



acorn farm

21st March 2022

Allan Bogle- allan.bogle@derrystrabane.com

Sustainable Food Coordinator

Derry City & Strabane District Council



What is it?



acorn farm



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Conception?



Where?



St Columb's Park

St Columba's Park is a 70 acre green space located in the City Centre on the east bank of the River Foyle. The park is an important green space for the city region which provides many benefits to people, biodiversity, supports the local economy and assists with responding to climate change.

At the heart of the park is the historic St Columb's Park House which dates back to the 1770's and is now a centre for Peace and Reconciliation.

For the past few years, Derry City and Strabane District Council, St Columb's Park House and The Acorn Fund have co-designed and co-developed this innovative masterplan which aims to develop St Columb's Park as a Green Infrastructure asset underpinned by eco-innovation, education, skills, peace building and green tourism.



St Columba's Park within Deary City Centre



54 Columbus Park.



St Columbas Park / house

5. Columbia Station



History of site



1560s



1780s



1940s



2024



St. Columba's
(in Ruins)
67

St. Columba's
Tell

50

dge

96

BM. 77-8

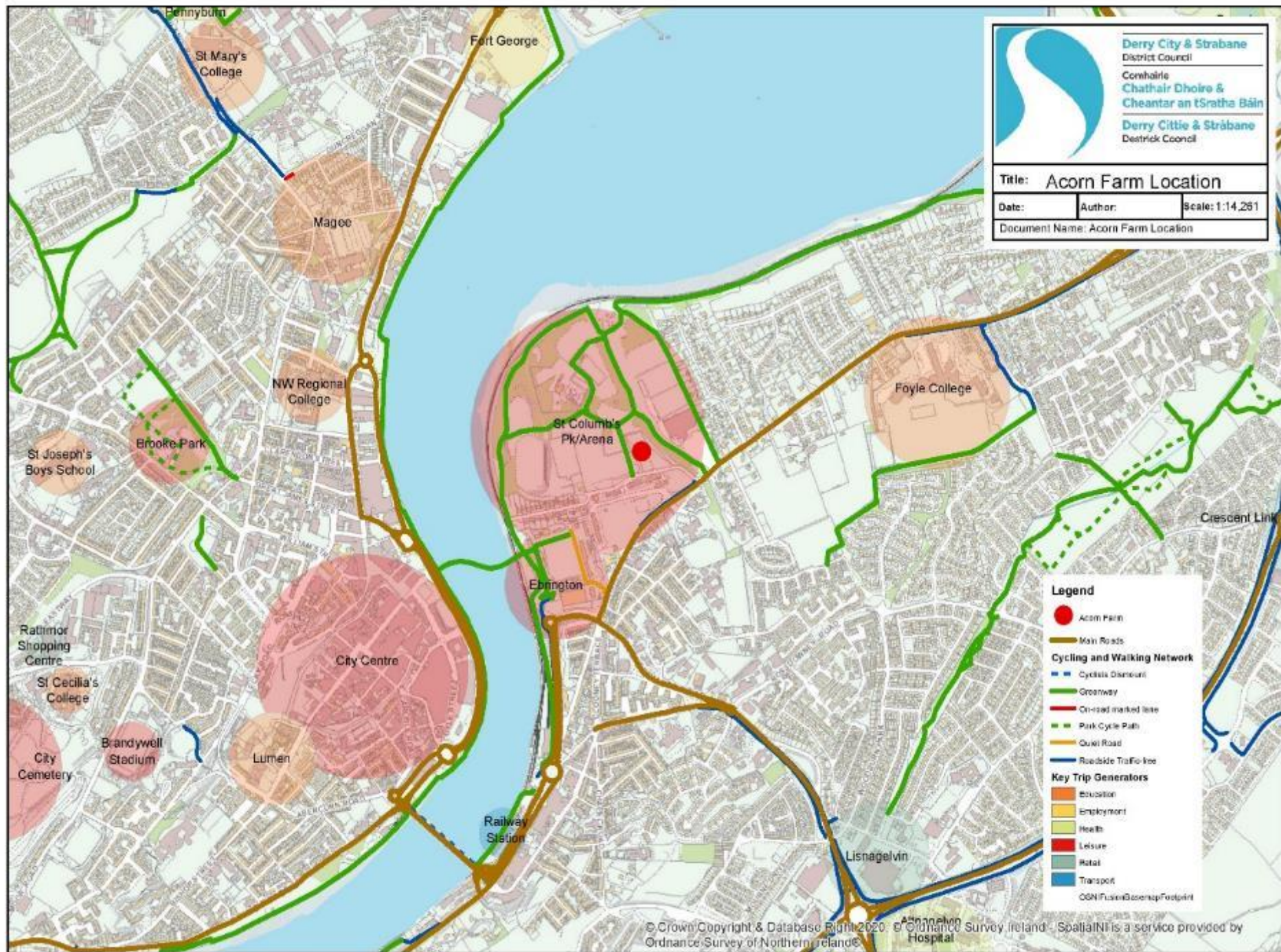
BM.
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acorn farm

Acorn Farm is a social innovation project supporting employment through food production and urban agri-architecture. Acorn Farm will see the development of Geodesic Domes (up to 10m high) set within a former Ministry of Defence site.

The sustainable food hub will embrace innovative climate smart technology for local food production while progressing new culinary practices and food systems. It will be an iconic eco-tourism and visitor destination as well as a focal point for local community climate action and food growing.

The £6.2m project is funded by the UK Levelling Up Fund and Derry City and Strabane District Council.



Top: Acorn Farm Photomontage, above: Geodesic Dome south elevation



Top: Acorn Farm 3D render, above: Gatelodge elevation



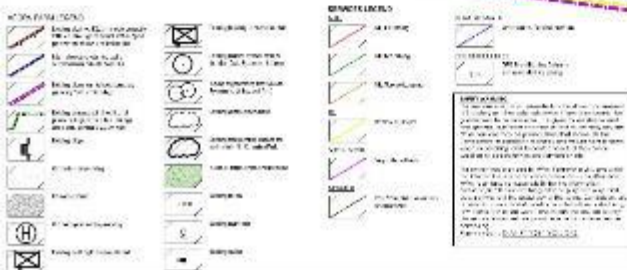
St Columb's Park - City Context



St Columb's Park Masterplan



Acorn Farm and Gatelodge



ACORN FARM - EXISTING CONDITIONS DRAWING NR. 83692-11



MWA Partnership
1800 West 10th Ave.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4K6
Canada
Phone: (403) 243-1111
Fax: (403) 243-1112
Email: info@mwa.ca
Website: www.mwa.ca



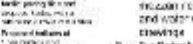
ACORN FARM - PROPOSED CONDITIONS DRAWING NR. 83692-12



MWA Partnership
1800 West 10th Ave.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4K6
Canada
Phone: (403) 243-1111
Fax: (403) 243-1112
Email: info@mwa.ca
Website: www.mwa.ca



ACORN FARM - PROPOSED CONDITIONS DRAWING NR. 83692-13



MWA Partnership
1800 West 10th Ave.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4K6
Canada
Phone: (403) 243-1111
Fax: (403) 243-1112
Email: info@mwa.ca
Website: www.mwa.ca



ACORN FARM - PROPOSED CONDITIONS DRAWING NR. 83692-14



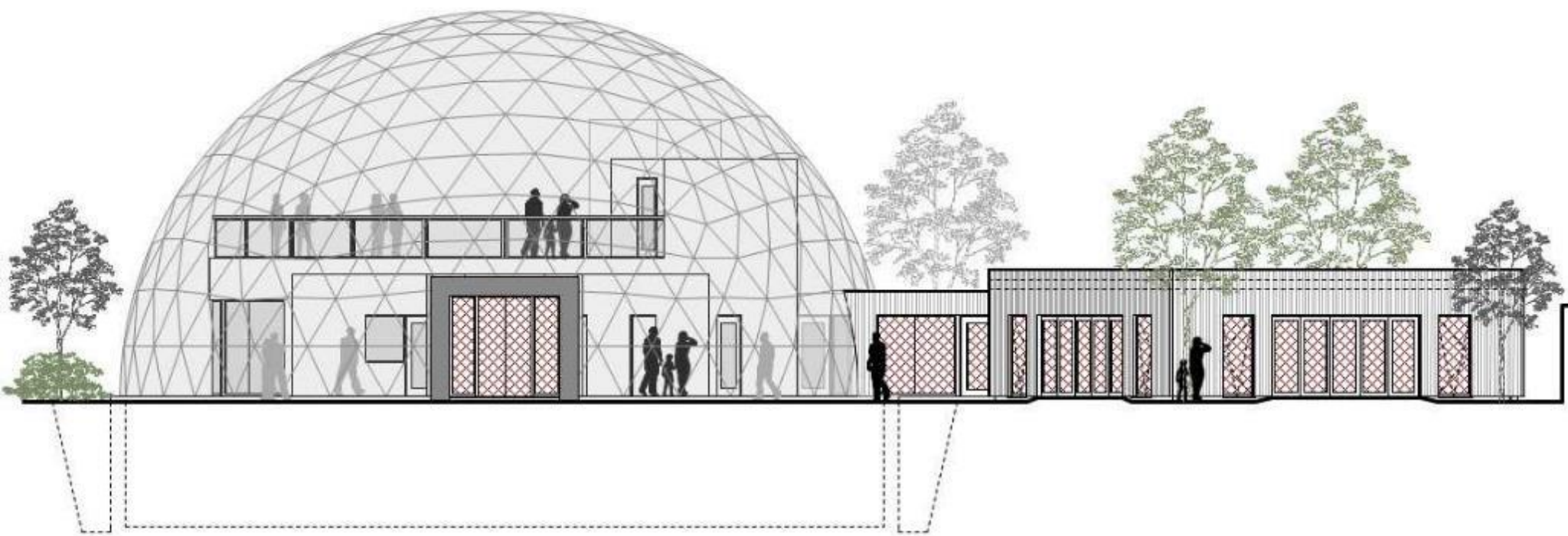
MWA Partnership
1800 West 10th Ave.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4K6
Canada
Phone: (403) 243-1111
Fax: (403) 243-1112
Email: info@mwa.ca
Website: www.mwa.ca



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MWA Partnership
1800 West 10th Ave.
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4K6
Canada
Phone: (403) 243-1111
Fax: (403) 243-1112
Email: info@mwa.ca
Website: www.mwa.ca

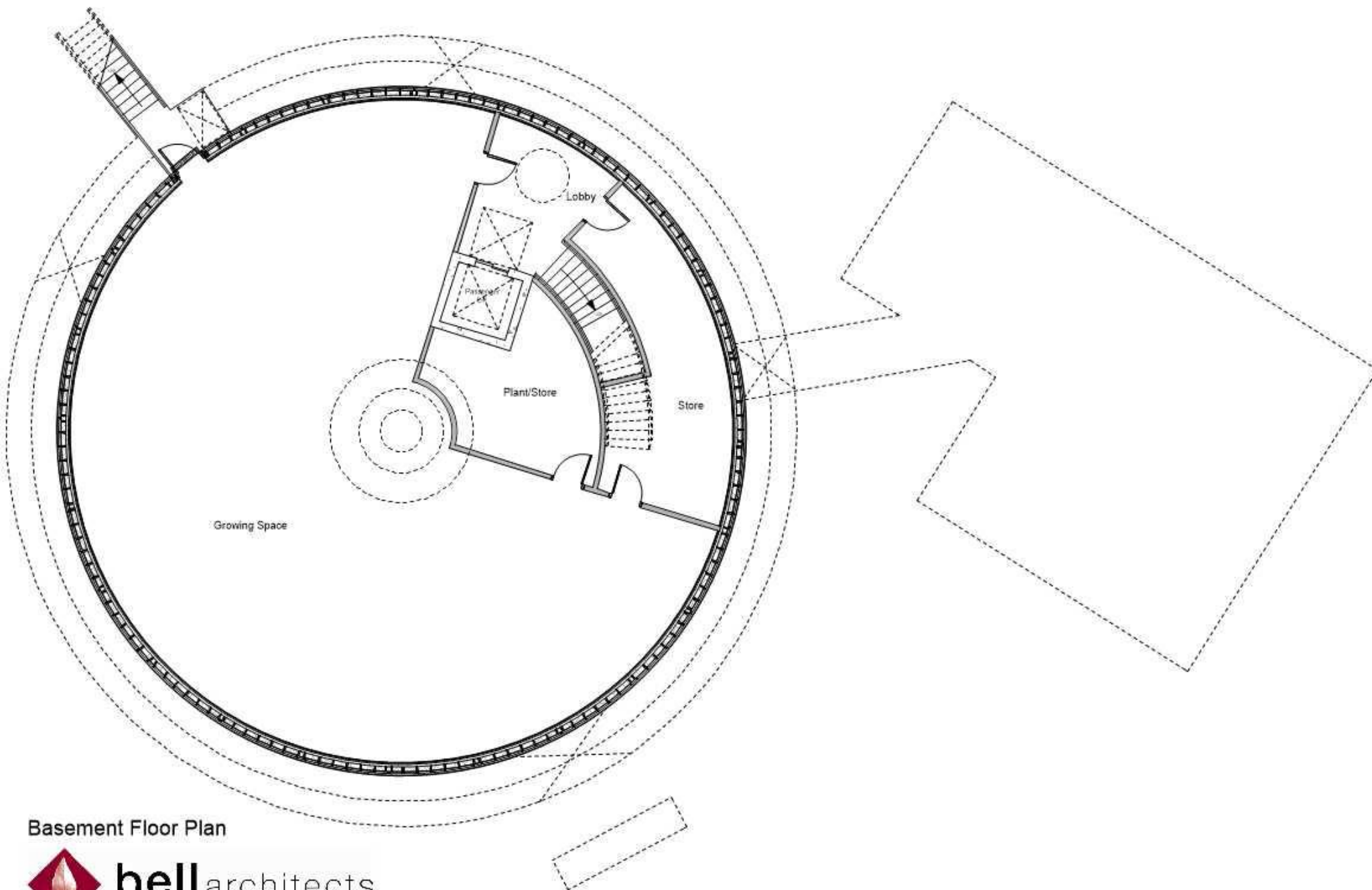


South Elevation



bellarchitects
CREATIVE DESIGN | SUSTAINABLE APPROACH



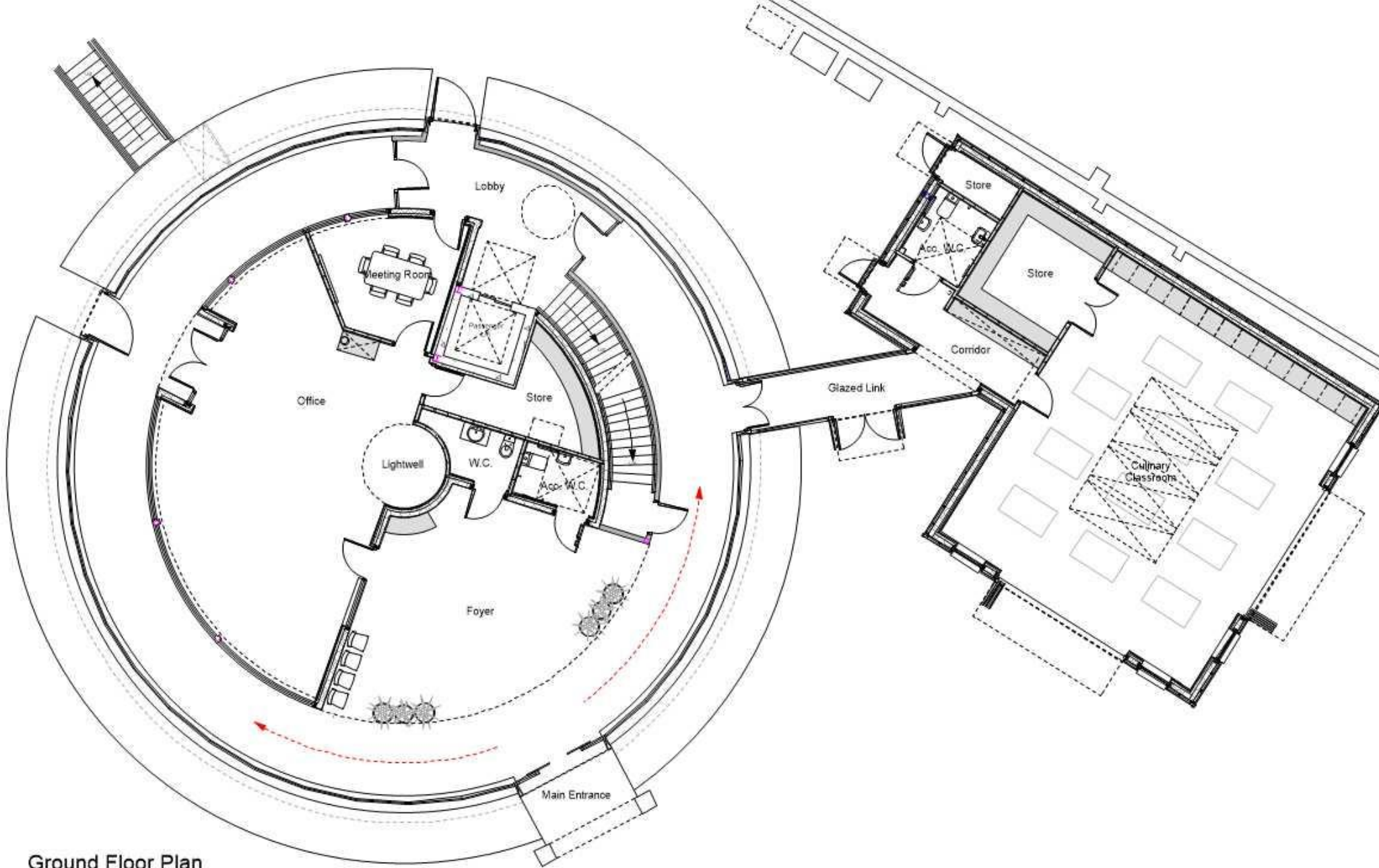


Basement Floor Plan



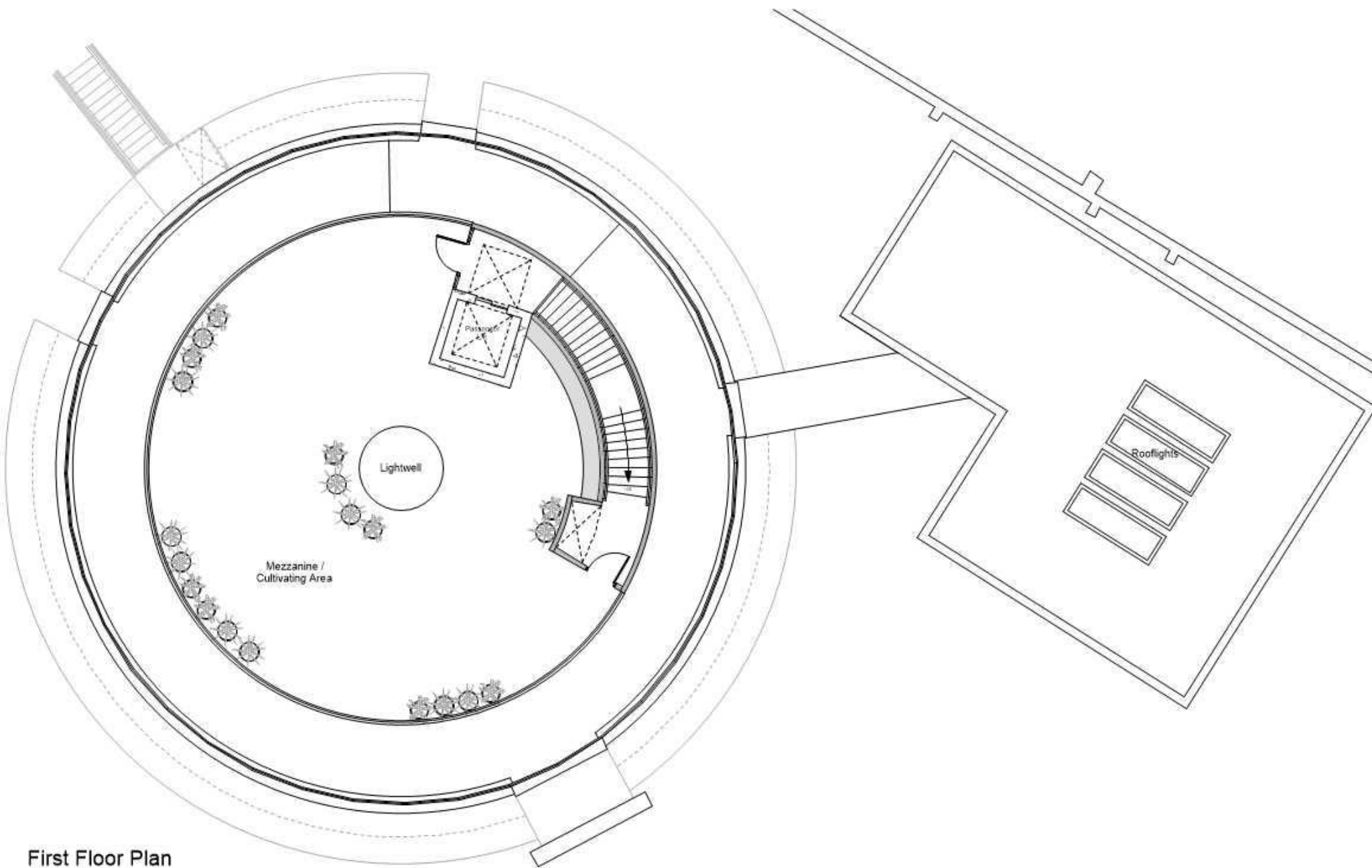
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Ground Floor Plan





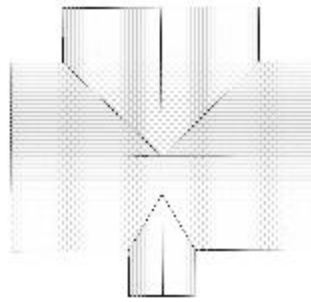
First Floor Plan



SCALE 1:500



SCALE 1:100



The floor plan shows a central corridor connecting various rooms. On the left side, there is a 'RECEPTION' area, a 'Lobby' area, and a 'Lift Lobby'. On the right side, there is a 'Lift Lobby', a 'Lift Lobby', and a 'Lift Lobby'. The plan also shows several 'Office' spaces and a 'Meeting Room'. A 'Staircase' is located in the center-right area. The plan is labeled 'FLOOR PLAN' at the bottom.

[illegible]

A diagram of a house with a chimney on the roof. A dashed line points from the text 'FRONT DOOR' to the front door. Another dashed line points from the text 'ROOF' to the roof.

[illegible]

SCALE 1:100



Movement for Change





Levelling Up Fund Application

Key Areas:

- Equality & Diversity
- Bid Summary
- Strategic Fit / National & Local Context
- Stakeholder Engagement & Support
- Case for Investment (Economic, Health & Wellbeing, Regeneration, Skills & Employment Environment, Climate Change)
- Rationale for Government Support
- Outputs & Results – Theory of Change
- Value for Money (Data and Evidence / Socio-Economic Context)
- Costs & Benefits
- Project Management / Risk / Monitoring & Evaluation Plans



Investment & Challenges

Investment Proposal

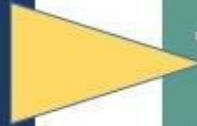
High quality innovative urban food growing hub

Learning and Skills Development Centre (Green Skills Academy)

Sustainable Food events venue

High quality sustainable visitor infrastructure / proposition / experience

Support infrastructure (The Gatelodge) for Acorn Farm teams



Challenges to be Addressed

Legacy of under investment in city and district

High levels of deprivation, unemployment and economic activity

Poor health outcomes in city and district

High levels of poor mental health

Food system vulnerable to shocks – climate change, severe weather events, BREXIT and pandemics

High level of food insecurity and deprivation

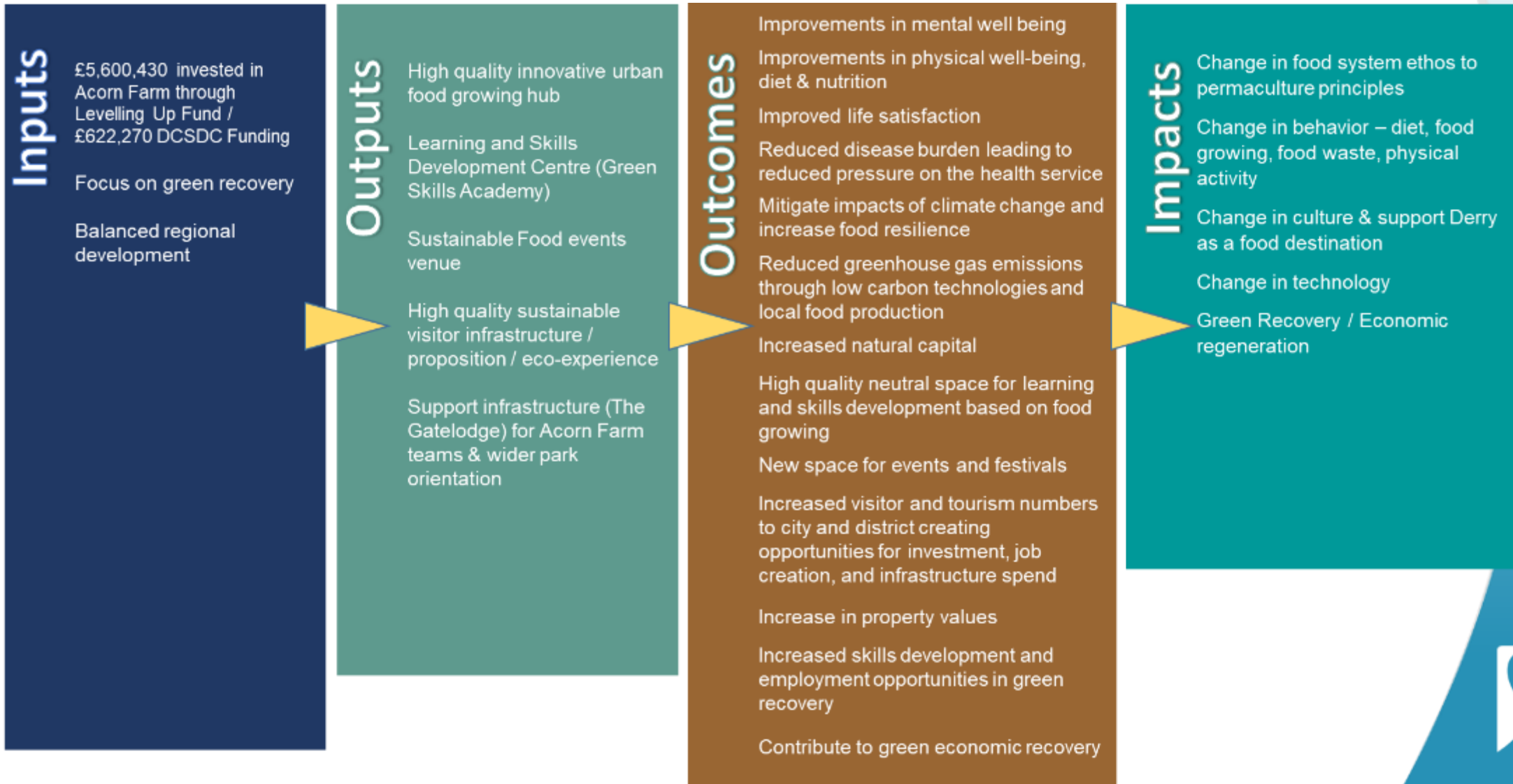
Unsustainable and greenhouse gas intensive food production and imports

Need to build back better via green recovery and building natural capital





Theory of Change





Alignment to UK- (incl. net zero)

National

- UK Climate Change Act 2008
- UK Sixth Carbon Budget
- NI Executive New Decade New Approach
- NI Economic Recovery Action Plan 2021
- NI Energy Strategy 2050
- RSPB Five-Point Plan to Deliver a Green Recovery for NI
- NI Regional Development Strategy 2035
- NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme
- Valuing Nature A Biodiversity Strategy for NI
- Sustainable Water, A Long Term Strategy for NI 2015-2045
- Making Life Better: A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013 – 2023

Derry City & Strabane District Council

- Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017 -2032
- City Deal for the Derry ~ Londonderry City Region 2018
- Climate Emergency Declaration & Pledge
- Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032
- Climate Adaptation Plan 2020-2025
- Local Development Plan 2032 Draft Plan Strategy
- Circular Economy / Zero Waste Strategy
- Food & Drink Strategy 2018-2021
- Derry City and Strabane District Local Food and Drink Strategy
- DCSDC Tourism 2018-2025: A New Level of Ambition



Budget- at a glance

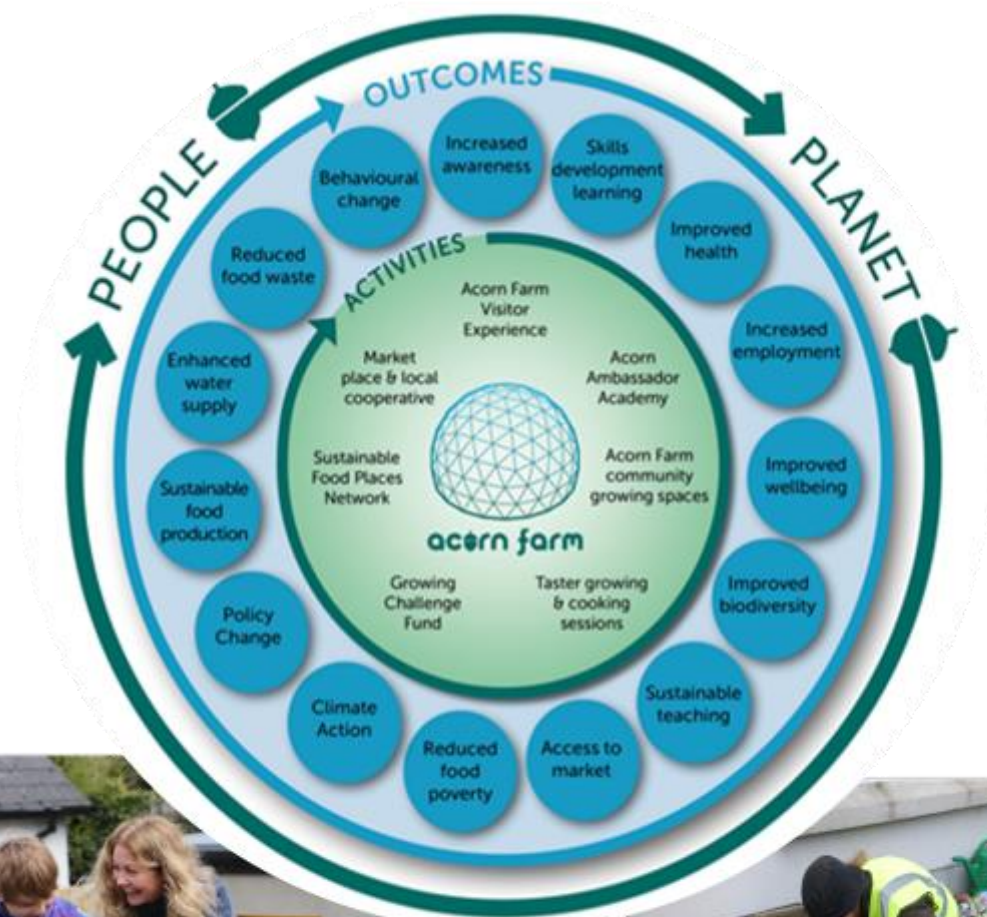
Cost (3yr Build)	
Total Build Cost (Including OB 10%)	£6,222,700
Funding	
UKG Funding Sought	£5,600,431
Local Authority Contribution	£622,269
Benefits (Yr 3 to 25)	
Room/Venue Hire	£544,503
Direct Visitor Spend	£612,566
Indirect Visitor Spend	£5,542,821
Benefit to Local Goods & Services	£933,822
Health & Wellbeing	£8,548,695
Total over 25 Years	£16,182,408
Gross Benefit / Cost Ratio	1.40





Stage two bid

	Key Activity	Description	Reach
A1	Acorn Farm Visitor Experience	A new innovative Urban Farm for the Northwest aligned the City Deal.	Visitor Numbers (Local, domestic & International Tourists) – 20,000 per annum (Total 60,000 over 3 years)
A2	Acorn Ambassador Academy	Growing Skills Programme, building on existing organisations expertise for skills, learning and jobs.	School Children – 10,000 Communities – 3,600 Apprenticeships – 12
A3	Acorn Farm Community Growing Spaces	Growing opportunities to address the shortfall in allotment provision at Acorn Farm though supported community gardening.	Supported growing – 300 people Volunteers – 300
A4	Taster Growing & Cooking Sessions	Outreach programme extending the 'I can grow' Programme to more families with addition of cooking.	1,000 families (4,000 beneficiaries) Accredited courses – 150 attendees I Can Cook Programme – 210 people
A5	Growing Challenge Fund	Support existing allotment associations and beekeepers with an annual small grant focused on climate action.	Allotment Holders – 260 Beekeepers – 80
A6	Sustainable Food Places Network	Regionally, sustaining the SFP momentum linked into a wider UK network and locally, support the Associate Partners in driving the new food movement.	Acorn Food Network – 20+ members
A7	Market place and Local Co-op	Addressing the lack of market place opportunities for growers through creating a new 'farm-to-fork' social co-op food market (community supported agriculture).	To be established via feasibility study
A8	Overall Programme Management	To drive the project, ensuring financial compliance, strong governance and accountability for the Acorn Farm project.	



Timeline



May 2016



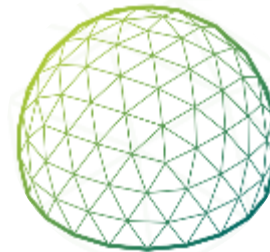
March 2018



March 2021



May 2021



June 2021



Oct 2021



Feb 2022



March 2024

Elected Members Environment
& Regeneration Committee

Full Planning Permission

Strategic Growth Partnership

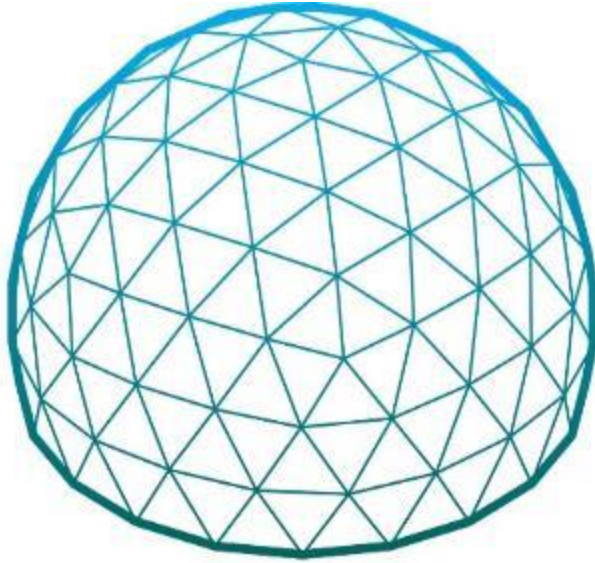
Put forward as UKLU bid

Application submitted

SUCCESS

STAGE 2- Application

acorn farm



acorn farm

What's next?



acorn farm

TO INFINITY
AND BEYOND!!

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