

# Great Ancoats St Edible Garden





# Pre-figurative Politics

There is a big problem with the current model of social, economic and political organisation in Manchester. The understanding that the current model does not represent a sustainable structure for society, coupled with the difficulty to provide alternatives with the means to enact real change has led us to the conflict surrounding Great Ancoats st car park.

The difficulty to create an egalitarian dialogue with Manchester City Council has brewed outrage, disappointment and disruption with the local community, which have been forced to take matters into their own hands.

Organisations involved like Trees not Cars have been using resistance and revolution to enact catharsis and negotiation with the hegemonic power structure. This defiance stresses a spacial confrontational character using the 'Great Ancoats car park space as the core of the resistance. Through this according to [Carl Boggs](#), they are establishing a [Pre-figurative Politics](#), crafting right here and now, their future of the social political form.

The biggest issue is that for far often what happens is what [Antonio Gramsci](#) called 'Hegemony through neutralisation' which is what happens when the subversive forces (Trees not cars) which challenge the dominant order (Manchester City Council) are engulfed or neutralised by the powers of politics, capital and the all powerful cultural industry. This is seen through the lack of consultation with the residents or even, temporary compromise of the currently occupied site,

Through prefigurative architecture we aim to respond to the complex socio-political dynamic. In the Prefigurative Politics of Space B. Alves de Almeida claims that "What architecture can foster is the gradual shift in politics of use... It can also shape spaces so as to incite an ethics of coexistence, urging processes that challenge the boundary between the private and 'common'... It can also engage people physically and intellectually so as to propose new ways of thinking and doing."



# Great Ancoats St - Context



## Statement from Trees Not Cars By Trees Not Cars (@treesnotcars)

“On Thursday 17th, Manchester City Council's planning committee voted through controversial plans to use a former retail park in Ancoats as a temporary 440-space car park for up to two years.

The decision has provoked shock and outrage from 'Trees Not Cars' campaigners who have been holding protests every Saturday since July, calling for the Council to use the site as a community green space instead. Over 10,000 have signed their petition.

Campaigners intend to challenge the decision, which they say contradicts the Council's Climate Emergency in an area where pollution levels are already illegal. According to Trees Not Cars, lawyers have agreed to work on the case pro bono, arguing that the decision is a human rights violation.

New Islington Free School, the city's only primary school, is located next to the proposed car park. A number of parents have joined the campaign. Julia Kovaliova spoke passionately at the planning committee in objection of the plans. Her son is ten and was diagnosed with asthma four years ago. In her speech to the committee, she asked members to vote with their conscience and not prioritise commerce over children's health.

The site was purchased for £37m, and the Council argues the temporary car park is necessary to help recoup costs. When the Council agreed to buy out the lease on the site we also agreed to temporary uses, including car parking, to meet the cost of purchase and holding costs, costs of around £2m a year, whilst the master planning and marketing of the site took place. In the longer term, we do need to recover at least £40m from the site.”

“The consultation process needs to be reformed. We need to have our voices heard and acted on. We need to be part of the planning process from the very beginning.”

<http://www.gmhousingaction.com/statement-from-trees-not-cars/>

Overall green infrastructure of the site will promote an environmentally friendly community space.



“Trees Not Cars”

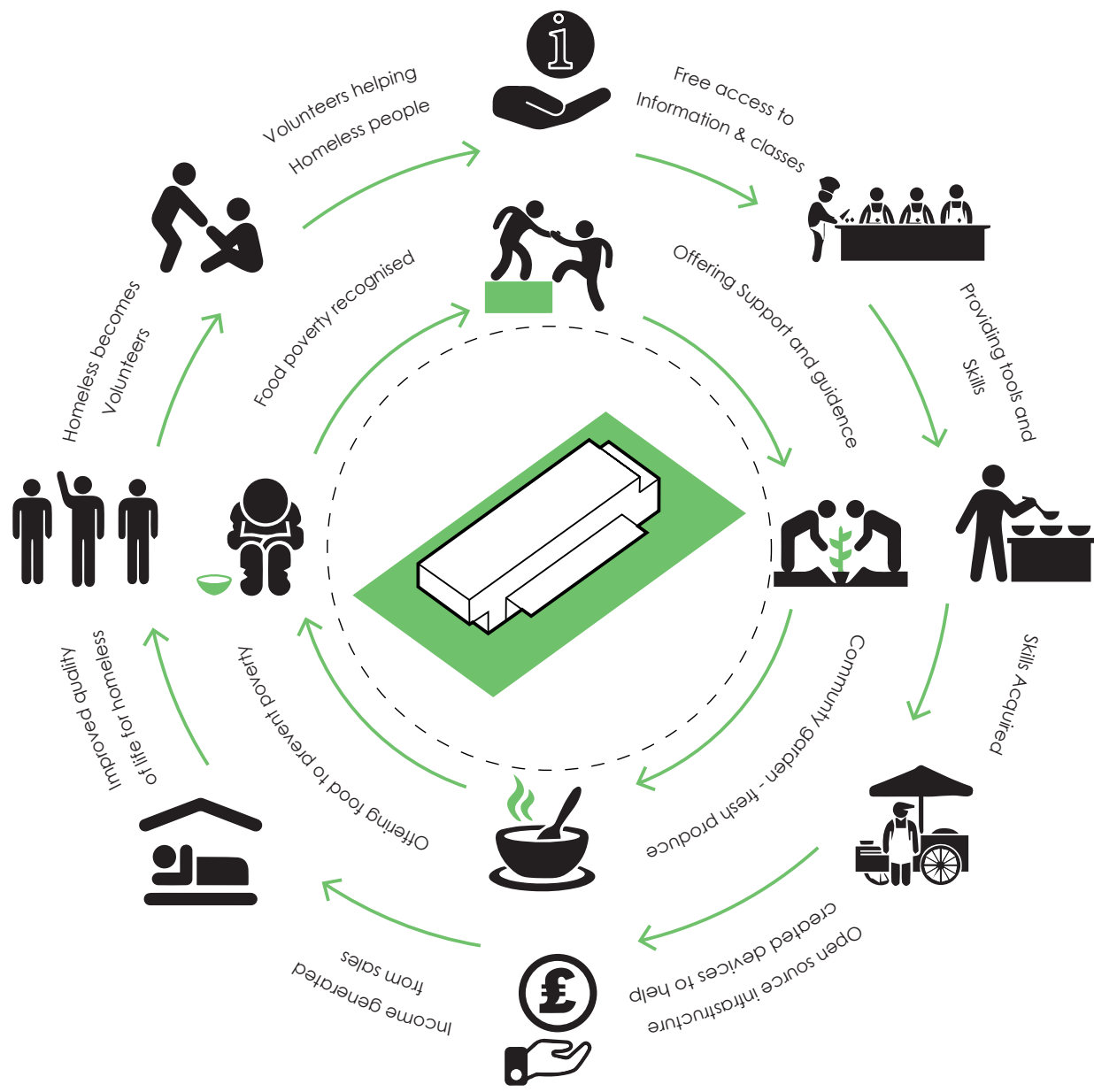


If land promotes more for the local community, the social and economic sphere it will stay balanced.



Community voice is priority as they will be the ones affected by drastic changes and not the council.

# Great Ancoats St Edible Garden Proposal



# Increase in Food Bank use in Greater Manchester

over **3 million** meals provided  
in and around Greater Manchester in 2018  
an increase of **50%** over the previous year.



41,439 Parcels Delivered Between  
April and September 2019 (Busiest 6  
months)



16,133 of these went to children



# Policies reform

One of the impacts of our scheme would be to open a dialogue for policy reforms. To get Manchester City Council to see a practical way of tackling food insecurity and local food accessibility. This would be similar to the example taken from the Scottish Government who have set out a vision that by 2025 Scotland will be “a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy,

A healthier and more active future for the North East of Scotland (2019) affirms that **local community food initiatives** have an important role in the availability of local sustainable and affordable healthy food.

**Community gardens provide opportunities for improved access to fresh food, nutrition and physical activity and in doing so provide the opportunity to shape health behaviours and reduce inequalities. Furthermore community gardens may promote health and wellbeing in other ways through increased social capital, improved mental health and educational and skills attainment. They also provide a central point for people to come together in a supportive environment, to interact and participate which helps promote feelings of community identity irrespective of age, ability or socioeconomic position. All of which are positively associated with health and wellbeing by promoting and supporting a healthy diet and regular exercise which have a wide range of benefits for both physical and mental health.**

Manchester has a Sustainable Food Vision for Greater Manchester 2017 document. In 2016 FeedingMcr were galvanised to revisit a framework by the emerging People’s Plan for devolution in Greater Manchester. They were asked to contribute towards the document that would be presented to the mayoral candidates and local politicians in advance of the 2017 Mayoral elections. Food Pioneers from all over the region contributed to a collective updating of the food framework at the twentieth ‘Feeding Manchester’ gathering in November 2016 and, although food didn’t end up with its own chapter in the plan, the collective process resulted in the inspiring yet practical Vision that appears in the document, ([https://feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/sites/feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/files/Sustainable\\_Food\\_Vision\\_For\\_GtMcr\\_0.pdf](https://feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/sites/feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/files/Sustainable_Food_Vision_For_GtMcr_0.pdf))

The document talks about:

## Promoting Healthy and Sustainable Food

Increasing public awareness of and interest in healthy and sustainable food is a vital first step to creating a positive food culture.

## Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food

Tackling food-related inequalities is one of today’s most urgent challenges if we are to stem the rising tide of hunger, obesity and diet-related ill-health.

## Building Sustainable Food Knowledge, Skills, Resources & Projects

Grassroots energy, innovation and action are the engine of positive food change and it is vital that individuals and communities can build the knowledge, skills, resources and projects to make that change happen.

## Promoting a Vibrant and Sustainable Food Economy

If we are going to transform food culture and the systems that support it, food mustn’t just be good for people and the planet, it must also be good for local economies, businesses and jobs.

## Transforming Catering and Food Procurement

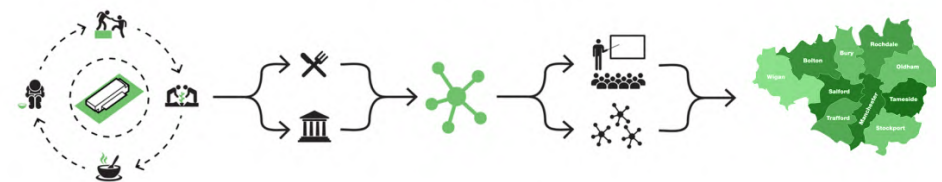
With nearly 50% of all food eaten outside the home, catering and procurement offers one of the most effective ways to drive large scale changes in healthy and sustainable food.

## Reducing Waste and the Ecological Footprint of the Food System

With nearly half of all food thrown away, reducing food waste has huge potential social, economic and environmental benefits. But it’s not just about waste. How food is produced, processed, packaged and transported are also vital in managing its ecological footprint.

**Our scheme is aligned to this vision but we know from other City’s implementing a Sustainable Food Cities programme that co-ordination, focused resources and supportive policies can create an environment in which Food Pioneers make a real difference. Through prefiguration of our initiative on a local scale it can have an impact on Manchester on a regional scale.**

- Step 1.** Individual councils join the Sustainable Food Cities network and Greater Manchester signs up to the Milan Food Policy Pact. Individual boroughs of Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) adopt this Vision.
- Step 2.** Two complimentary groups work together, Feeding Greater Manchester (as a grassroots network of practitioners) and a (yet to be formed) Greater Manchester Food Board of public sector enablers, under the stewardship of the GMCA.
- Step 3.** GMCA & local councils support existing good practice within Greater Manchester identified in this Vision to strengthen and grow.
- Step 4.** Policies, procurement, investment and subsidies from the public sector should not make the work of our Food Pioneers harder. Our sector need to be consulted in meaningful ways along the lines of local voluntary sector Compacts.
- Step 5.** Procurement, investment and grants should first support the work of Food Pioneers, and secondly support others to replicate examples of good practice and work with and as part of this Vision.
- Step 6.** GMCA, local councils and the public sector lead the way, by taking inspiration from the examples in this vision to put into action within their own practices.



# El Campo de Cebada



Figure 1 - Central Public Square

The municipal sports centre that in 2009 was demolished, leaving 5,500 square meters of an occupied space. The space has been left unused for a year. As the economy has not improved in the area, a group has decided to invest in the central space to be used to carry out activities. The way in which residents of El Campo have learned to infrastructure their own neighbourhood (schools, gardens, markets) points to an important recent development that bespeaks a wider transformation in urban governance in Madrid (Jiménez, 2014).

The project primarily is maintained through voluntary work of the residents of the La Latina neighbourhood. El Campo functions less as a prototype for an urban commons than as a prototype for itself: an urban system of intelligences 'in beta'. (Jiménez, 2014). As the citizens help to reorganise a system where activities can have returns in profit to keep the organisation of the El Campo going. One of our contributions was the construction of a device with multiple uses being the warehouse and base of operations that, in turn, facilitates the possibility of generating new devices for the field.

This container is the warehouse that contains materials and tools that make possible the activities and maintenance of the field. It is also a meeting place because it allows for its colonization in multiple ways. The device itself is in permanent change, responding to the uses and allowing an evolutionary development through the incorporation of the furniture that parasites it. (Todoporlapraxis.es, 2018)

The creation of this public space can be linked to the way Henri Lefebvre's represents space. A place where it was not a liveable organism, The connection between people and places created social morphology: the container being the epicentre of all recreational actives is a space that is liberated for the public is a form of a living organism (Lefebvre, 1991). An organism that can be travelled in infrastructures to help and create new organism surrounding the space. The betagrams of these spatio-temporal events that takes place at the square has been re-nowned to be as an 'urban prototype'. The making of this square travels in infrastructures for example the market stalls intervention can be found online, where it is hosted as free source information for everyone to access, ranging from how to construct to finding the materials in the local area. a right to infrastructure: It is deemed a political will to have the city modularised in a certain way whether that is furnishing or the program. El campo is a reference to right to infrastructure as it expresses the infra-structuring process as accessible and legible place with respects to the political and social agencies.



# GREAT ANCOATS St EDIBLE GARDENS



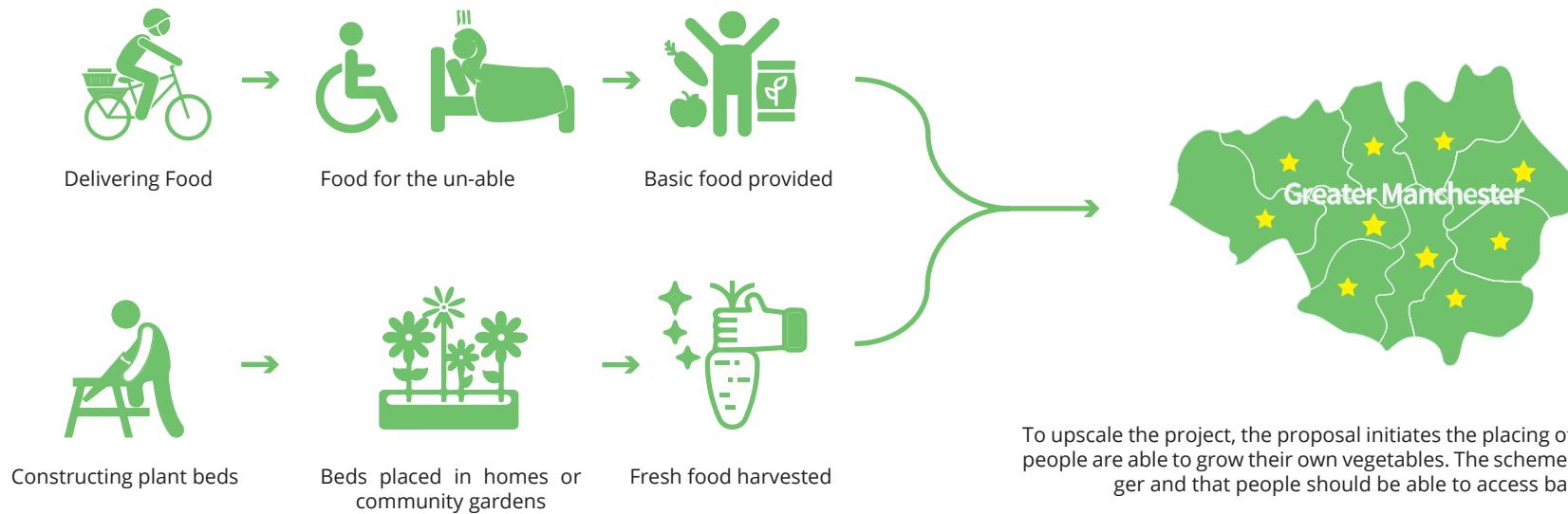


# Making Food Accessible for Everyone

Sadly clear was the chronicity of many peoples health issues. 73 per cent of people applying to participating food banks have chronic or long-term illnesses or health problems over a four-week stretch. It's real that some may not be able to get their food to the Ancoats Farm. So our scheme works to offer a service where we are able to deliver basic foods (bike device) to people who are not able to travel to the site. The scheme also adapts to prefigure a movement as the scheme can work to make plant beds, sheds, and other planting devices to then start growing their own vegetation.

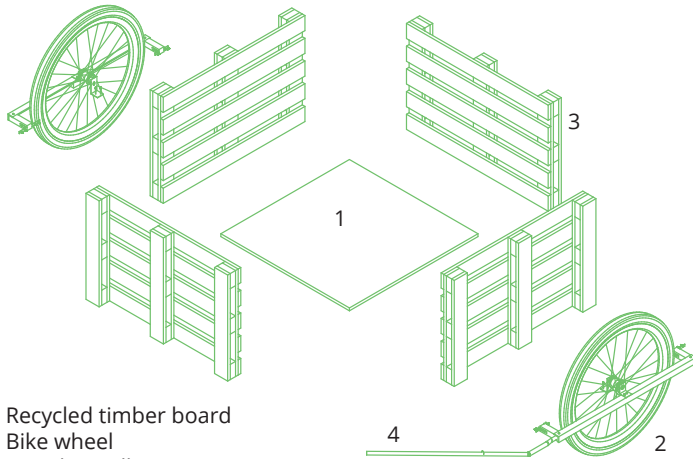
People referred to food-banks also share their own experience of losing work due to ill-health and disability. Mental health was the most common reason given. Some who go unemployed unexpected due to physical accidents or long term illness will have to go through a lengthy process to apply for benefits, in the mean time, they will struggle to access basic foods and may need to rely on food-banks.

The Trussell Trust. (2018). Disability, Health & Hunger - The Trussell Trust. [online] Available at: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/2018/01/31/disability-health-and-hunger/> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2020].

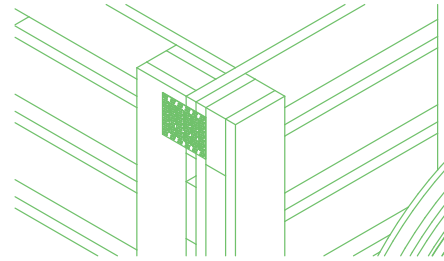


To upscale the project, the proposal initiates the placing of plant beds so that people are able to grow their own vegetables. The scheme works to fight hunger and that people should be able to access basic foods.

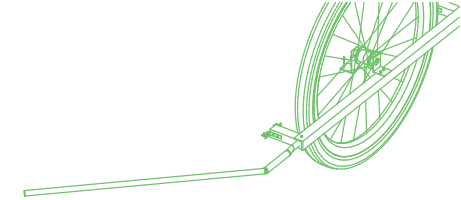
# Creation of 'Devices'



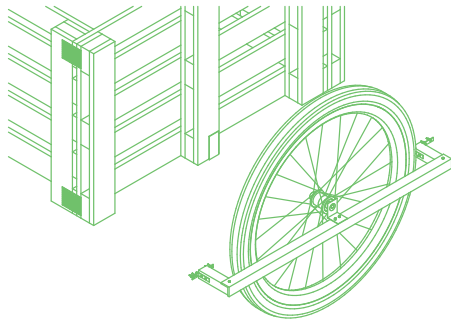
- 1 - Recycled timber board
- 2 - Bike wheel
- 3 - Wooden Pallets
- 4 - Welded Metal



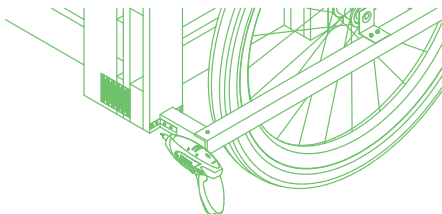
Nail plate joint between wooden pallets using hammer.



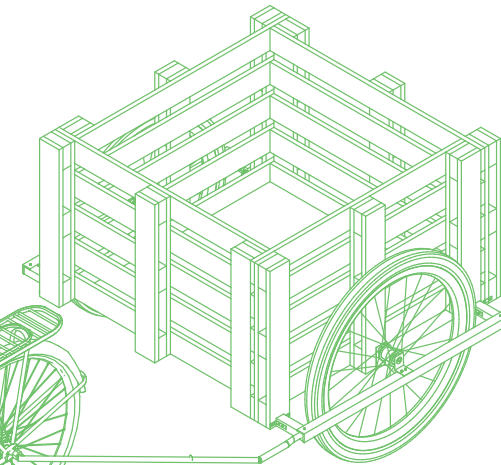
Welded Joint using recycled metal



Bike wheel arranged within frame, screwed fitting that joins onto wooden pallets.



Bike can be used as a potential device that can help to supply food across Manchester to make access to basic foods accessible, or can be used to generate revenue, selling food or produce to local people.



Bike can be found through bike recycling centres across greater Manchester.



# Potential Devices

Shed or food stand can be made to distribute across greater Manchester to make it easier to grow your own vegetables with a very little investments



Timber Pallet

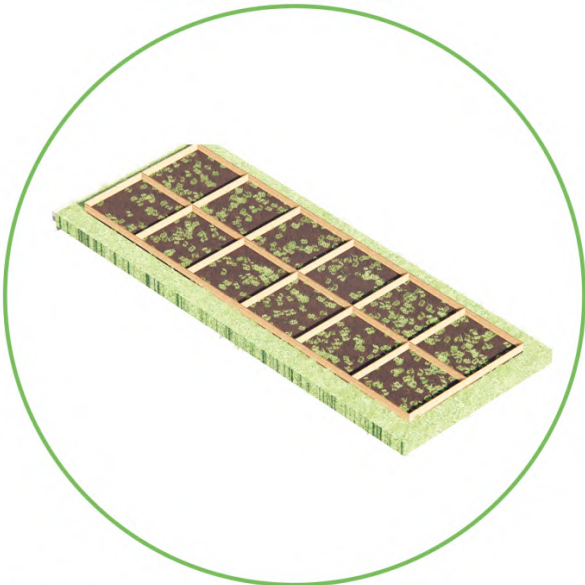


Timber Post



# Edible Garden growth plan

428 1m<sup>2</sup> Raised beds



Chicken coup for fresh eggs



Food bank



benches for activities and socialising



Storage/substation



Greenhouse for enclosed climate



This chart is taken from allotmentgarden.com which shows a guide for times to grow different vegetables and fruits by seasons and when you can expect to harvest. We expect the first harvest period to be around June which will be mostly Tomatoes, Potatoes and onions which can be used to make fresh soups for the community. Looking at the precedence of St Raphaels edible Garden (which in scale is similar to what we have) it seems that they are able to feed 90 people per day although they get a significant amount of food donated as well, but that is an achievable goal that we aim to emulate.

Vegetable Sowing & Harvest Chart from Allotment-Garden.org (1)

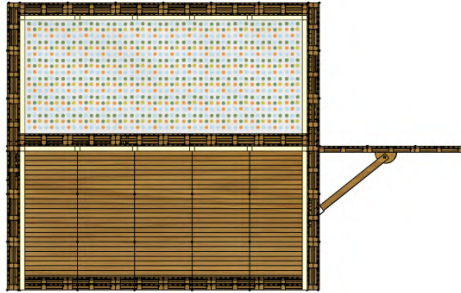
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aubergine												
Beans, Broad (Fava)												
Beans, Climbing French												
Beans Dwarf French												
Beans, Runner												
Beetroot												
Beet Leaf Spinach												
Broccoli, Autumn												
Broccoli, Spring												
Brussels Sprouts												
Cabbage, Chinese												
Cabbage, Spring												
Cabbage, Summer												
Cabbage, Winter												
Calabrese												
Carrot												
Cauliflower, Spring												
Cauliflower, Summer												
Cauliflower, Winter												
Capiscum (Peppers)												
Celeriac												
Celery												
Claytonia												
Corn Salad, Lamb's												
Lettuce												
Courgette												
Cucumber Greenhouse												
Cucumber, Outdoor												
Garlic												
Kale												
Kohi Rabi												
Land Cress												
Leeks												
Lettuce												
Marrow												
Onion Seed												
Onion Sets												
Onion Autumn Sets												
Onions, Spring												
Parsnip												
Peas												
Potatoes, 1 <sup>st</sup> Early												
Potatoes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Early												
Potatoes Maincrop												
Potatoes 'Christmas'												
Pumpkin												
Radish, Salad												
Radish, Winter												
Rocket												
Salsify												
Scorzonera												
Shallots												
Spinach												
Squash												
Swede												
Sweet Corn												
Tomato, Greenhouse												
Tomato, Outdoors												
Turnip												

Sow Indoors or Under Cover [I] Sow Outdoors if Weather Permits [O]

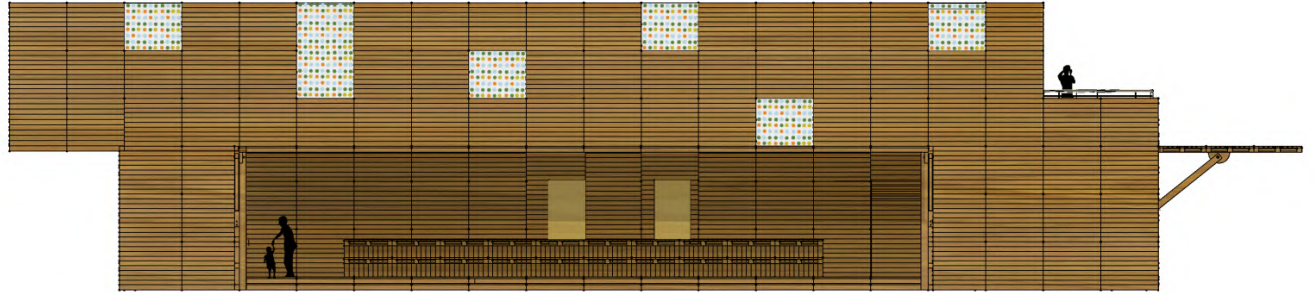
428m<sup>2</sup>+ Growing area



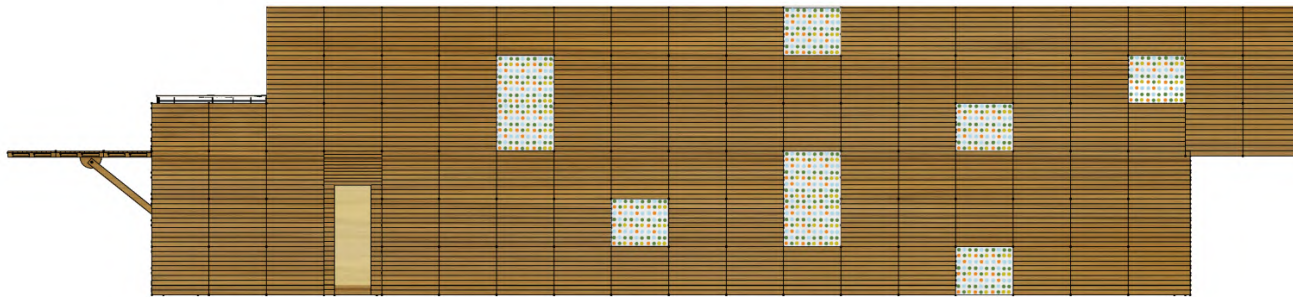
# Elevations



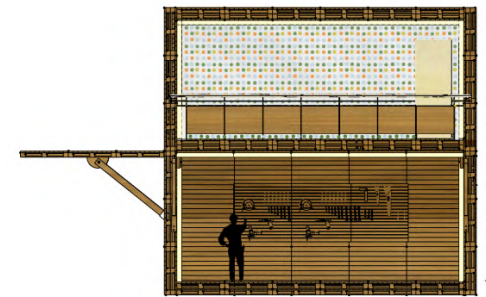
Front



Activated Entrance



Side



Back





# GREAT ANCOATS St EDIBLE GARDENS





# GREAT ANCOATS St EDIBLE GARDENS



First floor activity space



# GREAT ANCOATS St EDIBLE GARDENS

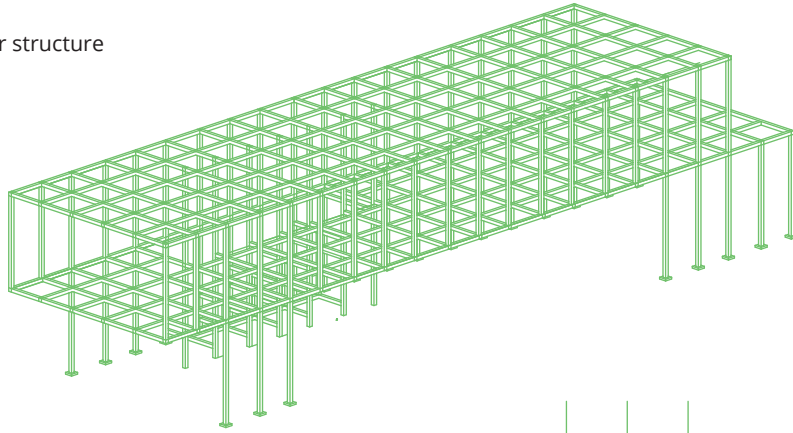




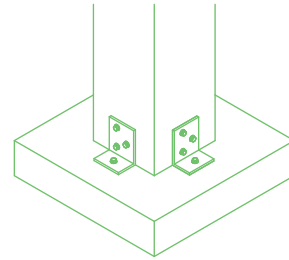
# Hub Construction

The hub uses recycled materials to keep construction and overall material cost to a minimal.

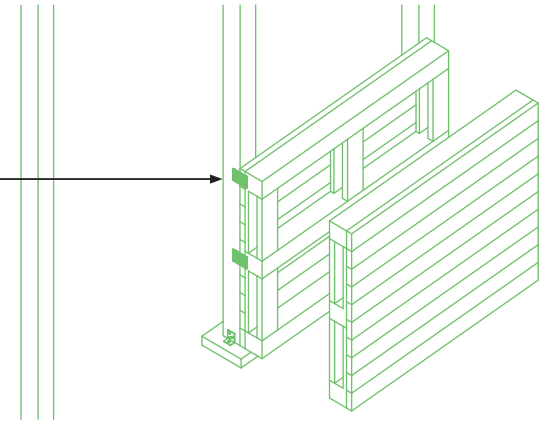
Timber structure



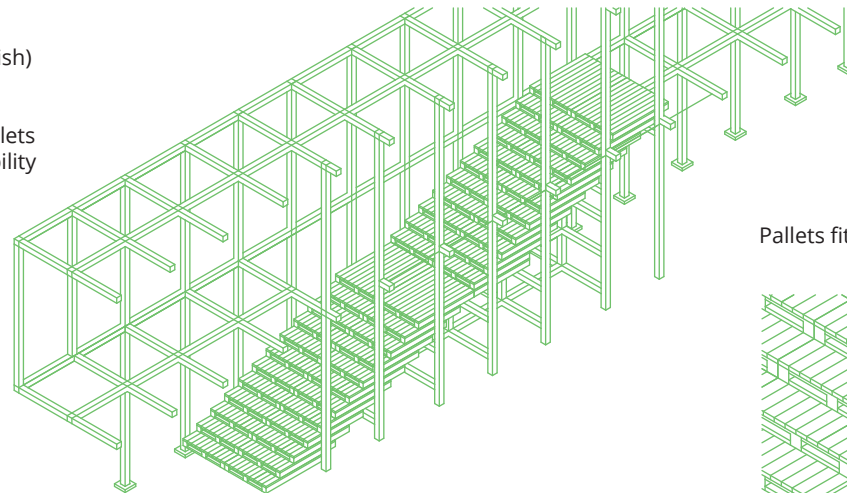
Timber column connection to concrete foundation  
Temporary solution as this can be fitted directly above car park surface.



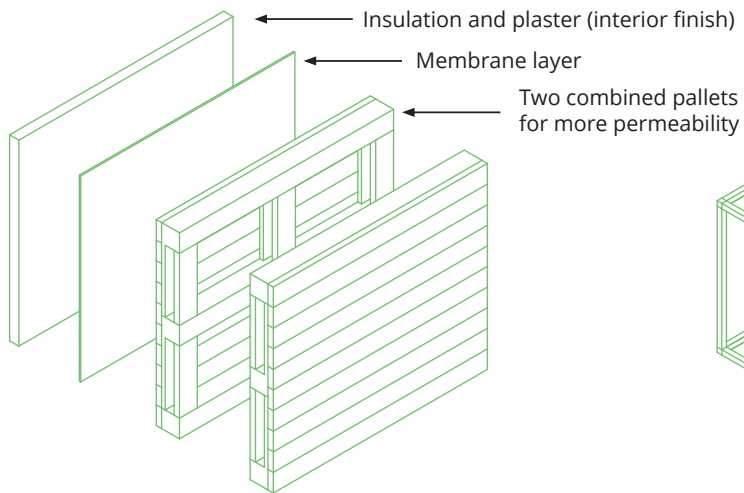
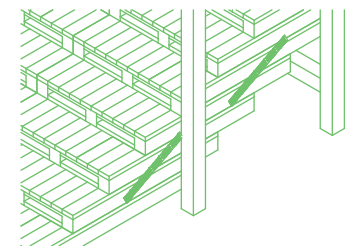
Pallets fixed to column post using nail plates



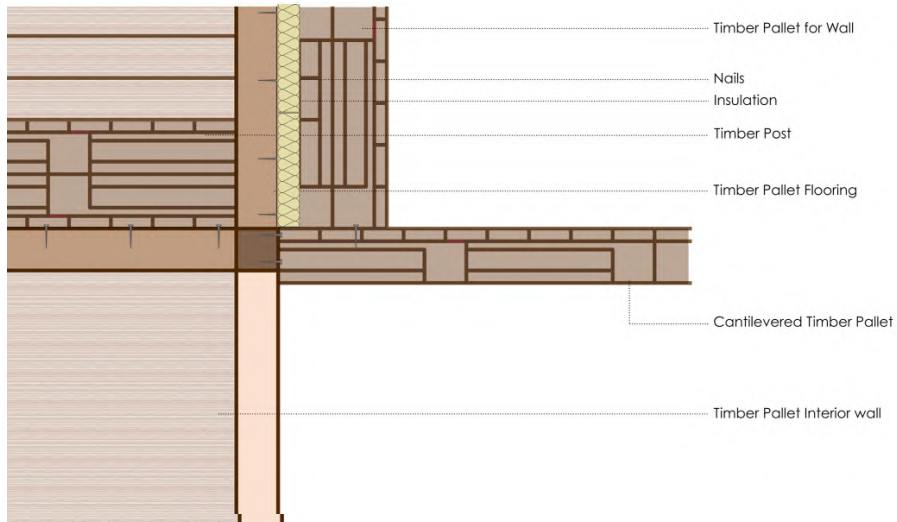
Timber holding structure for stairs



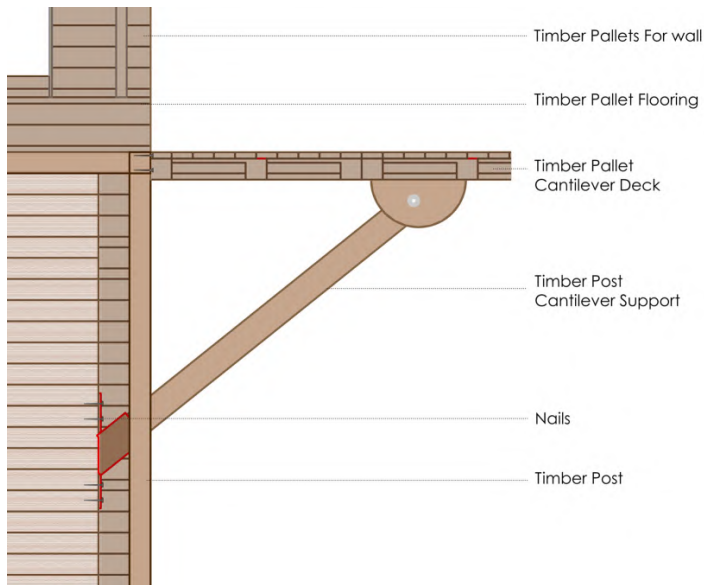
Pallets fitted using nail plates



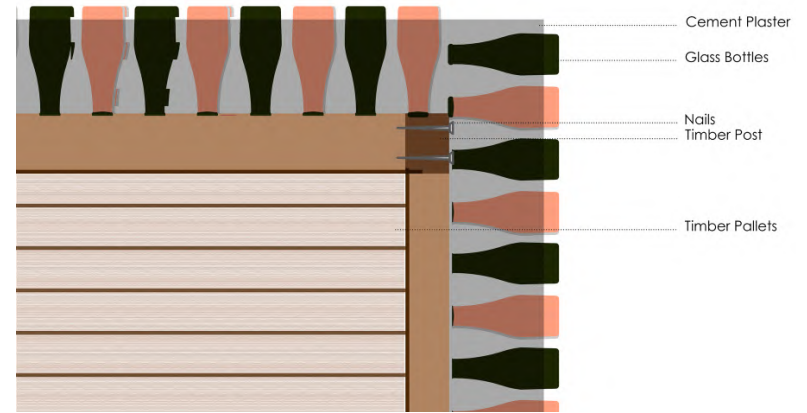
# Construction Details



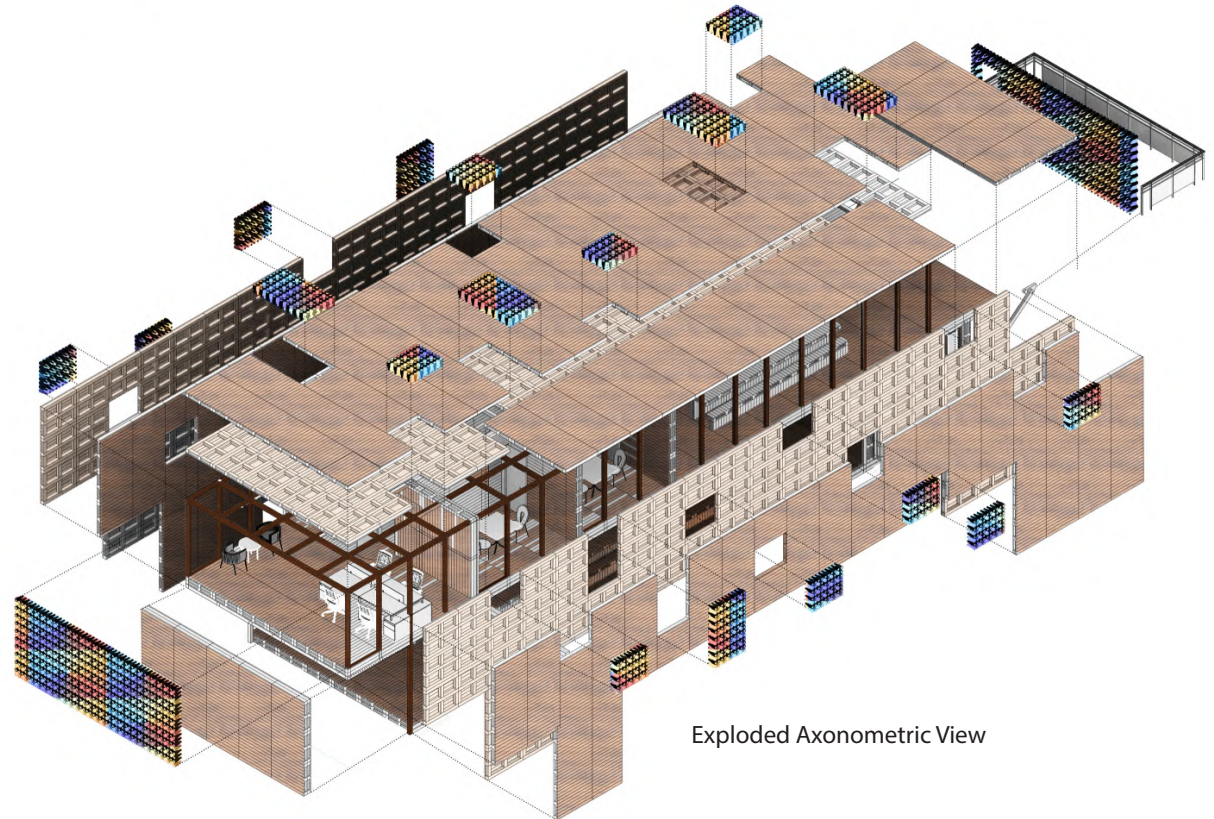
Wall Detail



Cantilever Deck Detail



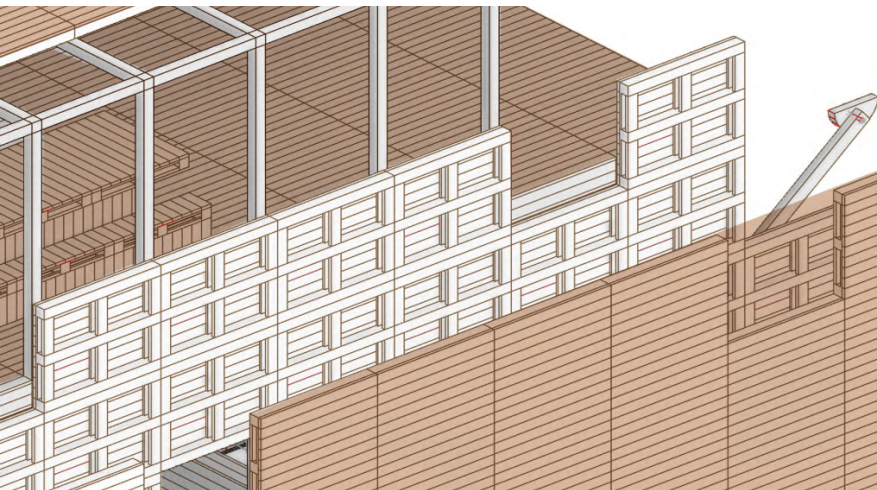
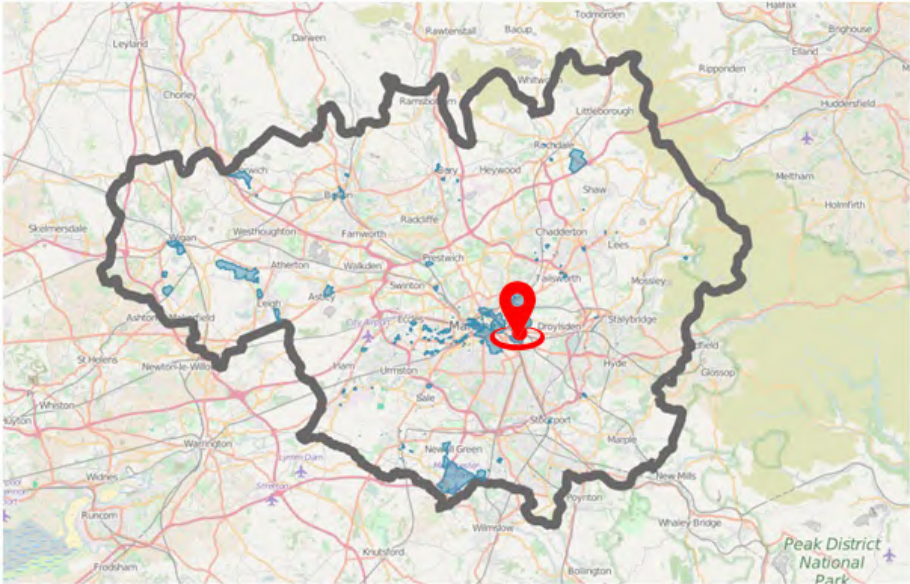
Glass Bottle Treatment Detail



Exploded Axonometric View



# Timber Pallets



Main Material Collaborator  
 Emerge Manchester  
 Emerge Recycling,  
 Units E1-E4,  
 Whitworth Street East,  
 Manchester

Material Application  
 i. Cladding  
 ii. Insulation  
 iii. Flooring

Material Properties  
 Structural :  
 i. Tensile  
 ii. Compressive  
 iii. Modular  
 Other  
 i. Thermally Insulating  
 ii. Acoustics  
 iii. Flammable  
 iv. Corrosive

Material Required  
 2000 Timber Pallets

Material Manipulation  
 Materials Required:  
 Timber  
 Nails  
 Varnish  
 Tools Required:  
 Hammer  
 Sandpaper  
 Saw  
 Manpower Required:  
 Low