

Design and Access Statement

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REUBEN'S RETREAT, GLOSSOP

Stor_

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In 2012, I made Reuben a promise that his short life would never be forgotten. I do believe that each life, no matter how brief, forever changes the world.

Reuben enjoyed many holidays in his short time with us. His gift to the world is our vision. Our mission is to support families with medically complex children and families suffering the loss of a child. To give them the opportunity to make memories and have fun times together, and should the worst happen, give them the opportunity to re-build after child loss.

Our final phases will complete our ultimate vision as that final promise was always to create a sanctuary, a safe and inclusive haven, for families to holiday at our Retreat. These bespoke suites, with exceptional attention to detail, carefully planned and thought through, will enable families in their darkest days to relax, recharge, remember and rebuild.

Nicola Graham - Reuben's Mummy & Founder

A note from the founder...

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1.0 Introduction

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1.1 Executive Summary

This Design & Access Statement has been prepared by Stor_ on behalf of Reuben's Retreat (the Applicant) in support of an application for approval of the final phases of work to the former Woods Hospital, Glossop to complete Reuben's Retreat.

Reuben's Retreat have tasked Stor_ with developing a design for the sympathetic refurbishment and extension of the existing building to provide new common experiential spaces, 5No. new retreat suites that aim to provide specialised holiday-let type accommodation for the families supported by the charity, a new glazed extension to match the aesthetic of the previous intervention, and associated ancillary accommodation. All of which is designed to meet the key brief criteria of quality, robustness, accessibility, and inclusivity. The aspiration is to deliver a second-to-none experiential home from home for families bereaved of a child or those with children with complex medical needs.

The proposal creates a genuinely unique facility that will be hugely valued by all the families that are helped and will be helped by the Reuben's Retreat team. This proposal will add measurable value to the specific space in which Reuben's retreat operate.

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1.0 Introduction

1.2 Project Team

A suitably qualified and experienced professional team is critical to the project's overall success. The client has appointed a design team with a depth of experience, and requisite the skill and knowledge for undertaking a project of this type.

Architect

Stor_ is a newly established architecture and design studio with a clear focus on delivering people focused spaces for people to live, learn, work and socialise in. The human element of space and form is what drives the practice's approach. People are inherently at the heart of everything we do so design has to respond to the human experience, its impossible for it not to.

This relationship is no more or less important in any building typology but it is perhaps brought into sharper focus in a development of this type. It is our responsibility as a design team to create accessible, inclusive, functional, restorative, and playful spaces that genuinely work for the families that will eventually make use of them. Places where people can interact with each other in an environment that is safe and secure, which is optimised for their well-being.

Stor_'s Founder / Director has a wealth of experience across the built environment, from small scale domestic work through volumetric residential, housing, education, commercial and community focused projects.

Stor_ project shown adjacent:
Drayton Road Care Home, Norwich



2.0 Site Context / Analysis

2.0 Site Context / Analysis

2.1 Planning History

The site is subject to a previous approval:

HPK/2018/0031 - Application Details:

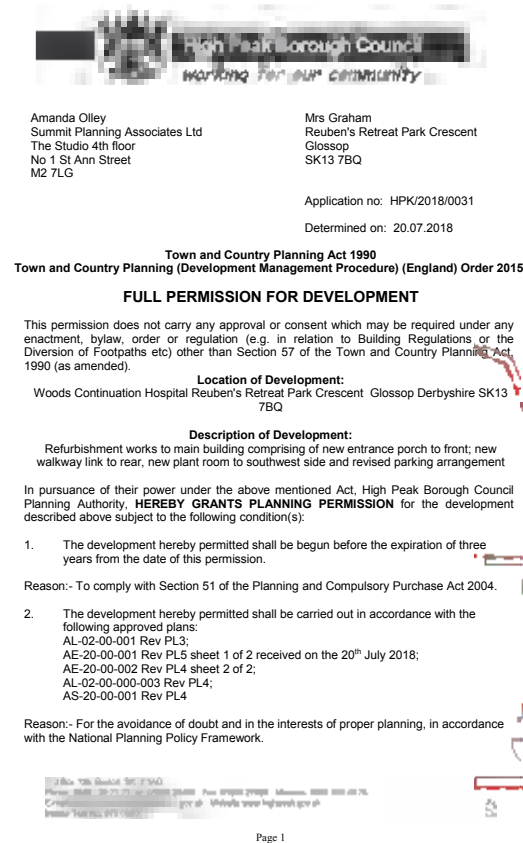
Refurbishment works to main building comprising of new entrance porch to front; new walkway link to rear, new plant room to southwest side and revised parking arrangement.

The proposed scheme at Phase 1 stage provided a Hydrotherapy/ respite facility to be used by groups or single families.

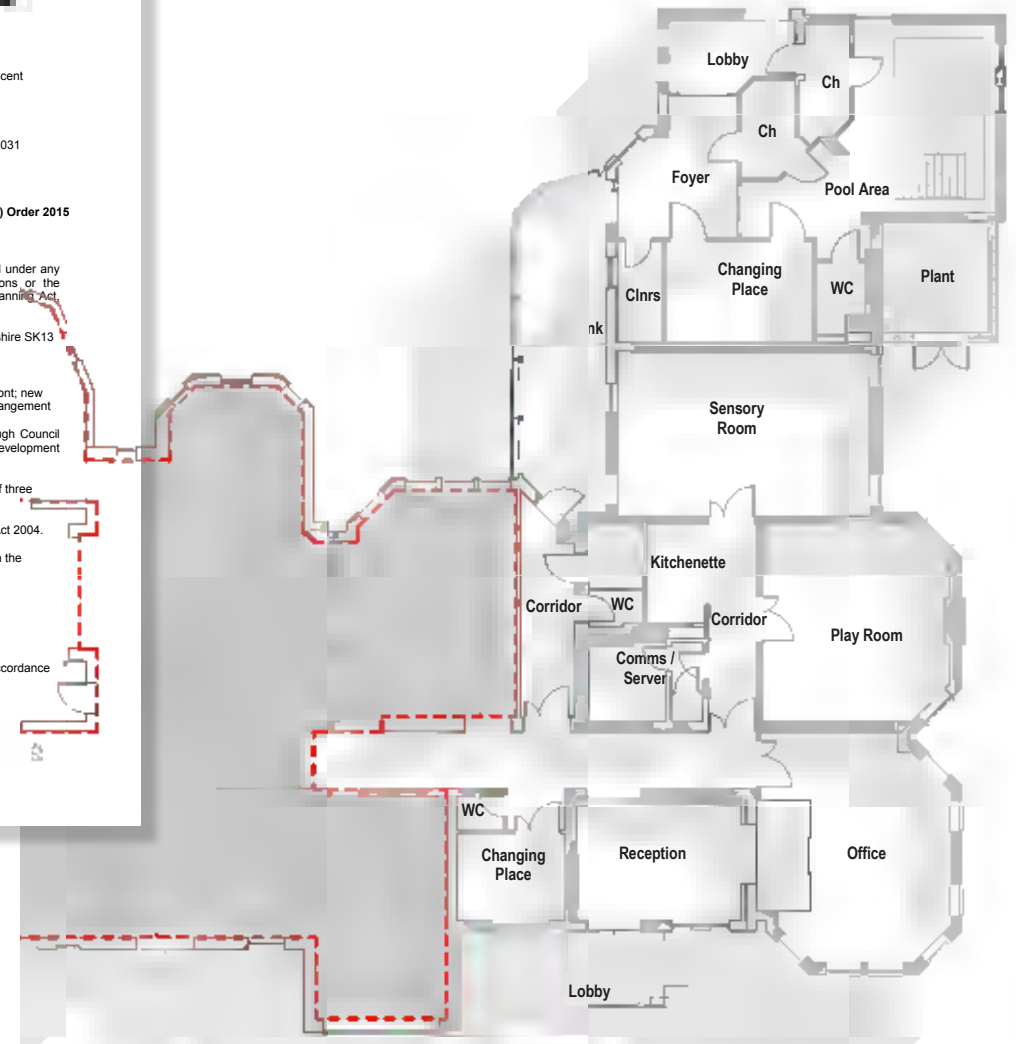
The scheme benefits from a new glazed link, separate access from the front of the building to the rear Hydrotherapy suit.

At the front of the building there is a new enclosed front porch providing a much needed weather tight and welcoming entrance to the retreat.

The materials used compliment the existing building, and with the use of full height glazed units, allow the existing stonework to shine through the proposed modern extensions.



HPK/2018/0031



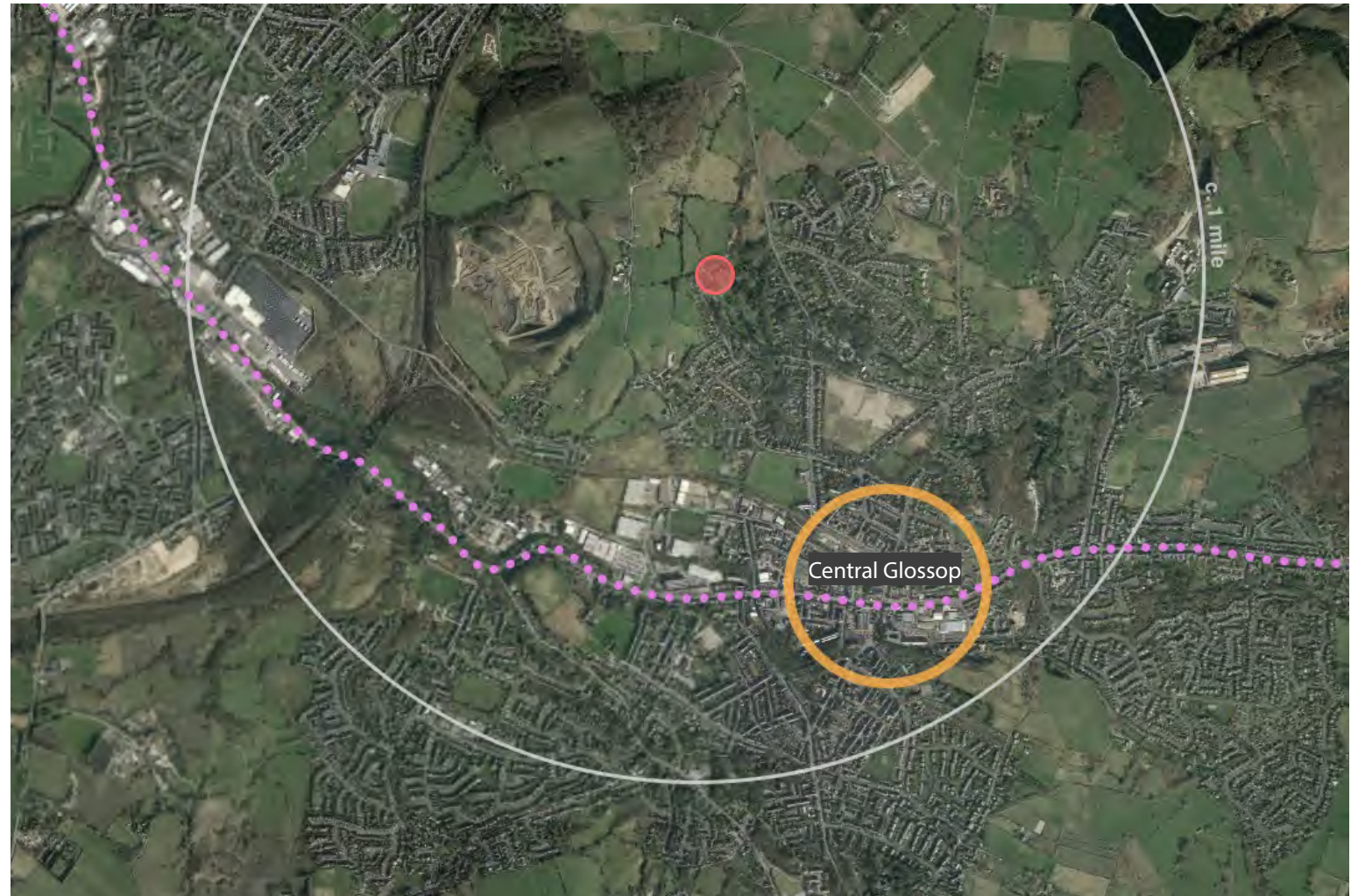
2.0 Site Context / Analysis

2.2 Site Context - Location



Location

Approximately 14 miles east of Manchester city centre, on the northern fringes of Glossop, the site is at the north end of Howard Park, in close proximity to the historic swimming baths and just under a mile to the commercial centre of the town.



Key:

 Development site

 A57

2.0 Site Context / Analysis

2.2 Site Context - Location



Macro Context

The site is an approximately twenty minute walk north of central Glossop, where there are good transport links via bus and train to surrounding towns and beyond to Manchester. The B6105 is close by and connects the town with the Woodhead Pass.



Meso Context

The site is bound on two sides by Howard Park (light green) and served by Park Crescent to the west and north. In the south-western corner of the park is the historic Glossop baths (yellow).



Micro Context

Sitting at the top of Howard Park, the south-eastern boundary of the Retreat site benefits from exceptional views (orange line) across the park, Glossop, and the Pennines beyond, afforded by its lofty topographical position.



Transport Links

Glossop and Dinting train stations are within 20 minutes walking distance of the site where local, regional, and national connections can be made to local towns, Manchester, and beyond. By road, Glossop is connected regionally by the A57 and A628, providing links to surrounding towns and cities.

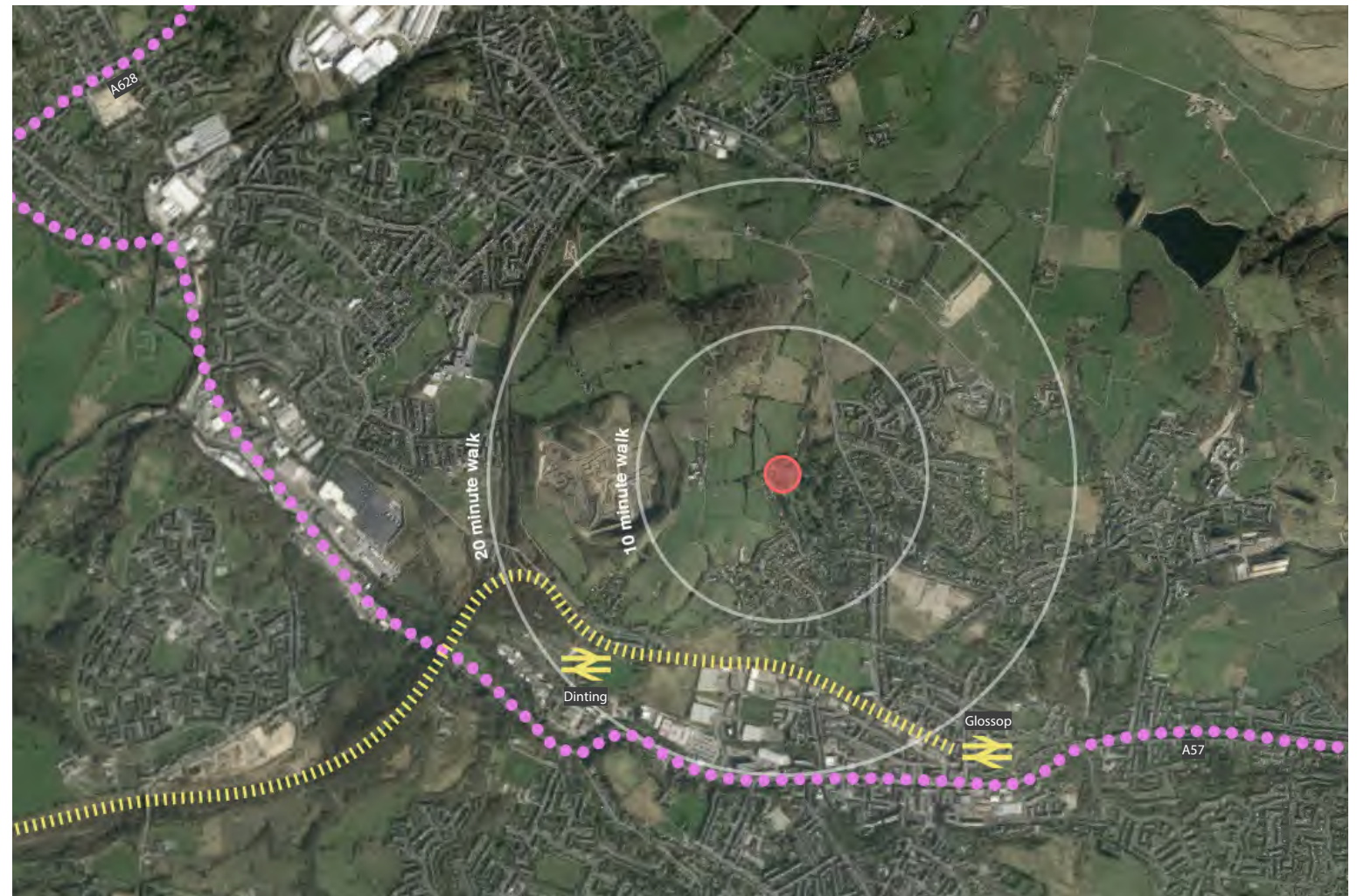
Key:



Development site



Railway; towards Manchester to the west.



2.0 Site Context / Analysis

2.3 Site History

History of the site

Woods Hospital was established in the late 19th century as a philanthropic endeavour by Daniel Wood, a prominent local industrialist and co-owner of Howard Town Mill. Motivated by his own illness in 1885, Wood pledged to build and endow a hospital for the town's poor. The hospital was part of a series of "Jubilee Gifts" to Glossop in 1887, commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The foundation stone was laid on July 30, 1887, and the hospital officially opened on January 21, 1889.

Designed in an E-shaped layout, the hospital accommodated 16 patients and featured advanced sanitary facilities for its time. It was situated on land donated by Lord Howard of Glossop, adjacent to Howard Park. The hospital served the community for over a century, transitioning into the National Health Service in 1948. In its later years, it functioned primarily as a convalescent home before closing in 2009.

In 2014, the building was acquired by Reuben's Retreat. The site has since undergone extensive renovations, preserving its historical significance while serving a new purpose.

