# Bamforth's Brewery

## Design & Access Statement

March 2025



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Executive Summary

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared on behalf of BSB Holmfirth Ltd for the proposed development of vacant land, located in Homfirth. This report has been prepared in support of the full planning application and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying full set of planning drawings.

This planning application proposes the construction of a new brewery facility, inclusion of a bar area, kitchen and function room. The development will include production areas, storage, staff facilities, visitor areas, associated parking, cycle parking, air source heat pump and refuse storage.

# 2 The Site

## 2.1 Location

The proposed development site is located on vacant land next to the former Bamforth's postcard factory in Holmfirth, Kirklees. The site is currently unused and presents an opportunity for a sustainable and economically beneficial brewery facility.




- Site

# 2 The Site

## 2.2 Surrounding Context

### 2.2.1 Aerial View of Holmfirth

The surrounding area comprises a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential properties, contributing to a dynamic and thriving local economy. The site's location presents an opportunity to introduce a well-designed, sustainable brewery that complements the character of Holmfirth while supporting local business growth.

Holmfirth already has a well-established brewing and hospitality culture, making it an ideal location for a new brewery. The development will complement and enhance the area's existing food and drink economy.

Comparable local establishments are located on the adjacent map.




1 - The Picturedrome

2 - The Nook Brewhouse

3 - Cooper's Yard

4 - Nowhere Bar & Restaurant

- Site

# 2 The Site

## 2.2 Surrounding Context

### 2.2.2 Built Environment & Land Use in Holmfirth

Holmfirth's built environment is a mix of historic mill buildings, traditional stone cottages, modern commercial premises, and small-scale industrial units. The town has evolved from its roots in textiles and manufacturing into a hub for tourism, food production, and independent retail.

Heritage & Tourism: Holmfirth is famous for its role in the TV series Last of the Summer Wine, drawing visitors from across the UK. The town's traditional Yorkshire stone architecture, cobbled streets, and scenic landscape contribute to its distinctive character.

Brewing & Hospitality Scene: The area has a growing reputation for craft beer and artisanal food production, with several microbreweries, pubs, and independent eateries thriving in the town centre.

Retail & Commercial Activity: Holmfirth supports a strong independent business sector, including delis, bakeries, butchers, and craft shops, all of which could provide potential partnerships for the brewery.

Local Industry: The surrounding area includes small-scale manufacturing and creative industries, which align with the site's intended use as a production facility for locally crafted beer.



1 - Holmfirth Technical College

Holmfirth Technical College features coursed rough stone with saw-cut mullions and window reveals, blending robust texture with refined detailing in a classic local style.



2 - Nowhere Bar & Restaurant

Nowhere Bar combines reclaimed local stone with contemporary detailing, blending historic materials with modern design for a timeless yet refined aesthetic.



3 - Holmfirth Church Square

Holmfirth Church Square is defined by locally quarried stone flags, creating a cohesive public space flanked on three sides by coursed stone buildings, reflecting the town's historic character.



4 - Weavers' Cottage

Holmfirth's historic weavers' cottages feature cut stone mullions at high level, forming the primary elevation and allowing for expansive glazing, a distinctive element of the town's textile heritage.

# 2 The Site

## 2.3 Site History

2.3.1 The Bamforth's Postcard Factory in Holmfirth is a significant part of the town's industrial heritage, originally home to the pioneering Bamforth & Co., famous for their early film production and iconic seaside postcards. The building reflects Holmfirth's rich tradition of textile and print industries, with heavily glazed high-level windows designed to maximise natural light for detailed work. Constructed from locally quarried stone on street facing facades, the factory integrates seamlessly with the surrounding architecture, embodying the town's characteristic blend of functionality and craftsmanship.





# 2 The Site

## 2.3 Site History

2.3.2 The photography studio adjacent to Bamforth's Postcard Factory played a key role in Holmfirth's early film and photographic history. Designed to optimise natural light, the studio featured high-level glazing and roof lights, creating bright working conditions essential for detailed photographic work. Built from locally quarried stone, it reflects the town's industrial character while maintaining a functional yet refined aesthetic. The studio's design exemplifies Holmfirth's tradition of combining practicality with quality craftsmanship, contributing to its rich architectural and cultural heritage.





# 2 The Site

## 2.4 Existing Context

### 2.4.1 Site Photographs

The site, now unused following the demolition of adjacent buildings to the main Bamforth's Postcard Factory, presents a unique opportunity for regeneration. Despite its current vacant state, original stonework has been carefully retained for reuse in both the façade of the proposed development and the surrounding landscaping, ensuring continuity with Holmfirth's architectural heritage and the historic importance of the site.

Extensive concrete structural works have been undertaken to secure the foundations of the factory and stabilise the banking to Back Lane, preserving the integrity of the historic site. The area has long awaited a new development that both respects its rich history and introduces a forward-thinking approach—one that embraces contemporary aesthetics and sustainable design principles while celebrating the legacy of craftsmanship and innovation that once defined this location.



# 2 The Site

## 2.3 Existing Context

### 2.4.2 Site Photographs



# 3 Proposal

## 3.1 Access and Servicing

Access and Servicing

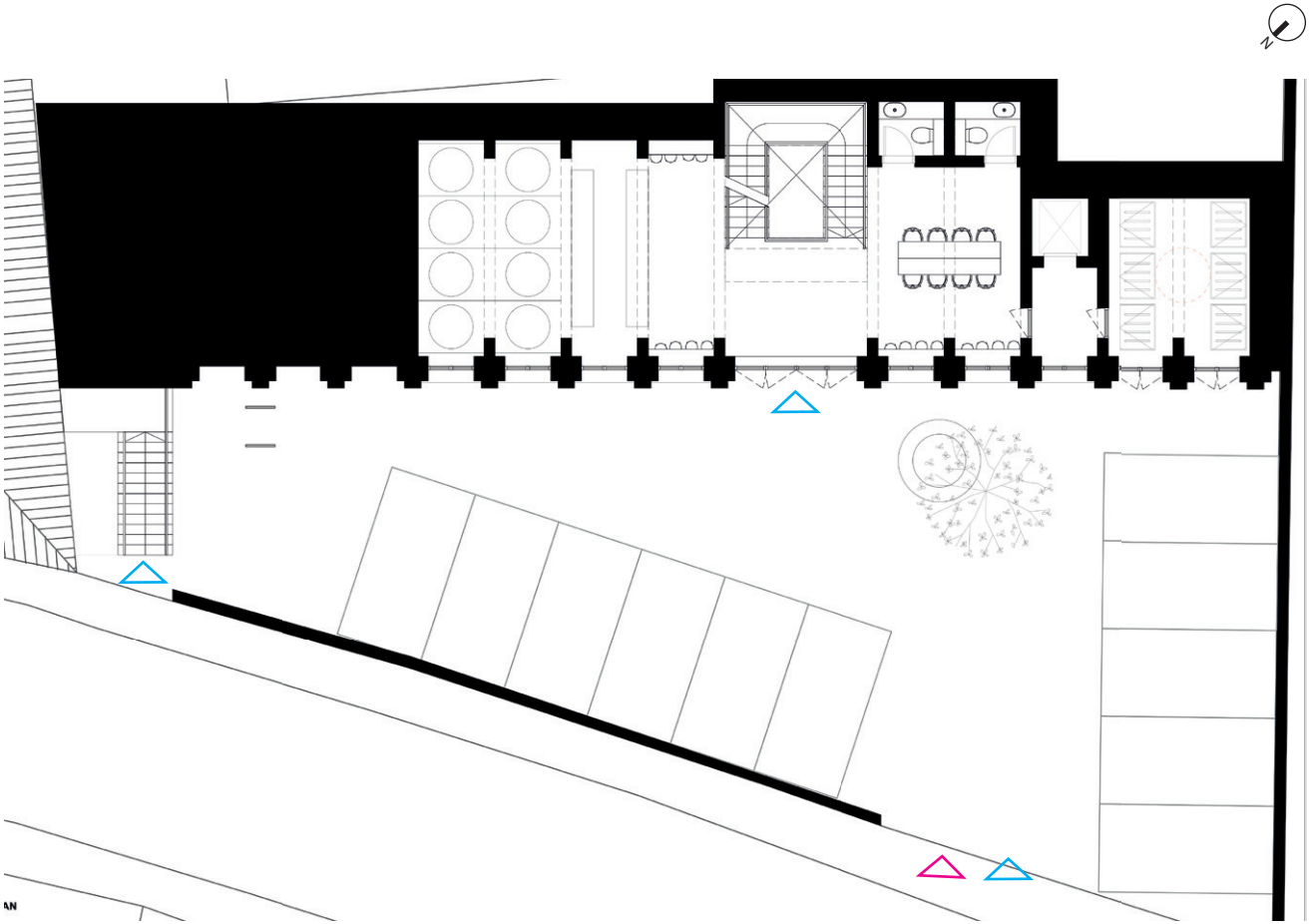
The site access will remain unchanged from the existing arrangement. The primary entrance to the brewery is located centrally on the site and provides level access to the internal spaces of the pub. Visitors using the car park, deliveries, refuse and fire vehicles will use the same access off Station Road.

Car Park

A car park which provides 10 standard and 1 wheelchair parking spaces. The car park is accessed by vehicles from Station Road. . The WC space is located towards the southern edge of the site in order to be closer to the main entrance to the pub. Cycle parking for 4 bicycles will be provided in the form of 2 Sheffield stands adjacent to the entrance.

Refuse

A new refuse store will be located in the west of the building to provide a concealed store whilst prioritising ease of collection for refuse vehicles. The bins will be collected on a weekly basis and provide a split between recycled, organic and general waste.



Public access for pedestrians

Vehicle access to car park

# 3 Proposal

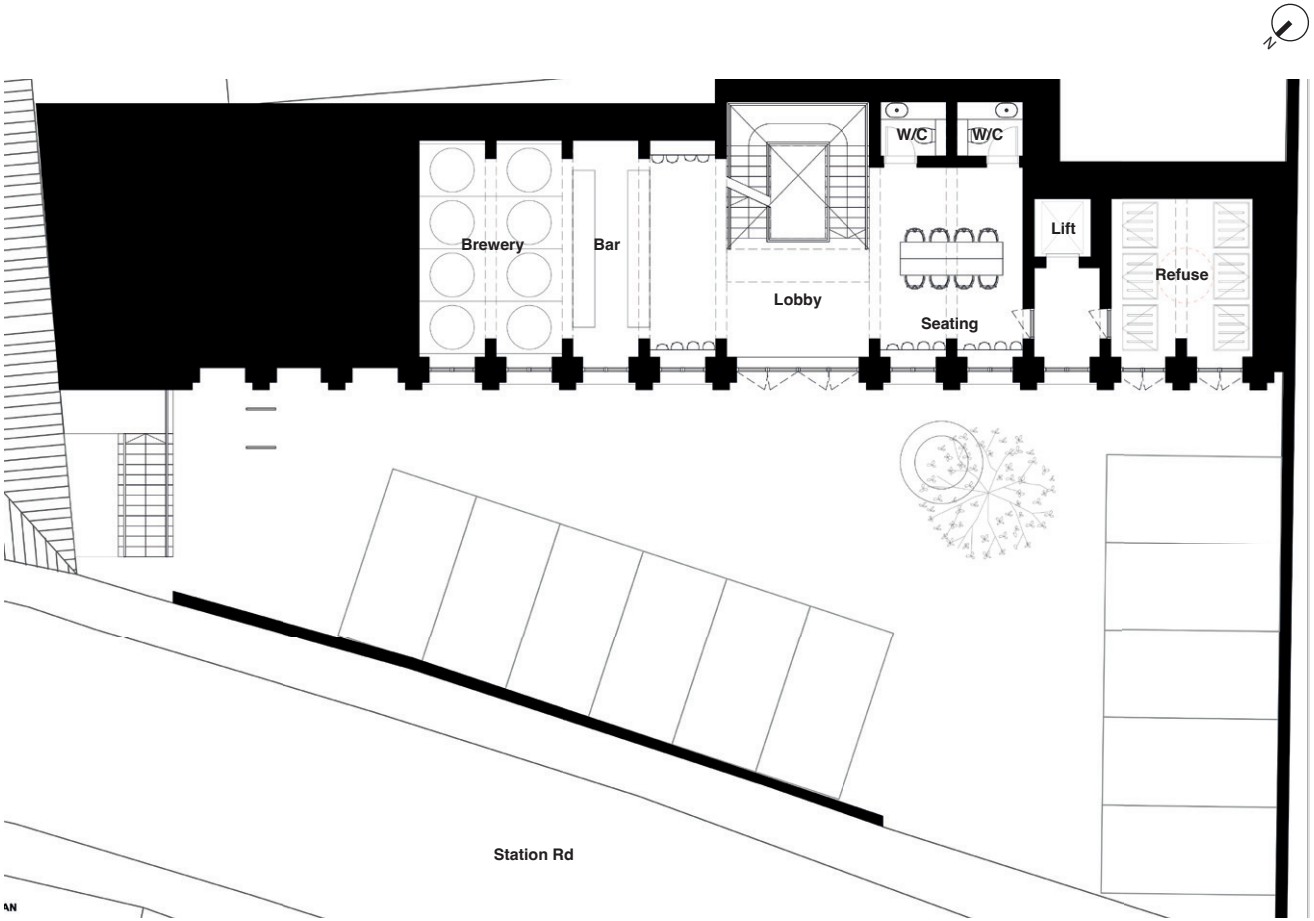
## 3.2 Plan

### 3.2.1 Ground Floor

The ground floor of the brewery has been carefully designed to balance functionality, openness, and accessibility, ensuring a seamless experience for both operational efficiency and customer enjoyment.

Externally, the landscape design incorporates reclaimed stone cobbles from the site, which will be reused around the building's entrance, reinforcing the historic character of the site. Stone flags define the car parking areas, providing a durable yet contextually appropriate surface. A historic well uncovered during site investigations will be retained and celebrated as a focal point, featuring bench seating and a newly planted tree, creating a public space to gather. To the east of the building, an external stair provides direct access to the first floor of the Brewery as well as the existing Bamforth's building, ensuring functional connectivity.

Inside, the brewing equipment is positioned to the east against the retaining wall to the existing Bamforth's building. Moving westward, the space transitions into a bar and seating area, accompanied by a welcoming entrance lobby, stair and lift to the first floor. Further west, additional seating is provided, along with accessible toilets, a storeroom, and refuse facilities, ensuring the brewery meets accessibility and operational standards.



# 3 Proposal

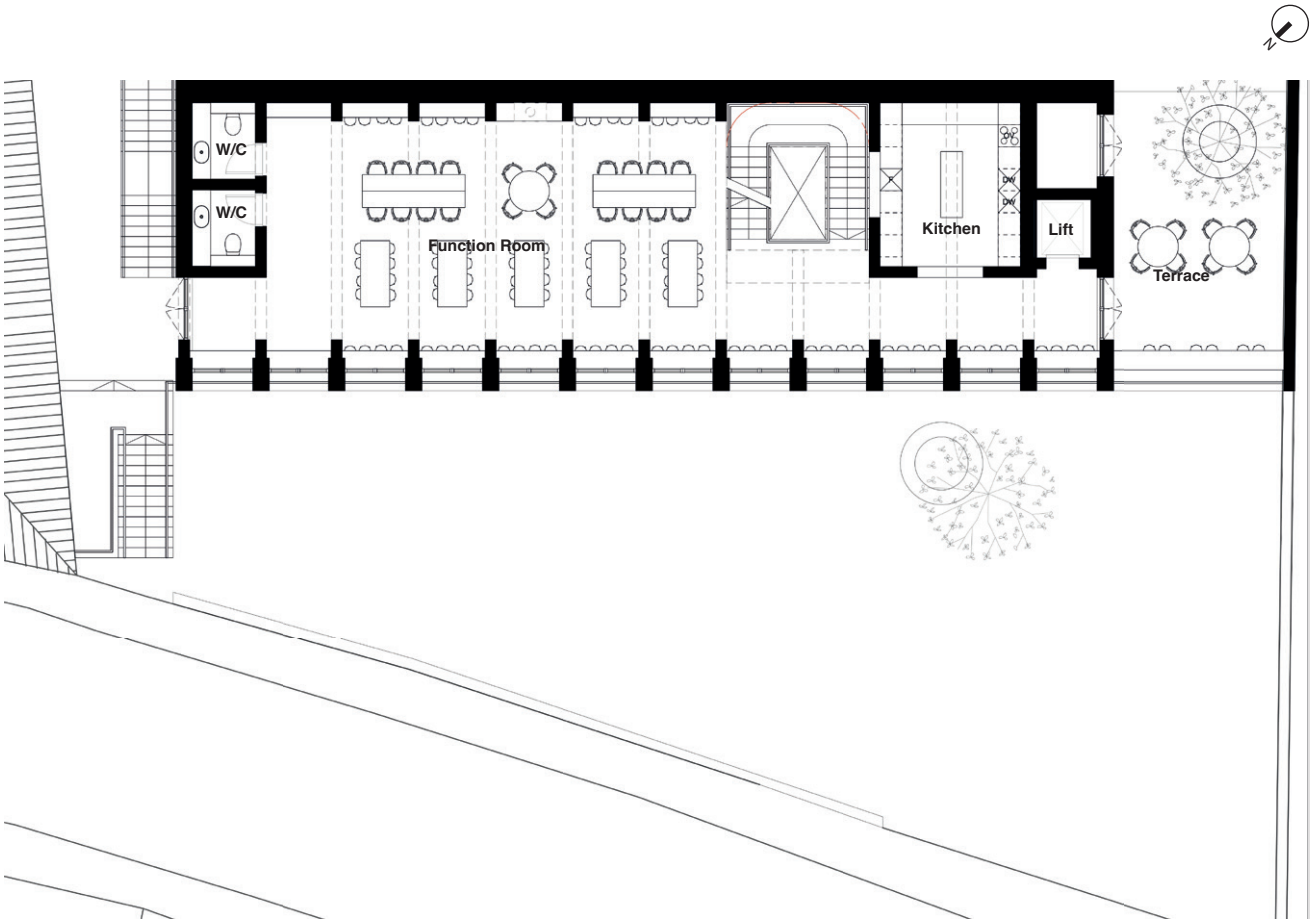
## 3.2 Plan

### 3.2.2 First Floor

The first floor of the brewery is designed to provide a versatile and welcoming space, offering both indoor and outdoor areas that enhance the visitor experience while maintaining strong connections to the site's historic context.

To the west, a spacious function room serves as a flexible venue for events, tastings, and private gatherings. Adjacent to this, an open kitchen allows for a dynamic and engaging dining experience, with guests able to see food preparation in action. A small external terrace extends from the western façade, providing outdoor seating with views across the valley.

To the east, the first floor connects via an external landing to the existing Bamforth's building, reinforcing the relationship between the new development and the site's historic structures. This external stair and access point ensure ease of movement between spaces whilst physically separating the historic volume from the proposed. The layout prioritises accessibility, flexibility and the celebration of the view across the valley.



# 3 Proposal

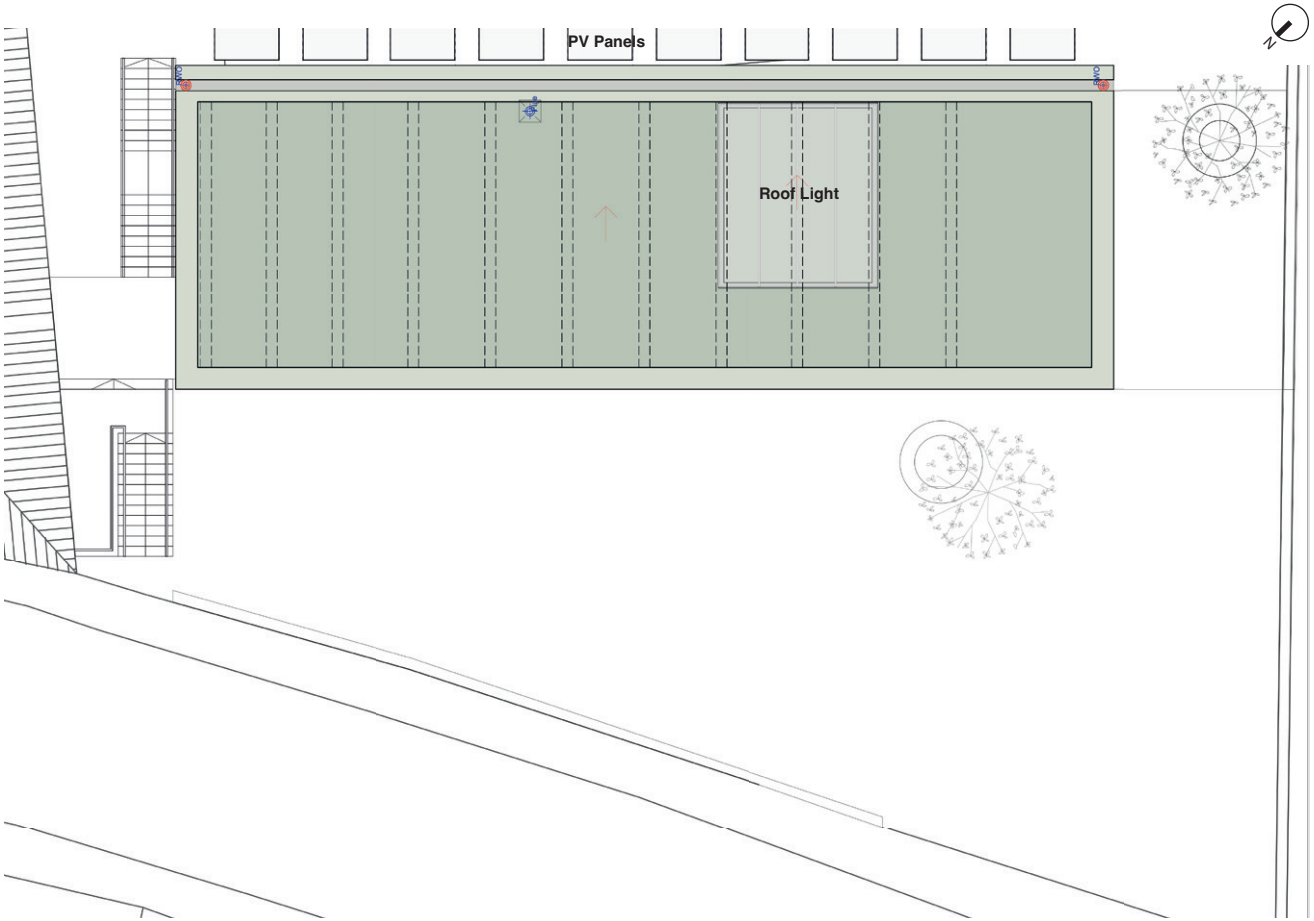
## 3.2 Plan

### 3.2.3 Roof

The brewery's roof design carefully balances functionality and historical reference, ensuring both practicality and aesthetic cohesion. It slopes gently away from Station Road, directing rainwater towards a concealed gutter along the rear edge, keeping rainwater goods hidden from view for a clean, unobtrusive façade.

To enhance sustainability, PV panels are positioned on the banking behind the building, capturing solar energy without disrupting the site's architectural character. A central roof light allows natural light to filter through the stairwell, illuminating both floors while referencing the roof lights of the former film studio that once occupied the site.

The roof will be finished in metal standing seam, colour-matched to complement the stonework, with a local stone border forming a coping, discreetly concealing the metal from view. This careful integration of historical elements and modern sustainability ensures a roof that is both practical and contextually sensitive.



# 3 Proposal

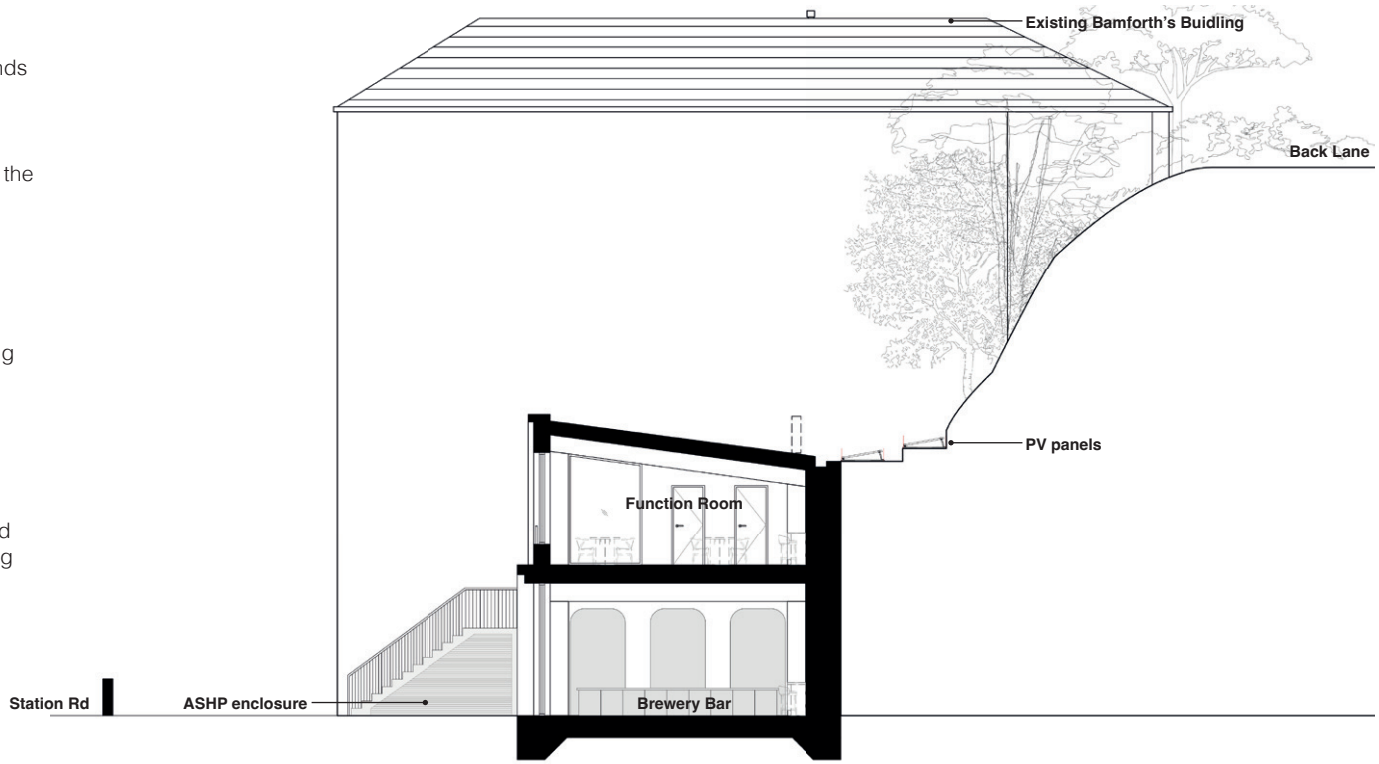
## 3.3 Section

### 3.3.1 Site Section

The site section illustrates how the brewery's design responds sensitively to the site's topography and surrounding built context. Positioned at a lower height than the adjacent Bamforth's building, the brewery sits into the slope of the banking towards Back Lane, ensuring it does not dominate the street scape.

Rather than competing with the massing of the historic Bamforth's building, the brewery's form and scale remain understated, allowing the site's heritage to remain the focal point. PV panels are discreetly set into the banking, ensuring they are not visible from the street, maintaining a clean and unobtrusive roof line.

To further minimise visual impact, the air source heat pump (ASHP) enclosure is hidden beneath the external staircase, ensuring functional sustainability measures are incorporated without disrupting the architectural composition or impacting the local character.



# 3 Proposal

## 3.4 Elevation

### 3.4.1 Local Character

The local area is characterised by a large proportion of local stone Victorian housing, and by the local agricultural buildings. The materiality of the context is therefore quite homogeneous, and it was clear to identify local stone as the primary material for the extension facade. The more modern buildings in the area, have been constructed using poor quality, reconstituted stone and / or stucco render. It is clear to see that these newer developments have not aged as well as their Victorian neighbours. With this in mind, the design attempts to use materials that will age well and fit into the local context, whilst providing a few modern motifs.

The following key observations have informed our approach to the elevation design:

- Materials – Yorkshire stone, varied coursing and age
- Prominent Lintels - Windows and openings are often seen in combination with a substantial lintel
- Framing openings – The shape of windows in the area are often further expressed with areas of differing material.



Farmer's Arms - Holmfirth



Brockholes Village hall - Holmfirth



Th'owd Towser - Holmfirth



Station Masters House – Holmfirth

# 3 Proposal

## 3.4 Elevation

### 3.4.2 Precedents

Informed by the character of the area, recent award winning architecture in West Yorkshire and contemporary uses of stone, these precedents reference some of the architectural motifs that we are looking to develop. These include:

- Contemporary and historic stone masonry tecniques
- Varied coursing of local stone
- Pigmented concrete lintels in combination with timber
- Large openings highlighting entrances
- Rythmic stone vertical elements



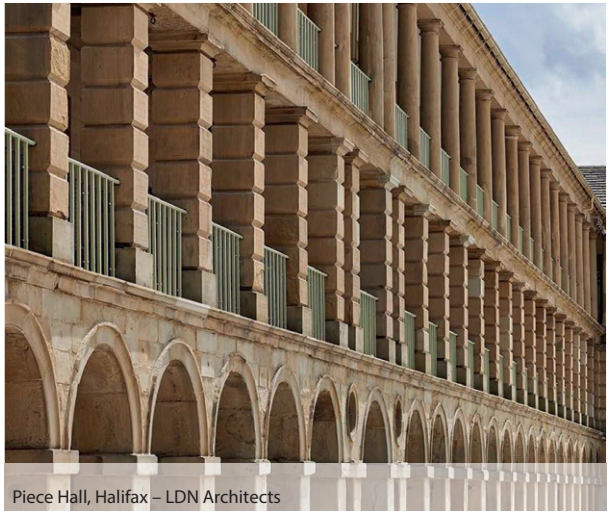
Longhouse, Cotswolds - Bureau de Change Architects



Song School, Cambridge - Niall McLaughlin Architects



The Weston, Yorkshire Sculpture Park - Fielden Fowles Architects

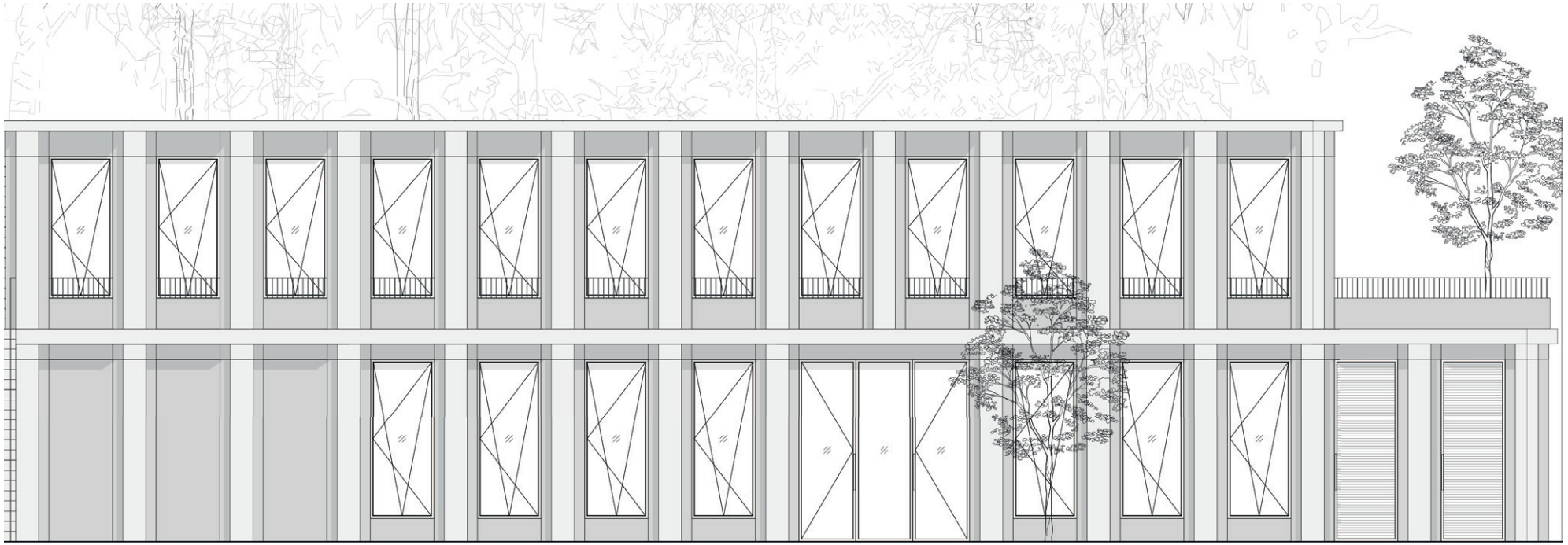


Piece Hall, Halifax – LDN Architects

# 3 Proposal

## 3.4 Elevation

### 3.4.3 Primary Elevation



## 3.5 Building Materials

### 3.5.1 Material palette

The material palette is informed by our visits to the site as well as a character study of the local area. Our choice of materials has gradually developed during the design process with the help of renders and physical samples to test different combinations.

The new brewery references materials prevalent in the Holme Valley, ensuring the development is in keeping with the local character and heritage. High-quality materials will be selected for durability, low maintenance, and sustainability, creating a building that respects the surrounding landscape and built environment.

The design takes inspiration from the traditional stone-built structures of Holmfirth, with their distinctive Yorkshire sandstone facades, pitched roofs, and industrial heritage elements. The nearby mill buildings, farmsteads, and historic breweries have informed the architectural approach, ensuring a development that feels both contemporary and rooted in the local vernacular.



1 - Reclaimed local stone from site



2 - Local stone ashlar cut



3 - Reclaimed local stone sets from site



4 - Structural timber frame with natural applied finish to compliment local stone



5 - Reclaimed local stone flags



6 - PPC metalwork to compliment local stone

## 3.5 Building Materials

### 3.5.2 Material palette

The reclamation of walling stone and stone cobbles from the site is a key part of the brewery's design, ensuring a sustainable approach that respects the heritage of the Holme Valley. By reusing original materials, the development reduces waste, lowers the embodied carbon footprint, and maintains a tangible connection to the site's history. The reclaimed stone will be carefully integrated alongside newly sourced local stone, creating a harmonious blend of old and new that complements the character of the area. Similarly, reclaimed cobbles will be incorporated into the landscaping and entrance areas, reinforcing the site's historical identity while providing a durable and visually rich surface. This commitment to heritage-led sustainability ensures the new development remains grounded in its historic context, preserving the distinctive character of Holmfirth while introducing a forward-thinking architectural approach.



## 3.5 Building Materials

### 3.5.3 Rendered Material Study

Material Key

01. Local stone piers reclaimed from site
02. Ashlar cut local stone piers
03. Ashlar cut coping stone
04. PPC metal balustrade
05. PPC aluminium window and door system
06. Ashlar cut local stone bench
07. Local stone cobbles reclaimed from site
08. Ashlar cut stone panel



# 3 Proposal

## 3.6 Illustrative Views



# 3 Proposal

## 3.6 Illustrative Views



# 3 Proposal

## 3.6 Illustrative Views






# 3 Proposal

## 3.6 Illustrative Views



# 3 Proposal

## 3.6 Illustrative Views



# 4 Appendix