Turnbridge Mills, Quay Street, Huddersfield

Heritage Statement for Proposed Warehouse, Quay Street

June 2025



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Turnbridge Mills, Quay Street, Huddersfield

Heritage Statement for Proposed Warehouse

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Name: Turnbridge Mills
Address: Turnbridge Mills, Quay Street, Huddersfield, HD1 6QT
Local Planning Authority: Kirklees Council
County: West Yorkshire
Statutory Listing: N/A but within setting of Grade II listed Brierley Mill, and Grade II listed Chimney at former Hirsts' Mill and Scheduled lift bridge
Conservation Area: N/A
Date of Property: Buildings and structures within the application site span the period 1872-1989
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Humble Heritage Ltd is a professional built heritage and archaeological consultancy operating in the specialised area of the historic environment. The practice has extensive experience of historical and archaeological research, assessing significance and heritage impact and preparing heritage statements, archaeological desk-based assessments, statements of significance, conservation management plans and so forth. Humble Heritage Ltd provides heritage and archaeological advice on behalf of a wide variety of clients across much of England and is recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation as a professional Historic Environment Service Provider.

Humble Heritage Ltd completed this Heritage Statement during June 2025 following an earlier Heritage Statement to inform a pre-planning application enquiry prepared during February-April 2024 on behalf of site owner John L Brierley Ltd (JLB) and their specialist advisors Robert Halstead Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners and project architect T D Jagger. This assessment considers the proposal for works to demolish the existing buildings B, C, E, F, G and the structure N at Turnbridge Mills and erect a building comprising manufacturing, warehouse and office uses with associated closure of access and formation of new access, parking and turning area. Note that Building N is a canopy structure rather than a 'building' per se but for stylistic ease and clarity it is generally referred to as Building N in this report. Building D is to be retained and repaired and renovated to form offices for the new manufacturing facility.

The first parts of this assessment describe the heritage planning context, historical development and heritage significance of the buildings within the mill site with the focus upon the buildings within the proposed application site, which covers only part of the north side of Quay Street. The latter part of this report then assesses the heritage impact.

The earliest of the surviving buildings at Turnbridge Mills is John L. Brierley's Mill dated 1846 on a date plaque. Although north light sheds to the south and west were likely also erected at this date as they are shown on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map, they have not survived and the current buildings date largely from the early 20th century. The mill complex to the south of Quay Street was purchased by John L. Brierley, yarn spinners, in 1895 and was developed as a textile mill during the late 19th and 20th centuries. The mill complex to the north of Quay Street, that includes this site, was purchased by Brierley in 1925.

Grade II listed buildings are not classed as '*assets of the highest significance'* in the NPPF (paragraph 213b). However, they have been recognised as having special architectural or historic interest. At Turnbridge Mills Buildings H & M are Grade II listed. Within the application site Building B has recently been added to the list at Grade II. This report finds that a number of the other non-listed mill buildings have some historic and architectural significance and are probable non-designated heritage assets. Most also positively contribute to the wider site of Turnbridge Mills as part of a historical textile industrial ensemble.

The collection of buildings owned by JLB are significant as a group in illustrating the development of the industrial business over 170 years, but the different buildings make different contributions to this significance depending on their age, architectural quality, historic function and legibility. Within the site itself, Buildings N and F have no heritage significance, Buildings C and G have low significance, Building E low-moderate significance, Building D has moderate significance and Building B has moderate-high significance. It is possible that Buildings C, G, E and D would meet the threshold of non-designated heritage assets. Buildings B, C, D, E and G positively contribute to the significance that the Grade II listed chimney, John L. Brierley Mill, and Turn Bridge derive from their setting.

The assessment of heritage impact in this report finds that the loss of Buildings N and F would cause no heritage harm given their lack of significance. The loss of the buildings that relate to the former Hirst mill complex established in c.1872 will likely be harmful to heritage as part of the historic and architectural significance of the site will be lost. For unlisted buildings that are found to be non-designated heritage assets, a '*balanced judgement*' is required when assessing a planning application '*having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset'* (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 216). For listed buildings, paragraph 212 of the National Planning Policy Framework states, *'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be)...'* Paragraph 213 states that *'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification…'*

The clearance of any non-designated heritage assets will likely result in less than substantial harm to the remaining historical mill complex. However, the loss of the Grade II listed Building B would likely result in substantial harm to Turnbridge Mills. In terms of the impact to the designated bridge, the level of harm is considered to be 'less than substantial' due to a change in the significance that it derives from its setting.

Heritage enhancements are expected to arise from:

- Supporting the ability of JLB to remain within Building H (the listed mill) and for them to undertake development which would support the ongoing repair and maintenance of the remaining buildings, including the listed chimney.
- Retention, repair, renovation and reuse of Building D. Renovation works will include the return of the fenestration in the Engine House to its original form, and the reinstatement of the loading doors of Building D. The ashlar stonework from the boiler house arch base will be retained where it joins to Building D, and will be reconstructed to form the other side of the service yard entrance. These works are heritage enhancements as they provide a new use that secures the long term sustainable future of this historical building with a design and appearance that will improve the legibility of the original uses of the buildings here that have been eroded through unsympathetic 20th century alterations.
- The new two storey office building to be built to the west of Building D in reclaimed natural stone with a design that relates to Building D (such as a continuation of the basement plinth and fenestration to match and a slated double pitched roof also to match Building D) improves the street scene, sense of enclosure

and traditional appearance while also partly screening the set back manufacturing building to the rear. It will form a visual group with Building D, the listed chimney, and the listed mill on the other side of the road.

- Cladding the key facade of Building A in stone with recessed walled window panels to the existing brick building is an aesthetic enhancement that will help it to better relate to, and harmonise with, the traditional mill complex.
- The new manufacturing building has been carefully designed and detailed to have a neutral impact upon the historic environment, while providing a key role in the sustainable future of the site. It's simple and restrained design responds to the utilitarian design seen across most of the complex as identified by Historic England in their Consultation Report and reflects its intended use where the industrial function continues to dictate form.

The mill complex has been economically unsustainable for many years with underutilised buildings falling into increasing disrepair and insufficient funds to keep the listed buildings and others in good order. By making the site viable, it will allow investment into the repair and maintenance of the listed buildings and give them a long-term sustainable future. This is line with Kirklees Council's Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment 3a which states that: *'secure a sustainable future for heritage assets at risk and those associated with the local textile industry…constructed on the back of the wealth created by the textile industry as expressions of local civic pride and identity.'*

A full Sequential Options Assessment is submitted as part of the application and contains full details of the discounted options and proposed sole viable solution. This report should also be read in conjunction with:

a) Viability Report
b) Conditions Appraisal
c) Structural Appraisal
d) Planning and Listed Building Consent Statement

The evidence and arguments presented in the application documents demonstrate that this case passes the threshold of 'substantial public benefits' outweighing 'substantial harm' in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 214.

INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY AND HERITAGE PLANNING CONTEXT

1.01 This Heritage Statement has been completed by Liz Humble (MA, MA, MCIfA, IHBC), Director, Humble Heritage Ltd, on behalf of site owner John L Brierley Ltd (JLB) and their specialist advisors Robert Halstead Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners and project architect T D Jagger during June 2025. This assessment considers the proposal for works to demolish the existing buildings/structures B, C, D, E, F, G and N at Turnbridge Mills and erect a building comprising manufacturing, warehouse and office uses with associated closure of access and formation of new access, parking and turning area.

Purpose

1.02 The aims of this report are to:

- Inform the owner and their specialist advisors with respect to the heritage implications of the proposed architectural works at the site.
- Provide a tool to help the local planning authority to understand the development of the site, its significance and the contribution that it makes to the significance of the nearby Grade II listed mill and mill chimney and scheduled canal bridge.
- Assist those in the planning system advise and assess future plans for change at the site and satisfy the requirement of paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework. At the heart

of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development. The purpose of this Heritage Statement is to satisfy paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states that *'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting'*.

1.03 Significance is one of the guiding principles running through the historic environment section of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), against which proposals for listed building consent and planning permission affecting heritage assets are judged. The NPPF defines significance as *'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest'*. Such interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic and it may derive *'not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting'*.

Methodology

1.04 The application site was assessed as part of a Heritage Asset Review conducted by Humble Heritage across Turnbridge Mills in 2017. This report included historical and archival research and fabric inspection and therefore relevant parts of it have informed this assessment. Unlike the Heritage Asset Review which was site-wide, this assessment is more bespoke to the buildings proposed for demolition and the proposed replacement building and associated landscaping in terms of investigating their heritage significance, their contribution to the significance of the wider industrial site and the heritage impact of the proposed works to their significance and that of the textile mills complex.

Site Location

1.05 Turnbridge Mills is located on the eastern side of Huddersfield; a market town and the largest settlement in the metropolitan borough of Kirklees, West Yorkshire. Halfway between Leeds and Manchester, Huddersfield lies about 10 miles south of Bradford, the nearest city. Huddersfield is near the confluence of the River Colne and the River Holme. Located within the historic county boundaries of the West Riding of Yorkshire, it is the administrative centre of the borough. The town is best known for its role in the Industrial Revolution and a large number of mills, mill worker housing and other facilities associated with the 18th and 19th century rapid population and industrial growth survive today. Turnbridge Mills spans part of the north and south sides of Quay Street. It is bounded by the Calder & Hebble Navigation Huddersfield Broad Canal to the east, Watergate and Old Leeds Road to the west, Sainsbury's to the south and several business to the north.

1.06 The buildings under consideration in this assessment – Buildings/structures B, C, D, E, F, G and N are shown within the red line site boundary below (**figure 1**) and lie to the north of the Grade II listed John L. Brierley's Mill and west of the Grade II listed chimney.

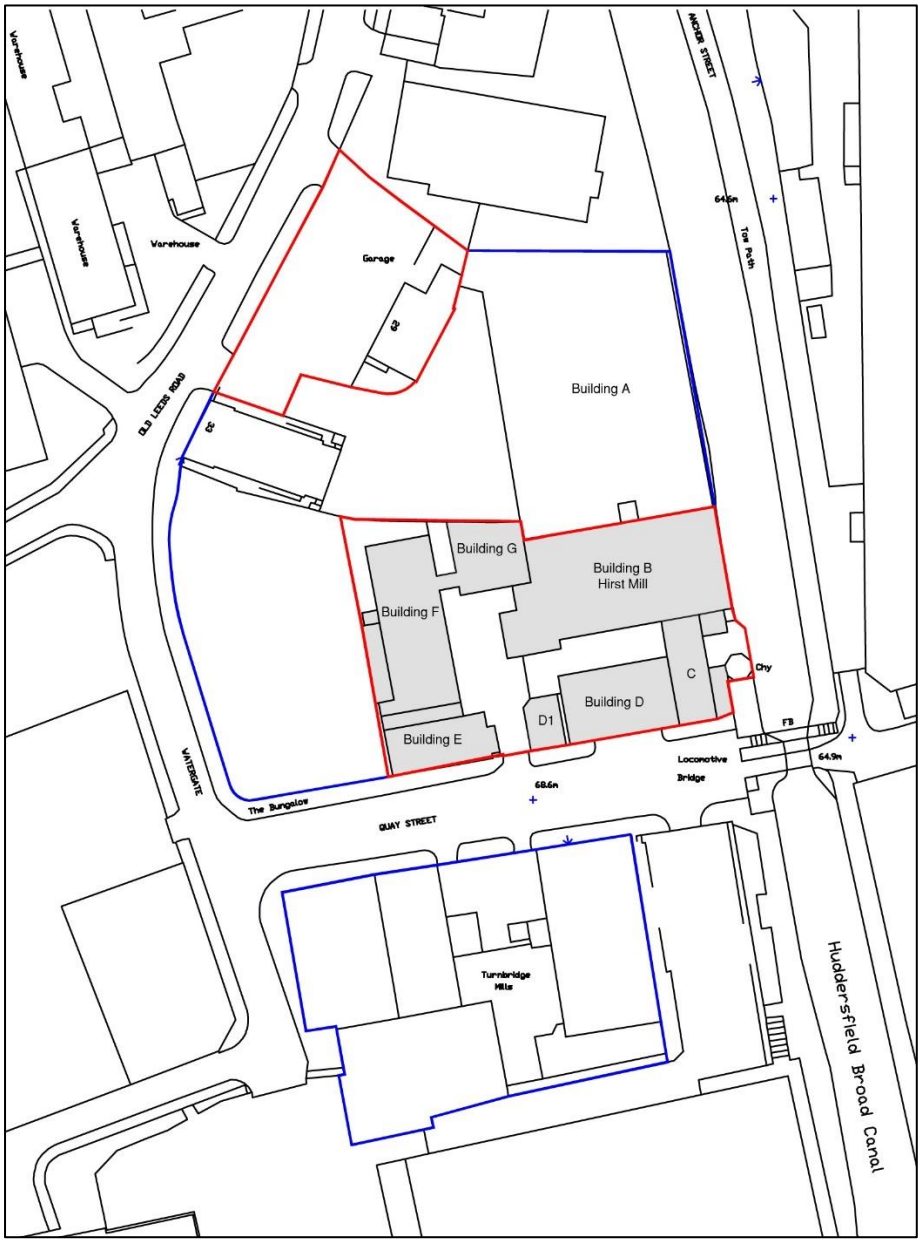


Figure 1: Location plan with wider mill complex shown in blue (ownership) boundary (kindly provided by T D Jagger Property Consultants)

The Proposal

1.07 This report seeks to inform a proposal for works to demolish the existing buildings/structures B, C, E, F, G and N at Turnbridge Mills and erect a building comprising manufacturing, warehouse and office uses with associated closure of access and formation of new access, parking and turning area.

Heritage Planning Context

1.08 John L. Brierley's Mill (Building H) was listed Grade II for its special architectural or historic interest in 1978. The chimney (Building M) historically associated with Hirst's Mill (Building B) was listed Grade II in 2012 and the spinning block (Building B) was Grade II listed in 2025. The location of these designated heritage assets are highlighted on the figure below (**figure 2**). Within the setting of the site, but outside the ownership area, is Turn Bridge at Quay Street, which is a scheduled monument.

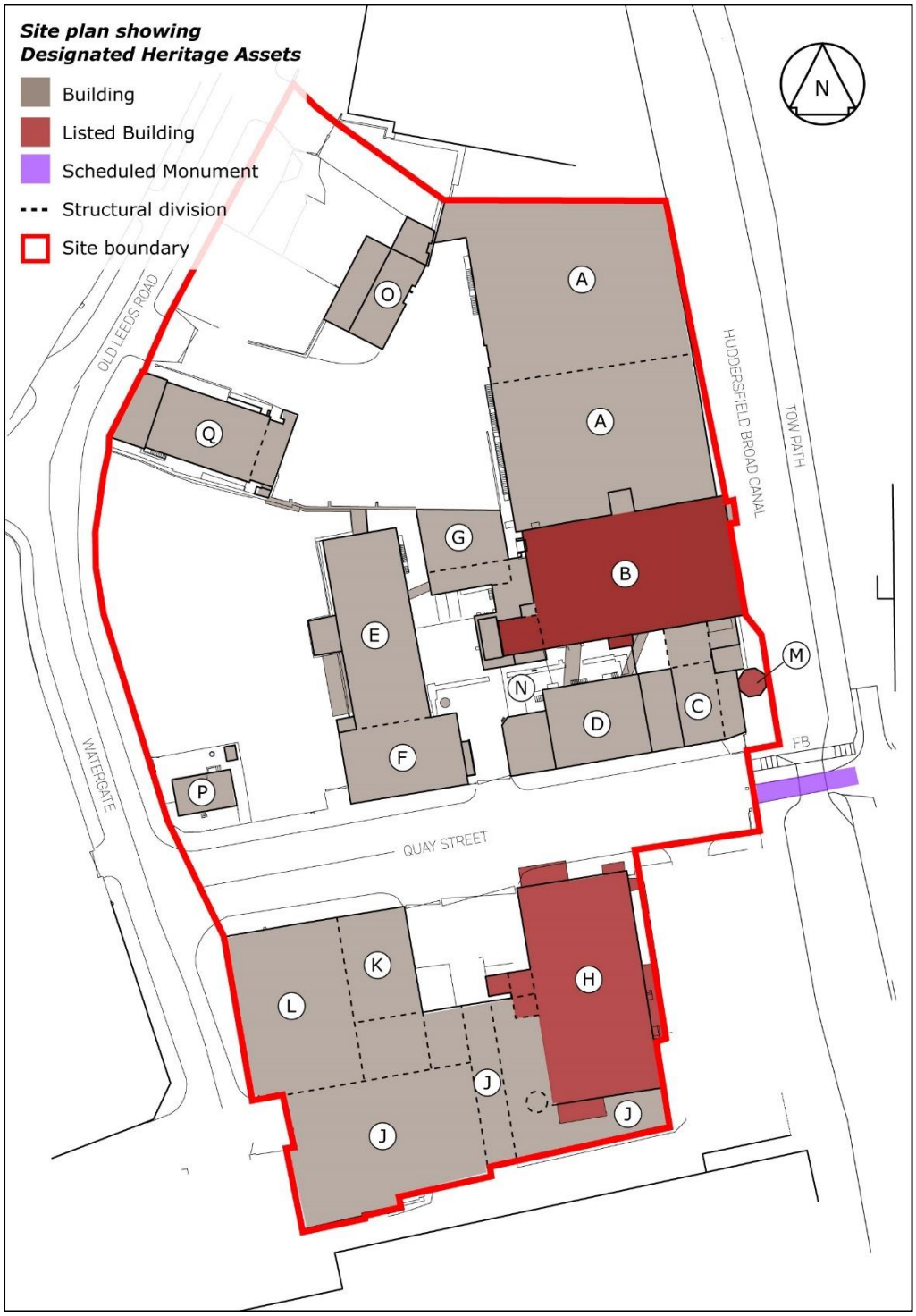


Figure 2: Site plan of entire mill complex identifying buildings, structures and designated heritage assets

1.09 For listed building consent applications Section 16(2) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that '*In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses'*.

1.10 For planning applications Section 66(1) **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990** states that '*In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the*

Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses'.

1.11 The proposal assessed here is also expected to affect the significance that the existing designated heritage assets at Turnbridge Mills derive from their setting. **Setting** is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as: *'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'* (NPPF, Annex 2: Glossary).

1.12 Historic England's guidance on setting expands upon the NPPF's definition, and makes clear that although visual relationships are key, other factors can play a role and that the historic relationship between places can also be a consideration:

'The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations. Although views of or from an asset will play an important part, the way in which we experience an asset in its setting is also influenced by other environmental factors such as noise, dust and vibration from other land uses in the vicinity, and by our understanding of the historic relationship between places. For example, buildings that are in close proximity but are not visible from each other may have a historic or aesthetic connection that amplifies the experience of the significance of each.' (Historic England 2017, 2).

1.13 The assessment methodology employed in the heritage impact assessment in this report is based on what Historic England describe as *'A Staged Approach to Proportionate Decision-Taking'* as outlined in the Historic England guidance note on the setting of heritage assets (Historic England 2017).

1.14 Paragraph 210 of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** requires local planning authorities to take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation, and the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

1.15 Paragraph 212 of the National Planning Policy Framework states, *'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be)...'* Paragraph 213 states that *'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification…'*

1.16 Grade II listed buildings are not classed as '*assets of the highest significance'* in the NPPF (paragraph 213b).

1.17 Paragraphs 214 and 215 of the National Planning Policy Framework make a distinction between proposals that will lead to '*…substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of)…*' a designated heritage asset (paragraph 214) and proposals which will have '*…less than substantial harm…*' to a designated heritage asset where this harm *'should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'* (paragraph 215).

1.18 In contrast to designated heritage assets, the National Planning Policy Framework does not require planning authorities to give *'great weight'* (paragraph 212) to the conservation of non-designated heritage assets or for applicants to provide *'clear and convincing justification'* (paragraph 213) in cases of harm to, or loss of, their significance but rather a '*balanced judgement'* (paragraph 216) is required. The NPPF states in paragraph 216 that *'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighting applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced*

judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.'

1.19 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) clarifies the status of non-designated heritage assets: *'Local planning authorities may identify non-designated heritage assets. These are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets. In some areas, local authorities identify some non-designated heritage assets as 'locally listed'.'*

1.20 **Kirklees Council's Local Plan** was adopted on 27 February 2019. Of particular relevance to this assessment is Policy LP35 Historic Environment, which states that:

Historic environment

1. *Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset…*

2. *Proposals which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, or its contribution to the character of a place will be permitted only where benefits of the development outweigh the harm having regard to the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset….*

3. *Proposals should retain those elements of the historic environment which contribute to the distinct identity of the Kirklees area and ensure they are appropriately conserved, to the extent warranted by their significance, also having regard to the wider benefits of development. Consideration should be given to the need to:*

   a. *ensure that proposals maintain and reinforce local distinctiveness and conserve the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets;*
   c. *secure a sustainable future for heritage assets at risk and those associated with the local textile industry, historic farm buildings, places of worship and civic and institutional buildings constructed on the back of the wealth created by the textile industry as expressions of local civic pride and identity;*
   e. *accommodate innovative design where this does not prejudice the significance of heritage assets…'*

HISTORY OF THE SITE

2.01 This section of the report examines the historical development of the site from its earliest known origins to the present day. Below is a table that summarises the history, use and significance of the various buildings within Turnbridge Mills based upon the independent professional judgment of the author. The buildings that are proposed for change are covered in bold text below.

Building or Structural Element	Date of Construction	Date of Acquisition	Use in 1978 (when Building H listed)	Use Today	Level of Significance
Building A	A1 in 1979-1980 A2 in 1994-1995	-	-	Warehousing & production	Neutral
Building B	**1872**	**1925**	**Hamel & double twisting, winding, spinning, cardroom and warehouse**	**Mainly disused, some warehouse /despatch functions and one tenant**	**Moderate**
Building C	**c.1872**	**1925**	**Boiler house**	**Maintenance workshop**	**Low**
Building D	**c.1872**	**1925**	**Winder & production store, beaming, warehouse & office**	**Mainly disused; two tenants**	**Moderate**
Building E	**c.1872**	**1925**	**Hewitt & Booth and mechanics/electrical workshop**	**two tenants**	**Low-Moderate**
Building F	**1989**	**-**	**-**	**Tenant**	**Neutral**
Building G	**c.1872 with pre-1960 extension**	**1925**	**Uncertain – possibly a cotton store**	**Tenant**	**Low**
Building H	1846	1895	Winding, double twisting, beaming & warehouse/ joiners shop	Mainly empty, but some uses by JLB	High
Building J	c.1908 with post-1960 rebuilding	-	Beaming	Beaming/ section warping	Variable
Building K	1980	-	-	Beam store/SCM	Neutral
Building L	1995-1996	-	-	Sizing/SCM	Neutral
Building M	c.1872	1925	-	-	High
Building N	**1950s**		**Canopy**	**Canopy**	**Neutral**
Building O	c.1850s-c.1890 with c.1950s extension	1970s	Car showroom/garage	Car sales (tenant)	Neutral
Building P	1978-1979	-	On site caretaker	On site caretaker	Neutral
Building Q	c.1890-c.1918	1999	Guide hall	Church (tenant)	Low-Moderate

2.02 The assessment below is taken from Humble Heritage's Heritage Asset Review which examined historic Ordnance Survey maps, aerial views held at Britain from Above and in the Historic England and JLB archives, a Guidebook to John L. Brierley Ltd produced in 1993 and research into local newspaper archives by Huddersfield historian Alan Brooke and available via his website Underground Histories at *https://undergroundhistories.wordpress.com.* The offices of JLB hold a small archive of plans and material from the late 20th century.

Historical Development of Turnbridge Mills

2.03 The earliest of the surviving buildings at Turnbridge Mills is John L. Brierley's Mill dated 1846 on a date plaque. This is Brierley's Mill or Building H. Although north light sheds to the south and west were likely also erected at this date as they are shown on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map, they have largely not survived and the current buildings (Building J) date from the 20th century with only

one potential single bay remnant from the mid-19th century phase of construction. Millponds were constructed further west and there was a dyehouse to the east. The mill was built by Armitage & Kaye.

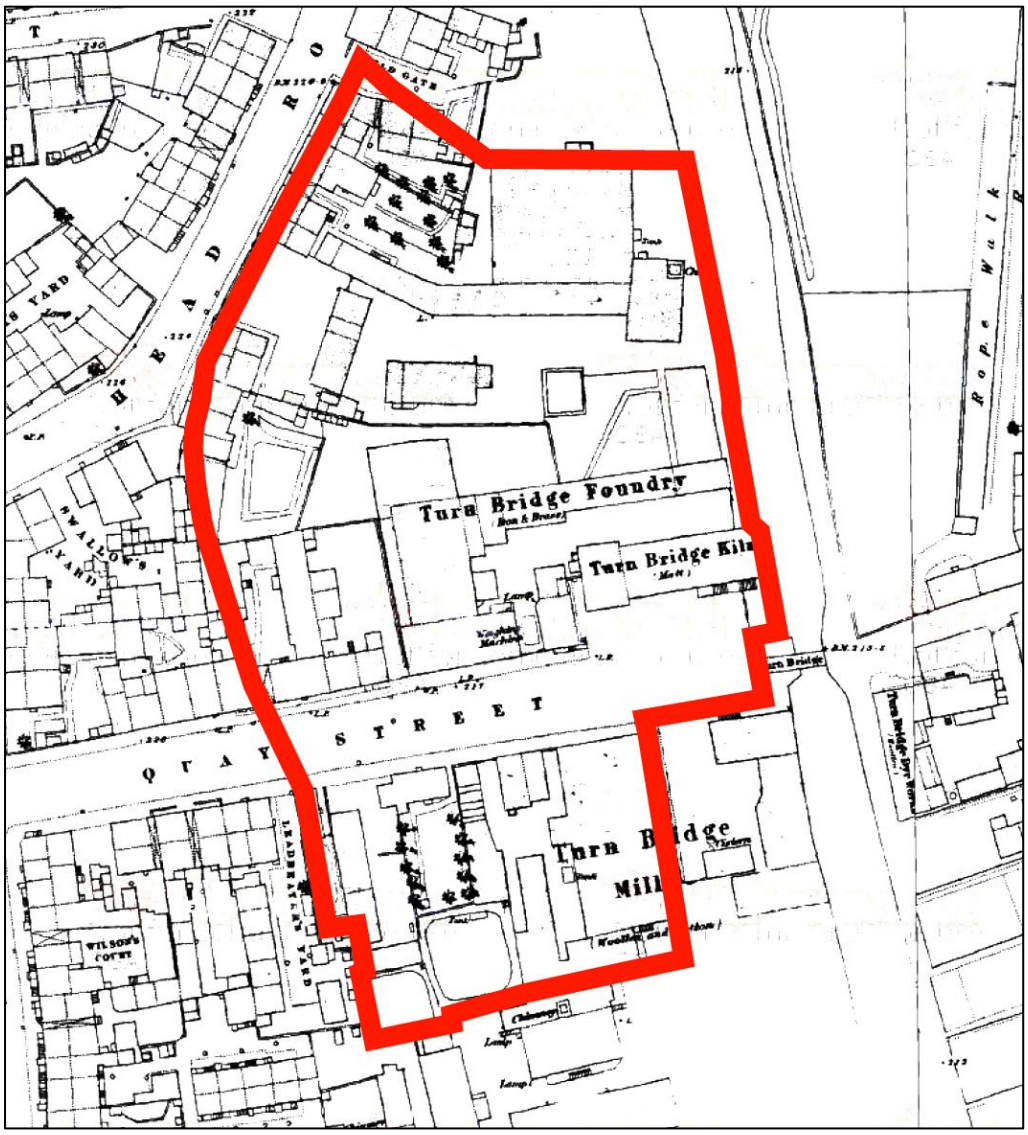


Figure 3: 1851 Ordnance Survey map: note Turnbridge Mill (Buildings H & part of J) to the south of Quay Street by the canal. This map shows a dense industrial layout with a foundry, kiln and several yards at least partially enclosed by smaller industrial units – possibly with some residences too

2.04 The mill complex to the south of Quay Street was purchased by John L. Brierley, yarn spinners, in 1895.

2.05 The next major phase of building work at the site was the erection of another mill on the opposite side of the road from Brierley's mill, facing it across Quay Street. This was acquired by John L. Brierley in 1925 but was built in 1872 by Hirst's and probably included the multi-storey cotton spinning mill (**Building B**) in addition to the offices/workshop, engine house, and mill (**Building D**), boiler house (**Building C**) and perhaps the mill and warehousing (**Buildings E, G** and on the site of **F**). Part of Building O also dates to around this phase but this was associated with a works yard to the north-west rather than Hirst's. These buildings are all shown on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map and replaced Turn Bridge Foundry and Kiln buildings shown on the 1851 Ordnance Survey here with a yard and weighing machine by the entrance to the yard. There has also been further industrial

development into former yards and open spaces such as the development of Connelly's Yard, Kaye's Yard, Kaye Arms Inn and Eagle Mills (all since lost).

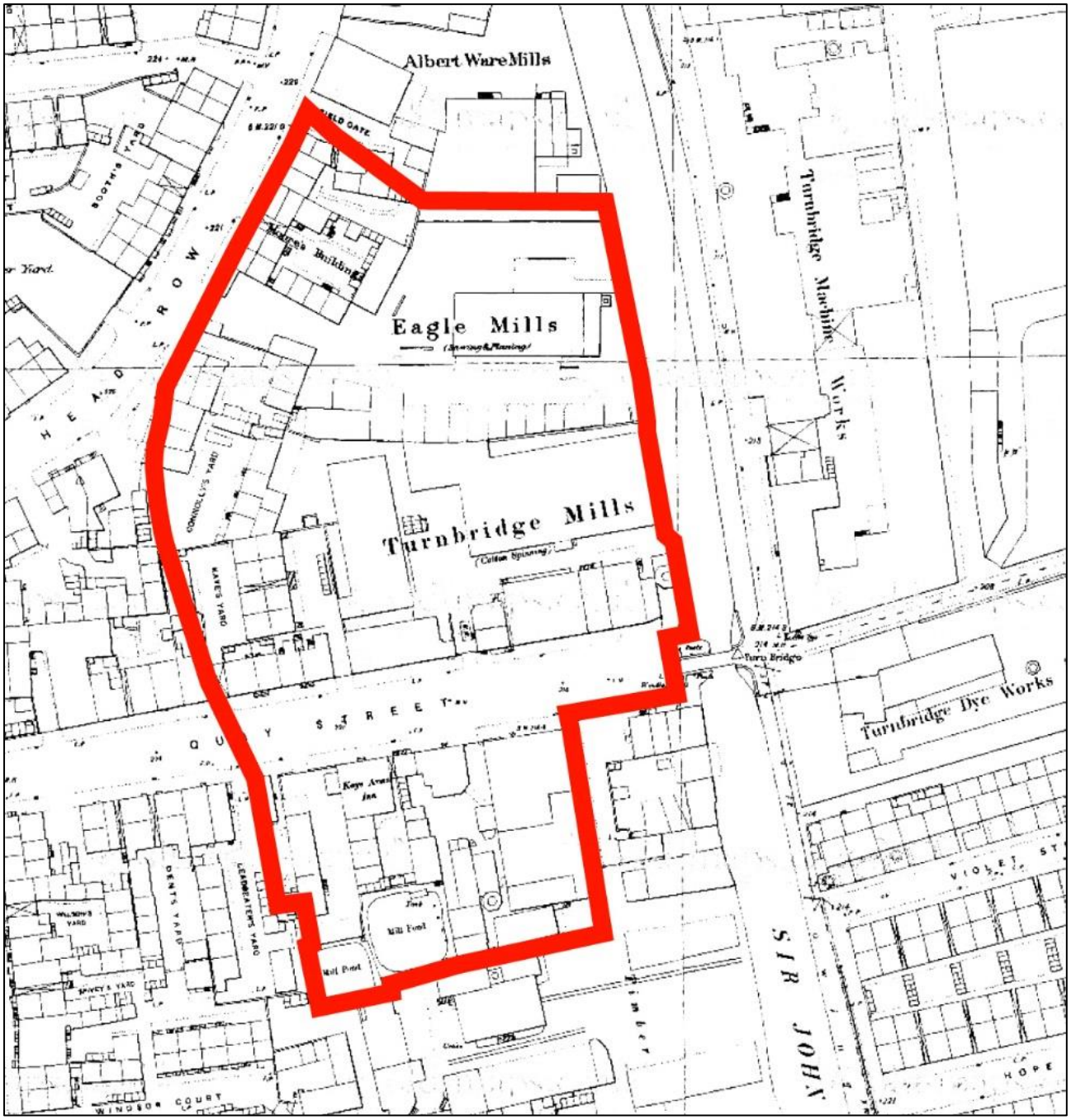


Figure 4: 1890 Ordnance Survey map: note that Hirst's have built the northern part of Turnbridge Mills (Buildings B, C, D, M, E and G. Building O is also shown. A chimney is also shown at Building H (of which only the base survives today within Building J)

2.06 A further phase of major works occurred between the 1890 and 1918 OS maps, which included the extension of the north-light sheds to the west on the site on the former millponds (Building J).

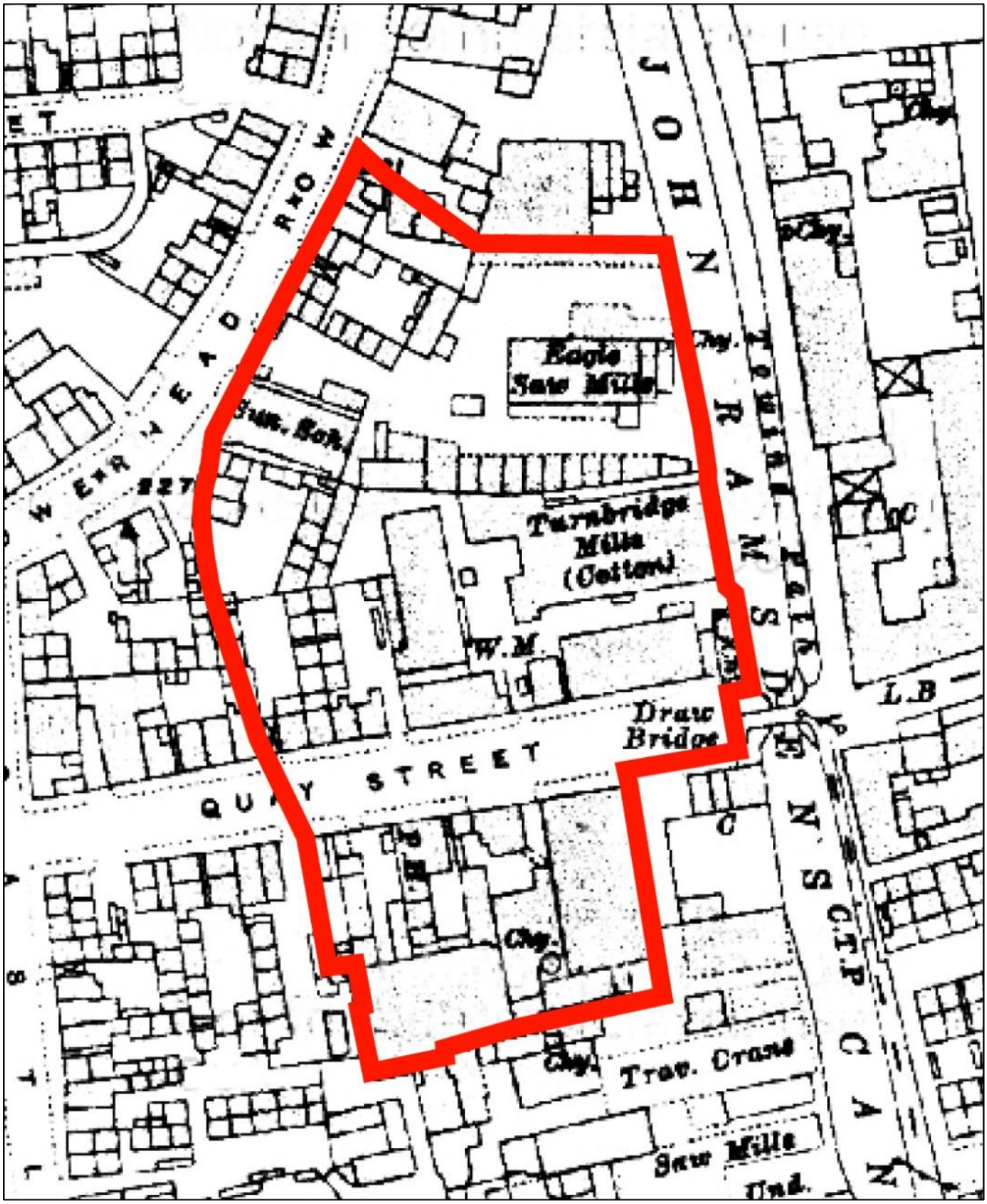


Figure 5: 1918 Ordnance Survey map shows the extension to the north-light sheds (Building J) over the former millponds as has an extension to the south-west corner of Building B

2.07 Over time the mills went through several periods of decline through lack of trade and periods when an upswing in orders enabled profits to be investment in the site (both in buildings and machinery). The changing fortunes and changes to technology and production are covered in detail in the Guidebook to John L. Brierley Ltd. Various phases of additions, remodelling and clearance over the years are also likely to have been connected to fires (of which many are recorded in the local

newspapers), changing tenants with different requirements, changing machinery/technological innovations, and the fluctuating business fortunes of both owners and tenants.

2.08 In the 1920s, trading conditions were difficult and in 1925 William Hirst & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd who built and owned the mill site to the north of Quay Street, was purchased by John L. Brierley Ltd, which became a private limited company with John and his son Jere as directors. Between 1928 and early 1931 production ceased at the former Hirst mill due to poor trading conditions and JLB diversified, firstly into chenille yarns and then from 1935 to make smokers' pipe cleaners. However, trading remained poor and in 1938 when Jere Brierley inherited the company it was almost bankrupt. The outbreak of World War II provided the large orders for the armed forces that saved the company from closure – although in 1941 the mill was closed by the government and used by David Brown Ltd for making and storing engineering patterns until the end of the war. There was a period of investment in the 1950s with a new type of double twister machines in the UK installed in 1961. The twinners were all replaced with ring doubling and the mules by ring spinning. Bobbin winding was replaced by cone winding and the beaming was modernised and new hoist shafts constructed. Further upgrading to machinery occurred from 1986 to 1990 when the cardroom and spinning was reequipped followed by a fully automatic cone winding machine in 1991 (Guidebook 1993, 7&9).

2.09 Aerial images from 1949 (two of which are reproduced below in **figures 6-7**) capture the site before recent developments and show:

- The original four-storey height of **Building E**.
- **Original Building F** (replaced in 1989).
- Chimney previously adjacent to Building H.
- Earlier buildings on site of Buildings A, K, L and near O.
- Indications of rooflights to Building H.
- Original opening to engine house at **Building D**.

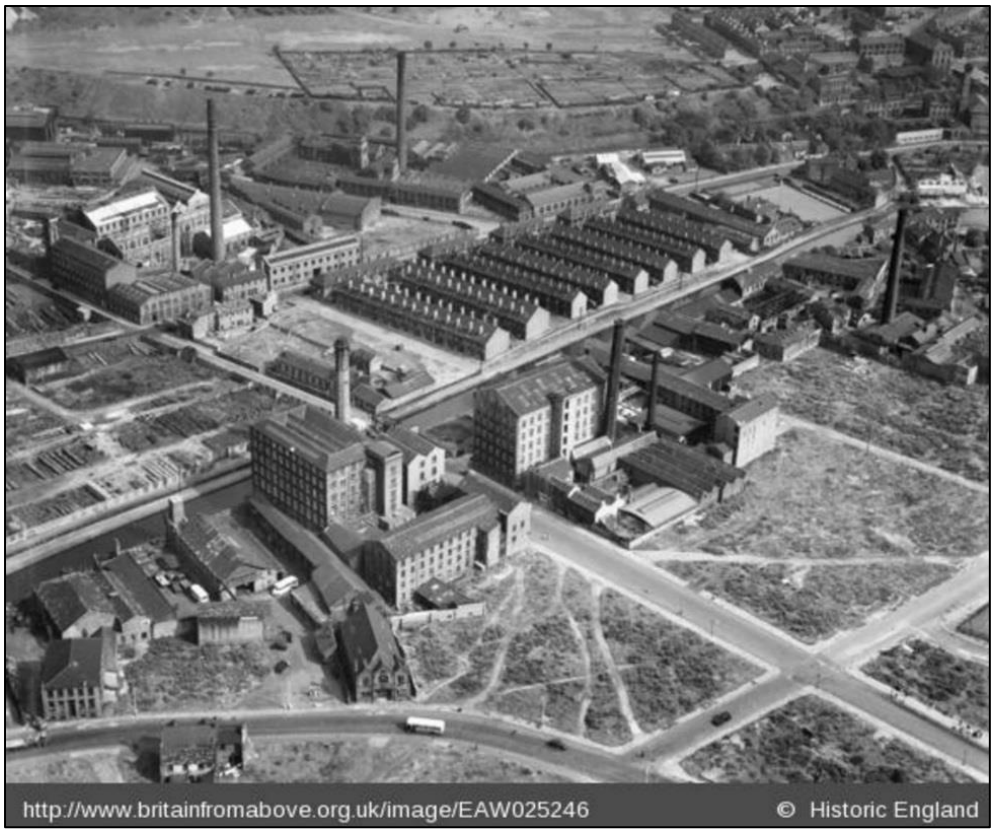


Figure 6: Aerial view, 1949



Figure 7: Aerial view, 1949

2.10 Larger scale 20th century changes include the reduction of **Building E** from four to two storeys and removal of the 19th century JLB offices from the yard (in order to facilitate access by large modern lorries) and relocation of office facilities into **Building F**. A building is shown on the 1851 OS map on the site of the current yard entrance to Brierley Mill. This was the offices to the mill. By 1960 it was connected to the tower of mill Building H via overhead walkways at second and third floor levels. Its footprint and relationship with surrounding buildings was captured on a site survey of this area by architects Philip Lees Associates dated June 1989. It was demolished in 1988 in order to create a yard large enough to accommodate modern lorry sizes and replaced with Building F on the opposite side of Quay Street. **Building F** itself replaced a four-storey vacant mill building, originally associated with Hirst's mill.

2.11 Other modern changes include the extensions to Building O (added in the c.1950s), possibly in connection with it becoming a garage, a northwards extension to Building C, the construction of Building A (in 1980 and with a large extension in 1995) and the replacement of garaging on the site of Buildings K & L with these buildings in the 1980s and mid-1990s. Building A was built on the site of a late 19th century timber/saw mill known as Eagle Mills. The current car park was created from land cleared between 1918 and 1950 and a bungalow was constructed here in the late 20th century to house a caretaker for the mills. By 1969 (and probably earlier) a site survey by Scholfield's Ltd reveals that Jarratt, Pyrah & Armitage timber merchants had a timber store, timber yard and saw mill to the east of Building H and along the south boundary. They also occupied a garage with petrol and diesel pumps on the site of what is now Building L.

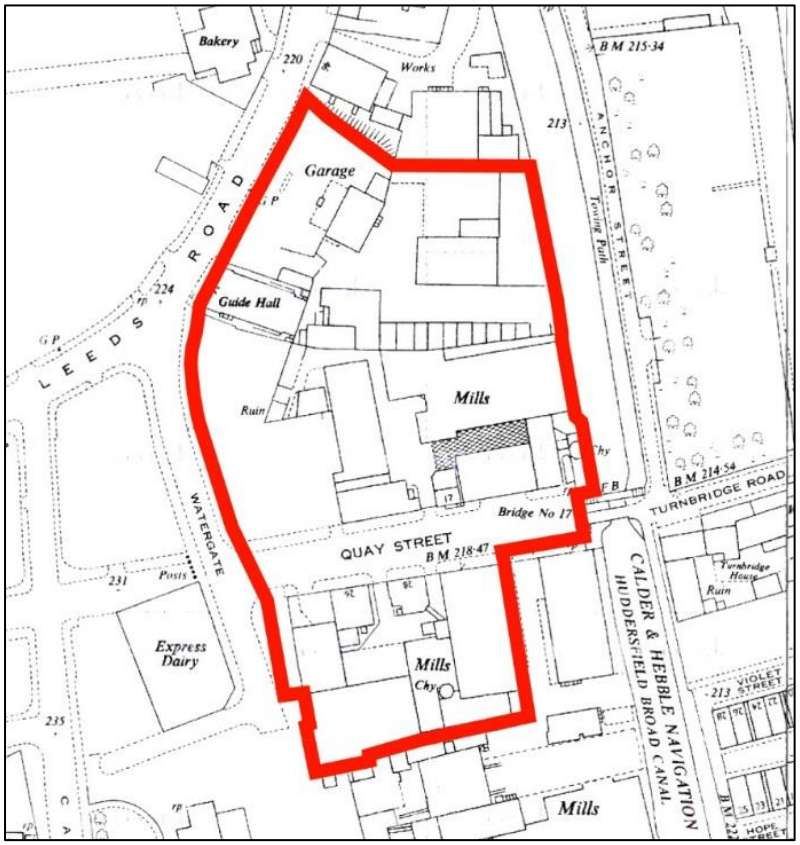


Figure 8: 1960 Ordnance Survey map

2.12 The 1960 Ordnance Survey map (**figure 8**) illustrates some mid-20th century changes at the site such as the extension to the garage (Building O), the canopy (**Building N**) and a lift shaft addition to the stair tower at the mill (Building H).

2.13 The site was captured in the late 1980s with both historical buildings and modern additions and extensions and changes captured (**figure 9**).



Figure 9: The original Building F before its replacement soon after this photograph was taken by the current two-storey building. Note also part of Buildings E, D, C and M as they appeared in the late 1980s (Historic England Archive reference mf078_q_34)

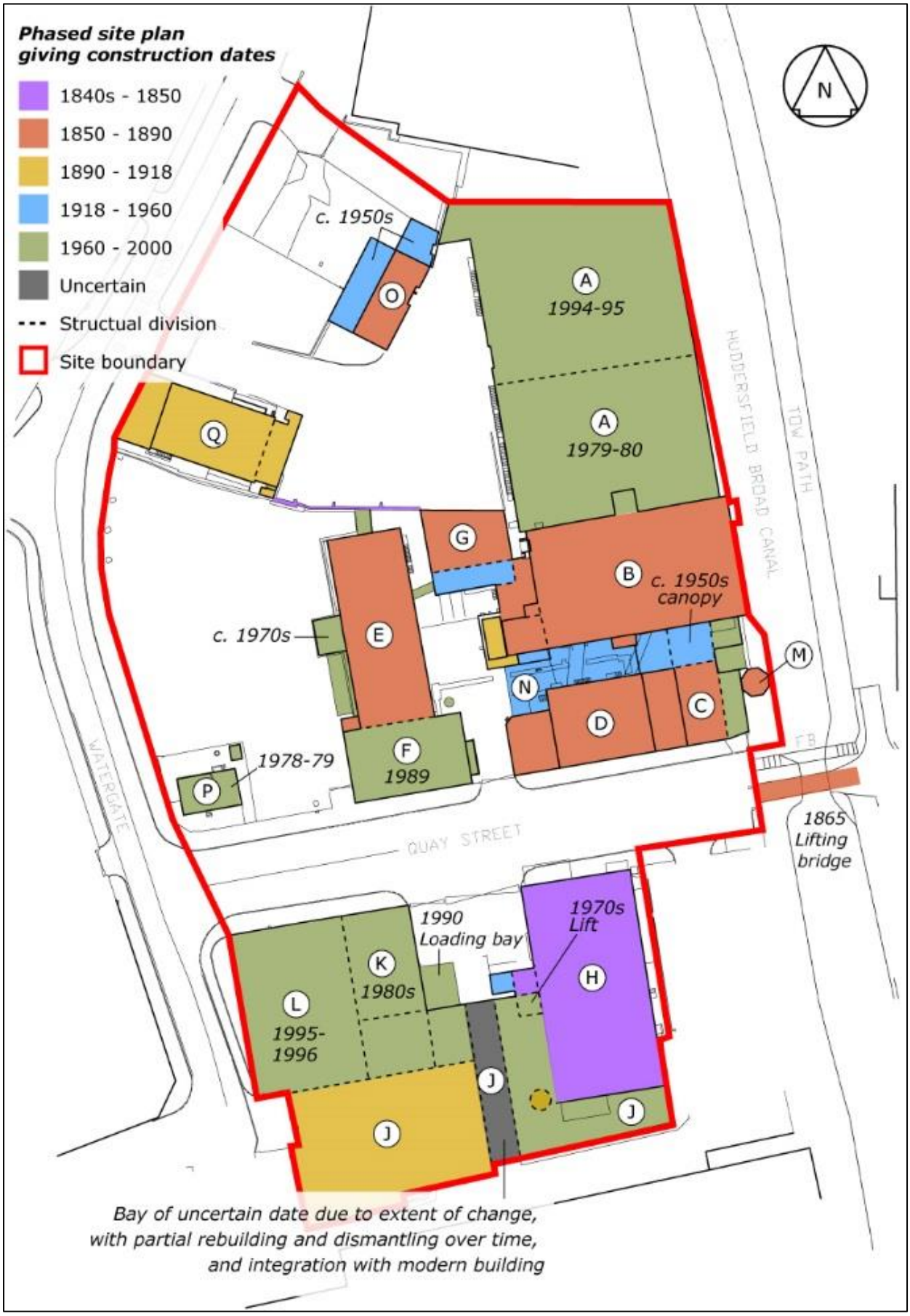


Figure 10: Phased plan of the buildings and structures across the mill complex

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

Historic England Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected by the proposed development

3.01 The following buildings fall within the application site boundary – Buildings B, C, D, E, F, G and N. Of these buildings B, D and E can be considered to be heritage assets and C and G have a small degree of significance. Their significance is explored below.

3.02 The setting of a heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as *'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced...Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.'* (Annexe 2: Glossary). Historic England's *'The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (2nd Edition)'* states that therefore there are *'twin roles'* of setting; a heritage asset's setting can contribute to its heritage significance and/or it can allow that significance to be appreciated (2017, 1). Setting is not only a visual matter but is also affected by *'our understanding of the historic relationship between places'* (2017, 2).

3.03 The following heritage assets also have the potential to be affected by the proposed work as they fall within the setting of the application site: John L. Brierleys Mill (Building H), chimney at Turnbridge Mills (Building M) and the scheduled monument lift bridge. They are therefore also assessed below.

Heritage Significance

3.04 Significance is the concept that underpins current conservation philosophy. 'Significance' in terms of heritage-related planning policy is defined in the Glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework as *'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting'.* In legislation and designation criteria, the terms 'special architectural or historic interest' of a listed building and the 'national importance' of a scheduled monument are used to describe all or part of what, in planning terms, is referred to as the identified heritage asset's significance.

3.05 The importance of identifying the significance of a site is highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework as this is essential in informing future change to heritage assets. The aim of conservation is to manage change to ensure that significance is protected, and also revealed, reinforced and enhanced, at every possible opportunity.

Levels of Significance

3.06 The relative heritage values of elements within the site are discussed below and key features and themes are noted. The designations can be used to inform the level of change that is likely to be acceptable within the site and its design parameters. For example, Paragraph 40 of English Heritage's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (2008) states that, '*The greater the range and strength of heritage values attached to a place, the less opportunity there may be for change…'*. Every case should be considered on its merits and in relation to the other spaces and elements. The National Planning Policy Framework also highlights the importance of taking into account any public benefits from proposals to alter heritage assets. The heritage values contributing to significance identified here have been graded to identify the relative contributions that these values make to the significance of the site in order to inform any future proposals for change and reuse. Definitions of these are given below.

- **High:** an aspect of value that *strongly* contributes to the significance of a place. These aspects may be important at a national or even international level. They will have high cultural value and will form an essential piece of the history and meaning of the place. In material terms, they will

greatly contribute towards the heritage values. Conservation will be a priority, and alterations would require a defined and compelling need and general consensus following wide consultation and/or the demonstration that significance will be considerably enhanced, reinforced or revealed as a result.

- **Medium:** an aspect of value that will have *some* cultural importance and will make a modest contribution to the significance of a place. In material terms, they will play an important role in conveying the heritage values. Efforts should be made to protect and enhance these aspects, though a greater degree of flexibility is possible than with aspects of high value.
- **Low:** an aspect of value that will make a *slight* contribution to the significance of a place. In material terms it will still add something to the heritage values, although this contribution may have been compromised by loss or uninformed interventions. A greater capacity for enhancement exists than for items of medium or high value, although a low designation does not necessarily mean that the feature is expendable and any material change may require consent from the local authority.
- **Neutral:** an aspect that has no discernible value that neither adds to nor detracts from the significance of a place. Informed change is likely to be acceptable following the necessary consultation and consent procedures.
- **Detrimental:** an aspect of a place that detracts from its values and therefore its significance. In material terms, removal of these aspects should be strongly encouraged following the necessary consultation and consent procedures.

3.07 The significance of a place is the sum of these values, brought together and expressed in a summary statement of significance. This section is an aid to the decision-making process and helps set out the design and conservation parameters. Assessing the significance of heritage assets is always to some extent a subjective qualitative exercise and the assessment below is based upon the expert professional judgment of the author. It is therefore independent of the views of Historic England or Council Officers.

Historic Interest

3.08 Historic interest as defined in the Glossary to the National Planning Policy Framework is an interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

Architectural Interest

3.09 Architectural and artistic interest is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework Glossary as interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.

Building B: Multi-Storey Cotton Spinning Mill

History

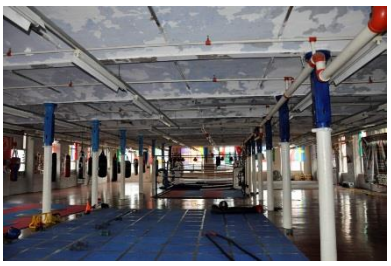
Building B was erected on the site of Turn Bridge Foundry (shown on the 1851 OS map) by Hirst's who previously rented room and power at Building H where in 1871 they employed 60 people (RPC 1873). In 1871 tenders were sought for the erection of a cotton mill, warehouse, scotching room, boiler house, engine house and chimney at Turnbridge (*Huddersfield Chronicle 1 July 1871).* John Kirk & Sons were the architects, while the owner and funder was Hirsts. Several accidents reported in the local press during 1872 highlight that the new mill complex was under construction. On 31 May 1873 *Huddersfield Examiner (Weekly)* reported that the work was complete with the involvement of the following - contractor was Abraham Graham & Sons; Wm. Sykes, Folly Hall, joiner; Ephraim Longbottom, plasterer; Tomlinson & Rowe, Chapel Hill, fireproof work. By 1873 John Sykes & Sons, machinists, occupied part of the mill (teasing room).

A two-storey office/workshop building was attached to the south-west corner by the stair tower between 1890 and 1918. The original tower stairs with lift shaft are present here with access to WCs on the privy tower on the third-fifth floors on each level accessed from this. Indeed floor plans of the third to fifth floors by EJC Consulting Engineers (January 1998) shows that each of these floors had a lift shaft on the south elevation (near the top of which is a stone plaque marked 'R & WH' (i.e. Hirsts)), a lift shaft tower on the north elevation with fire escape stairs towards the north east corner and the main stairs with central lift shaft and privy tower projecting from the southwest corner. There were one or two small office partitions within the main space on each of these floors. There was previously a steel link bridge to Building D from the south elevation of the third floor.

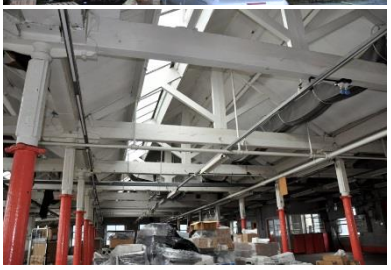
This building is first shown on the 1890 OS when it is labelled as 'Turnbridge Mills (Cotton Spinning)'. At this date, there was internal access between Building B and a building on the site of Building G, which adjoins to its north-west corner. This could have been Building G, although it does appear to have taken a slightly different footprint and been larger in size on both the 1890 and 1918 OS maps. In 1925 this William Hirst & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd mill site was purchased by JLB.

Double twisting ceased production in 1999 as did winding. Hamel twisting ceased production in 2006, and in 2008 spinning and the cardroom ceased.









Description

This is a masonry building with six floors. Its six bay east elevation directly overlooks the canal. The hipped roof comprises a slate covering on a rafter and purlin construction with three-span king post roof trusses. The building is 'fireproof' with cast iron columns of the basic cylindrical shape with bolting heads to carry line shafting and brick arches (presumably with a concrete infill) between secondary and primary cast iron beams. The basement has a brick retaining wall, which appears to extend below the level of the adjacent canal. There is a lift shaft with historic doors and stone stairs and an adjacent privy tower.

The building has several projecting stair or lift towers, of which the one facing south has a stone plaque at the upper level with the inscription 'R & WH' referring to the Hirst Brothers. The windows are mainly square headed, although those to the western elevation of the west stair tower are paired rounded headed examples with projecting keystones i.e. classical style influences. This has a water tank atop it and is a complicated area with a later workshop/office attachment, a tower/shaft containing WCs attached to the north wall of the stair tower, a lean to extension between the stair tower/office and Building G and a more recent lobby entrance to Building B all at this southwest corner. Level 1 (ground floor) contains blocked openings from when Building A was erected to the north.

Two storey office/workshop extension has an upper floor that has been seemingly been rebuilt at a later date (with larger quoins and larger casement windows - above the smaller ground floor sash windows) - and with a flat roof, above which a later cabin structure has been placed. The window openings have ashlar surrounds.

Significance
Moderate-High
Historical: built in 1872 as a spinning mill by the Hirst Brothers and acquired in 1925 by JLB. The contractors and architects are known from historical sources. However, it is not as historically significant as Building H as it is later in date and lacks the more interesting roof form of H (where the roof spans the top floor).

Architectural: a large utilitarian building with some instances of elaboration such as the paired round headed windows to the stair tower with ashlar lintels with projecting keystones, which show the influence of the Italianate style. Scale and robust nature positively contribute. The windows on this stair tower also have projecting sills supported on stone shaped brackets. Privy tower shows the development of sanitary provision. Internal arrangement and form with large open floor spaces with small offices on each floor, cast-iron columns with bolting heads allowing former power transmission, a king-post truss roof structure, evidence of fireproofing, stair and lift shafts. It has been more heavily altered compared to Buildings M & H and hence is somewhat less architecturally interesting.

Group Value: with canal and Hirst's mill, in particular Buildings C, D, M, G and E, which appear to be contemporary and part of Hirst's mill complex. Also a group value with the wider Turnbridge mills on the other side of Quay Street.

See recent listing entry for further detail (appendix A).

Building C: Boiler and Economiser Houses

History
Built as a boiler house in about 1872 in association with Hirst's mill, this was built on part of the site of 'Turn Bridge Kiln' recorded on the 1851 OS map and presumably associated with the contemporary 'Turn Bridge Foundry' on the site of Building B to the north. This building is first shown on the 1890 OS.

It is likely that the mill (Building B), mill, offices/workshops, engine house (Building D), boiler house (Building C) and chimney (Building M) were built in the late 19th century around 1872. The construction phases visible at Buildings C & D from Quay Street are shown on the 1890 map in the form of subdivisions. The slightly later addition between the boiler house and chimney was likely an economiser house that housed the economiser. These used the heat from the exhaust gases to warm water for the boilers and were commonly sited by chimneys and boiler houses. Boilers were made and installed by Richard Pollitt of Bolton.

In 1925 this William Hirst & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd mill site was purchased by JLB.

The northern part of Building C was developed during the mid-late 20th century from a previously open yard between Buildings C & B. A site survey by Scholfields Ltd Insurance Brokers in Manchester dated c.1969 records an oil storage tank within the main space with a further tank or other large structure within the room – presumably boilers. The area to the immediate north of the chimney was undeveloped at this date, being surveyed as yards. The current extension here (and unreferenced alterations) drawn by Walker Drafting Services, were erected in 1998 or 1999. A new roof over the boiler, storage areas and new doorways also date to 1998-1999 by One 17 AD of







Huddersfield. As part of these works the water tank was removed as were the Lancashire boilers and the former economiser house was rebuilt.

Description

Fronts Quay Street, between Building D and chimney M, it is adjacent to the engine house (part of Building D) as the engine required steam raised in a boiler. This is a single storey structure with a modern cladded roof with steelwork supporting purlins. It originally had two adjacent large arched entrances from Quay Street, but one of these has been blocked and the elevation partially rebuilt. These entrances would have allowed the installation of prefabricated boilers and facilitated the movement of coal. The number of openings therefore likely corresponded to the number of boilers actually or potentially housed within. These entrances were elaborated with a rusticated ashlar surround (and decorative treatment seen elsewhere e.g. at Oats Royd Mills).

There is a later pitched roof single bay extension to the east with ribbon pointing and a modern roof covering and a modern blockwork extension to the northeast. Internally it is apparent that two windows to the north elevation have been blocked and at least one to the west. The floor is concrete. If this was the economiser house, and its location suggests that it was, it would have housed stacks of metal pipes arranged in the flues leading from the boiler to the chimney.

Significance

Low

Historical: use as a boiler house and probable economiser house but much altered and partly rebuilt.
Architectural: rusticated arched entrance gives an impression of robustness and strength influenced by the classical style. However, compromised by later alterations over time making the original appearance and interior use and arrangement uncertain. The historic internal character and boilers etc have been lost and the window openings much altered (mainly blocked). If there was historically a drying room over the boiler house this has been lost.
Group Value: with the Hirst mill buildings, in particular M, D and B.

Building D: Mill with Offices/Workshops and Engine House

History

Built on the site of 'Turn Bridge Kiln' shown on the 1851 OS map and presumably associated with the contemporary 'Turn Bridge Foundry' on the site of Building B to the north, Building D is first shown on the 1890 OS map. It was built in 1872 as part of Hirst's mill. The construction phases visible from Quay Street today are shown on the 1890 map in the form of subdivisions.

The engine house accommodated a type 2 McNaughted beam engine with gear drives to vertical shafts at the mill. The maker was Robert Gledhill of Bradley Mill, Huddersfield in 1872. This was reputedly the largest in Huddersfield (48 inch cylinder, 7 foot stroke, 29 strokes a minute, '*The Templar'* 500-600hp). The other mill (Building H) formerly had a similar engine, probably by the same maker (George Watkins, 1939). Neither engine survives today.

In 1925 this William Hirst & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd mill site was purchased by JLB. A larger opening to the Quay Street elevation of the engine house (captured on aerial views from 1949) has been partially blocked and a loading door inserted.

The warehouse on level 1 became a maintenance workshop and is now largely disused. On level 2 beaming ceased production in 1987, and the winder and production store on levels 3-4 ceased production in 1987 and 2008 and are disused. A high level bridge linking Buildings D & B was erected in c.1988.







Description

Four-storey masonry mill structure over a basement with a two-storey workshop attached to the west. The two-span roof covering is slates on timber purlins and trusses. The frontage along Quay Street has five windows with sill bands marking the different levels. The west elevation has been rendered. This west elevation has only a single skin of masonry indicating an original intention to build another mill against this elevation, later changed when the current two storey building was erected adjacent instead (before 1890).

The tall single east bay marks a different construction phase and was built as an engine house holding a single beam engine (as indicated by just one characteristic tall rounded-headed window facing Quay Street – which has been altered in the late 20th century and reduced in size to create a loading door). There is a blocked window in the east elevation, possibly when Building C was erected adjacent here. Internally the window lit the engine while the high roof permitted free movement of the overhead working beam and of the flywheel.

Internally the main ground floor of the mill is concrete with other floors being timber beams, joists and boards, indicating at least a part warehouse use. Each floor has cast iron columns with bolting heads with holes for line shafting and small office partitions.

The two storey three bay workshop has stone masonry walls and a hipped slate roof above a cellar. The windows are casements with ashlar lintels and sills. The entrance is via the yard (now blocked). Internally the workshop on the first floor has a modern false ceiling. The bolting heads of the columns here have been boxed in on the first floor and retained exposed on the ground floor where they previously may have been capable of transmitting line shafting. Blockwork walls indicate later partitioning.

Significance

Moderate with Low-Moderate Offices/Workshop

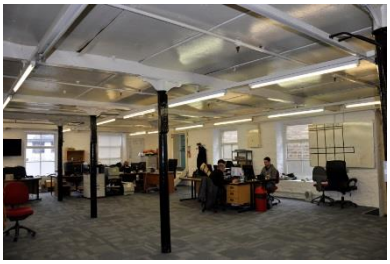
Historic: mill built 1872 with engine house and workshop by Hirsts.
Architectural: street front presence along Quay Street. Evidence of historic industrial technology (fuse boxes, light switches, lighting, lift, weighing machine, cast iron columns with evidence of line shafting, water pipes/sprinkler system).
Group value: in particular with Buildings C, M & B.

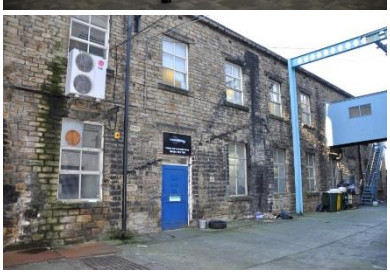
Building E: Mill/Warehouse

History

There was a building with a similar footprint on the site of Building E captured on the 1851 OS map, which formed part of Turn Bridge Foundry. This was likely rebuilt in 1872 when the spinning mill at Building B was erected and is shown on the 1890 OS map. In 1903, reference to a fire on the ground floor of a four storey, 10 windows wide mill (*Huddersfield Examiner (Weekly*) 24 December 1903) probably refers to Building E, which was captured on aerial views from 1949 as a four storey 10 bay building. These images also show that the current WC windows on the projecting end bay towards Building F are later insertions, probably part of the rebuilding work at F in the late 1980s. This building was likely a warehouse, at least in part, as there is no evidence that it was connected to a power transmission source while it was instead easily accessible from the road and yard. That said, a disused underground shaft running from Building B to F as depicted in the 1969 insurance plan of the site ran very close to Building E and may have once connected providing power from Building B.







Building E was initially built and owned by William Hirst & Son. In 1925 Hirst's mill was purchased by JLB.

A site survey by Scholfields Ltd Insurance Brokers in Manchester dated c.1969 shows the southern bay (alongside Building F) as a passage with entrance points from the yard to the east and car park to the west. The modern aluminium entrance extension (along the centre part of the west elevation) lies on the site of an earlier section of this building that occupied

the same footprint between the 1890 and 1950 OS maps. It was no longer shown on the 1960 OS map. By the 1970s the building was used by Hewitt & Booth (level 1) and a mechanics/electric workshop (level 2).	

Description
Two-storey ten-window building with stone masonry walling and stone lintels and sills to casement windows. A late 20th century bridge connects to Building G at first floor level. There are entrances to the yard to the east and car park to the west. To the west is also a modern extension with aluminium sheet cladding. Internally both floors retain cast iron columns and water pipes/sprinkler system. Several windows units have been replaced with u-PVC; others are timber casements.

Significance
Low-Moderate
Historic: mill built 1872 by Hirsts.
Architectural: retains traditional mill character internally and externally despite later changes e.g. still retains evidence of its former mill use with its robust external design and internal cast iron columns. But heavily compromised by loss of two upper storeys.
Group value: with Buildings B, D, C and M and G.

Building F: Offices

History
Building F was built on the site of an earlier four storey mill building fronting Quay Street, which was no longer in use so was cleared to accommodate it, in 1988. A building is shown here in 1851, presumably industrial in nature given the proximity of the foundry and kiln. This was probably replaced in the late 19th century by the building shown on the 1890 map onwards, until its replacement by the current building. Built in 1988, it initially housed the offices of JLB as the 19th century office building was demolished in 1988 in order to create a yard of sufficient size to accommodate modern sized lorries. JLB archives hold floor plans from this building in their office when it was designed (in March 1988 by David Lyons & Associates) as offices with an off-centre reception lobby accessed from Quay Street.



Description
Two-storey modern stone building facing Quay Street. It has a pitched slate roof and ashlar lintels and sills to windows and an ashlar surround and simple pediment to the entrance.

Significance
Neutral
Given its recent construction date, Building F does not have any heritage significance. However, its design and materials respond well to its setting and therefore it does not detract.

Building G: Cotton Store

History

Building G was built on an open yard to the north of what was Turn Bridge Foundry in 1851. It was likely erected soon after the mill at Building B as it forms an extension to its north-west corner and may have functioned as a cotton store. Map and fabric evidence is suggestive of an extension to the south elevation between 1918 and 1960. This is also suggested by the roof form as the pitched slate roof terminates before the current two storey south wall. The bridge that links Buildings G and E dates to the late 20th century and no historic maps (up to and including 1960) show a bridge in this location, nor does the site survey by Scholfields Ltd Insurance Brokers in Manchester dated c.1969. This latter drawing does, however, show the southwards extension to Building G and also indicates an internal ground floor connection between Buildings G & B.





Description

Attached to Building B via a lean-to extension to B and to Building E via a late 20th century bridge, this is a stone two-storey building with a pitched slate roof with rooflights, which has been extended by a bay to the south. The north and west elevations are blank suggesting a storage/warehouse use and indeed there is a first floor taking-in door.

Significance

Low

Historic: of some interest as a mid-late 19th century building but its function remains uncertain.
Architectural: functional but lacking a bespoke or distinctive character indicative of former use(s).

Building N: Canopy

History

This area is shown as an open yard since the erection of Buildings B, C and D in the late 19th century until a glazed canopy (not shown on the 1950 OS map) is recorded on the 1960 OS map.



Description

Modern canopy filling the area between Buildings B & D. It consists of polycarbonate roofing on steel beams.

Significance

Neutral

Given its recent construction date and use of modern materials and methods of construction, Building N does not have any heritage significance and does not positively contribute to the setting of the listed elements at Turnbridge Mills.

Summary Statement for the Buildings within the Application Site

3.10 In summary this assessment finds that several of the buildings at Turnbridge Mills may reach a level of significance sufficient to meet the test of being a non-designated heritage asset. Building B has recently been added to the 'list' and others have no heritage significance. Thus overall, the site has historic significance as a later Victorian textile mill and architectural significance given the size and scale of the buildings with a harmonious use of external stone materials, slate roof covers and general mill character typical of the period. Overall the significance of the site is compromised because:

- This is a late example of a mill site.
- There is no evidence of innovation or new technology.
- The historical associations are mainly local such as local engineers, builders, industrial owners etc.
- There are no surviving historical textile machines, boilers, engines etc and no industrial or textile manufacturing processes occur today. This undermines the historical character and undermines our understanding of how the site functioned.
- Extensive change over time has eroded the sense of process across the mill buildings and a number of them have lost evidence relating to original uses or their original character.
- Modern changes at the site from the 1950s onwards have included widespread replacement of historical fabric with modern utility fabric as historical fabric reached the end of its lifespan and failed. This includes a number of uPVC window units, polycarbonate sheet roofing, modern external doors including uPVC doors, and aluminium and polycarbonate covered bridges. Further widespread fabric replacements will be required due to increasing condition issues with much fabric beyond reasonable or viable repair. In particular the roof to Building B needs to be completely re-roofed with rotting truss ends replaced and all the windows that have not already been substituted by Upvc units need replacing. This all affects the state of preservation at the site and its historical appearance and authenticity.
- Some of the buildings present within the wider ownership today were not related to the historical mill in any way, such as the modern warehouses, the former Sunday school and the garage.
- This is a commonplace type of industrial (cotton textile) site that was widespread nationally and in the northern regions of England and was neither specialist nor concentrated in this (Huddersfield) area.
- The architecture at the buildings is also a commonplace nationally spread type rather than having an unusual or regionally specific character or features. The buildings lack high quality architectural design – being largely utilitarian – and instead have a more local level of townscape interest. This contrasts with the Grade II listed Building H, which JLB understand was listed principally due its unusual roof construction as that was specially designed to allow the upper floor to be open with no columns.

3.11 Within the application site Building B is the most significant in terms of heritage and this is set out in detail in the recent listing entry (see Appendix B). This assessment finds that it is somewhat less significant compared to Buildings M & H (the latter of which is outside of the application site boundary). This is because it is not as historically significant as Building H as it is later in date and lacks the more interesting roof form of H (where the roof spans the top floor) and it has been more heavily altered compared to Buildings M & H and hence is somewhat less architecturally interesting.

Historic England Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings and views make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated

Building H: Grade II Listed John L. Brierley Mill

3.12 Built in 1846 by Armitage & Kaye the building is labelled Turnbridge Mill on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map. It was likely built speculatively for multiple letting on a room and power basis as newspaper reports covering incidents at the mill reference a number of tenants both cotton spinners and woollen manufacturers. Internal sub-divisions on the ground floor are also shown on the 1890 OS. The whole of the mill was driven by a single vertical shaft running the full height of the mill

which drove line shafts in each room. The engine house does not survive. It's significance resides in:

- Historic: early construction date for Turnbridge Mills buildings; built 1846 by known industrialists. Armitage was a local iron founder while Kaye, if Joseph Kaye, was a prominent local stonemason, builder and architect who also developed other mills in Huddersfield. The mill illustrates a period of industrial growth in Huddersfield as part of the Industrial Revolution and illustrates the "room and power" mill system. The mill was acquired by the firm of John L. Brierley Ltd in the 1890s. The Brierley family were important local textile producers who owned other mills in Huddersfield. John was part of the Brierley family from Saddleworth who were widespread throughout the Huddersfield area. Family members went on to form Rhodes & Brierley at Kirkheaton and Brierley Brothers at Lockwood (Teasdale 2004, 65). The building continues to be owned by JLB and contains some c.1960s and 1970s textile machines still in use showing a continuity of use and ownership.
- Architectural: due to the loss of buildings formerly fronting the canal, today Building H has a strong presence due to its seven-storey height and for its open relationship with the canal and lifting bridge. It also presents a strong street front presence along Quay Street. Small degree of external elaboration (the Venetian windows lighting the upper room at the north and south elevations) and a date stone marked '1846'. Venetian windows were never a common feature of Yorkshire mills and were usually restricted to lighting attics; that at Building B shows the influence of the Palladian style on mill architecture. Internally, most floors have large open plan spaces with traditional cast-iron columns with bolting heads that previously supported a power transmission system and supporting fireproof brick arches, and 20th century weighing machines, a sprinkler and fire alarm system, stair tower and passenger and goods lift shafts etc. The upper storey is of architectural interest due to its visible internal roof structure devised so as to preclude the need for columns as structural supports.
- Communal: the firm of JLB is still operational and employs about 20 staff.
- Group value: with north light sheds (Building J) and canal to east. However, the chimney has been dismantled, except the foundation courses, and the engine house and engine has gone.



Figure 11: Building H

Building M: Chimney

3.13 This mill chimney is first shown on the 1890 OS map. It was designed to carry off exhaust fumes from the boiler furnaces and to create a draught to assist in the workings of those furnaces. In 1925 this William Hirst & Son (Huddersfield) Ltd mill chimney was purchased by JLB. It has been disused for decades.

3.14 The listing description states that the chimney had been designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- Architectural Interest: a good example of elegant architectural treatment applied to a utilitarian industrial structure in the mid-Victorian period.
- Setting: the chimney forms a prominent landmark feature of Huddersfield's skyline and contributes to the setting of the adjacent scheduled Turn Bridge across the Huddersfield Broad Canal.
- Group Value: with the buildings of Turnbridge Mills, that to the south of Quay Street (Building H) being listed Grade II.



Figure 12: Building M

Turn Bridge: Scheduled Monument

3.15 Originally built as a turning or swing bridge over the Sir John Ramsden Canal, the Turn Bridge gave its name to the area. The current lift bridge — sometimes referred to as the Locomotive Bridge — was erected by the London & North Western Railway Company, replacing the earlier swing bridge in 1865. The approaches were repaved with Welsh granite and the bridge could reportedly cope with bearing 75 tons. The mills that today form Turnbridge Mills would use this bridge to transport materials etc over the canal while the bridge has a combination of wheels, chains and counter-weights to lift the deck of the bridge out of the way of passing canal barges. Previously windlass operated, it was refurbished in 2002 and is now electrically powered.

3.16 The site is situated adjacent to a canal (which provided a supply of water – as recorded in 1871 - and transportation) and connected to an integrated road network. This indicates the historical importance of transport systems to the success and function of 19th century textile mills. Thus the grouping the historical mill buildings, the bridge and the canal highlight the integrated nature of power generation, production, distribution and administration at the site and immediate surroundings.



Figure 13: Application site to rear of Turn Bridge



Figure 14: Grade II listed Building H to rear of bridge

Group Value

3.18 The collection of buildings owned by JLB are significant as a group in illustrating the development of the industrial business over 170 years, but the different buildings make different contributions to this significance depending on their age, architectural quality, extent of 20th century change, historic function and legibility (see **figure 15**).

3.19 The 19th and early 20th century mill buildings have a group value in that their historical uses reinforce one another due to their associative relationship (this covers Buildings H & J south of the Quay Street and Buildings B, C, D, M, G and E to the north of Quay Street). However, the group value of the whole site is of lesser significance due to the layout with Quay Street providing physical separation and later buildings or those with a historical connection to the mills (such as Buildings O, Q, P, A, K & L and F). Although the two main 19th century mills were brought into a single ownership in 1925, some buildings were acquired at a much later date such as Building O in the 1970s and Building Q in 1999.

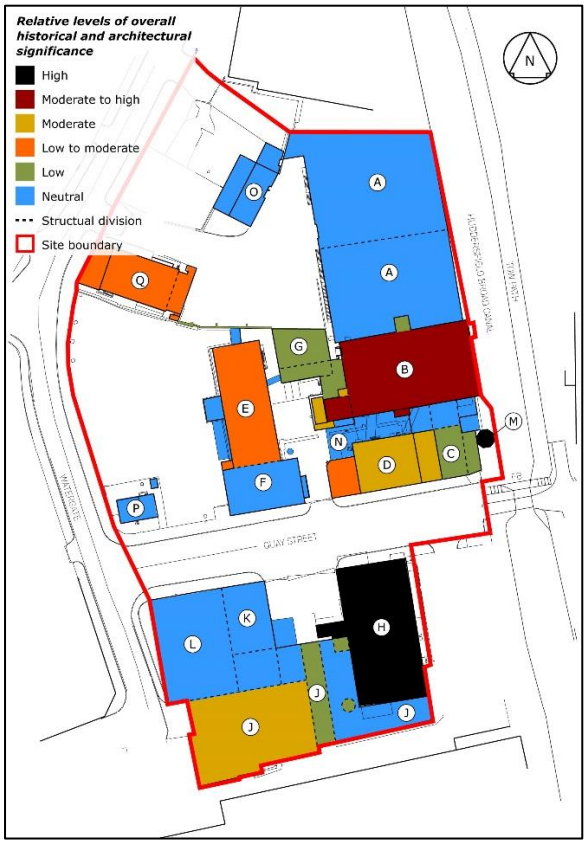


Figure 15: Overall assessment of relative levels of architectural and historical significance across the site and wider mill complex in the ownership of JLB

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

The Proposal

4.01 This assessment has been prepared in connection with the proposed scheme at Turnbridge Mills to demolish the existing buildings/structures B, C, E, F, G and N and erect a building comprising manufacturing, warehouse and office uses with associated formation of new access, parking and turning area. Building D is to be retained, repaired and renovated to form offices for the new manufacturing facility.

4.02 The assessment of heritage impact is presented below based upon the as existing and as proposed architectural drawings prepared by T D Jagger Property Consultants that comprise:

- 1908 30A Existing Site Layout
- 1908 65D Location Plan
- 1908 201A, 202A, 203A, 204A Proposed Floor Plans
- 1908 205B Proposed Site Plan

4.03 In addition Mark Hide Associates have provided the following drawing package and design statement:

- 101A Quay Street Elevation
- 104 Canal Elevation
- 105 West Elevation
- Design Statement

The Reasons for the Proposal: Clear and Convincing Justification

4.04 Turnbridge Mills is a mixed-use industrial complex occupied by J L Brierley Group, textile manufacturers who have been in occupation on the site for c.150 years. Due to the contraction of the textile industry, numerous buildings on the site have become redundant and are vacant or partially sub-let. Most of the buildings are in a poor state of repair and require significant investment to their building fabric. The multi storey buildings B, D, and H in particular are in poor condition and are deteriorating. This in turn means that they are only lettable on peppercorn rent to mainly storage occupiers. Significant additional investment is required to bring the buildings up to modern standards or suitable for alternative uses. Detailed condition assessments, assessment of repair costs and valuations have informed the need for the proposed development. For any re-development scheme to be viable, Building A must be retained, because it is the largest modern industrial building with the highest residual value.

4.05 In terms of securing future uses there are severe access restrictions for industrial uses and therefore any development needs to include appropriate access, turning point and parking arrangements.

4.06 These buildings as they stand are loss making and cannot continue to be subsidised by other parts of the JLB business. A Cost Analysis and Structural Inspection have been produced. They will eventually have to be moth-balled or sold off to another landowner who will face the more acute viability issues with no interest from marketing them. JLB therefore wish to stem these losses by bringing forward a redevelopment scheme that will help secure the long-term sustainable future and maintenance of the listed multi-storey mill building (H), helping safeguard its long-term future.

4.07 There is currently an opportunity (perhaps once in a lifetime) for the current owners to invest in the long-term future of this site, retaining key heritage buildings (including the most important – H). The only other way that Building B can be both safeguarded and brought back into beneficial economic uses would be for significant grant funding or investment to come forward. Unfortunately, Historic England have previously confirmed (letter dated 10 July 2018) that the site would not be eligible for grant funding from Historic England and they are not aware of any other 'heritage' funding

sources which might be appropriate. Conversely, there is potential funding for a new building. Despite extensive marketing over a sustainable time period no potential purchasers have come forward. This is covered in greater detail in the Planning Statement and associated technical reports.

Historic England Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on the significance or the ability to appreciate it

4.08 This section of the Heritage Statement assesses the likely level of harm (if any) caused to the designated heritage assets assessed above in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework i.e. as either '*substantial harm'* or *'less than substantial harm'*. The National Planning Policy Framework Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) advises that in considering the "setting" of a heritage asset: '*A thorough assessment of the impact on setting needs to take into account and be proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets…and the degree to which the proposed changes enhance or detract from this significance and the ability to appreciate it'.* The PPG advises that: '*In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether works to a listed building constitute substantial harm an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest…..works that are moderate or minor in scale are likely to cause less than substantial harm or no harm at all'.*

Direct Impacts: Assessment of Heritage Impact

4.09 The existing buildings and structures within the application site (except Building D) are to be cleared in order to accommodate the proposed building and parking/access arrangement. As set out in section 3 of this report and the significance plan at **figure 15** Buildings N and F have no heritage significance and therefore their removal will have a **neutral heritage impact.**

4.10 Within the site, Buildings N and F have no heritage significance, Buildings C and G have low significance, Building E low-moderate significance, Building D has moderate significance and Building B has moderate-high significance. It is possible that Buildings C, G, E and D would meet the threshold of non-designated heritage assets. Buildings B, C, D, E and G positively contribute to the significance that the Grade II listed chimney, John L. Brierley Mill, and Turn Bridge derive from their setting. These buildings also have a group value.

4.11 The loss of these buildings that relate to the **Hirst mill complex** established in c.1872 will be **harmful to heritage** as the historic and architectural significance of this part of the mill complex will be lost. Given the recent listing of Building B, the loss of this block would likely result in **substantial harm**. The **Kirklees Local Plan heritage policy LP35** states:

'Policy LP35 Historic environment
1. Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. In cases likely to result in substantial harm or loss, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would bring substantial public benefits that clearly outweigh the harm, or all of the following are met:
a. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;
b. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;
c. conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
d. the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.'

4.12 For this reason this application is accompanied by a sequential options/impact assessment taking into consideration a range of considerations including a mix of potential uses and starting from a heritage-led 'retain all' option and working through the options including retention of some of the historic buildings and following through to the applicant preferred option in order to clearly evidence

and justify the preferred scheme. Updated structural and condition surveys of each building are also provided to complete the picture on the current condition of the assets. In addition, this information is accompanied by details of structural/repair costs. A viability assessment also accompanies this application and provides clear evidence of recent marketing and a sequential approach to viability to demonstrate that all options and potential phasing of such a development have been considered.

4.13 The design of the proposals in this application have evolved from the pre-application stage to reflect positive discussions and advice. Thus Building D is now retained and will be repaired, renovated and brought back into use. Building D is in a sensitive location forming part of the streetscene and positioned directly opposite the listed John L Brierley Mill. It was built for Hirsts at the same time as the listed chimney, and forms the immediate setting for the designated heritage assets. Renovation works will include the return of the fenestration in the Engine House to its original form, and the reinstatement of the loading doors of Building D. The ashlar stonework from the boiler house arch base will be retained where it joins to Building D, and will be reconstructed to form the other side of the service yard entrance. These works are **heritage enhancements** are they improve the legibility of the original uses of the buildings here that have been eroded through unsympathetic 20th century alterations.

Assessment of Heritage Impact upon the Setting of Designated Heritage Assets

4.14 The Grade II listed mill building, the Grade II listed chimney and the scheduled bridge are all preserved with no physical impacts. Any heritage impacts from the proposal will therefore be as a result of the change in their setting and the significance that they currently derive from this. It is relevant to note that recent planning decisions have determined that there is capacity for modern industrial buildings to be erected within the immediate vicinity of these heritage assets. For example, in 2015 approval was granted for the erection of a factory and ancillary offices with car parking and a new service access road at St Andrew's Road (application number 2015/92014). The planning committee found that the proposal would deliver employment opportunities and consolidation of an existing local firm on a site allocated for employment use, within a sustainable location. The conservation and design officers had no objections stating that '*The site is far enough away from the neighbouring Turnbridge lifting bridge (a scheduled ancient monument) to safeguard its setting*.' This has since been implemented on site (**figure 16**).



Figure 16: Industrial development approved and built within the immediate setting of the designated heritage assets at Turnbridge Mills with the Scheduled bridge shown in the foreground (application number 2015/92014)

Site Clearance

4.15 The loss of Building F and structure N will not result in any harm to any heritage asset as these elements have no heritage significance and do not contribute to the significance of any of these designated heritage assets.

4.16 There is a group value between the two historical mill complexes, especially given increasing integration under the ownership of JLB. Given the physical proximity, complementary historical uses and visual coherence in materials, purpose and design, the loss of buildings B, C, E and G will result in harm to the significance of the listed chimney, textile mill and lift bridge. The **level of harm** is considered to be **'less than substantial'** but the loss of the Grade II listed Building B would result in a high level of less than substantial harm. This is because the legibility and ability to appreciate the currently designated heritage assets will remain, but will be considerably eroded.

Retention of Building D and Form, Appearance, Siting, Materials and Scale of the New Development

4.17 Potential options were tabled for discussion with Council Officers at **pre-application stage**. The earlier iterations were not supported in principle by heritage officers. More recently an option was tabled which focuses on retention of Building D fronting onto Quay Street. The design of the frontage was found by Council Officers to be generally more in-keeping with heritage assets at Turnbridge Mills with advice provided that attention to material palette and final detailing would be the key to its overall success.

4.18 The retention, repair and reuse of Building D to form offices for a new manufacturing facility is welcomed as this secures a long term sustainable future for a historic building in poor repair. This investment represents a **heritage benefit**.

4.19 In terms of a new build facility, Council Officers recognised during pre-application discussions that this is intended to be purpose-built based on function and is therefore somewhat utilitarian in design. Again, they advised that careful consideration should be given as to how such a building could be more sensitively integrated - be it via a revised layout, design, scale, materiality or a combination of these. Where demolition of an asset is proposed it's imperative that an appropriate replacement is secured to help to mitigate such loss. **Local Policy LP24 Design** is relevant and states that:

'Proposals should promote good design by ensuring:
a. the form, scale, layout and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape;
b. they provide a high standard of amenity for future and neighbouring occupiers; including maintaining appropriate distances between buildings and the creation of development-free buffer zones between housing and employment uses incorporating means of screening where necessary;
c. extensions are subservient to the original building, are in keeping with the existing buildings in terms of scale, materials and details and minimise impact on residential amenity of future and neighbouring occupiers;
d. high levels of sustainability, to a degree proportionate to the proposal…
e. the risk of crime is minimised by enhanced security, and the promotion of well-defined routes, overlooked streets and places, high levels of activity, and well-designed security features;
f. the needs of a range of different users are met, including disabled people, older people and families with small children to create accessible and inclusive places;
g. any new open space is accessible, safe, overlooked and strategically located within the site and well integrated into wider green infrastructure networks;
h. development contributes towards enhancement of the natural environment, supports biodiversity and connects to and enhances ecological networks and green infrastructure;
i. the retention of valuable or important trees and where appropriate the planting of new trees and other landscaping to maximise visual amenity and environmental benefits; and
j. the provision of public art where appropriate.'

4.20 A new two storey building will be built to the west of building D in reclaimed natural stone with a continuation of the basement plinth and fenestration to match. The building will have a slated double pitched roof also to match Building D. The west elevation of the new offices will be built in the same materials as the Quay Street Elevation, so the new building will have a traditional appearance. In this way, the key buildings on the north side of Quay Street directly facing the Brierley Mill and next to the chimney will be retained and enhanced and the streetscene presence will be reinforced and improved.

4.21 Building D and the office extension also serve to screen the more utility Building A and the service yard proposed to the rear of Building D.

4.22 The design and siting of the new manufacturing building to the rear of the proposed office and entrance in a set back position reflects its intended purpose and the need to have sufficient parking and access. The new manufacturing building is set back from the road and partly hidden from it by the new office. The design of this building is kept simple, with a natural stone base to the top of the ground floor of the adjacent offices, a stone string course, and metal panels above. The low-pitched roof will have a pressed metal gutter at the eaves, carried up as a verge on the gable. The building will be lit by roof lights.

4.23 The apparent height of the manufacturing building from Quay Street is reduced by setting the forecourt parking at a higher level. The scale of this building is necessary in order to provide a space required for warehouse and manufacturing. The size and scale is in keeping with many of the other industrial mill buildings across the complex.

4.24 The design, siting and materials of the proposed buildings and development positively responds to the mill setting and takes cues from the scale, form and materials of the collection of buildings with varying roof heights, pitches and fenestration across the site.

4.25 In addition, the semi-basement wall of Building B will be retained on the canal frontage and will have a reclaimed stone coping. The south elevation of Building A will be re-clad with a stone plinth and metal panels above to match the new manufacturing building and provide an **aesthetic enhancement**.

4.26 The retention of Building D and the addition of new offices in a sympathetic manner, and the setting back of the new manufacturing facility behind these buildings, together with the improved cladding to Building A and the retention of the semi-basement wall of Building B along the canal will all considerably reduce the impact of the new development on the setting of the listed mill, chimney and historic bridge and will maintain a sense of enclosure, urban grain, street front presence and harmonious appearance.

4.27 The simple traditional and robust external material palette proposed accords with the predominant stone materials (natural and ashlar) at Turnbridge Mills but with a contemporary appearance using simple robust materials appropriate for an industrial building for the new warehouse that are easy to maintain.

Conclusion

4.28 The clearance of buildings of no significance will not cause any harm to the heritage assets at Turnbridge Mills. The clearance of any non-designated heritage assets will likely result in less than substantial harm to the remaining historical mill complex. However, the clearance of Building B will likely result in **substantial harm** to Turnbridge Mills. In terms of the impact to the designated bridge, chimney and mill, the **level of harm** is considered to be **'less than substantial'** due to a change in the significance that they derive from their setting but at the higher end of this spectrum.

4.29 **Heritage enhancements** are expected to arise from:

- Supporting the ability of JLB to remain within **Building H** (the listed mill) and for them to undertake development which would support the ongoing repair and maintenance of the remaining buildings, including the listed chimney.
- Retention, repair, renovation and reuse of **Building D**. Renovation works will include the return of the fenestration in the Engine House to its original form, and the reinstatement of the loading doors of Building D. The ashlar stonework from the boiler house arch base will be retained where it joins to Building D, and will be reconstructed to form the other side of the service yard entrance. These works are heritage enhancements as they provide a new use that secures the long term sustainable future of this historical building with a design and appearance that will improve the legibility of the original uses of the buildings here that have been eroded through unsympathetic 20th century alterations.
- The new two storey **office building** to be built to the west of Building D in reclaimed natural stone with a design that relates to Building D (such as a continuation of the basement plinth and fenestration to match and a slated double pitched roof also to match Building D) improves the street scene, sense of enclosure and traditional appearance while also partly screening the set back manufacturing building to the rear. It will form a visual group with Building D, the listed chimney, and the listed mill on the other side of the road.
- Cladding the key facade of **Building A** in stone with recessed walled window panels to the existing brick building is an aesthetic enhancement that will help it to better relate to, and harmonise with, the traditional mill complex.
- The **new manufacturing building** has been carefully designed and detailed to have a neutral impact upon the historic environment, while providing a key role in the sustainable future of the site. It's simple and restrained design responds to the utilitarian design seen across most of the complex as identified by Historic England in their Consultation Report and reflects its intended use where the industrial function continues to dictate form.

4.30 The mill complex has been economically unsustainable for many years with underutilised buildings falling into increasing disrepair and insufficient funds to keep the listed buildings and others in good order. By making the site viable, it will allow investment into the repair and maintenance of the listed buildings and give them a long-term sustainable future. This is line with Kirklees Council's Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment 3a which states that: '*secure a sustainable future for heritage assets at risk and those associated with the local textile industry…constructed on the back of the wealth created by the textile industry as expressions of local civic pride and identity.'*

4.31 A full Sequential Options Assessment is submitted as part of the application and contains full details of the discounted options and proposed sole viable solution. This report should also be read in conjunction with:

e) Viability Report
f) Conditions Appraisal
g) Structural Appraisal
h) Planning and Listed Building Consent Statement

4.32 The evidence and arguments presented in the application documents demonstrate that this case passes the threshold of 'substantial public benefits' outweighing 'substantial harm' in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 214.

SOURCES CONSULTED

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Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework.*
English Heritage (2008). Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance.
Giles, C. & Goodall I. H. (1992). *Yorkshire Textile Mills 1770-1930*. RCHME & WYAS.
Historic England (2018). '*Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings Solar Electric (Photovoltaics)'*.
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Underground Histories by Alan Brooke - https://undergroundhistories.wordpress.com/a-catalogue-of-the-textile-mills-and-factories-of-the-huddersfield-area-c-1790-1914/

Newspapers

Huddersfield Chronicle
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Anon (1993). Guidebook: The History of John L Brierley Ltd and the Mills. Unpublished pamphlet.
Building B: Third, fourth and fifth floor plans, EJC Consulting Engineers, Leeds, January 1998.
Building F: Ground and first floor plans, David Lyons & Associates, March 1988.
Yard with part of Buildings K & H: Site survey, Philip Lees & Associates, Leeds, June 1989.
Buildings H, J & K: Elevations dated June 1989 by architects Philip Lees & Associates
Turnbridge Mills site survey, Scholfields Ltd, Insurance Brokers, Manchester, July 1969.

Historic England Archive

Basic site plan, February 1988, by David Lyons & Associates
George Watkins' notes and photographs of Turnbridge Mills steam engines (HE Ref: BF063167 & BF06167).
Rivers Pollution Commission (RPC) (c.3471) 1871, published 1873, XXVI (HE Ref: BF063087).

APPENDIX A ~ LIST DESCRIPTIONS

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

Name: John L. Brierleys Mill
List Entry Number: 1231214
Location: John L. Brierleys Mill, Quay Street
District: Kirklees
County: West Yorkshire
Grade: II
Date First Listed: 29 September 1978
John L Brierley's Mill; 1846 (dated). Hammer dressed stone. Pitched slate roof. Coped gable ends. 7 storeys. 11 window ranges, 6 in end elevations. Venetian window in top floor of end elevations.

National Grid Reference: SE 14917 16794

Name: Chimney at SE 14942 16846
List Entry Number: 1409815
Location: Turnbirdge Mills, Quay Street
District: Kirklees
County: West Yorkshire
Grade: II
Date First Listed: 23 May 2012 Architecturally ornamented textile mill chimney of circa 1872.

Reasons for Designation
The chimney at Turnbridge Mills is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons: * Architectural Interest: a good example of elegant architectural treatment applied to a utilitarian industrial structure in the mid-Victorian period. * Setting: the chimney forms a prominent landmark feature of Huddersfield's skyline and contributes to the setting of the adjacent scheduled Turn Bridge (NHLE 1005793) across the Huddersfield Broad Canal. * Group Value: with the buildings of Turnbridge Mills, that to the south of Quay Street being listed Grade II (NHLE 1231214).
History
The chimney is thought to have been built circa 1872 as part of a cotton spinning mill for the Hirst Brothers. By the 1893 Ordnance Survey map, the mill was part of Turnbridge Mills which included an 1846 textile mill on the south side of Quay Street, Huddersfield (Grade II NHLE 1231214). Turnbridge Mills passed into the ownership of JL Brierley Ltd. in 1895.
Materials
Hammer dressed sandstone with a brick inner lining.
Exterior
The chimney is octagonal in cross-section, standing to over 30 metres tall. It is divided into unequal stages by three string courses: one of plain ashlar marks the base of the chimney while two of roll mouldings form a frieze towards the top of the chimney with slim recessed panels in each face. It is topped by a decorative, oversailing cap supported on paired consoles.

Books and Journals: Minter, G. E. Discovering Old Huddersfield, (1993)

National Grid Reference: SE14942 16846

Turn Bridge, Quay Street
This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Name: Turn Bridge, Quay Street
List entry Number: 1005793
District: Kirklees
Date first scheduled: N/A
Summary of Monument: Not currently available for this entry.
Reasons for Designation: Not currently available for this entry.
History: Not currently available for this entry.

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. These are monuments that were not reviewed under the Monuments Protection Programme and are some of our oldest designation records. As such they do not yet have the full descriptions of their modernised counterparts available. Please contact us if you would like further information.
National Grid Reference: SE 14951 16828

Official List Entry: Spinning Block, Turnbridge Mills (Hirst's Mill)
Heritage Category: **Listed Building**
Grade: **II**
List Entry Number: **1492710**
Date first listed: **30 May 2025**
List Entry Name: **Spinning Block, Turnbridge Mills (Hirst's Mill)**
Statutory Address: **Spinning Block, Turnbridge Mills (Hirst's Mill), Huddersfield, HD1 6QT**
District: **Kirklees (Metropolitan Authority)**
Parish: **Non Civil Parish**
National Grid Reference: **SE1492016863**

Summary
A cotton mill spinning block built in 1871-1873 to designs by John Kirk and Sons, now (2025) in commercial use.

Reasons for Designation
The Spinning Block at Turnbridge Mills (Hirst's Mill), Huddersfield, built in 1871-1873 to designs by John Kirk and Sons, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Architectural interest:
* for the good quality of its design and form, with decorative detailing including ashlar lintel bands and projecting sill bands to the main body of the building, and Italianate-style windows to the projecting stair tower; * for the legibility of its interior layout and the fireproof structure, which retains cast-iron columns, cast-iron beams and segmental brick jack-arches; * as a good example of a C19 stone-built cotton mill in West Yorkshire, an area more commonly associated with the wool and worsted industries.

Group value:
* for its strong functional, visual and historical relationship with the chimney at SE 14942 16846 (Grade II), and visual group value with John L Brierley's Mill to the south side of Quay Street (Grade II) and the scheduled Turn Bridge across the Huddersfield Broad Canal.

History
Turnbridge Mills (Hirst's Mill) was built in 1871-1873 on the north side of Quay Street, Huddersfield. It was designed by architects John Kirk and Sons of Huddersfield and Dewsbury, and was built for brothers Reuben Hirst (1829-1910) and William Hirst (1831-1909), cotton spinners and doublers. Hirst's Mill was one of two

mills which together formed a complex known as Turnbridge Mills, located on the west side of the Huddersfield Broad Canal (Sir John Ramsden's Canal). John L Brierley's Mill (Brierley's Mill), was built on the south side of Quay Street in 1846 (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) entry 1231214, Grade II). Hirst's Mill was first shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Town Plan (1:500) of 1890 (surveyed 1888), and was erected on the site of the former Turn Bridge Foundry and Turn Bridge Kiln, which are shown on the OS Town Plan (1:1056) of 1851 (surveyed 1848).

On 1 July 1871, tenders for the construction of a cotton mill, warehouse, scotching room, boiler house, engine house and chimney at Turnbridge were advertised in the Huddersfield Chronicle. The architect was named as John Kirk and Sons. On the 31 May 1873 it was reported in the Huddersfield Examiner (Weekly) that the Hirst brother's new cotton mill had been built by contractor Abraham Graham and Sons, joiner William Sykes of Folly Hall, and plasterer Ephraim Longbottom. Tomlinson and Rowe of Chapel Hill were responsible for the fireproof work. A 'new immense beam engine' described as the 'largest in Huddersfield' (48 inch cylinder, 7 foot stroke, 29 strokes a minute, 'The Templar' 500-600hp) had been built by Robert Gledhill of Bradley Mills. The boilers were by Richard Pollitt of Bolton. The beam engine was subsequently McNaughted (the process of improving the efficiency of a beam engine) by Schofield and Taylor, in about 1904.

Prior to the construction of their own mill, newspaper reports in the Huddersfield Chronicle from the mid-C19 suggest that William and Reuben Hirst were one of several occupants of the mill to the south side of Quay Street. In 1868, they were mentioned in a newspaper report in the Huddersfield Chronicle in relation to a fire. Fires were not uncommon in cotton mills, and outbreaks of fire in Hirst's new mill were also reported in newspaper articles across the late C19 and early C20. In 1886, 14 years after they established Hirst's Mill, Reuben and William Hirst dissolved their partnership by mutual consent. William Hirst subsequently continued in business as William Hirst and Son. In 1925, Hirst's Mill was purchased by John L Brierley Ltd, which brought both mills under the same ownership, although they continued to operate independently from each other. Hirst's Mill ceased textile production in the early C21 and is now (2025) in various business uses.

Hirst's Mill is shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Town Plan (1:500) of 1890 (surveyed 1888), as three main ranges arranged around an inner courtyard area, with an entranceway on Quay Street, where there was a weighing machine. The Mill comprised a large, six-storey spinning block to the north-east of the site, with ancillary buildings attached to the north-west corner; a linear range directly to the north of Quay Street with (from left to right) the offices, a four-storey mill building, engine house, boiler house, economiser house and the chimney (chimney at SE 14942 16846, NHLE entry 1409815, Grade II); and a further four-storey mill building to the west of the site, which had two connected ranges, one running north-south and one east-west.

There were a number of alterations and extensions to Hirst's Mill across the late C19 and C20. The Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1907 (revised 1905) shows that an extension (of two storeys) had been added to the south-west corner of the spinning block, which probably functioned as offices. Aerial survey photographs of the site from 1949 indicates that a privy tower was also added to the west side of the spinning block, adjacent the stair tower. By 1960, the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (surveyed 1959) shows that the boiler house had been extended northwards to meet the spinning block, and there was a much smaller structure in the position of the economiser house. The extension to the south-west corner of the spinning block was also further extended to the east, and the ancillary building to the north-west was extended to the south. The courtyard area between the spinning block and the range to Quay Street was also covered over with a canopy. A long, thin structure to the west side of the north-south range of the mill building to the west of the site had also been removed, and new ancillary structures erected in the south-west corner of the courtyard (also since removed).

The other major changes to the site in the late C20 included the introduction of a new full-height projecting lift tower on the north side of the spinning block and a large, two-storey warehouse, also to the north of the spinning block. The lift tower was built after 1960, and the warehouse was erected in 1979-1980. A further large two-storey warehouse was also added to the north of this in 1994-1995. The north-south range of the mill building to the west of the site was reduced in height from four to two storeys, and the east-west range

of the mill building was demolished and a new office block erected in its place in 1988. In addition to this, the economiser house was also rebuilt, a new roof was fitted over the boiler house, and the area to the north of the Quay Street range was partially infilled with extensions. The boilers, beam engine and mill machinery have been removed.

John Kirk (1817-1886) established an architectural practice in John William Street, Huddersfield in 1850. A branch in Dewsbury opened ten years later under the management of his son Albert Holmes Kirk (1840-1920). Two further sons, James Sheard Kirk (1842-1911) and Frederick Kirk (c 1860-1914), also joined the firm. They undertook general commissions mainly based in the West Yorkshire textile towns, including: The Almshouses, 1-6 Wilshaw Road, Wilshaw (NHLE entries 1300263, 1313689, 1134630, Grade II), Dalton Grange, 19 Bradley Mills Road, Huddersfield (NHLE entry 1427283, Grade II), and the Church of St Mary, Wilshaw Road (NHLE entry 1134671, Grade II). John Kirk and Sons also designed Newsome Mills, Ruth Street, Huddersfield (NHLE entry1232037, Grade II).

Details
A cotton mill spinning block built in 1871-1873 to designs by John Kirk and Sons, now (2025) in commercial use.

STYLE: utilitarian with Italianate influences.
MATERIALS: coursed, dressed sandstone with slate roofs.
PLAN: rectangular with projecting stair tower at south end of west elevation and smaller projecting tower to south elevation.
EXTERIOR: The Spinning Block is a tall building of six storeys (with an additional basement storey at canal level on the east), each storey gradually diminishing in height from ground to sixth floor, with regular elevations of eleven bays to the north and south elevations, six bays on the east side facing the canal, and four bays to the west elevation, which also has the full-height stair-tower attached to its south-west corner. The windows throughout are predominantly of a uniform design, vertical rectangular openings, generally with five and six pane timber window frames, although some have louvred panes and others have been replaced with uPVC units or modified to form doorways. A number of windows have had ventilation apparatus* inserted (*not of special interest and excluded from the listing). Each storey of the main block is defined by a thin projecting ashlar stone band at the sill level of the windows whose lintels are incorporated into a flush ashlar stone band which links the windows across each façade. In the centre of the south elevation is a shallow projecting tower with the stone floor bands of the main façade continued across it. It has slim windows on its east face and slim windows in the bay to its west. Its cornice is set higher than the bracketed eaves cornice of the main block, and there is an attic stage in stone with a plain cornice. Near the top stage of this tower is a panel inscribed with the initials of Reuben & William Hirst. The base of the tower has a wide opening for a lift door with stone jambs and an I-beam lintel.

The stair tower at the south-west corner has, on the right of the south elevation, windows of the same pattern as the main building but thin windows on the left, corresponding to the stages of the staircase inside. The west windows are more ornate, and form pairs in arched Italianate stone frames with central square mullions and moulded bracketed sills. The stair tower has a thin cornice matching that of the main block and a cast-iron water tank with pitched roof. On its north side, in the angle between the stair tower and the main block, is a later privy tower* (*not of special interest and excluded from the listing).

The roof of the Spinning Block is multi-pitched, hipped to each of the main elevations, with three parallel pitched roofs running east west and two shorter pitched roofs running north-south. There are roof lights to the northern section of two of the east-west roofs.

INTERIORS: the block is of a fireproof construction with two rows of cast-iron columns, cast-iron beams and transverse segmental brick arches up to fourth-floor level. The cast-iron columns continue up to fifth-floor level, although the roof structure is timber at this level and is not fireproofed.

At ground-floor level the columns are cylindrical in form with a moulded capital and a plain base, and a square-section bolting head for power transmission systems. The bolting heads could support power

transmission on all four faces. The walls are of pier and panel construction, with thick brick piers to the north and south walls supporting the ends of the beams, and thinner panels containing the windows. The floor is finished with a concrete screed.

At fifth-floor level, the columns are of a cylindrical form with a square-section bolting head for power transmission systems. The capitals have brackets and a shoe which fits around the timber beam. The multi-pitched roof is supported on three-span timber king-post trusses. There are retractable lift doors to the projecting tower to the south wall and the late-C20 lift tower* (*not of special interest and excluded from the listing) to the north elevation.

The stair tower has a central shaft which is rounded in shape on the western side and has a wide square-headed opening to its eastern face. The shaft is of brick and the opening has a stone surround (now painted). The shaft was probably originally used for a fire sprinkler system, supplied with water from the iron tank on the roof of the staircase tower, although it has since been fitted with a lift mechanism and retractable lift doors to the openings on each floor. On the fifth floor, part of the mechanism within the shaft bears the name: 'Fred Ellison and Co Ltd Bradford'. The floors within the staircase tower are of stone flags, and a stone staircase winds around the shaft up to each level. The inner face of the stairwell is of brick (now painted), and there is a series of storage areas in the north-west and south-west angles of the stair tower which are closed with timber doors. On the north side of the stair tower is the privy tower* (not of special interest and excluded from the listing), accessed from the stair tower landings, where the toilets are situated.

The following additions* to the Spinning Block are not of special interest and are excluded from the listing: C20 infill extensions and canopy attached to the south elevation of the former spinning block; the C20 extension to the south-west corner; the privy tower and the single-storey ancillary building attached to the west elevation; and the C20 lift tower and warehouses attached to the north of the building.

Also excluded from the listing are the following attachments*: covered bridges and walkway, timber-clad projections, ventilators and extractors, and a fire escape attached to the north side.

The following other buildings* on the mill site are also excluded from the listing: the two-storey ancillary building attached to the north-west of the single-storey ancillary building; the former mill buildings to the west of the site; and the linear range to the north of Quay Street.

* Pursuant to s1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990 ('the Act') it is declared that these aforementioned features are not of special architectural or historic interest, however, any works which have the potential to affect the character of the listed building as a building of special architectural or historic interest may still require LBC and this is a matter for the LPA to determine.

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