

**TOPIC**

The competition site is within a masterplan for the replacement of a monoculture of sub-standard 19th century dwellings. The challenge is to create a new urbanity, consisting of a variety of housing that defines a new urban block and emphasises better links to the existing amenities. This will require proposals that balance housing, public space and other uses. The neighbourhood is not in a state of social collapse and can be regenerated as an area and a community.

**CONURBATION**

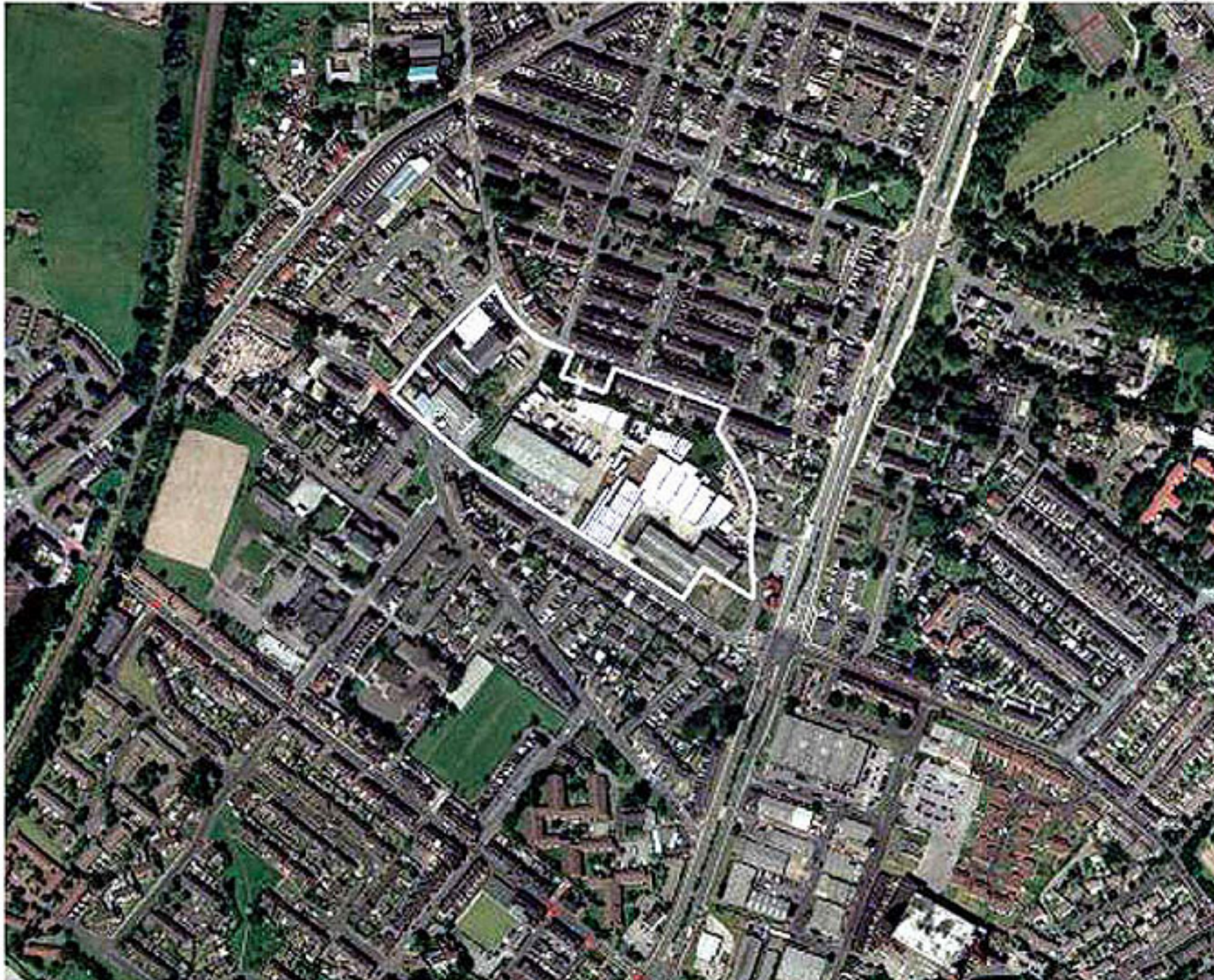
Oldham has suffered from a decline in its economy and population during the last 30 years. It has an over supply of small houses built for the workforce of the cotton mills that were the main employers of the town. The Government is bringing funding and expertise to regenerate Oldham. The masterplan for the town will involve clearing some of the existing housing and replacing it with a greater variety of high quality dwellings set within a reconfigured street pattern.

**SITE**

The former factory site is surrounded on three sides by housing and on the other by a small industrial area that will also become part of the larger masterplan. The planning of the site requires a careful urban design solution that, whilst encouraging innovation, must read as a cohesive whole. A key element of the proposals will be to increase permeability and integrate the new housing with the streets to the south that are to remain unchanged. The extent of the demolition has been agreed with local residents.



**Population:** 218.000  
**Location:** Lancashire  
**Study area:** 3 ha.  
**Project area:** 0.8 ha.



#### PROGRAMME

The Project Site and the Study Areas should be predominantly housing that forms a cohesive urban block. The challenge for this low rise area will be to re-invent the model of the terraced house to suit the varying needs of larger families and single person households. This will entail reconfiguring the road layouts to allow for more generous buildings and a greater amount of private open space. It will be important to provide a high quality pedestrian environment with useful open space.

#### ISSUES

##### Social Functional

There are many large families whose need is for large dwellings. This situation may change with architectural and urban implications. The community is ethnically diverse and living in reasonable harmony.

##### Sensitive Issues

1.5 car spaces per dwelling (including parking on the street) are required. It will be a challenge to provide this level of car parking without the car parking dominating the environment.

##### Sustainability

Competitors are invited to put forward innovative proposals for minimising energy consumpti



