

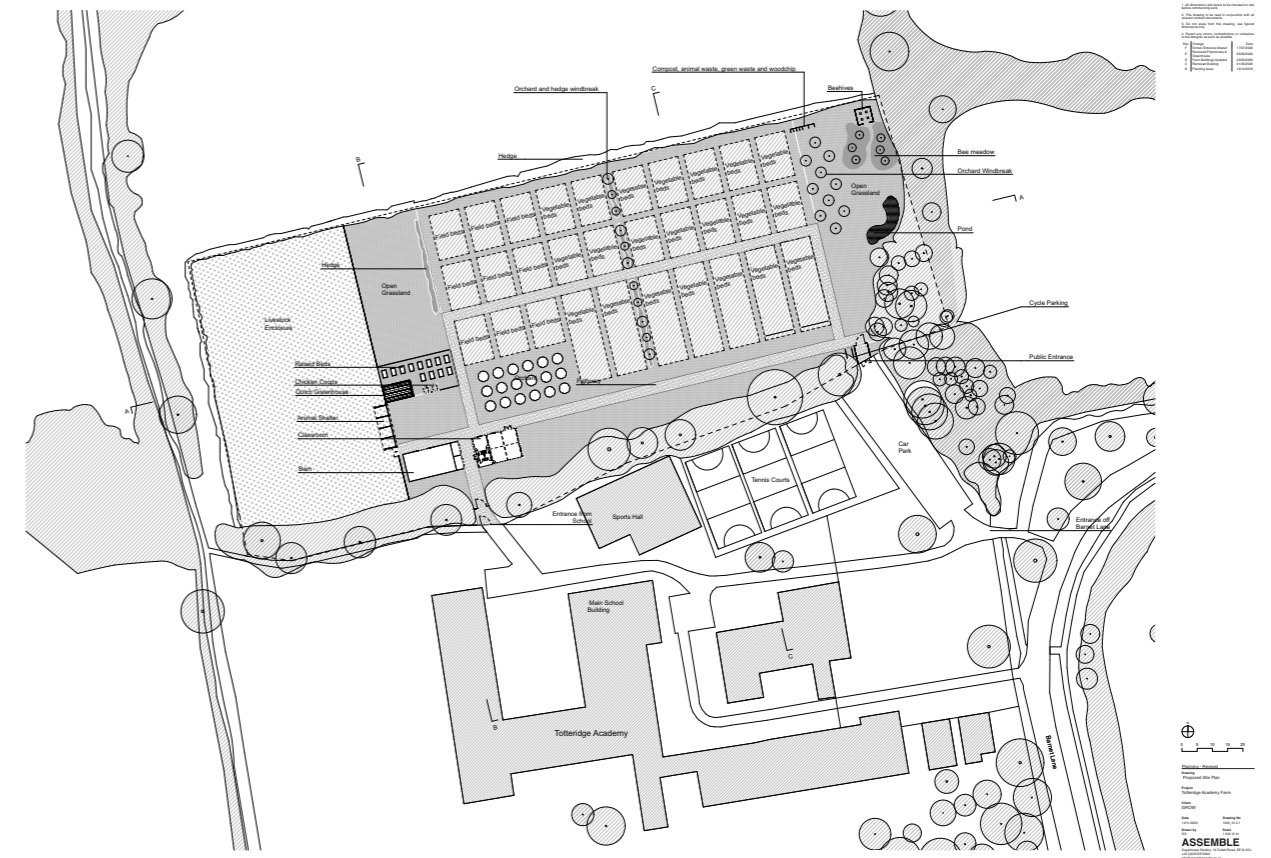
9 Design Development

Figure 5

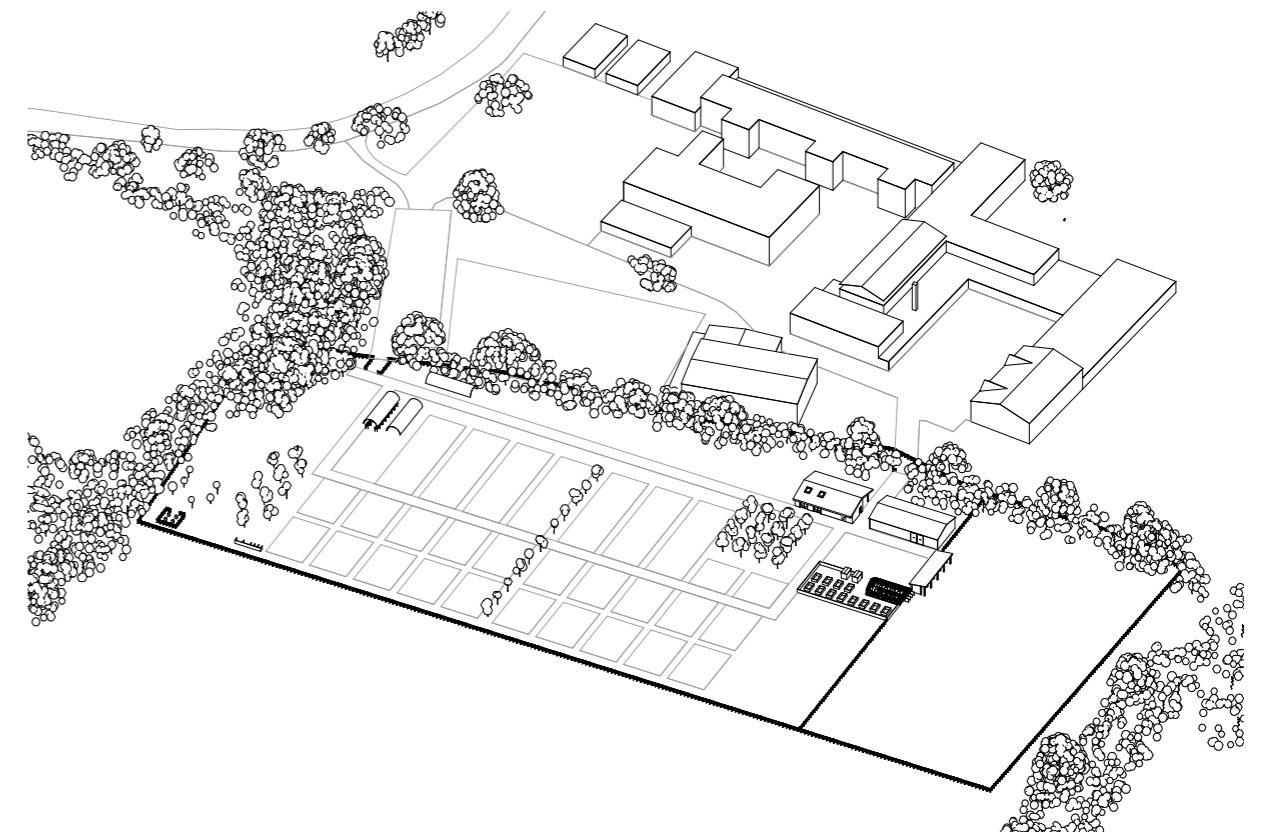
Our current proposal locates the buildings necessary to enable the day to day running of the farm, and the use of the site as an educational resource, close to the existing treeline on the southern edge of the site so as to maintain the existing openness of the site as much as possible.

Their location is close to but not directly in front of the sports hall so as to relate to the new entrance from the school grounds.

The buildings are small in scale and agricultural in character, providing just enough space as is necessary for the activities to happen.



Proposed Site Plan



Proposed Site Isometric

9 Design Development

9.1 Visual Impact

We have assessed the visual impact of the scheme on the perception of open-ness from nearby perspectives.

The two excerpts here from the VIA show two views from the public footpath, the London Loop, to the north of the site.

They show how the location and scale of the proposed buildings will have a limited impact on the open-ness of the site.



10 Access

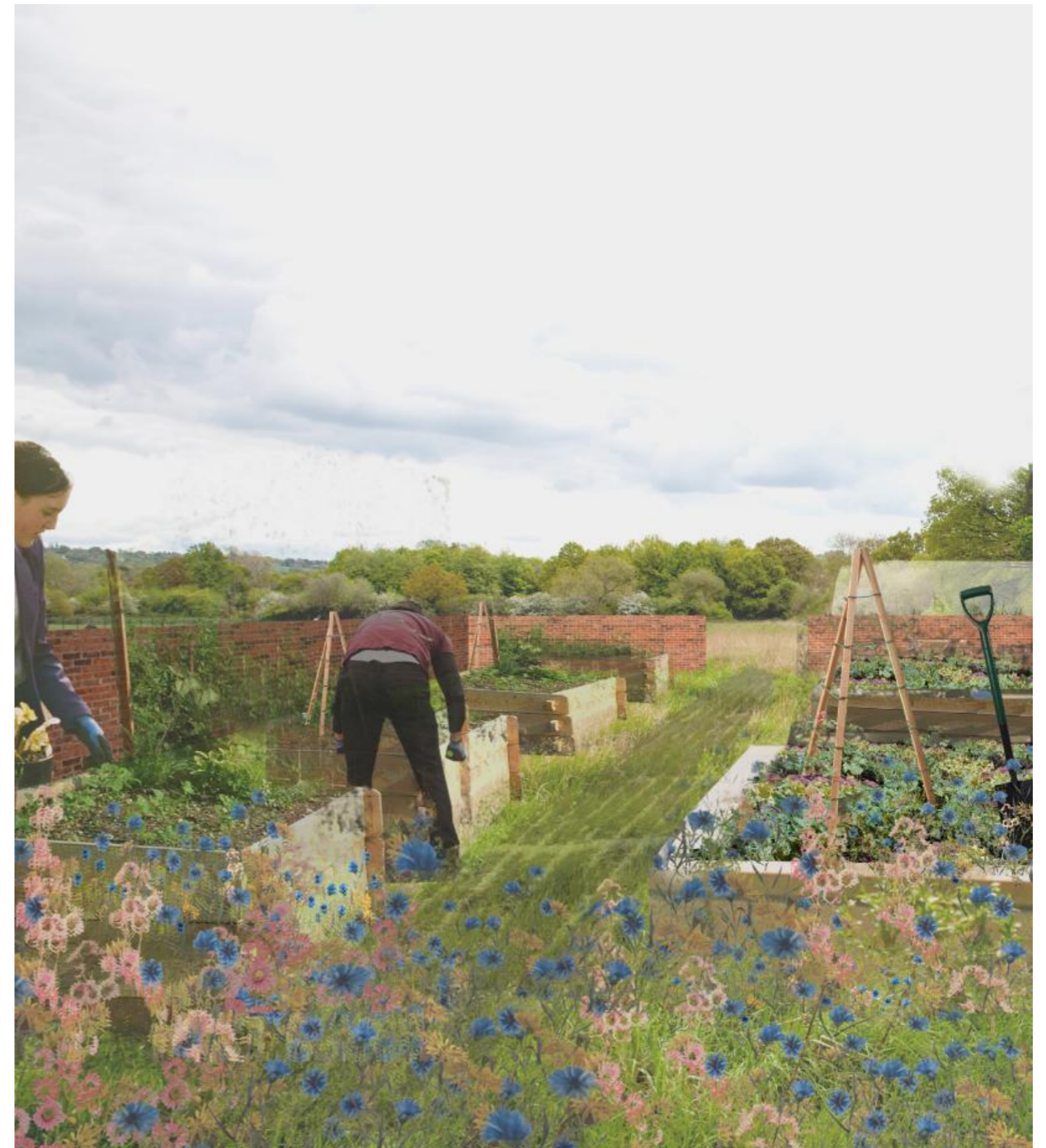
10.0 Inclusive access

The project has been conceived to be open and inviting with the experience of learning about agriculture and horticulture accessible to all. Two disabled WC's will be provided on site within the Classroom building which will be fully accessible. This buildings will be set out to create level access from the surrounding yard and paths.

10.1 Vehicular and Transport links

There is a large car park for staff and visitors of Totteridge Academy at the entrance to the site.

A transport impact assessment accompanies the planning application.



GROW Farm and The Totteridge Academy
Concept image, looking east

11 Case Studies - Farms on the Green Belt

According to a recent document produced by Sustain, Capital Growth, the GLA, and Shared Assets, entitled 'Fringe Farming in London' (2020), an increase in the number of small, agro-ecological market gardens, especially in peri-urban areas, could help reduce the trade gap for fruit and vegetables, while providing engaging, outdoor and meaningful all year-round employment for local people and a thriving small farm sector.

The benefits of bringing food production closer to urban communities are multiple – carbon reduction, sustainable water management, reduced flood risk and increased biodiversity, improving the health of all residents eating better food, reducing our reliance on imported products, investing in our local economy and the health of our land, training and volunteer programmes to inspire a new generation of growers - and the interest in growing food among those living in these areas is arguably greater than ever. The Green Belt can play a key role in feeding towns and cities through sustainable urban food production, creating a beneficial effect on our landscape and resilience. We have gathered these case studies to show community farms which already exist and operate successfully on the Green Belt.

Forty Hall Market Garden

Working in collaboration with Capel Manor College, Forty Hall Market Garden was set up 10 years ago as part of Garden Enfield, a project that promoted training and employment within horticulture and local food production in Enfield, funded by the GLA and LB Enfield. They now run the Enfield Veg Co, supplying vegetable bags across Enfield and East Barnet, including supplying food to Enfield Council canteens. Forty Hall also provides training opportunities for those completing horticulture qualifications at Capel Manor College, as well as running a Forest School and even an orchard and vineyard.



Totteridge Academy Farm

OrganicLea, Waltham Forest

OrganicLea is based next to Epping forest in the Lea Valley, LB of Waltham Forest. It was formed in 2001. They run a box scheme for nearly 1000 households weekly and supply some of the top restaurants in North London. They also offer a wide range of accredited training programmes for people of all abilities to develop their skills - learning horticultural and other land-based skills, gaining work experience and progression into work. OrganicLea runs many projects in collaboration with the council, particularly around employment and hard to reach groups.

They have been awarded £1.2 million from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund and are working with the council to develop a ten year plan for the expansion of the infrastructure at their main site Hawkwood. The project will see the delivery of substantial new educational buildings and volunteer spaces alongside a large community hall and kitchen.



Sutton Community Farm

Set up in 2010 on a derelict horticultural site, Sutton Community Farm is a 7.1 acres site growing fresh, healthy, sustainable food delivered to the local community as part of a veg box scheme. They also provide a shared space for people to cultivate skills, as well as apprenticeship opportunities.



12 Evaluation

Since launching in March 2020 the GROW farm at The Totteridge Academy has been a wonderful new resource to the area for both the students and staff of Totteridge Academy and the wider community around Totteridge and Barnet. Continuing to operate throughout the 2020 pandemic, the GROW team taught 296 students per week, sold £10,000 of organic, affordable produce to local people and businesses and provided over 300 hours of volunteering opportunities for local people.

These benefits are currently severely hampered by the lack of core infrastructure required on the site to enable the farm to run effectively. Not having warm and dry shelter for visiting students, staff and communities severely impacts their ability to use and learn on the site. Similarly not having the requisite spaces - a barn, greenhouse, and polytunnels - for the day-to-day functionality of a farm severely limits the positive impact that the farm can have by unnecessarily restricting what it is able to do. Disabling them from propagation, growing beyond the short English season, storage of equipment or materials, packing, and other key agricultural activities.

Not providing these spaces limits and disables the potential of the farm and the land itself. In this time of climate crisis projects like these teaching and equipping people with an understanding and care for the land they live in, must be nourished and encouraged. With its educational programme being supported to operate fully this project can have a really positive impact on the physical and mental health of all its users. Staff, students, visitors and members of the local community will develop a greater understanding of their surrounding environment and better relationships with the natural world. GROW at The Totteridge Academy will encourage the next generation to value and contribute to the natural environment in a positive and productive way.

