

Georgian Mill Macclesfield Cheshire

Level 1 Historic Building Recording



Report prepared for:
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On behalf of:
Peaks and Plains Housing Trust

CA Project: 6815

CA Report: 6815_1

March 2019



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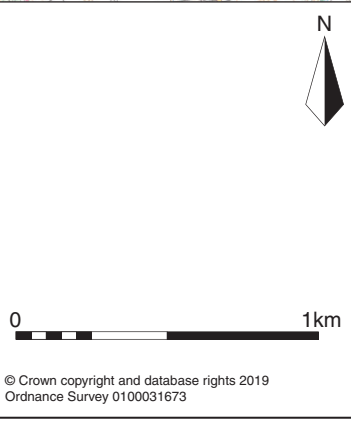
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PROJECT TITLE
 Georgan Mill, Macclesfield, Cheshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY EE **PROJECT NO.** 6815 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 22/02/2019 **1**
APPROVED BY MLC **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In November 2018, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Avison Young (formerly HOW Planning at the time of commission), on behalf of Peaks and Plains Housing Trust to undertake a programme of Level 1 Historic Building Recording in relation to the extant mill structures of the Georgian Mill, Lower Bank Street, Macclesfield (NGR:391972, 373174, Figure 1). The work was undertaken to meet a Planning Condition attached to the approved planning permission (Application Number: 17/3892M) for the demolition of the remaining extant buildings on Site and the erection of 67 dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping.

1.2. The programme of Level 1 Historic Building Recording was carried out and this report produced in part fulfilment of Condition 21 attached to the planning permission. Condition 21 required that both Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Investigation be undertaken. This report addresses the requirement of Historic Building Recording and the latter requirement will be addressed by Salford Archaeology. The condition states that:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

1.3. In relation to the requirements of the condition the scope of works was confirmed in correspondence between Cotswold Archaeology and Vicky Nash, former Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS). A Specification for Archaeological Investigation (Wardell Armstrong 2008) was prepared and agreed in relation to an earlier planning application for the Site. Correspondence between Cotswold Archaeology and CAPAS confirmed that the scope of work and plan set out within the Specification for Archaeological Investigation (Wardell Armstrong 2008) remained current and confirmed that the programme of archaeological works should include an assessment conforming to Level 1 of Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (Historic England, 2016). The scope of works was confirmed in correspondence with CAPAS to include a 'photographic survey, commensurate with a Historic England Level 1 record of the remaining standing mill structures'. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Cotswold

Archaeology, 2018) was produced for the Level 1 Historic Building Recording and was subsequently approved by Mark Leah, Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader, CAPAS on the 29 January 2019.

- 1.4. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI (Cotswold Archaeology, 2018). The objectives of the survey were to produce a record of the extant buildings within the Site in their current state, comprising photographs and a brief written description. The survey equates to Level 1 standards as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England, 2016).
- 1.5. The Site was visited on 21 February 2019 with the purpose of undertaking a photographic record to comply with the requirements of the approved WSI.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The methodology used within this assessment has been agreed through a WSI approved by Mark Leah (CAPAS). The WSI was guided in its composition by the Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (ClfA 2014); the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991); the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE); the Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015) and Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice (Historic England, 2016).

Drawn Record

- 2.2. Existing building plans were utilised in the historic building survey for the annotation of photograph locations (Figure 2) and annotated copies have been retained as part of the project archive.

Photographic Record

- 2.3. The photographic record includes general views of the extant mill buildings including shots of their external appearance and the overall appearance of principal spaces taken from publicly accessible areas.
- 2.4. The photographic survey comprises digital images of the buildings and has been created in compliance with Historic England guidance (Historic England, 2016). Select photographs were taken using a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera with a sensor of a minimum of 20 megapixels. A compact digital camera was used for more general shots and working shots. Lenses were chosen to reflect the requirements of the particular feature/features being recorded.
- 2.5. Images have been saved in TIFF format. At the current time TIFF formatting is regarded as the best format for archiving. Original RAW or TIFF versions have been maintained in the project archive. Appropriate levels of Metadata will be maintained and included in the digital archive following the approach set out in the Historic England guidance (Historic England, 2016).
- 2.6. Appropriate scales were located in most archive photographs. However, where appropriate (i.e. where scaling can be seen from items within the view, or shots that may be used in publications) photographs without scales were also taken

Limitations

- 2.7. Due to health and safety constraints, it was not possible to access the internal areas of the Georgian Mill and those areas contained within the hoarding. It was therefore not possible to record those parts of the building including part of Boiler House II as identified within the WSI. Photographic recording was undertaken as far as possible from the surrounding roads and public areas which allowed for a good overview of the majority of the external elevations of the remaining buildings and structures. Correspondence with Mark Leah, DMA, CAPAS confirmed that the extent of photographic survey was acceptable. As a result of hoarding being erected around the northern extent of the Site it was only possible for the roofline of Elevation 6 (Figure 3) to be photographed from beyond the hoarding. Photographs of this elevation have previously been undertaken during a Site visit carried out on 30th January 2017 to inform the Desk-Based Assessment and these photographs were included within the Desk-Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology, 2017).

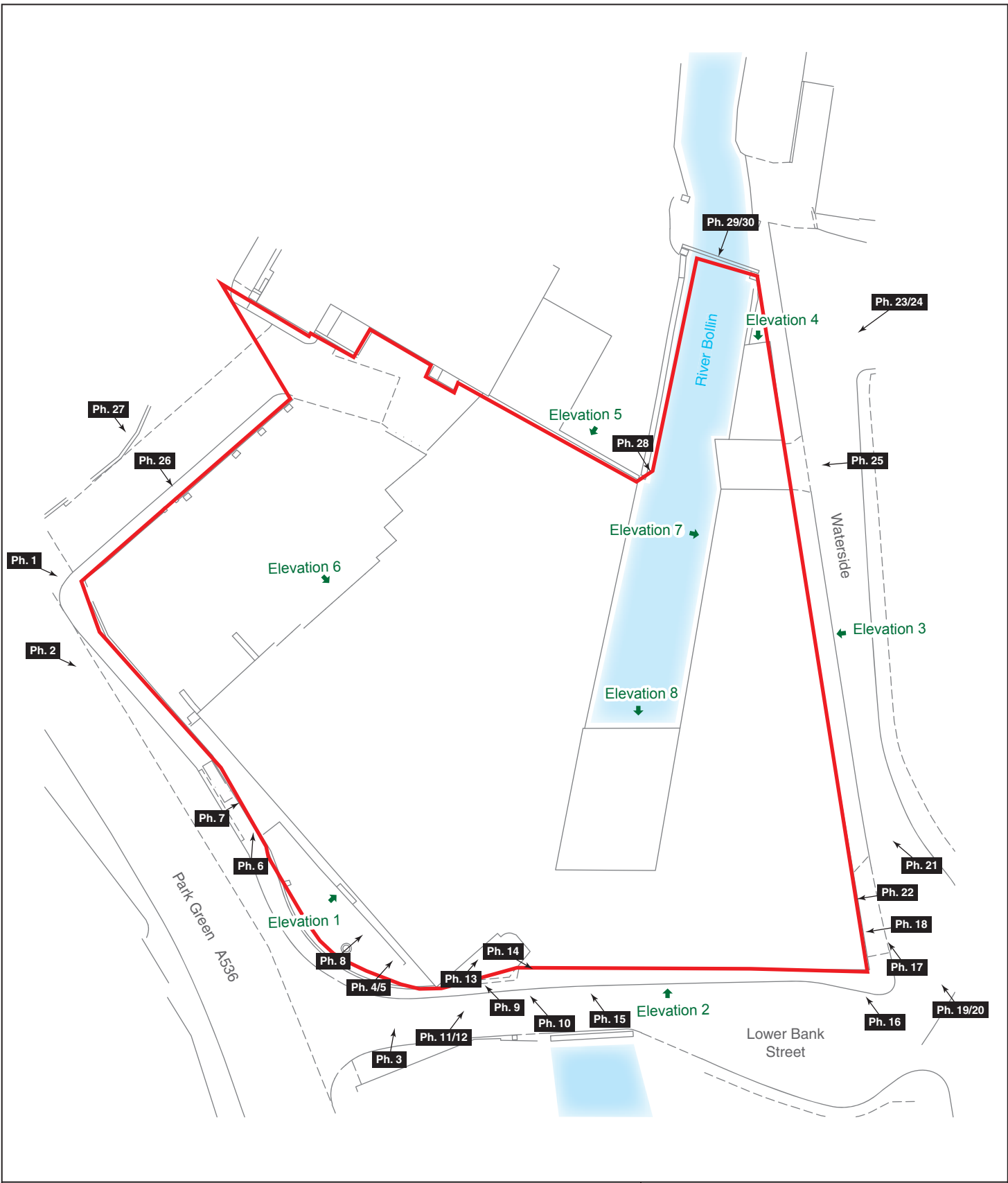
3. RESULTS OF LEVEL 1 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Introduction

- 3.1. The results of the Historic Building Recording are set out below. The description of the building is broken down into individual numbered elevations which are set out on Figure 2 (Figure 2, Elevations 1 to 8). The recording of these elevations was undertaken from surrounding adjoining roads and public areas including Park Green, Lower Bank Street and Waterside. The recording of Elevation 6 was undertaken as far as possible from behind the hoarding which borders the northern extent of the Site.

Background

- 3.2. The Site is located within the historic industrial 'Park Green' area of southern Macclesfield, which is located between the A536 and the A523. The Site is bound by the A536 to the west, Lower Bank Street to the south, Waterside to the east and Park Green to the north. Elements of the Site have previously been known as the Georgian Mill, Park Green Mill and the Waterside Mill. For the purposes of this record, the buildings remaining within the Site are referred to as the remains of the Georgian Mill.
- 3.3. The Georgian Mill was founded in 1785 as one of the earliest water powered silk mills to be established in Macclesfield. The mill was one of the earliest mills to convert to steam power when an engine was installed to supplement the water wheel in the 1790s. The Mill was formerly Grade II Listed, its significance lying in it being the only surviving water powered silk mill in Macclesfield. The earliest parts of the Georgian Mill were those which faced on to Mill Lane (now Park Green). These parts of the mill were destroyed by a fire in 1976. The mill buildings were rebuilt but were subsequently destroyed by a second fire in 2011. This fire resulted in the complete destruction of the earliest parts of the mill (those which contributed to its significance) and the building was thus de-listed. The extant buildings within the Site relate to later phases of development within the mill and are considered to be of some very limited significance as remnants of industrial architecture.



- Site boundary
- ↑ Elevation location numbers
- Ph. 3 Photograph location



Base plan provided by the client



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PROJECT TITLE
 Georgian Mill, Macclesfield, Cheshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan showing elevation numbers and photograph locations

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Photo 1: An overview of the site from the north-west.

Elevation 1

- 3.4. Elevation 1 faces westwards on to the A536. The elevation is of redbrick construction and is of two storeys. In its current form the elevation comprises of 17 bays (Photos 2 and 3) each of which contains a window opening to the first and second storey (Photos 4 and 5). The window openings within the two northern most bays of the elevation are blind, the brickwork suggests that they have always been blind and never intended to house a window (Photos 6 and 7). Each of the window openings lie under a segmental brick soldier arch, a feature characteristic of the late 18th and 19th centuries. This elevation formed part of a range constructed by 1874 along the western extent of the Site and was subsequently extended eastwards with the construction of metal framed warehouses (Photo 2 and discussion on Elevation 6). At the northern extent of the elevation there is a tie plate. Elevation 1 would formerly have abutted the main and earliest range of the mill fronting northwards on to Park Green. Google Earth imagery dating to 2009 (Figure 4) depicts Elevation 1 abutting the four-storey western wing of the Park Green building.



Figure 4: An extract of Google Street View Imagery (2009) showing Elevation 1 alongside the now demolished Park Green Range.

- 3.5. In the scrubland to the west of Elevation 1 stands a brick built well (Photo 8). The brick work suggests that this feature is of more recent construction although it is located within the footprint of a structure depicted abutting Elevation 1 on the 1874 1:500 Ordnance Survey Town Map (Cotswold Archaeology, 2017 page 19). This structure and the well would have been in close proximity to an engine and boiler house which were located on the opposite (eastern) side of this range and it is possible that this well feature was associated with supplying the boiler house. The Wardell Armstrong plan of the Site (Cotswold Archaeology, 2018) marks this location as the location of a wheel pit.



Photo 2: An overview of Elevation 1 from the north-west.



Photo 3: An overview of Elevation 1 from the south.



Photo 4: Detail of a brick soldier arch window opening within Elevation 1.



Photo 5: Detail of a timber window frame within Elevation 1.



Photo 6: An overview of the northern extent of Elevation 1 from the south.



Photo 7: Detail of window opening and tie plate at the northern extent of Elevation 1.



Photo 8: A brick built well feature to the south of Elevation 1.

Elevation 2

- 3.6. Elevation 2 faces southwards on to Lower Bank Street. The western extent of Elevation 2 forms a continuation of Elevation 1 and part of the late 18th and 19th century construction of the Georgian Mill (Photos 9 to 14). The elevation is of red brick construction and comprises of a two-storey range of two bays (Photos 9 and 10). There are two window openings under segmental brick soldier arches to the second storey which are stylistically similar to those to Elevation 1. A blocked door opening is present at ground floor level. It is not situated under a segmental brick soldier arch suggesting that it was a later insertion (Photos 9 and 10). Further eastwards along Elevation 2 is a taller, narrow brick-built structure. This location is identified by Wardell Armstrong as the location of a stair turret (Wardell Armstrong 2008) (Photos 11 to 13). Three metal rails are set within the eastern wall of the stair turret which may have been hand rails associated with the flights of stairs within the turret. There are two blocked openings within the southern wall of the turret. These are likely to have contained windows to light the second and third floors of the stairwell (Photos 13 and 14).
- 3.7. The majority of Elevation 2 comprises a double height building of brick-built construction of ten bays. Each bay is marked by a double height recessed brick panel with stepped brick detailing to the top and tiled window cills to the bottom

(Photos 15 and 16). The southern and northern panels appear to have once contained door openings and the other bays contained window openings within the lower half of the panel, each opening being set under a concrete lintel. The fourth bay from the south appears to have contained a further 'taking in' opening (Photo 15). This range of Elevation 2 appears to have been constructed in the mid-20th century forming a connection over the River Bollin between Elevation 1 and the buildings fronting on to Waterside. The range was built over the River Bollin to form a cohesive structure along the length of Lower Bank Street. The range appears to have been simply constructed to abut the stair turret of the earlier range and replaced a series of smaller structures depicted to the east of the River Bollin on the 1874 1:500 Ordnance Survey Town Map (Cotswold Archaeology, 2017). This range has a valley roof obscured behind a parapet and a faux mansard brick wall to its northern elevation (see Elevation 3). A small cupola possibly for ventilation is situated centrally within the roof (Photo 16).



Photo 9: An overview of the western extent of Elevation 2 from the south.



Photo 10: An overview of the western extent of Elevation 2 from the south-east.



Photo 11: An overview of Elevation 2 from the south-west.



Photo 12: An overview of the stair turret from the south-west.



Photo 13: Detail of the stair turret from the south-west.



Photo 14: Detail of a blocked window opening within the southern elevation of the stair turret.



Photo 15: An overview of Elevation 2 from the south-east.



Photo 16: An overview of Elevation 2 from the south-east.

Elevations 3 to 5

- 3.8. Elevation 3 (Photo 17) fronts on to Waterside to the east of the Site. The elevation comprises the eastern return of the 20th century range on Lower Bank Street and a further 20th century range lining the course of Waterside (Photos 18 to 20).
- 3.9. The return of Elevation 2 comprises of two bays and includes two recessed panels with decorative brickwork, following the same style as Elevation 2. Within the bottom half of the southern bay is a blocked window opening under a concrete lintel similar to the blocked window openings to Elevation 2. The upper half of the southern most bay contains a further window opening. This opening is a later insertion which has disrupted the decorative brickwork to the top of the panel (Photos 17 and 18). To the lower half of the northern bay there is a double width door opening/ loading bay under a decorative concrete lintel. The upper half of the panel contains a smaller opening, possibly used for loading and un-loading.
- 3.10. The majority of Elevation 3 is formed by an eight bay, brick-built range. The elevation follows the same architectural characteristics as Elevation 2 with each bay marked by a recessed panel with decorative brickwork (Photo 19). The roof of the range is hidden behind a tall brick faux mansard with a decorative cornice. The height of this part of the elevation is set slightly higher than the return of Elevation 2 (Photos 19, 20 and 22). This eight-bay range to Elevation 3 appears to have been constructed after the construction of the range to Lower Bank Street as it crudely abuts the return of Elevation 2 (Photo 22). Each bay is lit by a metal framed window (Photo 21) situated under a concrete lintel, these windows are situated within the bottom third of the opening in a position slightly higher than those windows to Elevation 2 (Photos 23 and 24). The northern most bay contains a door opening situated under a decorative concrete lintel (Photo 25). Elevation 4 comprises the northern return of Elevation 3 and comprises a single storey structure containing a loading bay (Photos 23 and 24).



Photo 17: An overview of Elevation 3 from the south-east.



Photo 18: An overview of the southern extent of Elevation 3 from the south-east.



Photo 19: An overview of Elevation 2 and the southern extent of Elevation 3 from the south-east.



Photo 20: An overview of Elevations 2 and 3 from the junction of Lower Bank Street and Waterside.



Photo 21: An overview of the northern extent of Elevation 3 from the south-east.



Photo 22: Detail of metal framed windows to Elevation 3.



Photo 23: An overview of Elevation 3 from the north-east.



Photo 24: An overview of Elevations 3 and 4 from the north-east.



Photo 25: Detail of a door opening at the northern extent of Elevation 3.

Elevation 6

- 3.11. Elevation 6 comprises the remains of the former rear elevation of the Park Green façade/ block of the mill building and part of the metal framed warehouse building to the rear of the Park Green façade (Figure 2, Photos 26 and 27). Elevation 6 is depicted on Figure 6 which utilises a measured elevation and is overlain with photographs of the roofline taken from behind hoarding during the Historic Building Recording. These elements of the building were rebuilt following the fire in 1976 and their current form is the result of a subsequent major fire in 2011, which destroyed the entire Park Mill façade. Photographs of this elevation have previously been undertaken during a Site visit carried out on 30th January 2017 to inform the Desk-Based Assessment and these photographs were included within the Desk-Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology, 2017).



Datum 130.00m

Elevation 6


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PROJECT TITLE
 Georgian Mill, Macclesfield, Cheshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Elevation 6 with photograph

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Photo 26: An overview of Elevation 6 from the north-west.



Photo 27: An overview of Elevation 6 from the north-west.

Elevation 7

- 3.12. Elevation 7 comprises the rear, western elevation of the building range fronting on to Waterside. It comprises of eight bays, mirroring the bay layout of Elevation 3 (Photo 28). Like the rest of the range the building is of red brick construction although the bays are rendered. The elevation is distinctive in its form with 'sawtooth' north-facing rooflights which allow the second floor to be lit from the north. Such north lit roofs are a distinctive characteristic of weaving sheds or buildings which contained industrial processes that required ample natural light (Photo 28).



Photo 28: An overview of Elevation 7 from the north-west.

Elevation 8

- 3.13. Elevation 8 (Photos 29 and 30) comprises part of the rear elevation of the range fronting on to Lower Bank Street. The elevation comprises a small section which extends across and bridges the River Bollin. This range was constructed during the mid to late 20th century when the range along Lower Bank Street was constructed to connect the mill buildings on the eastern and western banks of the river.



Photo 29: An overview of Elevation 8 from the north.



Photo 30: Detail of Elevation 8 from the bridge over the River Bollin.

Summary

- 3.14. In summary, the buildings recorded as part of the Level 1 Historic Building Recording relate to later phases of development within the mill and are considered to be of some very limited significance as remnants of industrial architecture. The Georgian Mill was founded in 1785 as one of the earliest water powered silk mills to be established in Macclesfield. The mill was one of the earliest mills to convert to steam power when an engine was installed to supplement the water wheel in the 1790s. These parts of the mill are of limited historic and architectural significance. The mill was formerly Grade II Listed, its significance lying in it being the only surviving water powered silk mill in Macclesfield. The earliest parts of the Georgian Mill were those which faced on to Mill Lane (now Park Green), these were destroyed by two successive fire in 1976 and 2011. This fire resulted in the complete destruction of the earliest parts of the mill (those which contributed to its significance) and the building was thus de-listed.

4. REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014.** *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording standing buildings or structures.*
- Cotswold Archaeology, 2017.** *Georgian Mill, Park Green, Macclesfield, Cheshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment. CA Report: 17475.*
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- Wardell Armstrong, 2008.** *Georgian Mill at Park Green, Macclesfield, Cheshire: Specification for Archaeological Investigation, October 2008.*

APPENDIX 1: ELEVATION DRAWINGS

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