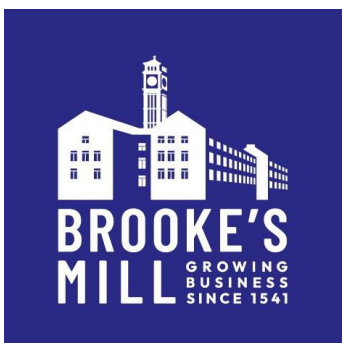


JOHN BROOKE & SONS LIMITED
BROOKES MILL, ARMITAGE BRIDGE

HERITAGE STATEMENT
Solar Panel installations
At
Buildings 18, 19, 20, 21, 51 & 52

Sept 2026

Huddersfield HD4 7NR



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Heritage statement has been prepared to accompany the planning and listed building application in respect of Building 29 within Brookes Mill, Armitage Bridge. The statement also sets out the significance of the Mill Buildings for the associated parts of the mill.
- 1.2. This statement draws together information from numerous sources which are acknowledged in the bibliography at the end of the statement.

2. A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BROOKE FAMILY**

The Formative years

- 2.1. The Company John Brooke and Sons Ltd is believed to be the oldest family business in Britain. It can be traced back to the **1540's** when Henry the Eighth was King of England.
- 2.2. Roger Brooke inherited some land at Greenhill Bank, New Mill, in the upper Holme valley. His son John, a yeoman farmer, leased a fulling mill in 1541 at New Mill and then added another at Cartworth Mill. A fulling mill is a water powered mill for finishing hand woven woollen cloth. This is the first record of the Brooke family working with textiles.
- 2.3. In October 1681, the first William Brooke (1636-83) acquired a mill and house. The Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield record that William was granted.

"All that New Milne water in a certain place called Millwood, with mill, house, fullery pool and pond then built..."

2.4. 1600 - 1750

From the 1500's the Brookes were clothiers and fulling millers, "putting out" spinning and weaving to local people all over the district. The Venetian Ambassador wrote home in 1610 that English cloth was the chief wealth of the nation and Defoe wrote in 1724 *"Let no man wonder that the woollen manufacture is arrived to such a magnitude when in a word it may be said to clothe the world"*

2.5. 1750 - 1800

The second William Brooke (1704-70), married Sarah Kaye of Woodsome Hall and rented Crossley's Mill at Honley from the Earl of Dartmouth. William's son John (1734-98) founded John Brooke and Sons in about 1785, but it was the third William (1763-1846) who played the biggest part when he married Hannah Clapham, the niece of Sir Thomas Clapham, she brought with her a dowry of £10,000. This enabled William to buy the site at Armitage Bridge in 1798.

2.6. 1800 - 1900

This was the greatest period in the Industrial Revolution, when British goods including woollen cloth was traded throughout the world. It was a period of rapid growth when the Mills were built and enlarged. Plain cloths were the Brooke staple – blue cloth for naval uniforms (Trafalgar) and black cloths for formal clothes, tail coats and evening jackets.

John (1794-1878) and his brother Thomas (1798-1859) carried on the business as partners after their father William retired in 1825. The firm became a joint stock company in 1890.

**** (Information courtesy from the John Brooke museum)**

2.7. 1900 - 1950

In the First World War John Brooke & Sons made cloth for the officer's warm overcoats for the French and British and Russian armies. Of course there were upheavals like the aftermath of the great stock market crash of 1929. The company faced some challenging times.

The profit and loss figure shows that the Company made disastrous losses in the 1930's. Edward Brooke (1911-1998) started working for the firm in 1938 and managed to save it from collapse. He increased production to 400 pieces a week by the end of the Second World War. The firm had contracts with the Royal Navy, the Army and the RAF.

2.8. 1950 - 1987

Massimo Brooke (1949-2002) and Mark Brooke (1950-) and for some years their cousin Charlie Brooke (1952-) (the great grandson of John Arthur Brooke) worked with Edward to find new markets. Massimo ran A B Spinning Co the worsted spinners and Mark and Charlie helped with the new upholstery cloths. A new production method called tufting was introduced and the velvets which these made had great success as chenille for fashion coats for C & A. Sadly the textile production was forced to close in 1987 due to foreign competition.

2.9. 1987 - 2010

A programme of refurbishment was undertaken overseen by Mark Brooke promoting a mixed use approach with the applicants turning the more accessible parts the site into small industrial units to let subsequently evolving into the promotion of offices rebranding as The Yorkshire Technology and Office Park in order to create space for growing business. This involved the change from a self-contained industrial complex and upgrading to lettable B1/Office units creating new jobs in a variety of businesses. The introduction of leisure activities began in 1998 and buildings in the South Eastern sector now house the Northlight Gallery and Conference centre, Dance School and Café. Part of the North Western sector of the mill houses the Northlight Film Studios.

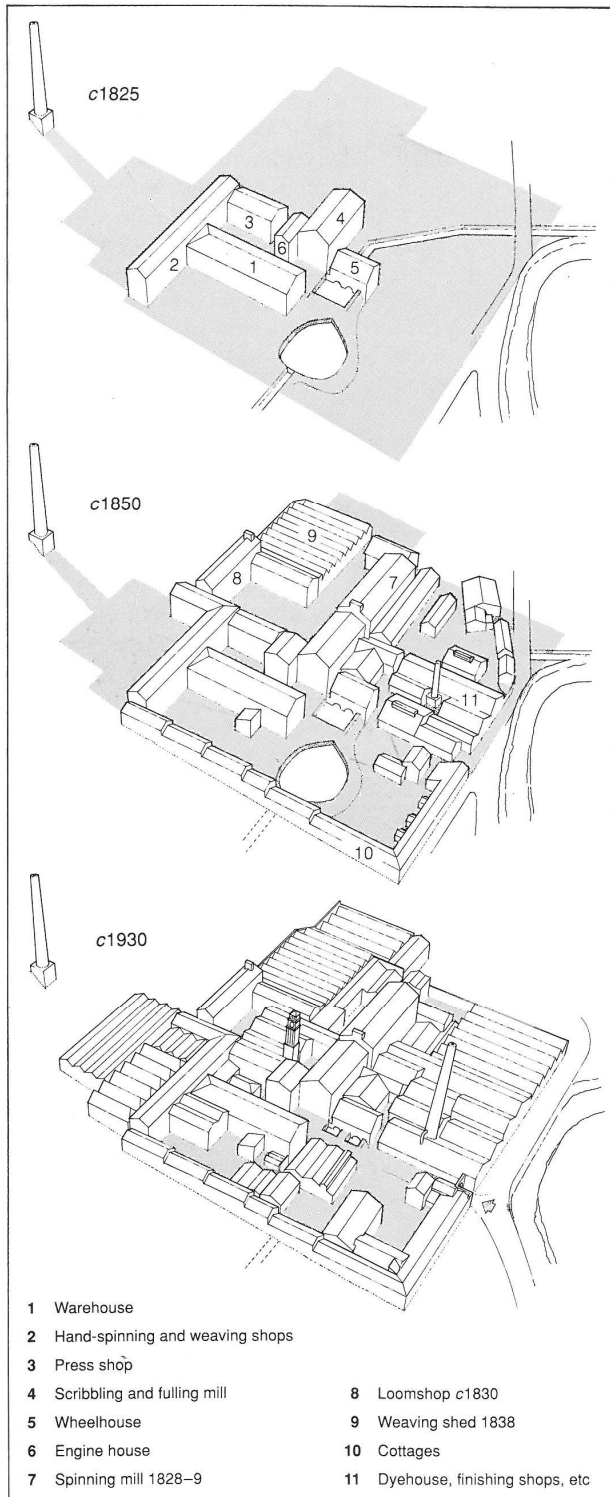
Since the start of the recession in 2007 the demand for Office space has diminished.

2.10 2010 – 2017

The Company is continuing to promote a diversity of uses in line with a mixed use approach however it remains that such uses must be viable given the very significant costs of refurbishing buildings of this age to a satisfactory standard. The Company has achieved the current position after investing a very significant sum without any help from central or local government and the concerns for viability are now all the more pertinent. The 1820 Scribbling Mill 51 and the 1829 Spinning Mill 52 still continue to be unoccupied since last used in 1982, Mark Brooke is overseeing the ongoing refurbishment of the storied mills, taking a long term view for the continued life and success of the mill.

3. BROOKES MILL ARMITAGE BRIDGE: CHRONOLOGY

3.1. In the Huddersfield Area one of the best examples of an integrated woollen type mill is Brookes Mill, Armitage Bridge, in South Crosland Township. The Brooke family, large-scale manufacturers on the putting-out system and with mills in Honley for finishing their cloth, moved to Armitage Bridge in the second decade of the nineteenth century, building a mill complex on a new site and using water power of the River Holme.



3.2. Their accumulated resources and standing in the industry allowed them to build on a large scale.

3.3. Amongst the first buildings on the site were a substantial warehouse, on its own bigger than most public mills; a fireproof scribbling and fulling mill of five storeys and ten bays; and a wheelhouse with two powerful waterwheels.

3.4. The first buildings of the woollen mill included a warehouse (1) a building for hand spinning and handloom weaving (2) and a water- powered scribbling and fulling mill (4- mill 51).

3.5. By 1850 a new mill (7-mill 52) had been added for powered spinning, weaving capacity had been expanded with, **first, a new loomshop (8)** and then the addition of a shed for power looms (9), finishing buildings (11), including dyehouses, occupied the lower part of the site.

3.6. By c1930 the mill had expanded further and the finishing area had been rebuilt.

RCHME



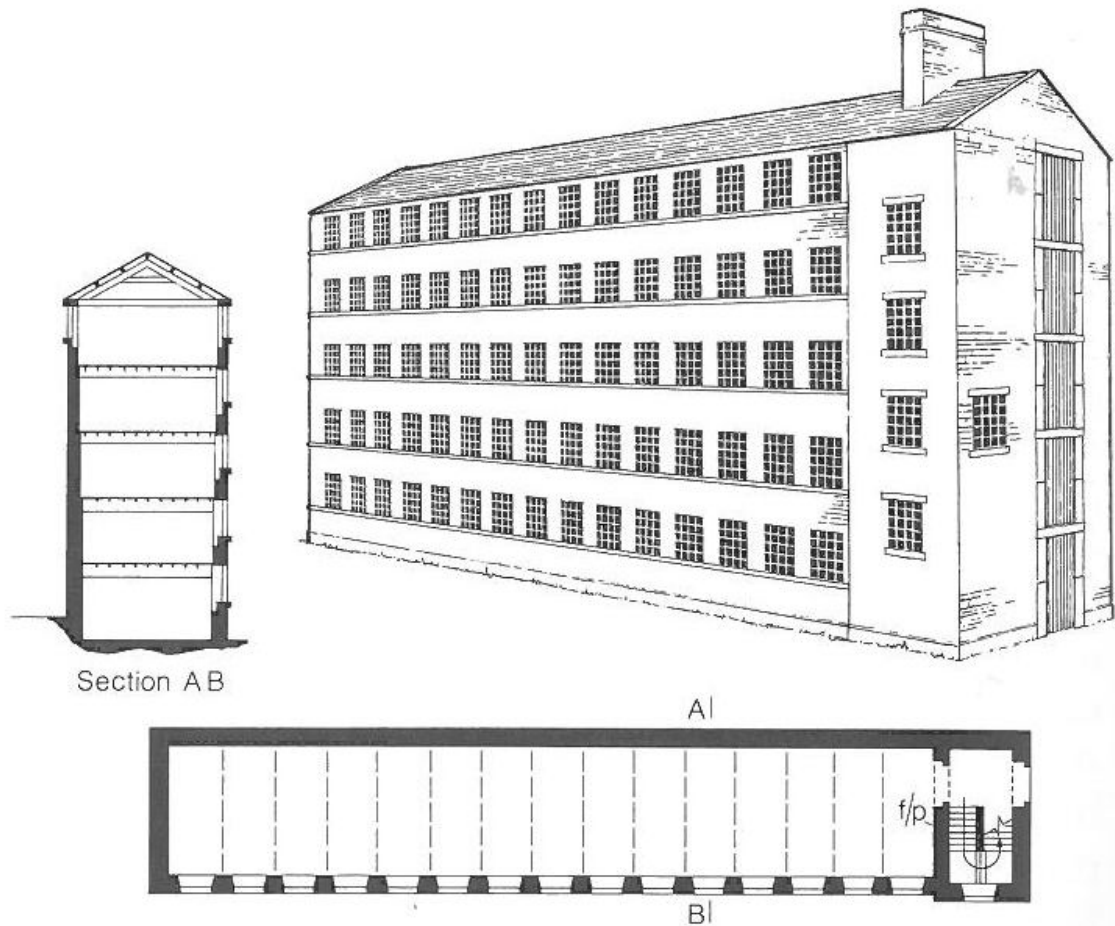
3.7. The Grade II listed Warehouse Building 18 (RCHME) is shown above.



3.8. Buildings 51 and 52 at Armitage Bridge. The Scribbling and Fulling Mill 51 of 1820 in the foreground is fireproof and was powered by waterwheels in the low building in front of it. The bigger and wider Spinning Mill 52 of 1828-29 is in the background with the Grade II listed Clock Tower to the above rear of Mill 51 (RCHME).

3.9. Building 29-The five-storeyed Loomshop 1830

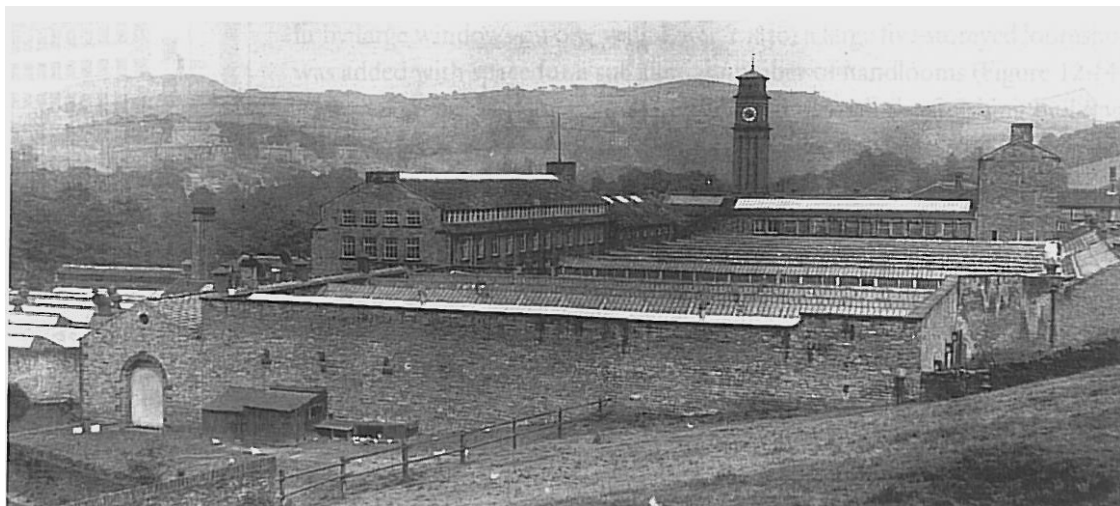
- 3.10. The significance of the site, however is that the Brookes drew into the complex the hand-powered processes habitually conducted in the houses of dispersed worker. Prominent among the early buildings is a long five storied range providing hand-spinning and handloom-weaving shops, well lit by large windows on the north wall.



Building 29-The five-storeyed loomshop 1830 (RCHME).

- 3.11. Later in 1830, a large five-storeyed loomshop was added with space for a substantial number of handlooms. Alongside these buildings were, in all probability, all the finishing buildings and dyehouses essential to give complete integration.
- 3.12. The advantages of integration were said to be the prevention of embezzlement of materials by domestic workers, convenience in terms of movement of goods, and ease of supervision during production. The largest manufacturers, able to build integrated mills, had a strong advantage over the small producer, but it is interesting to note that the complete “factory system”, which in the woollen industry can be defined as integrated working, resulted not from purely technological advances – the mechanisation of production and the use of steam power – for in early integrated woollen mills only the first processes, scribbling and carding, and the latest, fulling and perhaps some finishing stages, were mechanised. Instead, it was organisational logic which provided the impetus towards a radically new method of working.

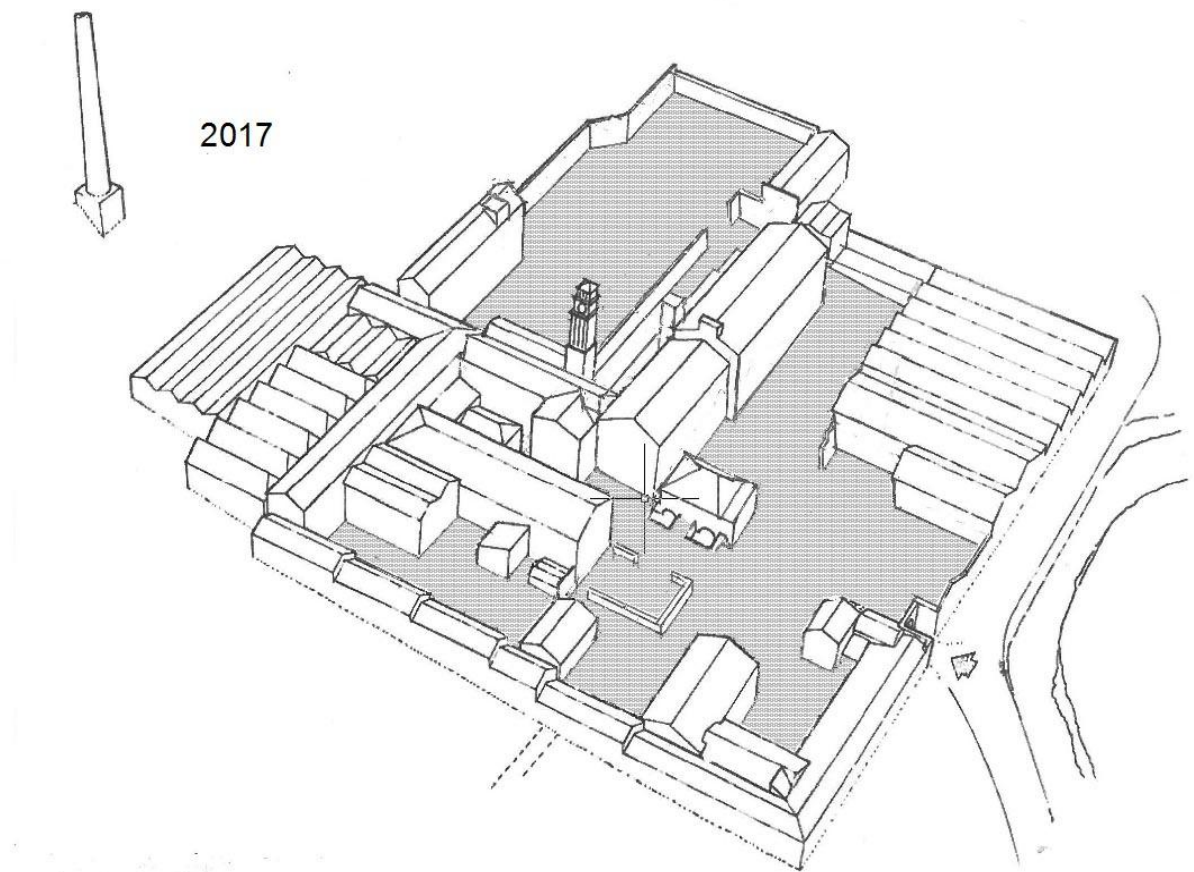
- 3.13. Some of the buildings representing this significant departure are largely still evident at Armitage Bridge, giving the site a special importance in the Huddersfield industry.
- 3.14. Between the mid-1820s and the mid-1830s mechanically powered spinning and weaving were introduced to the woollen sector after the successful adaption of machines in use in other textile branches. Then spinning mule rapidly replaced the hand spinning jenny and spinning quickly became a mill based operation using the new machines. The power loom was only a limited success in woollen manufacture initially and well into the second half of the nineteenth century it was heavily outnumbered by handlooms. Both mules and power looms, however, had an effect on the architecture of the mills. Mules were commonly housed in the main mill building, which in addition, accommodated scribbling and carding engines and fulling stocks. Mills, therefore, tended to become larger after the mid 1820s, either because of the need to house more machinery or because economies of scale were sought by wealthy mill owners able to build substantial mills.
- 3.15. At Armitage Bridge Mills, the Brookes added a new mill in 1828-29 and used it at least in part for mule spinning, and it is significant that this mill is longer, taller and wider than the original scribbling and fulling mill. In 1836 the Brookes bought a modest twelve power looms on a trial basis.
- 3.16. In the early years of power loom weaving machines were often housed in existing buildings, sometimes on the upper floors of mills.
- 3.17. Armitage Bridge Mills, a pioneer in so many ways, was probably the first mill in the Huddersfield area to have shed for a power loom weaving. The Brookes built a shed in 1838 to house 50 new looms, and extended it after 1850.



- 3.18. The Weaving Shed (now demolished) RCHME leaving Building 45,46 remaining.
- 3.19. Sheds had many advantages for weaving, they provided a good even top light from the north facing glazed part of the saw tooth roof, ventilation was easy to control, and single storeyed buildings could withstand vibrations set up by the power looms. The use of top lighting, moreover, allowed sheds to assume any shape or size, according to the requirements of the site and the number of looms to be housed.

4. BROOKES MILL 2020

- 4.1. The Company has continued to promote a mixed use approach in 2017 and has carried out a programme of repairs and conservation to historically significant buildings with less significant buildings having been removed. The current buildings relative to the RCHME sketches are indicated below.



4.2. A current aerial view of the mill is reproduced below with five storey Loom Shop (building 29) in the upper right of the view



4.3. The Listed Clock Tower stands in the centre of the mill site.



4.4. The Listed Warehouse Building 18 highlighted in para 3.7 (1) is occupied as offices.

4.5. The Listed Clock tower has prominence over the whole mill site.



4.6. The Scribbling and Fulling Mill 51 of 1820 in the foreground with the bigger and wider Spinning Mill 52 of 1828-29 is in the background with the Grade II listed Clock Tower to the above rear of Mill 51.

4.7. The single storey wheel house houses hydroelectric turbines.



- 4.8. The Spinning Mill Building 52 of 1828-29 in the foreground with the earlier Scribbling Mill of 1820 with the Warehouse and Wheelhouse in the background.



- 4.9. The Southside of The Spinning Mill (52) and the Scribbling Mills (51) overlooking the car park.



4.10. The North side of the 1830 Loomshop (8) Building 29, linking to the earlier hand spinning and weaving shop in the background.



4.11. Buildings Left to Right 46, 52, 51, Clock Tower and Building 29 the subject of the Planning and Listed Building Application shown in context looking east.

5. STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

BUILDING NUMBER	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	PHOTO NO.
18 & 19	BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL Original Warehouse Building	This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. Name: BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL List entry Number: 1134443 Location BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL, ARMITAGE ROAD	LISTED HERITAGE ASSETT	4.4
Not numbered	TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL	This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. Name: TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL List entry Number: 1134444 Location TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL, ARMITAGE ROAD	LISTED HERITAGE ASSETT	4.3
BUILDING NUMBER	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	PHOTO NO.
51	SCRIBBLING AND FULLING MILL Dating from 1820, five storeys high with stone built walls with fireproof brick arched floors and stone slate roof.	This building is within the curtilage of the clock tower and in addition contributes to the setting.	High relevance	4.6 4.8 4.9

62	TURBINE HOUSE linking to building 51 Single storey building with headgoit pond walls constructed in stone with roof having corrugated sheet covering in hip formation. Houses hydroelectric turbines and constructed in area of old waterwheel to 51.	This building is contributes to the setting of Mill 51 and identifies the power source of the curtilage building.	High relevance	4.6
52	SPINNING MILL dating from 1828-29, six storeys high with stone built walls and timber floors stone slate roof with continuous dormers.	This building is within the curtilage of the clock tower and in addition contributes to the setting.	High relevance	4.8
47	EXTENSION TO 51 originally engine house but now substantially altered. Five storeys high linking to mill 51 on the north side and building 31 on the south side. Substantially reroofed in blue slate on timber and steel framed roof.	This building is within the curtilage of the clock tower and in addition contributes to the setting.	High relevance	
31 & 32	Single storey buildings with part basement. Building 32 abuts the Clock Tower on two sides.	This building is within the curtilage of the clock tower and in addition contributes to the setting by forming a visual podium at yard level.	High relevance	4.9
BUILDING NUMBER	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	PHOTO NO.
29	LOOM SHOP dating from 1830 five storeys high with stone built walls and timber floors stone slate roof	This building is within the curtilage of the clock tower and is an extension of the original loom shop Building 20,21A and 21B on the East side. The Building contributes to the setting giving a sense of enclosure to the tower.	Medium relevance	4.10

6. SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION & ASSESSMENT OF HARM

The solar panel installation has been designed to be within permitted development constraints, but the installation requires planning/listed building approval due to listed and curtilage listed building status.

Please refer to the Supporting Statement in respect of the solar panel installations to Units 20, 21, 51 & 52. For Units 18 & 19, being the Listed Buildings as referred above, we submit this Heritage Statement in support of the solar panel installations.

The Listed Buildings register extracts are included at Appendix 1 below.

The solar panels are positioned on traditional mill building roofs, the buildings being positioned within the Brooke's Mills complex, being 3-storey buildings.

The positioning of the panels is discreet being at high level in all case, with 51 & 52, 20 & 21 being on the south facing in to the wooded side of the valley with very limited over looking and vista point on the roofs. The east/west installation on unit 18 & 19 whilst can be see from higher vantage points opposite is a very small proportion of the roof.

The small proportion of solar panels that could be seen from higher vantage points is very similar in appearance to the patent glazed traditional roofs a typical feature of mill buildings and visible on other roofs on this site. We consider the appearance of small are of solar panel glass would not cause significant harm to the character of the group of mill buildings.

We consider the position of all the solar panel installations will minimize any effect on the external appearance of the building and the amenity of the area.

This panel is constructed from Tempered solar glass with anti-reflective finish. This dark anti-glare finish together with the low installation pitch should avoid any impact of glare on the occupiers of neighboring land.

It is important to consider the energy running cost for a listed building are generally much higher than more modern buildings given their construction. For listed building use to continue to be viable every sympathetic opportunity to reduce running costs should be taken. The installation of solar panels to Units 18 & 19 alone will provide a Co2 reduction of 39,941 kg per year, with energy consumption savings being projected at £495,396 over the 20-year panel life.

We consider that on balance the installation of solar panels would not result in significant harm.

APPENDIX 1

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATUTORY LISTINGS

BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL

List entry Number: 1134443

Location

BLOCK ON EAST SIDE OF YARD AT ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL, ARMITAGE ROAD

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

District: Kirklees

District Type: Metropolitan Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. As these are some of our oldest designation records they do not have all the information held electronically that our modernised records contain. Therefore, the original date of scheduling is not available electronically. The date of scheduling may be noted in our paper records, please contact us for further information.

Date first listed: 29-Sep-1978

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 339474

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

ARMITAGE ROAD 1. 5113 Armitage Bridge Block on east side of yard at Armitage Bridge Mill SE 1313 47/126 II 2. Early or mid C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof. 4 storeys. Stone brackets to gutter. 13 window range, 4 in end elevation. Gable has parapet with scrolled consoles at either end, and pediment in centre. (cf Baptist Chapel Milnsbridge). Blocked archway with 3-centred head, rising through ground and 1st floors: plain raised impost band, and pediment over.

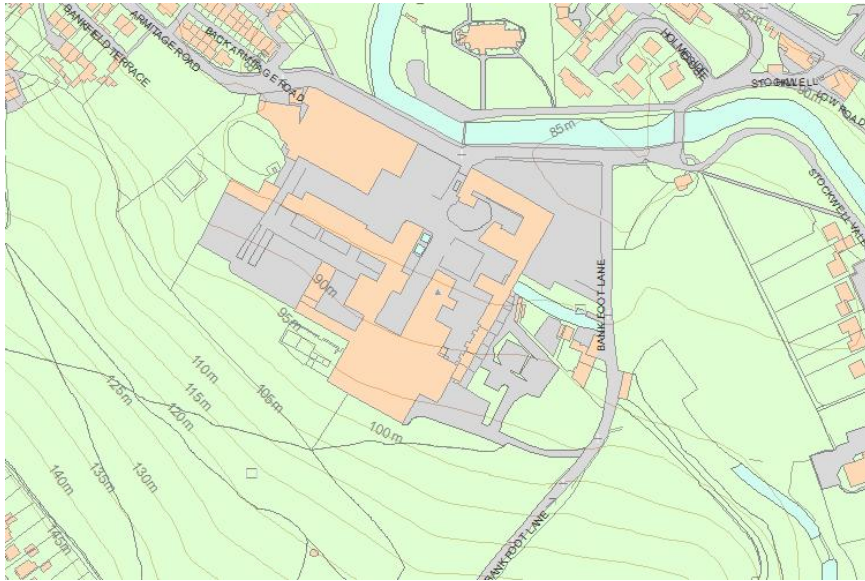
Listing NGR: SE1340313552

Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: SE 13403 13552

Map



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TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL

List entry Number: 1134444

Location

TOWER AT REAR OF ARMITAGE BRIDGE MILL, ARMITAGE ROAD

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

District: Kirklees

District Type: Metropolitan Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. As these are some of our oldest designation records they do not have all the information held electronically that our modernised records contain. Therefore, the original date of scheduling is not available electronically. The date of scheduling may be noted in our paper records, please contact us for further information.

Date first listed: 29-Sep-1978

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 339475

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

ARMITAGE ROAD 1. 5113 Armitage Bridge Tower at rear of SE 1313 47/127 Armitage Bridge Mill II 2. Mid C19. Hammer-dressed stone. Ashlar dressings. Pyramidal lead roof. 4 stages of slightly diminishing size, each surmounted by moulded cornice. 2nd stage is tallest, and has 3 continuous vertical panels, each round-arched and with 2 super imposed slits. Third stage is framed by pilasters and has one clock on each face. Fourth stage has 3 round-arched louvred openings.

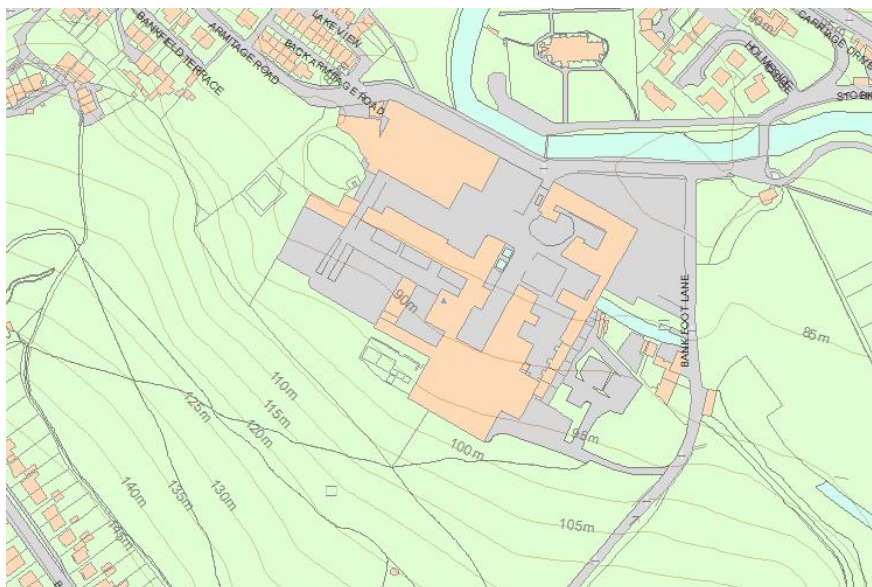
Listing NGR: SE1336013556

Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: SE 13360 13556

Map



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APPENDIX 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Information courtesy from the John Brooke museum)

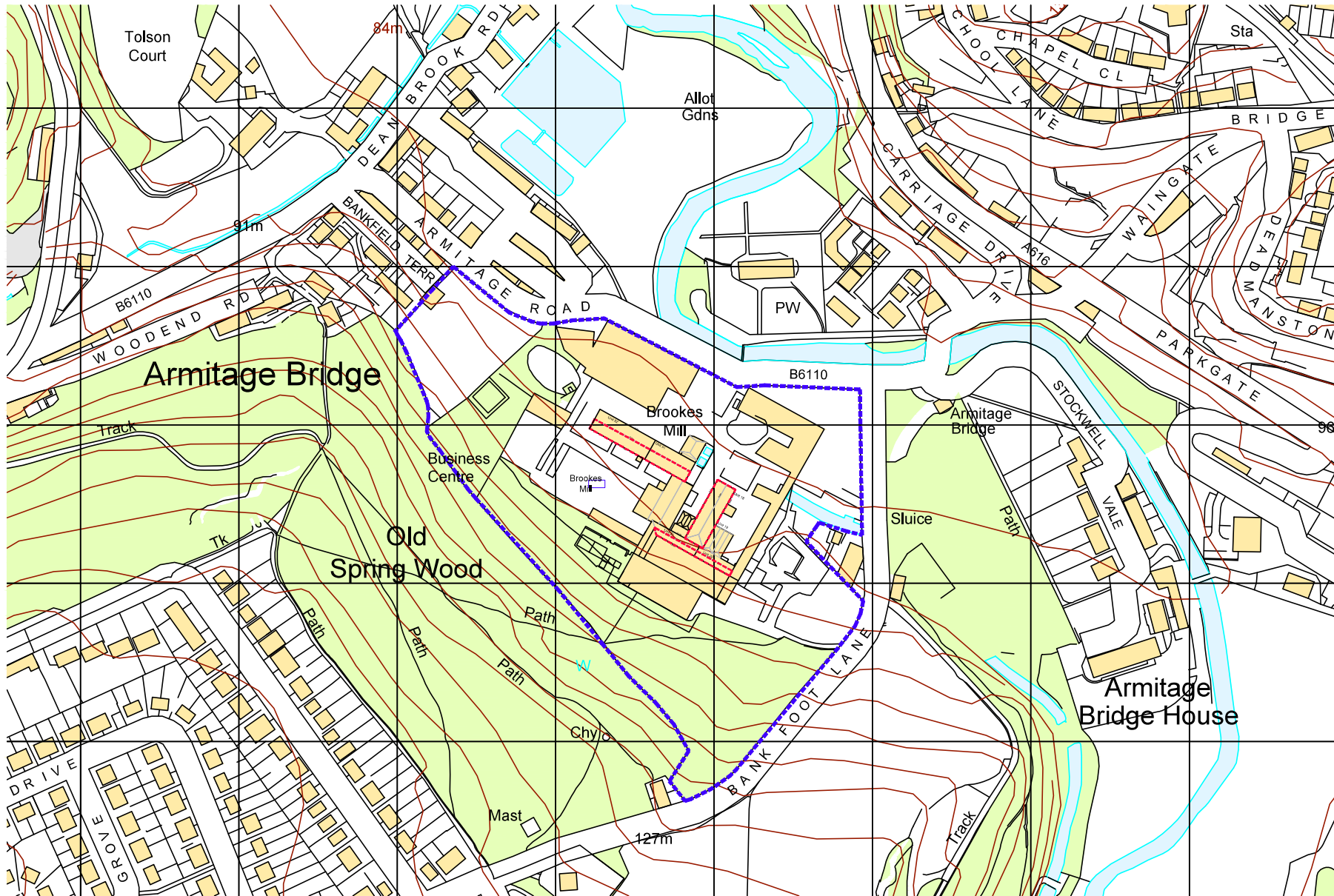
Information from Huddersfield a Most Handsome Town: Ch12: Colum Giles

Yorkshire Textile Mills 1770-1930 RCHME West Yorkshire Archaeology Service

History of the Huddersfield woollen industry WB Crump & G Ghorbal

APPENDIX 3

LOCATION PLAN BUILDINGS 18 and 19 within Mill COMPLEX



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Revision:
a 2026-08-21 red line amended

KEY

- boundary of Application Site
- boundary of Other Land owned by the Applicant

Location Plan

1:2500 50m 100m 200m



Location Plan
Planning



HEPPENSTALLS

Chartered Architects

Architecture
Surveying

Planning
Project Management

Alisons Buildings, 135 Armitage Road Millsbridge,
Huddersfield, HD3 4JY tel 01484 658411
projects@heppenstalls.net www.heppenstalls.net



Client
John Brooke & Sons Ltd

Project
Proposed Solar Panel installation to existing Roofs
Units 18, 19, 20, 21 51 & 52 Brook's Mill,
Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield HD4 7NR

Drawing
Location Plan

Number

Date 09/2026

4463-01-01a

Scale @ A1
As Marked

APPENDIX 4

PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN

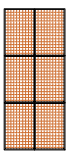
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Revision
a 2026-06-18 Layout amend

KEY

 Buildings subject of this Application for solar panel installation

 building areas

 solar panels

Brookes Mill

Brookes Mill

Unit 52

Unit 51

Unit 18

Unit 19

Unit 21

Unit 20

Gutter

Ridge

Gutter

Gutter

Ridge

Gutter

Gutter

Ridge

Gutter



Proposed Block Plan Solar Panel Installation to Existing Roofs

1:250 

Client John Brooke & Sons Ltd	
Project Proposed Solar Panel installation to existing Roofs Units 18, 19, 20, 21 51 & 52 Brookes Mill, Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield HD4 7NR	
Drawing Proposed Block Plan	
Number 4463-01-03a	Date 09/2026
Scale @ A1 As Marked	

HEPPENSTALLS
Chartered Architects


RIBA

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Surveying
Planning
Project Management

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Proposed Block Plan
Planning