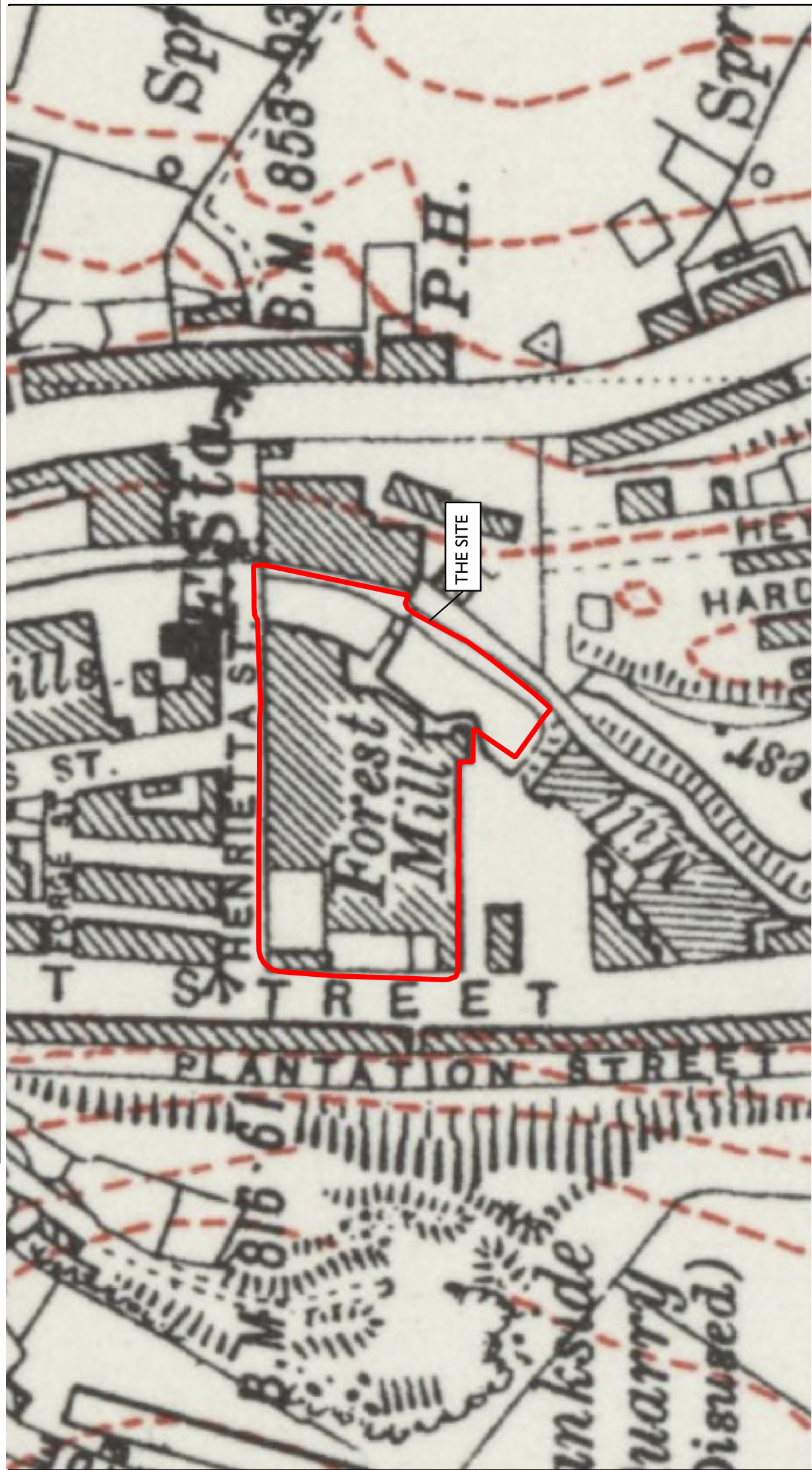




FIGURE 6 // 1947 OS Map



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

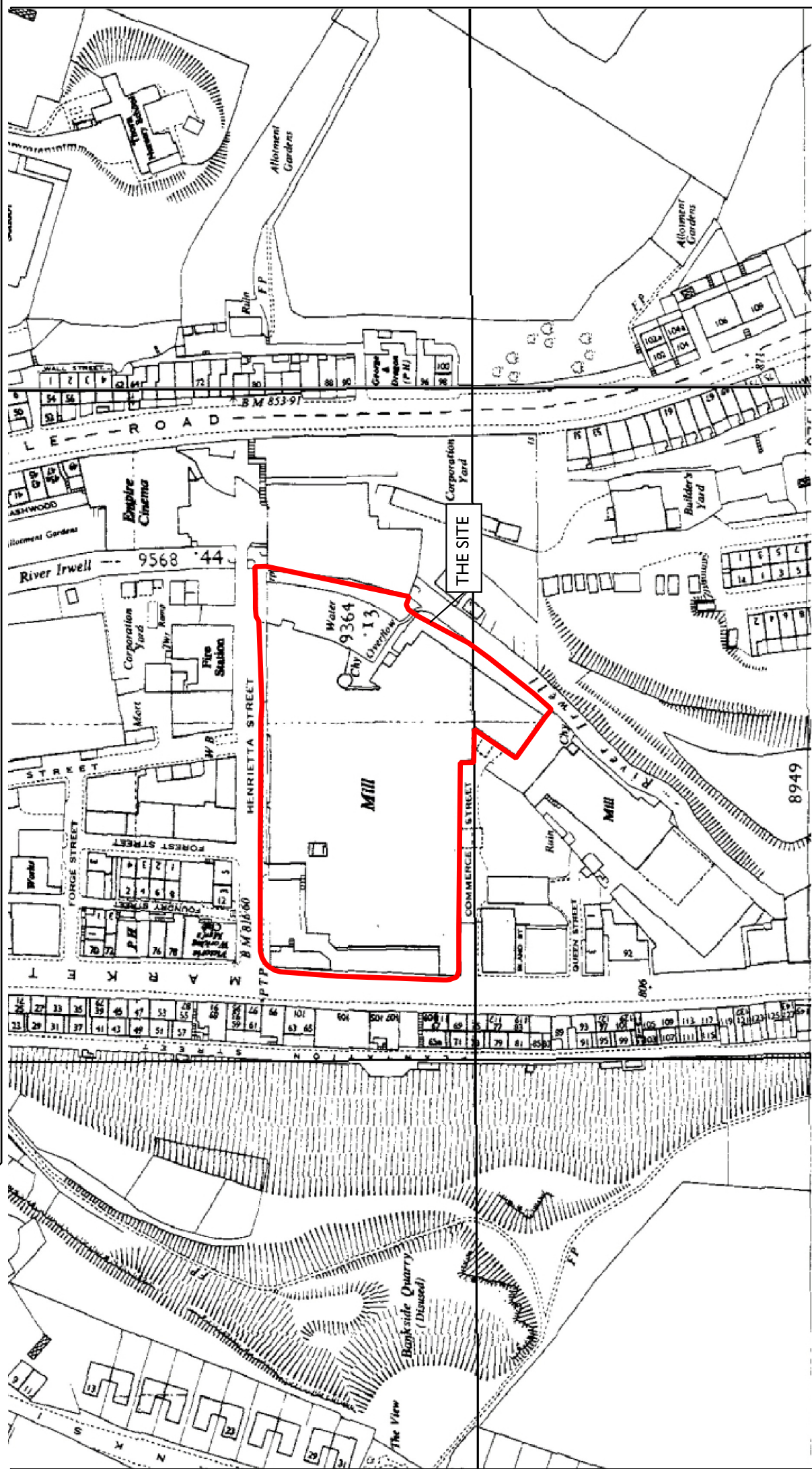
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FIGURE 8 // 1962 OS Map



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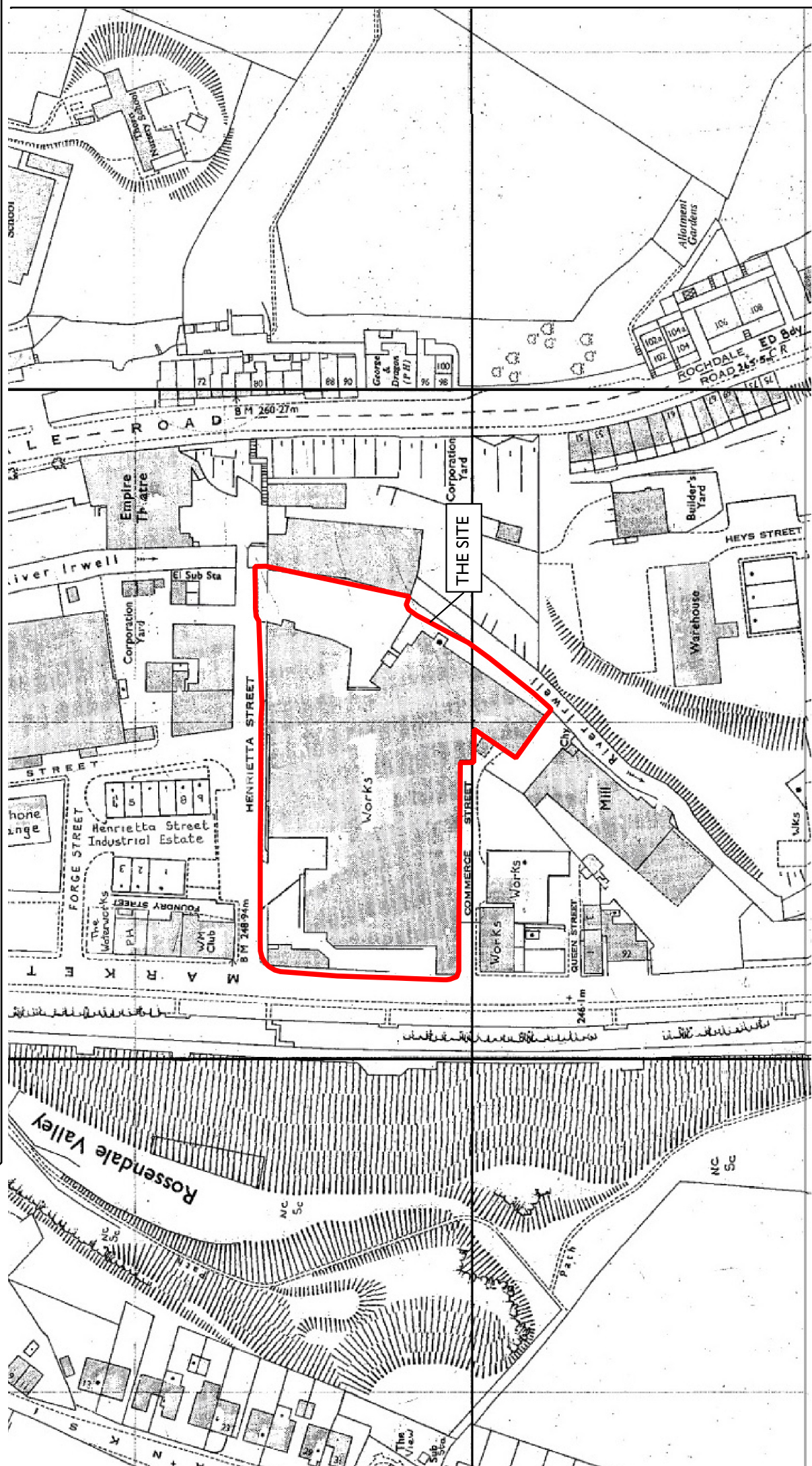
DESCRIPTION // Ordnance Survey Map of Bacup, 1962

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FIGURE 9 // 1977 OS Map



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

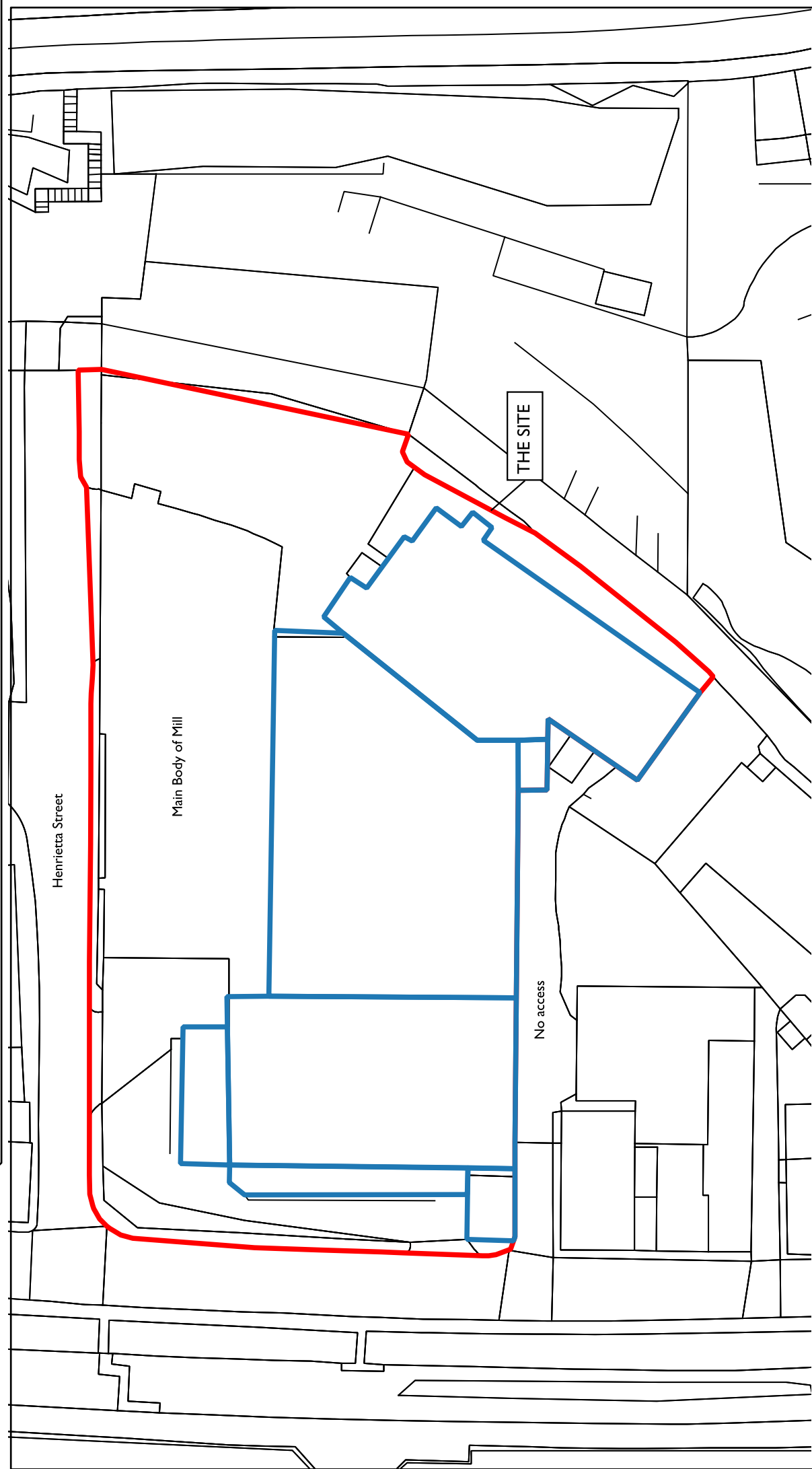
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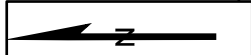
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 10 // Extent of Survey



The southern elevation of the mill was not accessible, nor was the easemrn extension block.  
No internal access was possible.

0 50 m



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

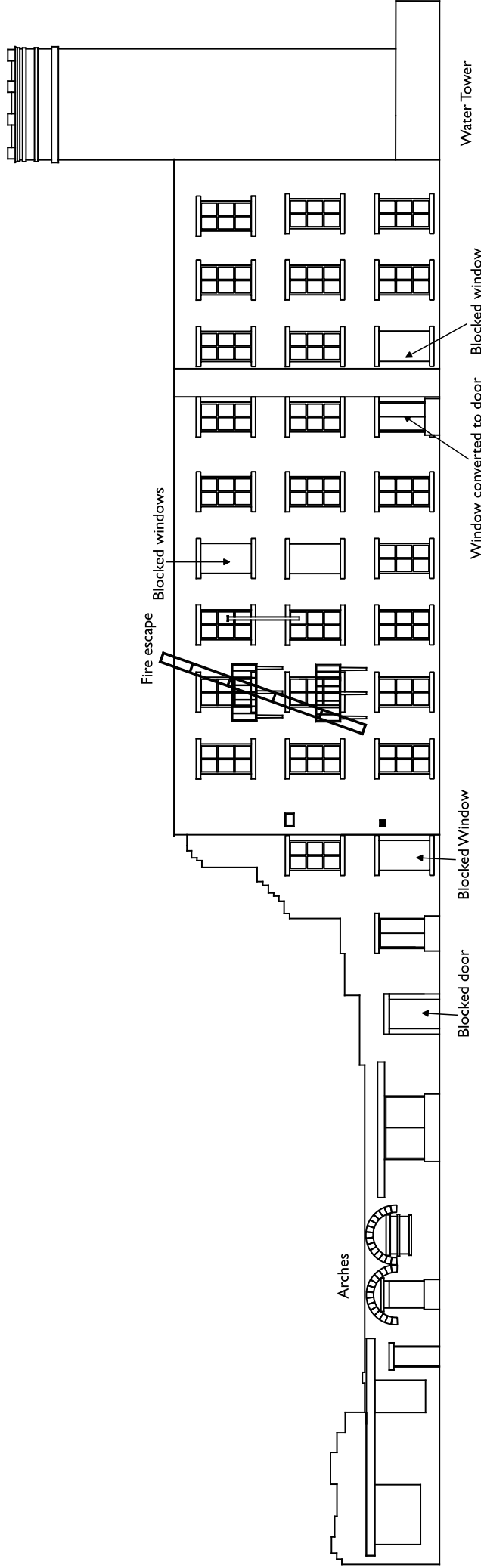
DESCRIPTION // Extent of Survey

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FIGURE 11 // Northern Elevation



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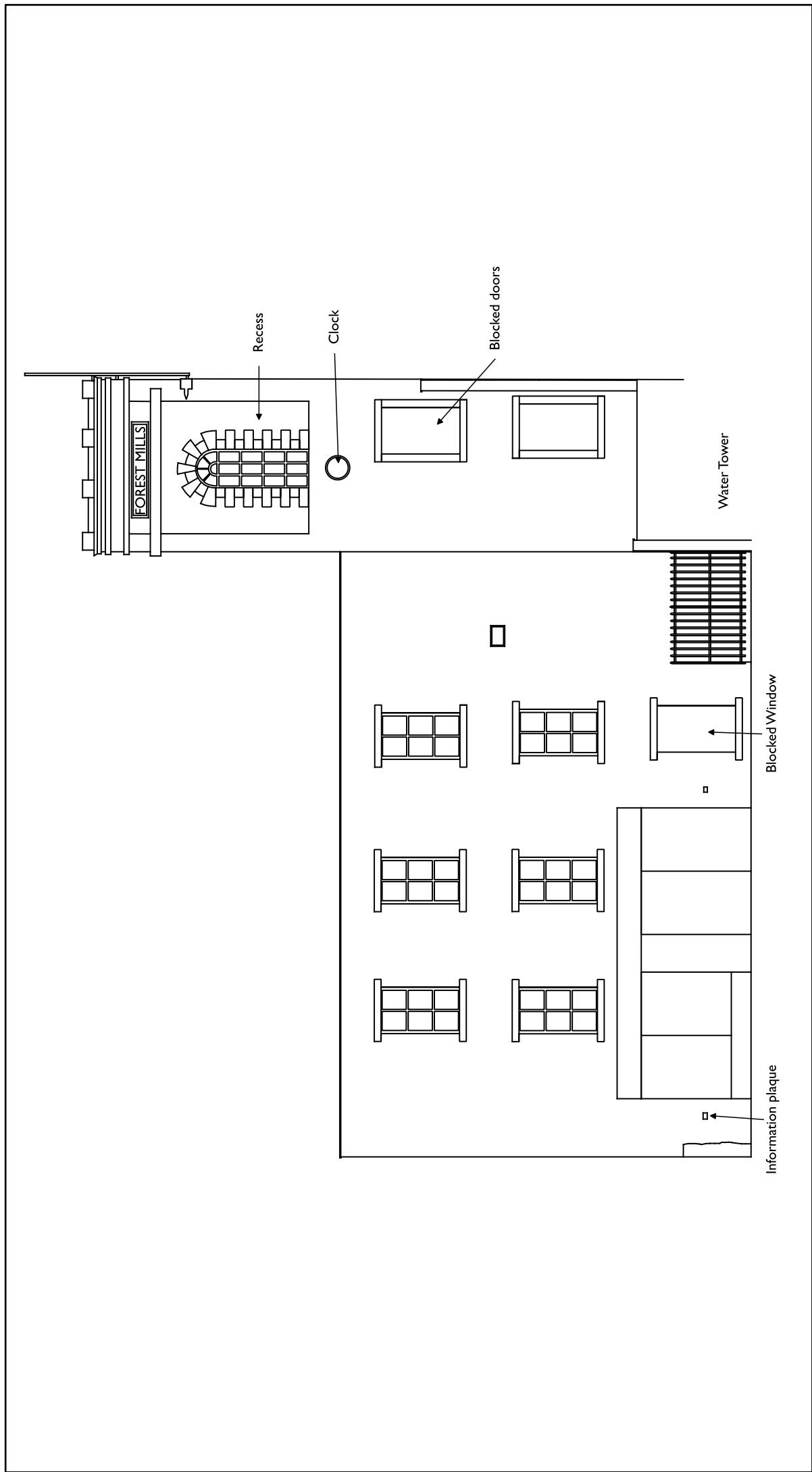
DESCRIPTION // Northern Elevation

0 10 m

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FIGURE 12 // Western Elevation



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

DESCRIPTION // Western Elevation

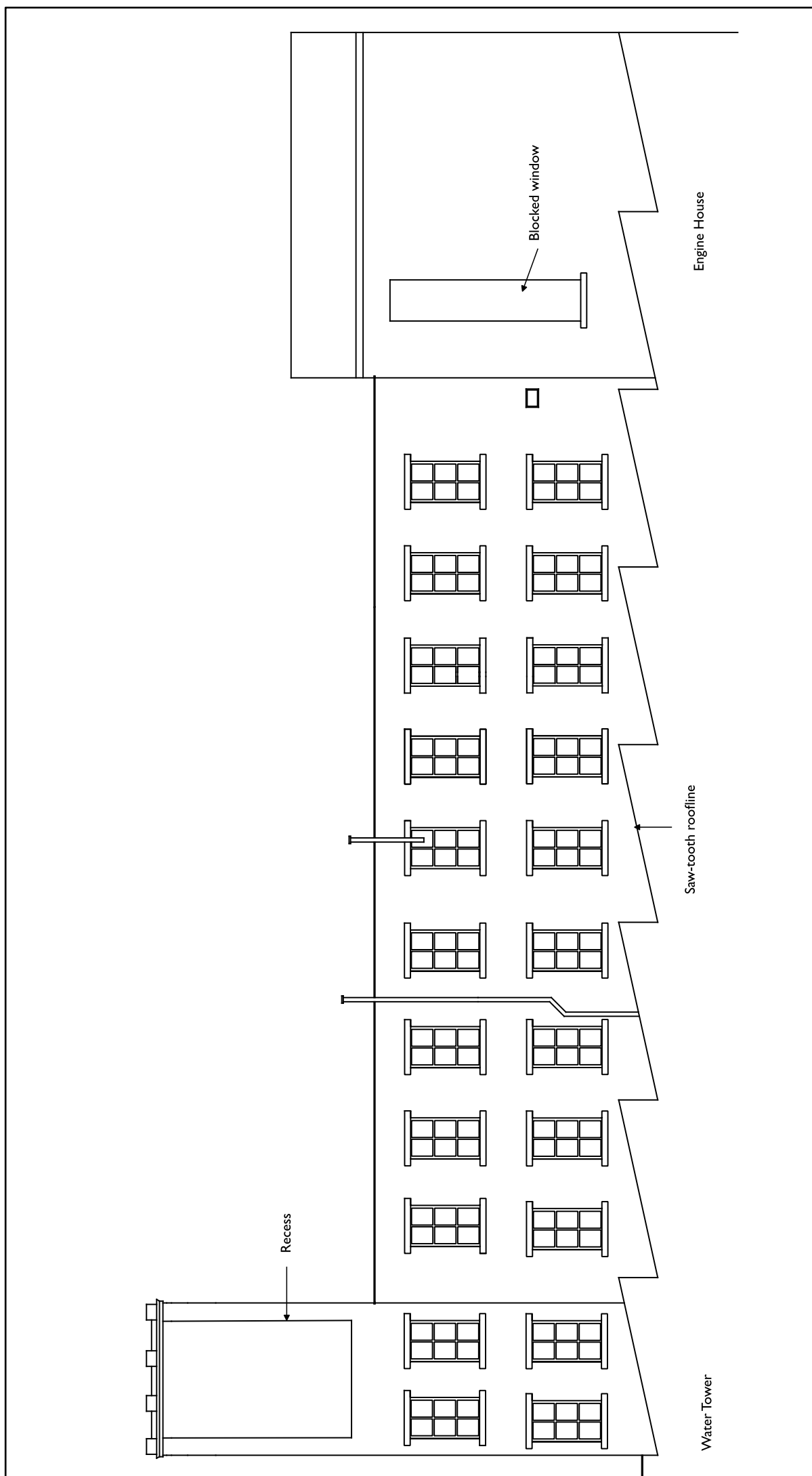
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10 m

0

FIGURE 13 // Southern Elevation



0 10 m

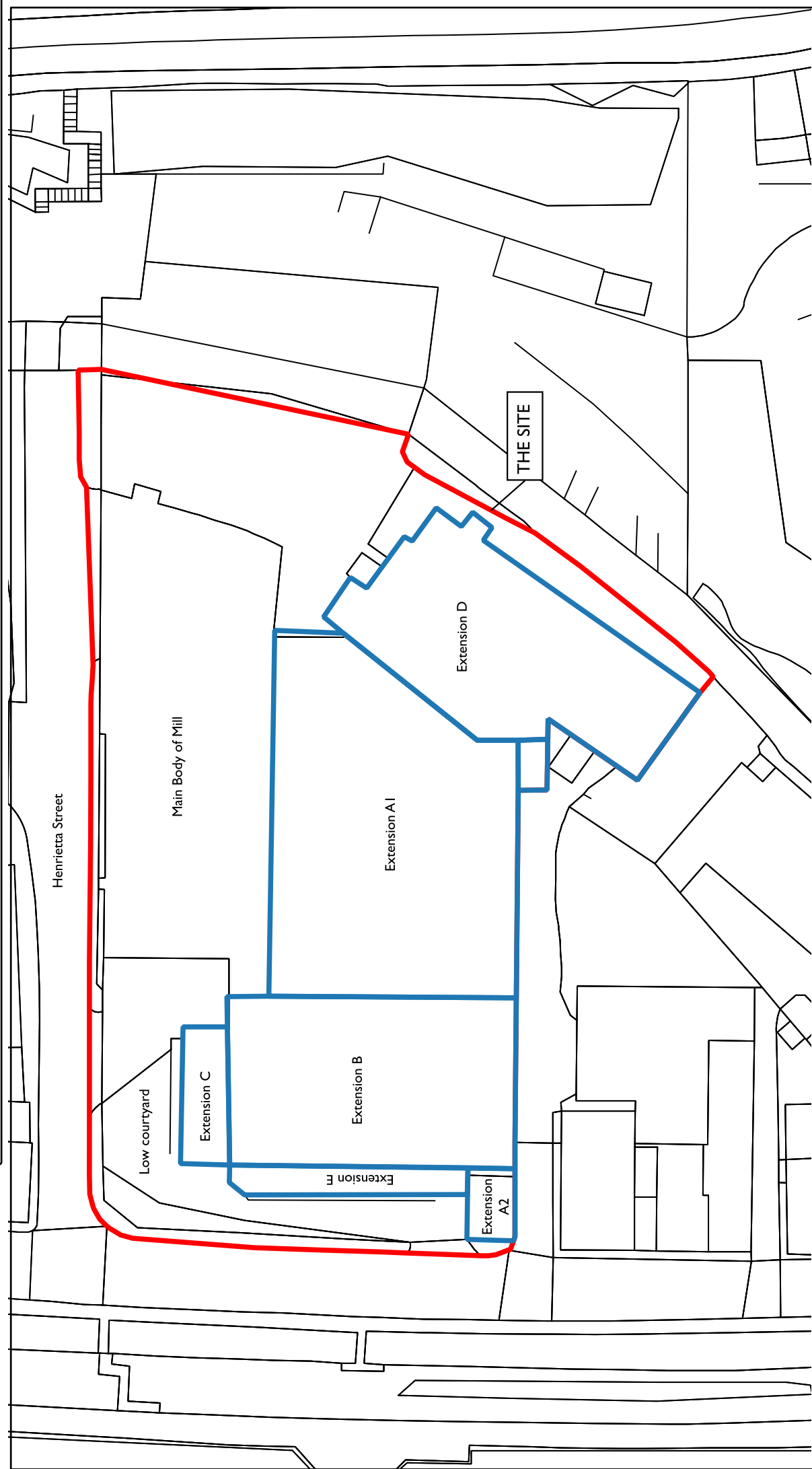
PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

DESCRIPTION // Southern Elevation

DOC REF: LP1967C-HBR-v1



FIGURE 14 // Extension Plan



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

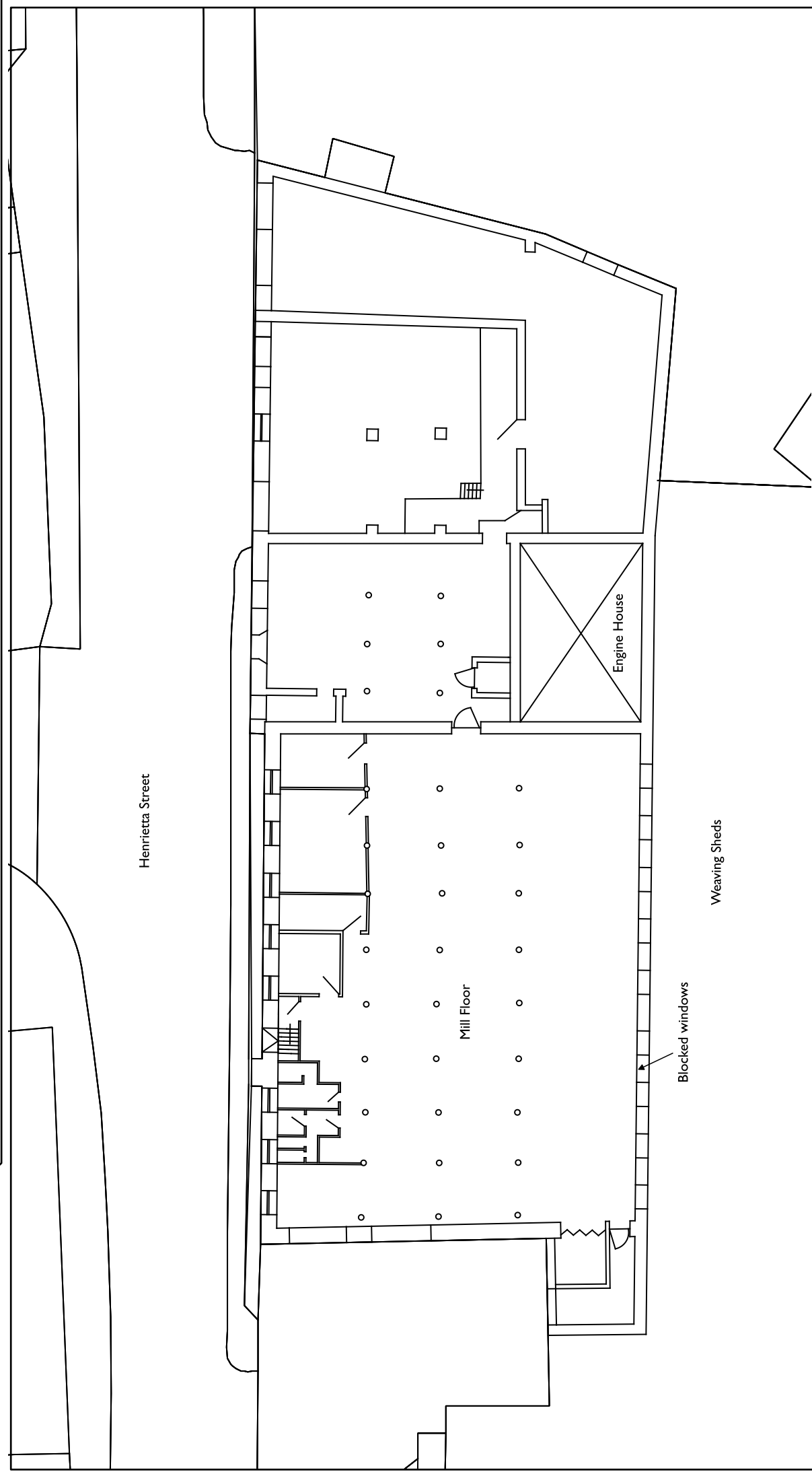
DESCRIPTION // Extension Plan

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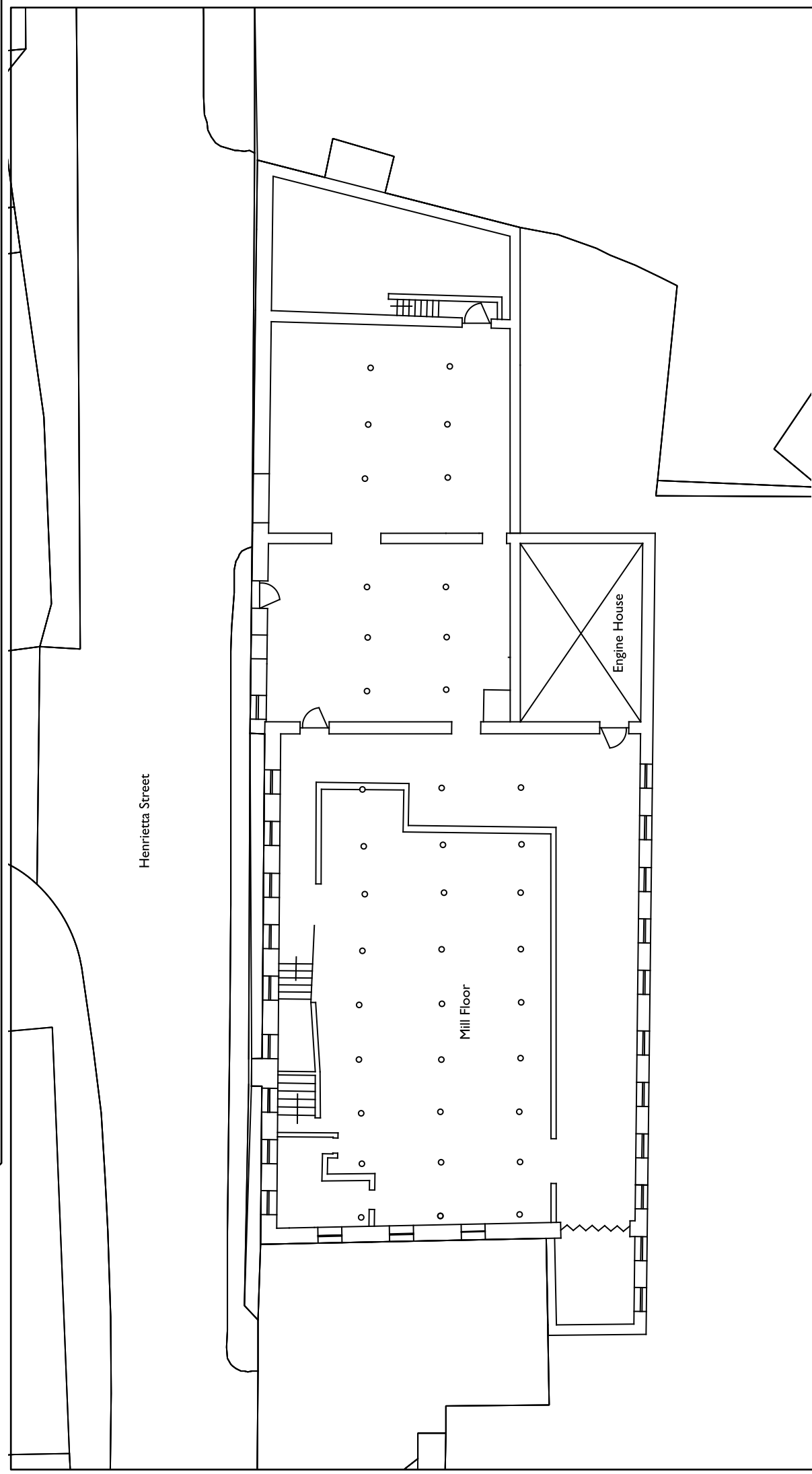
FIGURE 15 // Ground Floor Plan



0 10 m

PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup  
DESCRIPTION // Ground Floor Plan  
DOC REF: LP1967C-HBR-v1

FIGURE 16 // First Floor Plan

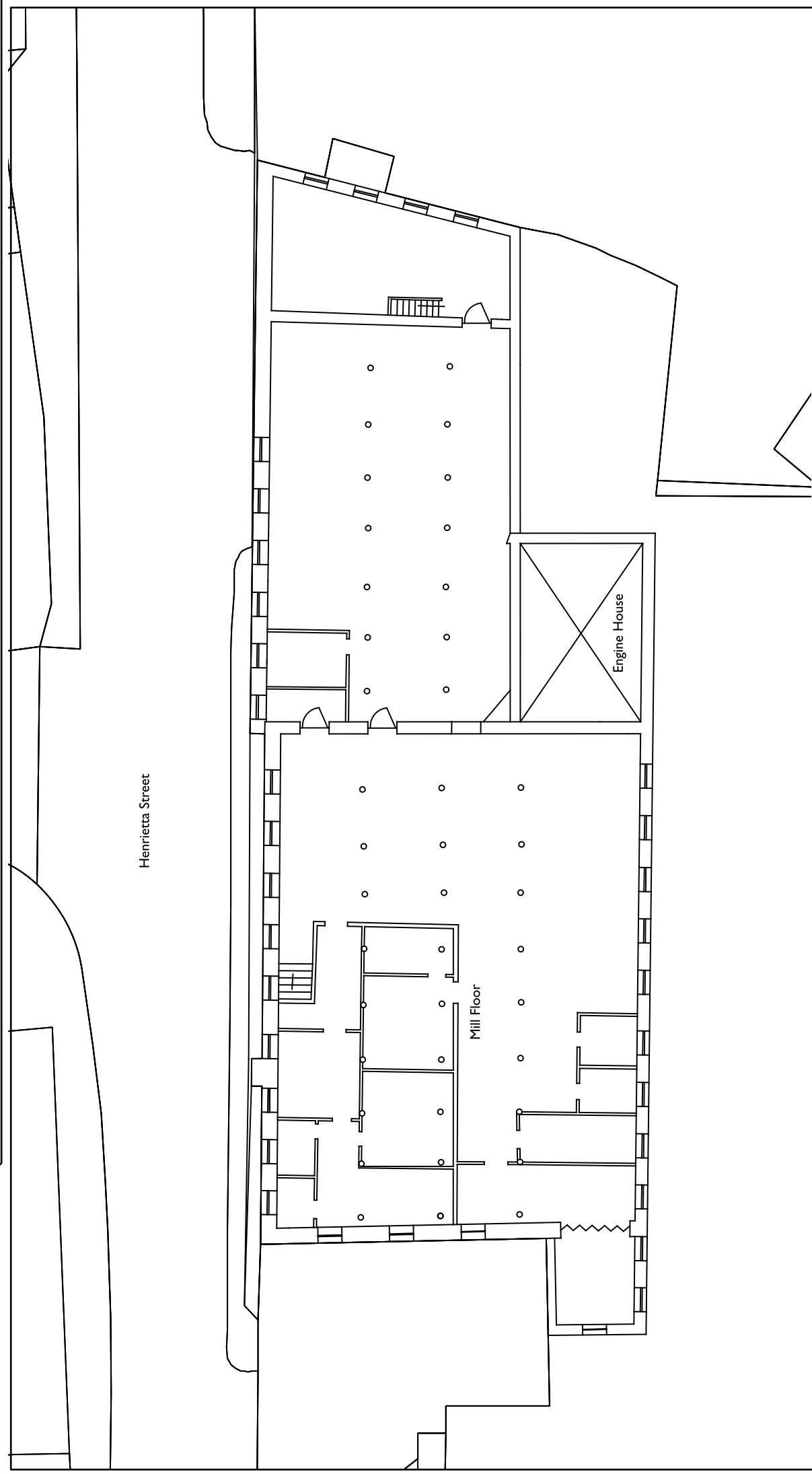


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PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup  
DESCRIPTION // First Floor Plan

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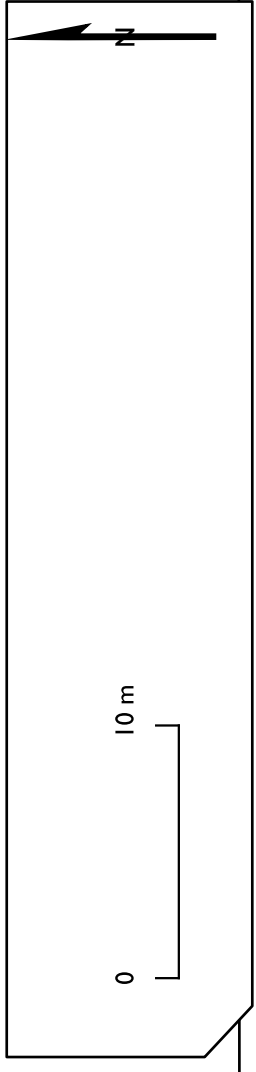
FIGURE 17 // Second Floor Plan



Henrietta Street

Mill Floor

Engine House

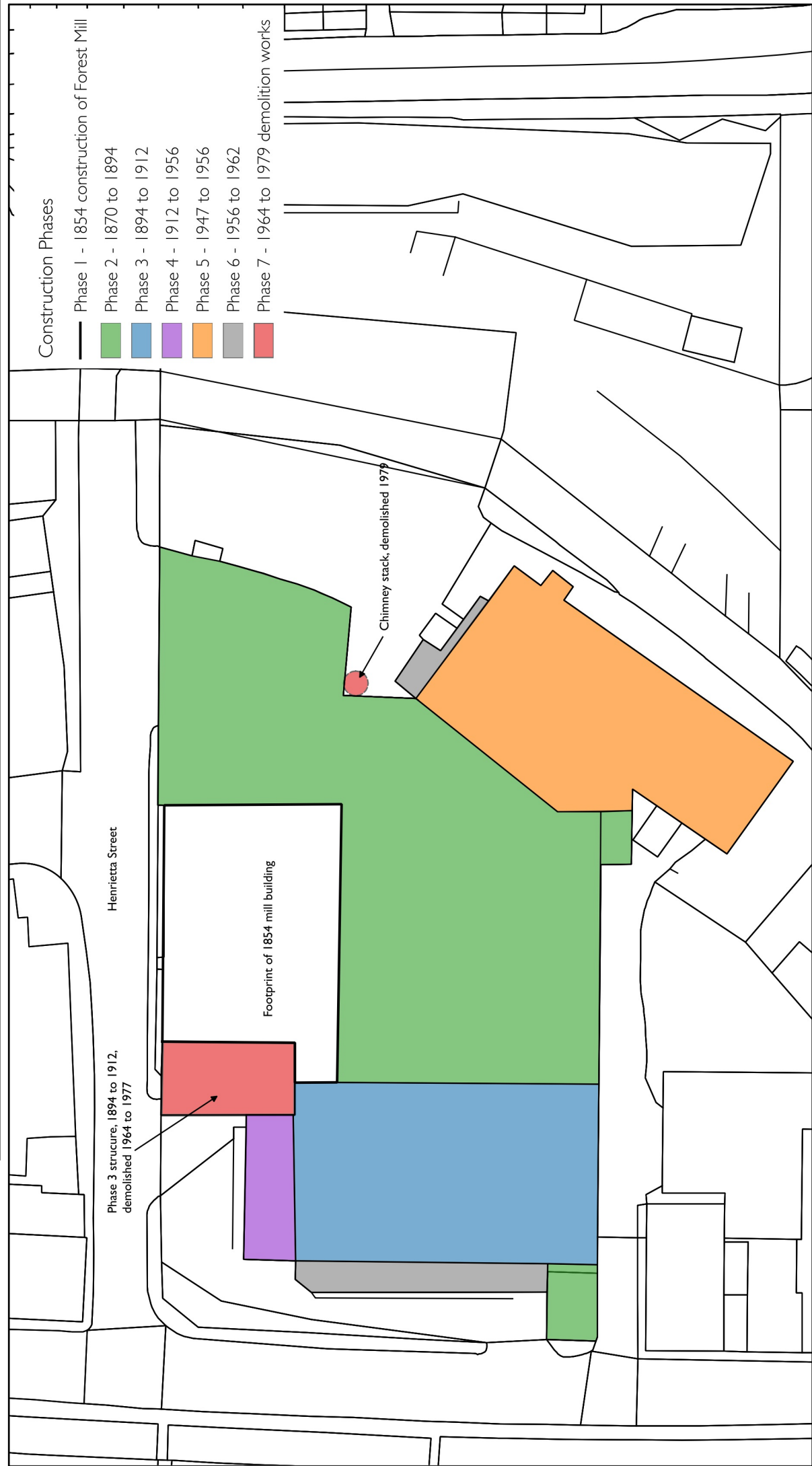


PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

DESCRIPTION // Second Floor Plan

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FIGURE 18 // Phasing Plan



PROJECT // 1967C - Forest Mill, Bacup

DESCRIPTION // Phasing Plan

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0 50 m

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# CHRONOLOGY

## APPENDIX I

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## Summary Chronology

- ◇ 1854 built by James Howarth and Brothers, housing 300 looms
- ◇ 1870 hit by floor and fire in the same year causing damage
- ◇ 1870-1894 – Mill floor expanded off Henrietta Street and expansion of weaving sheds to the south
- ◇ 1891 still under ownership of James Howarth and Brothers, although now with 350 looms, 15,000 spindles, 228 twists
- ◇ 1894-1912 – Large extension to the west, with a smaller extension at the southeast corner and modification of the western outbuildings. These changes may be associated with the 1902 and 1905 owners upgrades
- ◇ 1897 advertised for sale with three steam boilers, several steam engines, and 331 looms
- ◇ 1902 recorded as being under the ownership of Riley Brothers
- ◇ 1905 Sold to Mr Thomas Houghton
- ◇ 1912-1932 – The southern section of the western outbuilding was demolished
- ◇ 1912-1956 – Extension built to the north of the already expanded weaving sheds
- ◇ 1947-1956 – Large brick structure built to the southeast corner of the mill next to the river
- ◇ 1956-1962 – Brick extension built to the west of the mill and small extensions built along the 1947-56 extension
- ◇ 1964 bought by Bacup Town Council and leased to Due Mill
- ◇ 1964-1977 – Demolition of the façade in the yard area to the west of the mill, returning the façade it to its original location
- ◇ 1977 leased to Valley Refrigeration and Shopfitting Ltd
- ◇ 1979 Chimney height is reduced by half, then fully demolished

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◇ 2015 demolition of building, excluding water tower



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# CONTACT SHEET

APPENDIX 2

