

Concept A - Leafscape

Observing the Flora and Fauna surrounding the reservoir.

Early in the research, a large majority of people expressed a desire to 'soften' the impact of the turrets by having organic patterns and shapes flow across the surface. The different structure of trees from species to species is fascinating. How they branch and grow to fill their environment. How light shines through negative space and the differences in leaf structure, from the whole canopy down to individual leaf shapes.

The trees depicted would be representative of the local species found around the reservoir and could include majestic oaks and sycamores down to low level brambles, ferns, rushes and mosses on the water's edge. I also love the idea of 'hiding' things within the leafscape - wildlife, birds and even a Chinook helicopter!

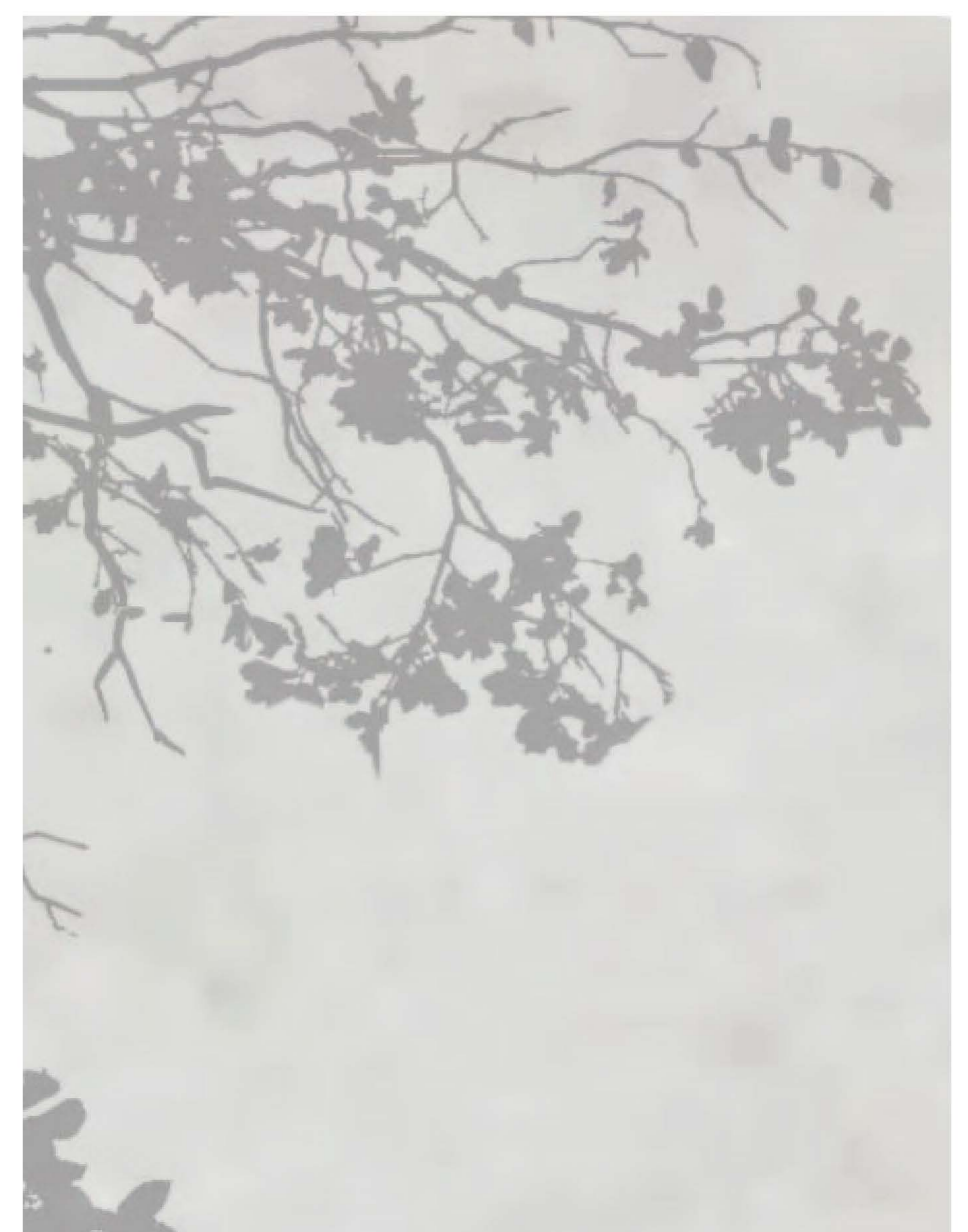
The possibilities are extensive within this concept. Layout, negative space and even seasonal changes to the leafscape will play an important part in creating beautiful, delicate and intricate artwork. Hidden elements could provide interactive aspects for the viewers too: eg. find the owl; how many herons can you spot? etc

The scale or size of the artwork in this concept is also flexible, depending on potential limitations with the sand blasting process. It can range from life-size trees, creating a woodland canopy, to much larger representations of the leaf structure focusing on individual branches.

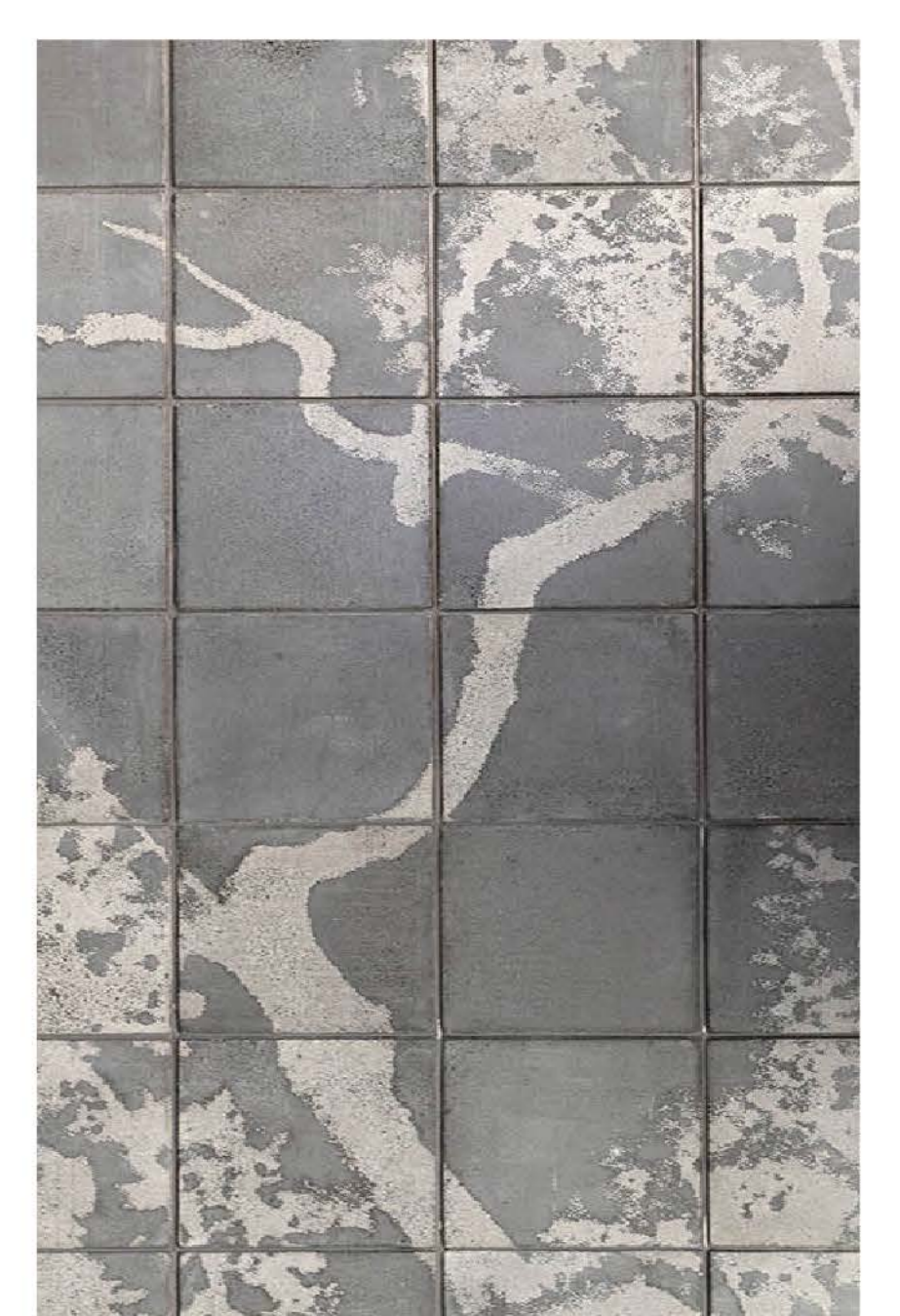
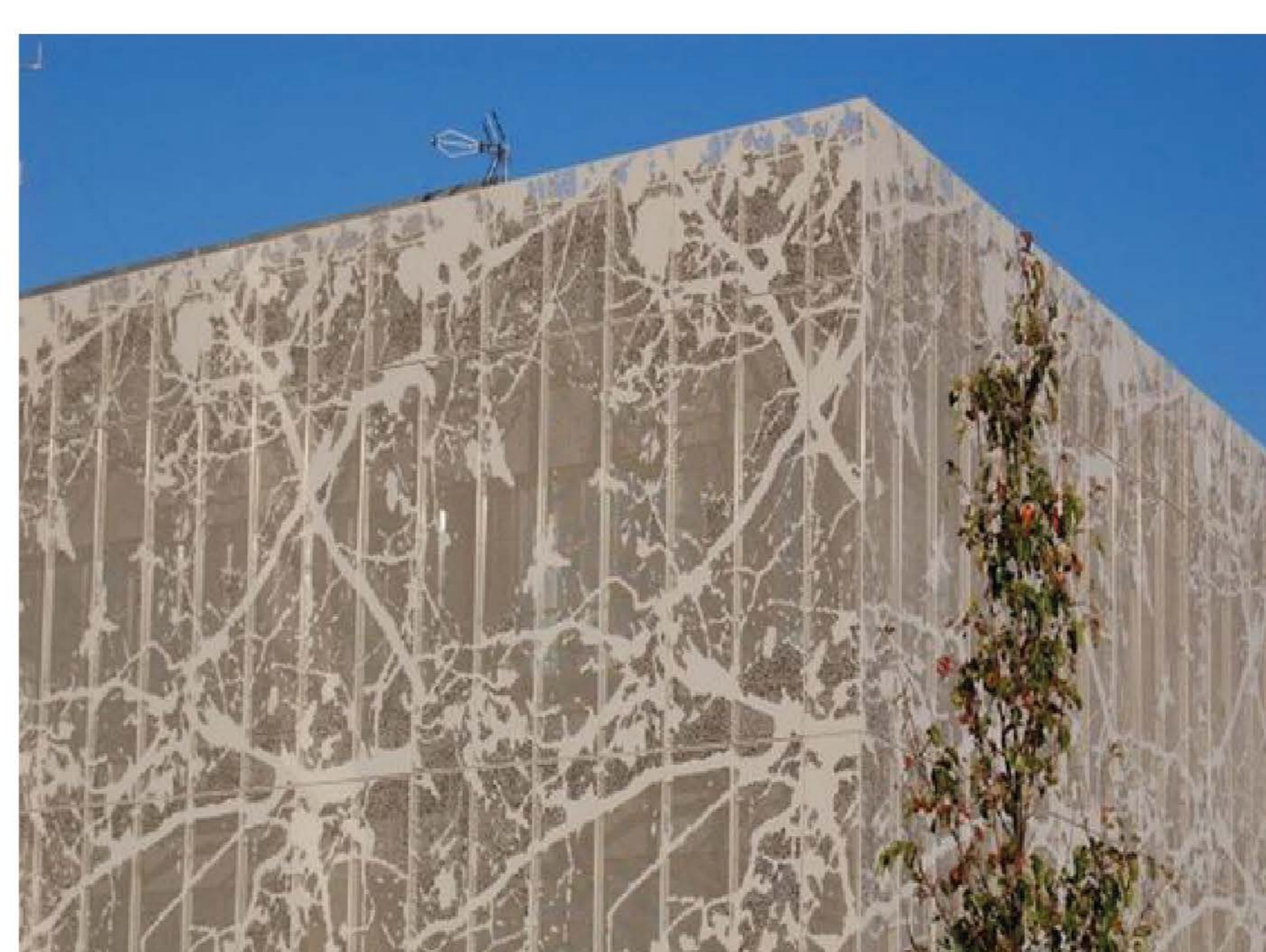
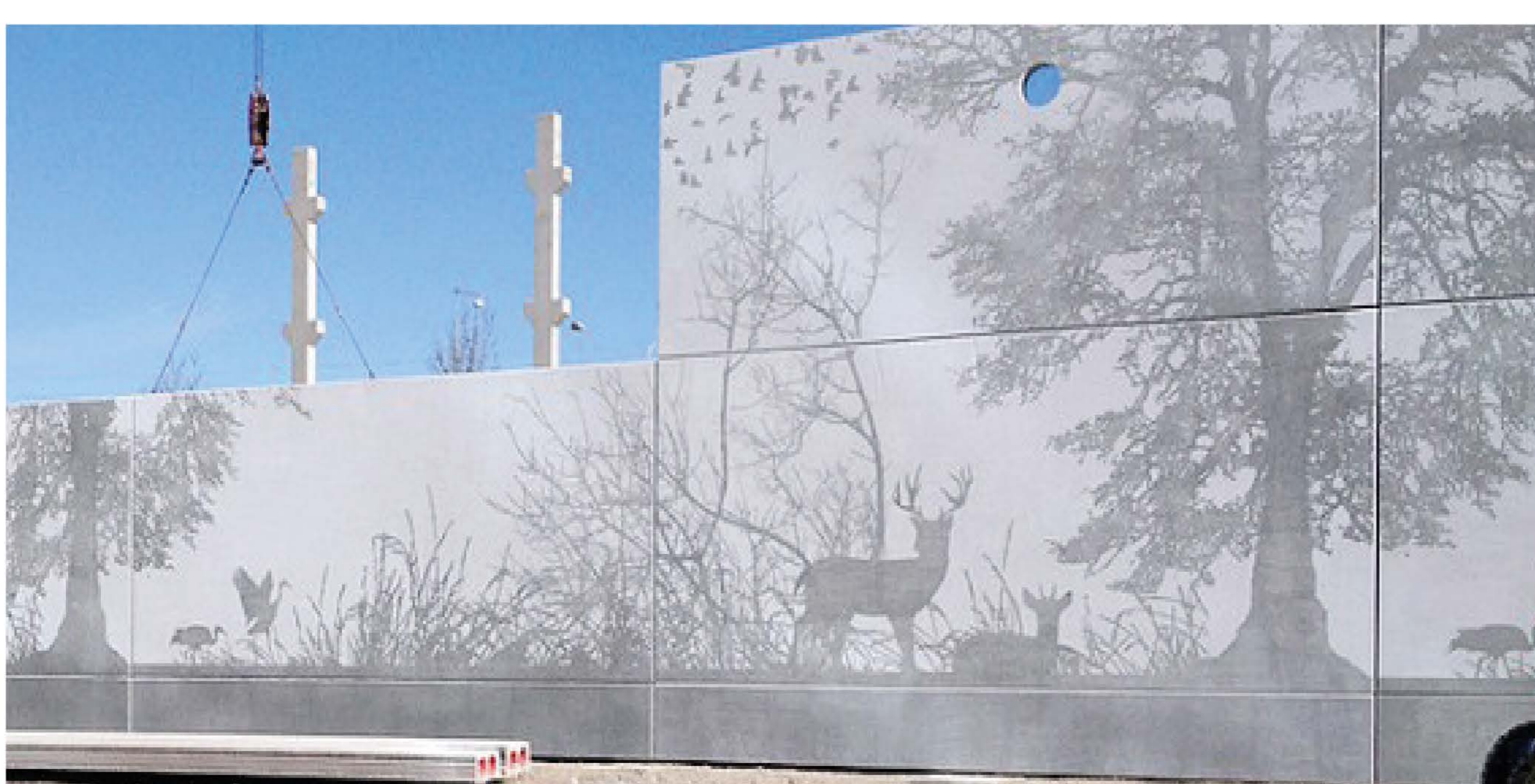
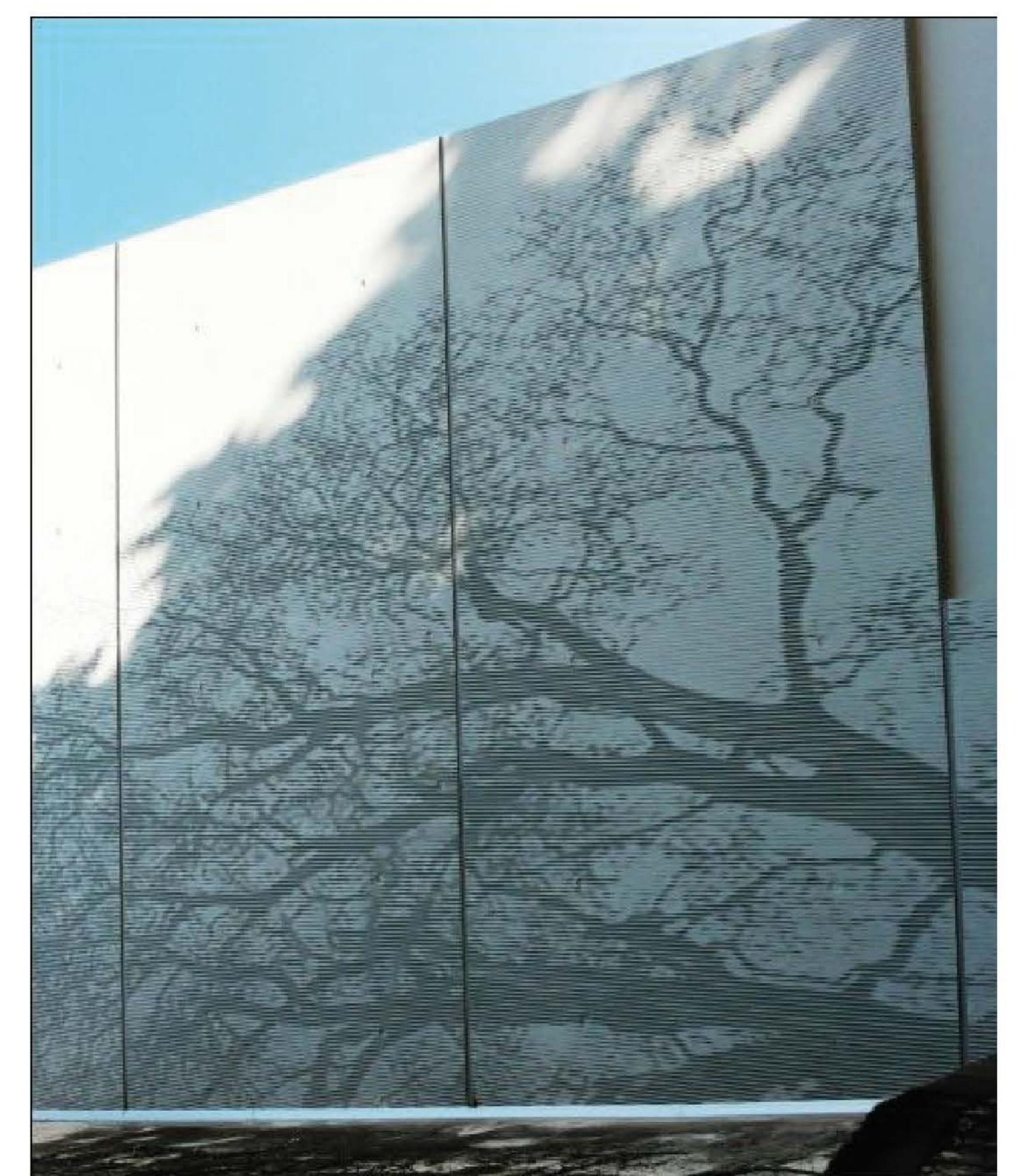
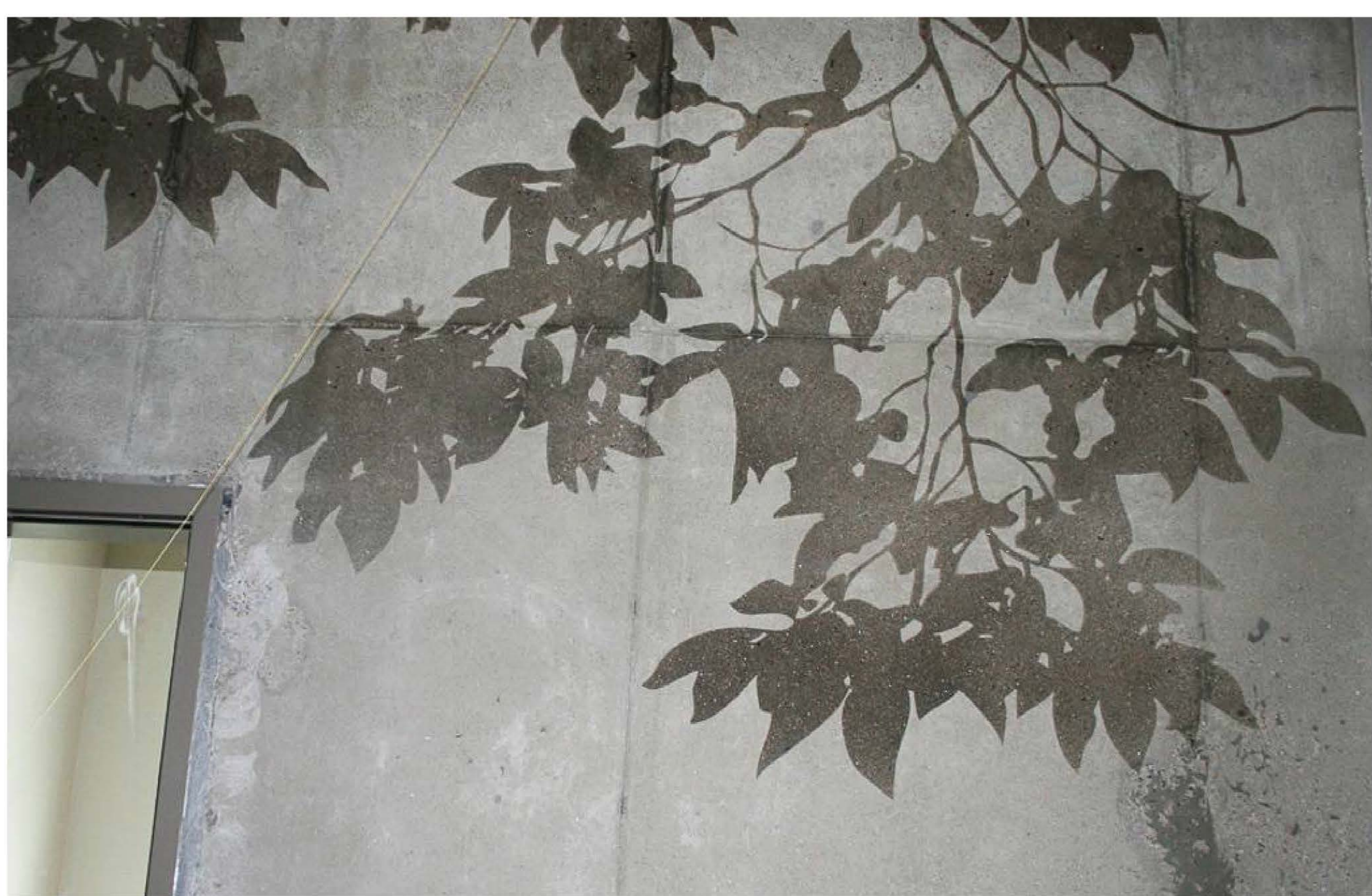
Concept Variants



Closeups



Research



Concept B - Contours

Inspired by the classic Ordnance Survey maps - a hiker's best friend.

Whaley Bridge and the surrounding Peak District are a magnificent example of British countryside, enjoyed by huge numbers of people and offering some spectacular scenery, from dramatic gritstone edges to hidden limestone caverns.

Much of my research into the sand blasting process and possible styles of decorative work indicated clean graphic lines lend themselves well to the process. Whilst looking over maps of the area, I noticed that the structure of contour lines was reminiscent of these precise lines I had seen used in other sandblasting applications.

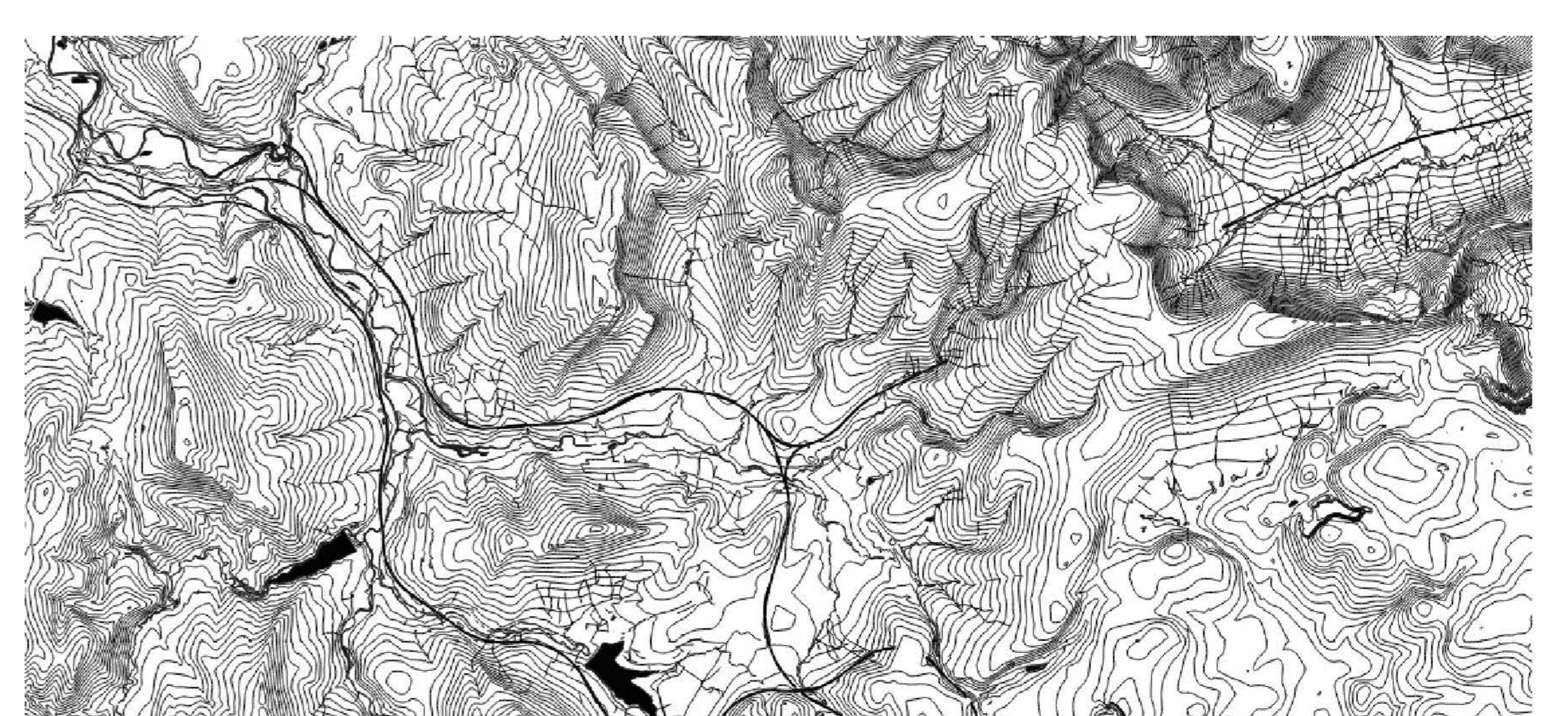
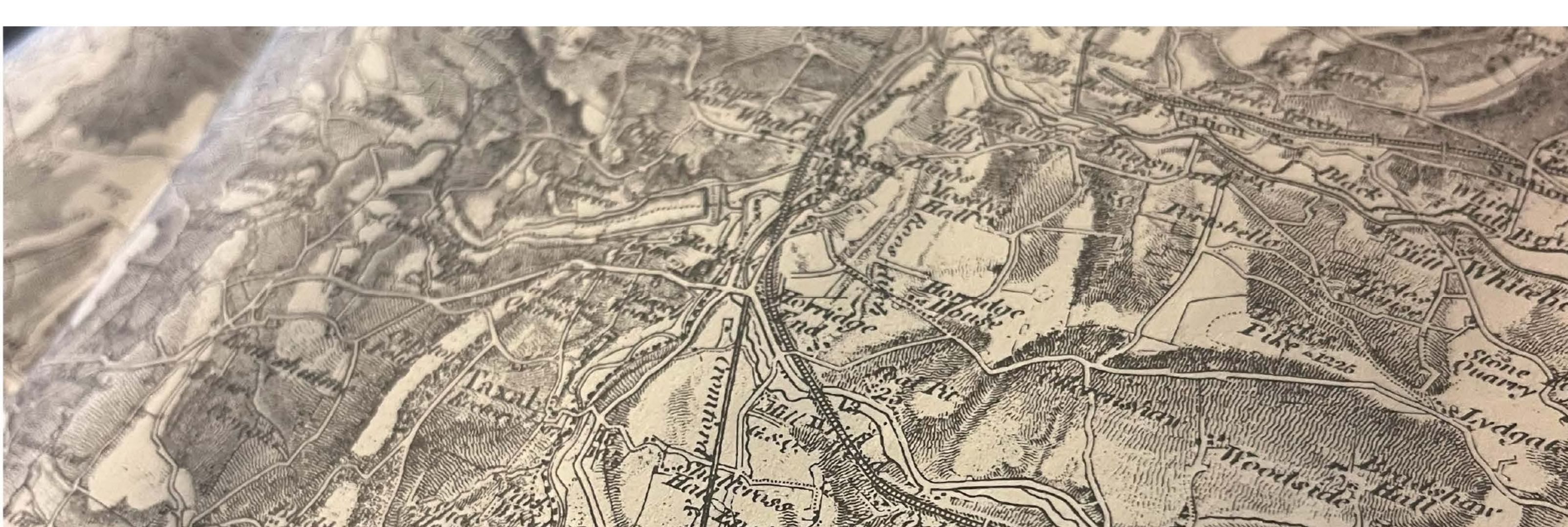
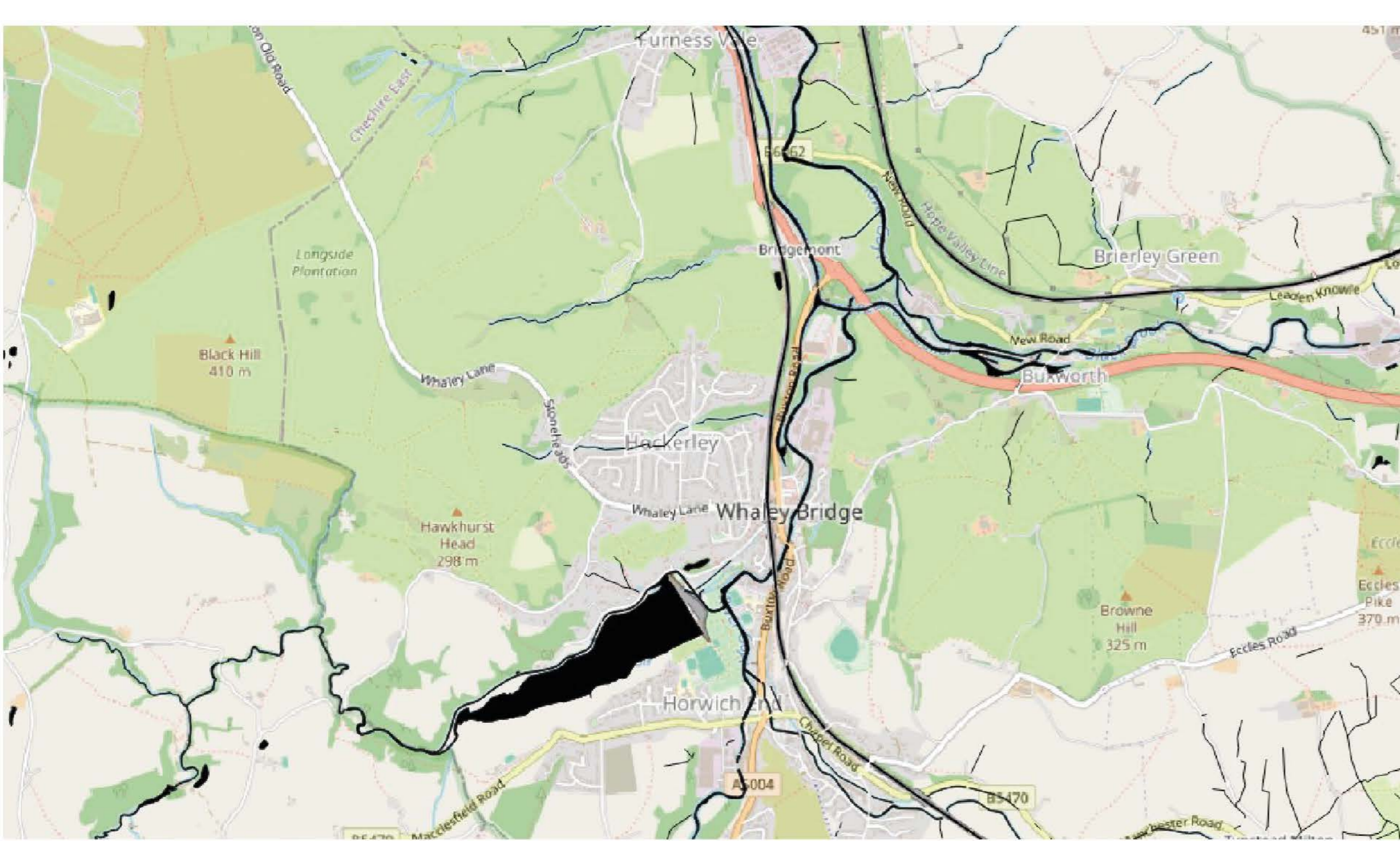
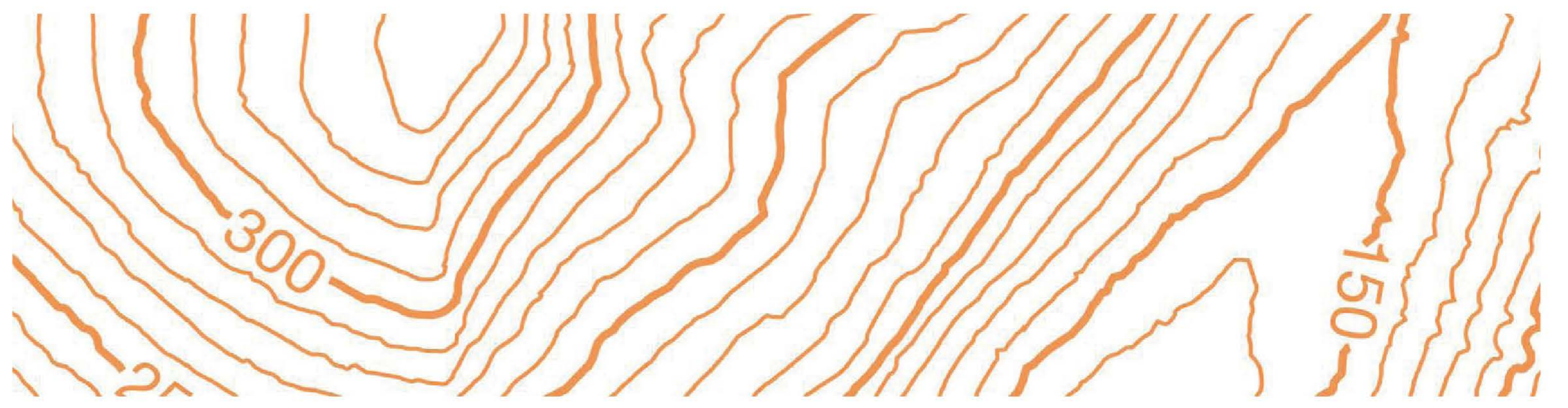
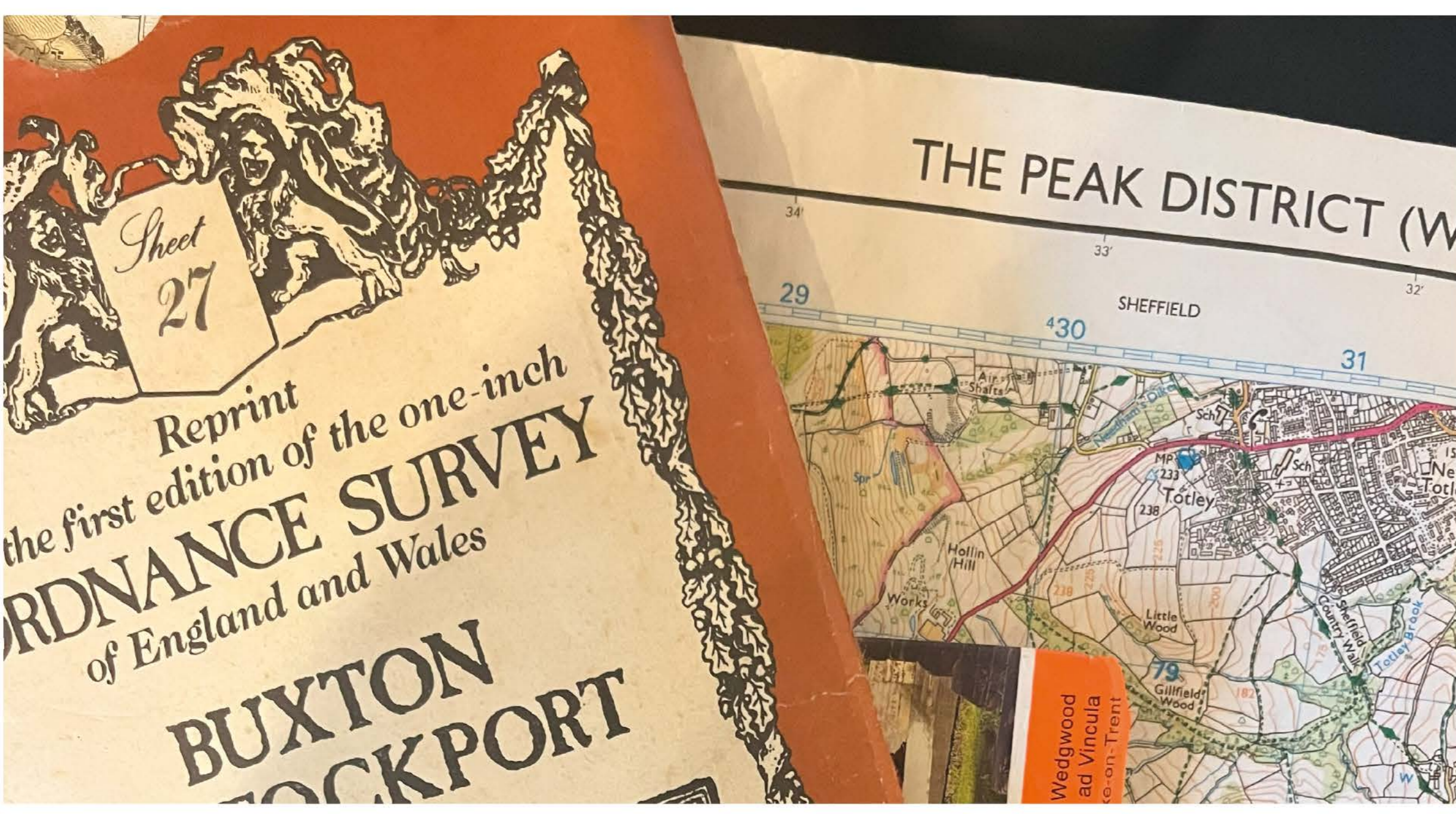
I love a good map! An accurate representation of the local area from stripped back contour lines or other geographic elements would not only be informative, but also create a pleasing abstract pattern to continue the idea of organic forms breaking up the large areas of concrete. Suddenly the route of the Peak Forest Canal, River Goyt and other local transport infrastructure jumps out at you and makes perfect sense through this hilly landscape.



Concept Variants



Research



Concept C - Heritage & Leisure

Celebrating the diverse histories of people in the community.

During the community feedback, many people talked about the industrial past of Whaley Bridge and the surrounding areas, and the significance of local history and culture. They also mentioned the canal infrastructure which the reservoir feeds and the leisure activities directly associated with it.

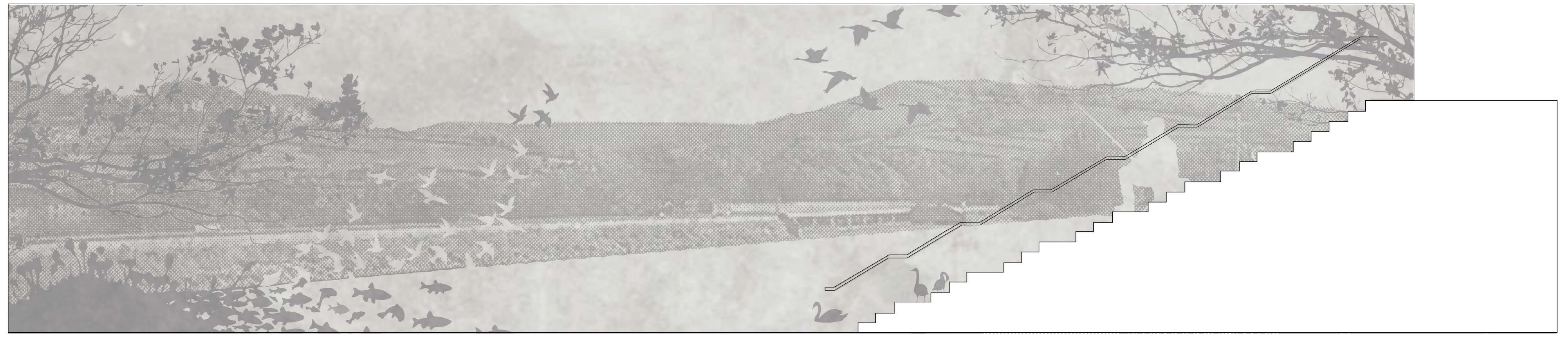
I imagine this concept would have two distinct focuses across the left and right turrets. One turret would focus on current leisure activities, such as sailing, angling and walking. This would include many natural themes from the leafscape concept, but with added human elements - the line of the dam in the background, anglers sat on the bank and sails on the water.

The other turret would focus on local history, heritage and industry. Indeed, the reason Whaley Bridge exists is partly down to the Industrial Revolution, the emergence of cotton mills and the need to transport coal and limestone along the Goyt valley. The imagery used in these drafts would be a window into that past.

Representing this concept using both archival imagery and modern photos will be quite a challenge for the binary medium of sandblasting. Therefore, an option which may allow more tonal images is a technique called 'halftone'. Halftone uses dots of various sizes and spacing to create the impression of tone and shade using just a single colour. It is most commonly used as a printing technique but also has applications in art, design and even architecture.

The level of detail we can achieve with this concept will be mainly limited by the sand blasting process, so the complexity of the images may need to be reduced and simplified to be effective.

Concept Variants



Research

