

Health Services: Long Term Care

Long term care for people with
autism and neurodiversity

November 2025



We are Arcadis

We are the world's leading company delivering sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. We are more than 36,000 people, in over 70 countries, dedicated to improving quality of life.

We bring together world-class resources and an immensely diverse and inclusive range of **passionate thinkers in design, planning and engineering** to define, transform and build the cities, communities and spaces of tomorrow. Our core competencies are complementary to one another and enhance our **collective capability to respond to the changing and emerging needs of our clients** around the globe.

By converging the highly respected brands of Arcadis-owned IBI Group and CallisonRTKL, we have become the **second largest architecture practice in the world** - creating a unified entity with unrivalled global leadership in delivering an incredible range of innovative and integrated solutions that embody **human-centric design excellence**.

Through the planning and design of smart, sustainable urban living

spaces, mixed-use communities, retail, workplace, educational, healthcare and industrial facilities, we will **uncompromisingly demonstrate our ability to produce exceptional, lasting value** for our clients by creating places that **inspire and enable people to thrive and prosper**.

In a rapidly changing world where climate change, social, economic and geopolitical upheaval, and technological disruption are the norm, we are acutely focused on putting the weight of our global organization behind new and emerging opportunities to work with clients and partners to forge a path toward designing and building **better, healthier, smarter, more resilient cities and communities** of the future.

That is sustainability as we see it... as Arcadians, it is the hallmark of everything we do.



Founded in 1888 in the
Netherlands



2nd largest
Architecture business
in the world



Top Female Friendly Companies
in the World, named
by Forbes in 2022



Platinum medal 2022
EcoVadis Sustainability
Ratings



Ranked #1 ESG Risk Rating score
in our industry
by Sustainalytics



€4 billion
in revenues in 2022



40,000+ projects
around the world

Contact us



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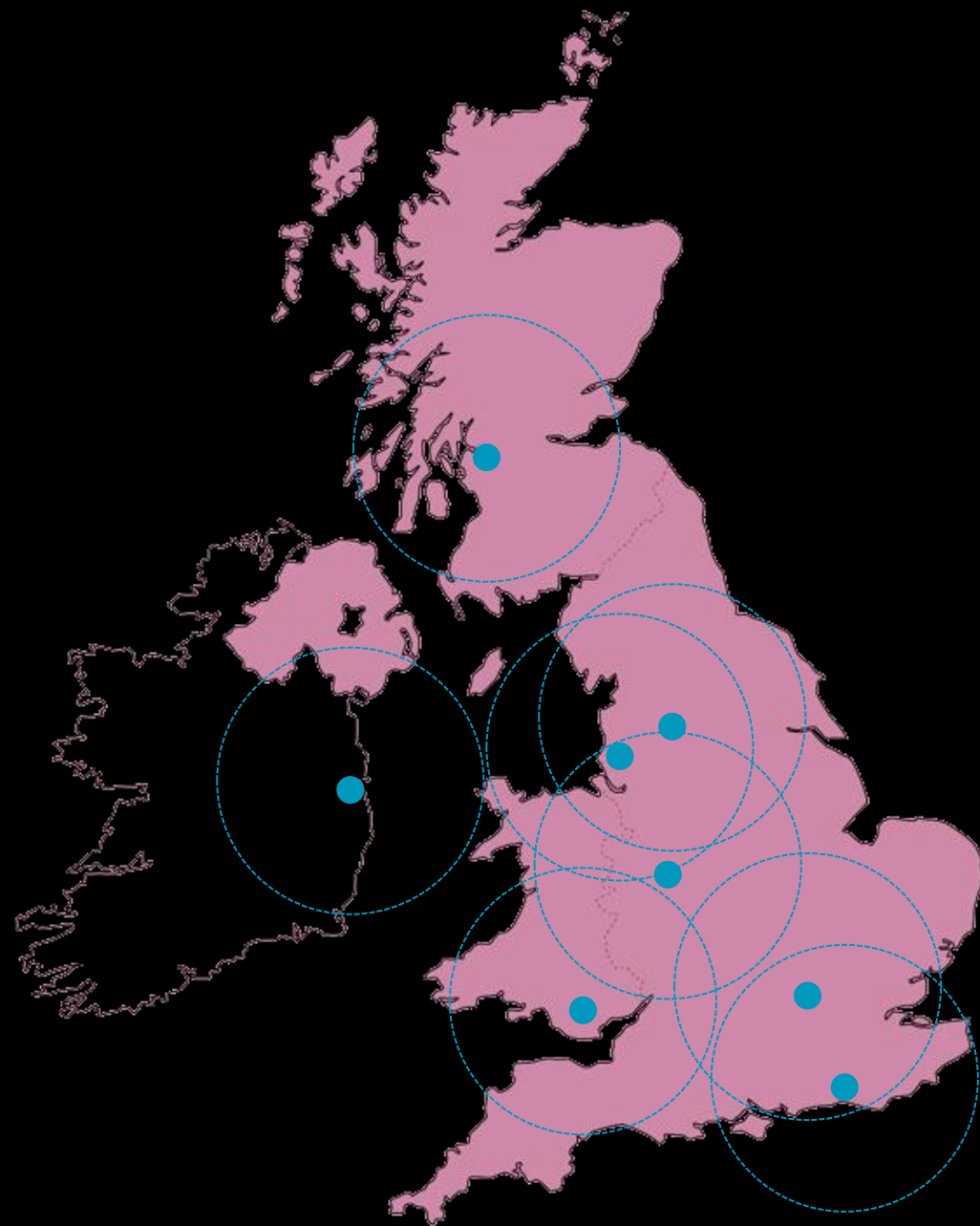
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Our Typical Projects – Housing with Care



**Integrated Care
Communities or
Retirement Villages**



Care Homes



Extra Care Housing



**Housing for people with
learning disabilities**

Designing for Our Senses:

Sense Sensitive Design

Our bodies perceive our environments through our senses and at Arcadis, we champion sensory design to stimulate wellbeing.

As we age, our body, mind and physiology alter. Our sensory dialogue with the world we know and experience begins to falter and erode the quality of our lives. Our senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste change as we grow older. With these changes, we become more or less reliant on their different aspects for our well-being. By studying recent research findings and working closely with our older generation clients, we are able to design healthier internal and external environments to cater for these changes.

We have substantial expertise and understanding of physical and mental issues related to older people - often emphasis is solely on mobility and accessibility, whilst physical decline is only one single issue for old age.

Substantial evidence-based research can inform new elegant design interventions that de-stress, reduce medication, improve physical & mental health, and help avoid multiple types of accidents and trauma.

Internally, we design with natural and artificial lighting to assist visual acuity and use colour to help with contrasting surfaces and way-finding. Acoustic tolerances are adjusted to reduce the impact of harmful noises that have been shown to affect older people.

Externally, we encourage the incorporation of landscaped design. We believe it is an integral feature of our work as it brings its own sensory experience of smells, colours and textures as well as an opportunity to be outside in the fresh air and the stimulation of nature.

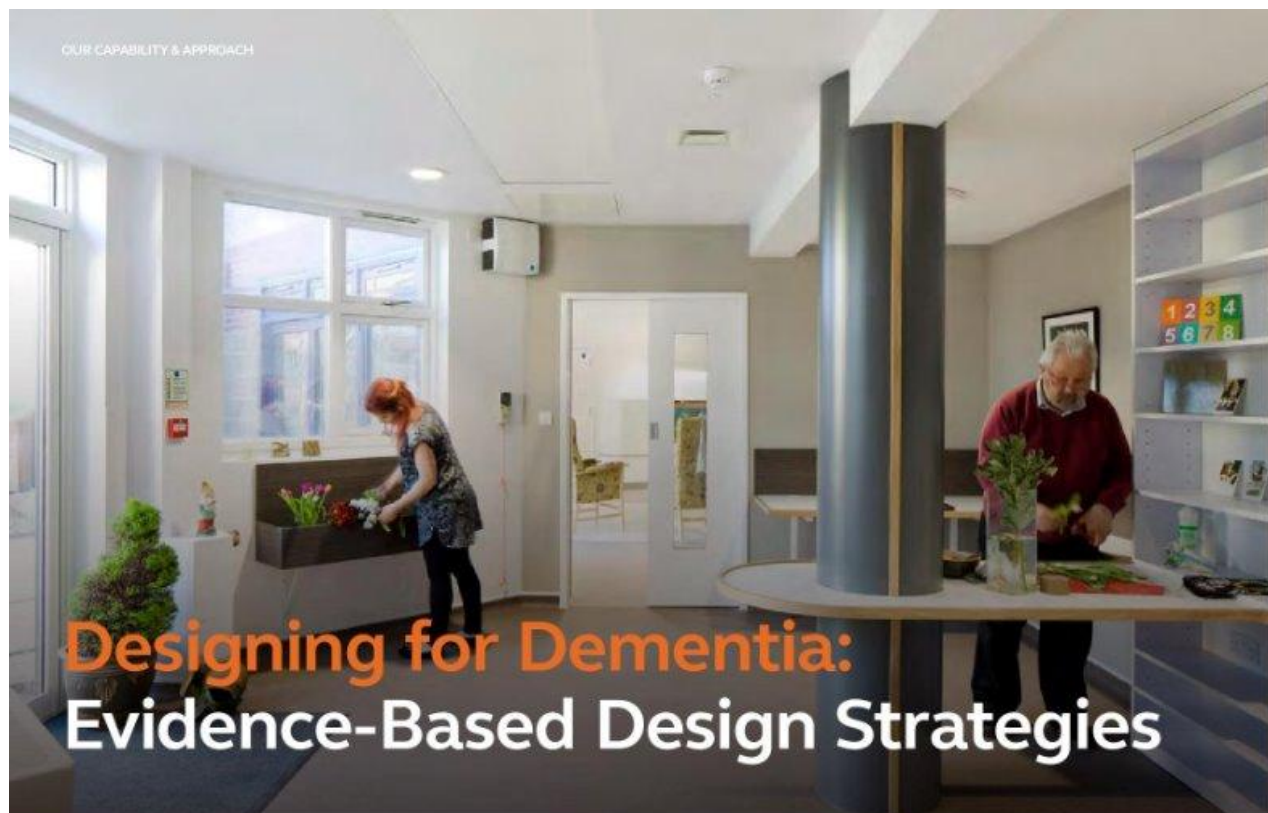
When designing for inclusivity, we always consider a sensory approach. This is evident in our distinctive landscape-led Englishcombe Lane Supported Living scheme for people requiring care due to learning disabilities and Autism. Find out more in this presentation for Housing LIN, by Studio Associate, Raymond Parr.

→ READ MORE

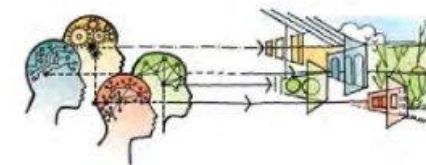


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Designing for Dementia: Evidence-Based Design Strategies



At Arcadis, we are continually looking for ways to choreograph spaces to better promote health, wellbeing and wellness. As specialists in residential care, we also take into consideration the neuro challenges faced by its users. Hear more about how we can help to shape inclusive spaces in this Housing LIN webinar 'Neurodiversity, Design and Silver Surfers' featuring our Studio Director and Interior Designer, Lynn Lindley and Director of Design Research and Innovation, Richard Mazuch.

[→ READ MORE](#)



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Our designers appreciate that in-patient units need to be safe, containing and therapeutic, with attention paid to reducing the risk of service users harming themselves or others.

Dementia is a condition that is becoming increasingly prevalent in our older population. For Arcadis, designing for dementia is about friendly design, familiarity and stimulation.

Good design for dementia can effect quality of life. Evidence shows that problematic behaviour in people with dementia is strongly related to the degree to which residential environments fulfil their needs.

We have successfully designed buildings to meet the specific needs of the people living with dementia following research and best practice guidance by the Dementia Services Development Centre at Stirling University. A dementia friendly building allows a person living with dementia maximised visibility and direction at all times; rooms and their functions look familiar, and corridors lead to seating areas so that a journey has a purpose.

Walls can be designed to hold familiar objects or artwork, which can help trigger memories. 'Wander loops' can be provided within the building, and also in gardens, to allow safe yet stimulating walks incorporating focal points such as sculpture.

Light is very important for the ageing eye so the maximisation of daylight and artificial light is a key consideration in our designs. Bedrooms can be designed with space to lay out clothes, ensembles planned to allow views of the WC from the bed and infrastructure for sensors and monitors built in to assist with supervision

Our recent work has expanded beyond the base guidelines and created enhanced environments for people living with dementia through our application of sense sensitive design strategies.

Sense sensitive design interventions engage all senses – often architecture addresses visual design, but especially with dementia it is beneficial if all senses are engaged.

We have designed and installed circadian lighting, which will assist in sundowning problems associated with dementia.

Touch panels have been introduced in specific places in corridors, which often area dead areas. Scent omitters enhance appetite in advance of meal times or help to create a sense of calm before bedtime. Improved the layout of communal areas encourage resident engagement and participation in the care homes activities.

External communal balconies provide shaded and sunny areas and allow opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables with planting the signals the change of seasons to residents.

Englishcombe Lane Supported Living

 ARCADIS

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Housing for people with Learning
Disabilities & Autism

November 2025



Brief and Client Statement

The Council owns a greenfield site in Bath which has a Local Plan allocation for housing but despite previous attempts has so far not come forward for development due to the complexity of the site. Due to it having been left unused for such a long period, the ecology on the site had developed and this added to the challenge represented by the steep contours of the site and its ground conditions.

In appraising options, the Council analysed various client groups to assess unmet need against what the site constraints could deliver and concluded that a specialist supported housing scheme consisting of 16 homes aimed at meeting the needs of adults with learning disabilities and or Autism, was the best fit. This was mainly because there is such a shortage of suitable accommodation that many clients have to be placed out of District but in addition, a client group who often benefit from a calm and peaceful environment was seen as a good match to a site which requires a light-touch nature-rich development.

The central aspiration of the development is to improve people's lives by providing homes which are carefully designed for neurodiverse people, therefore aiming to eliminate as many adverse situational stimuli as possible and enable people to reach their potential.

The Council appointed Arcadis to progress scheme design and prepare a planning application and worked together to draw in the experience and advice of teams who work closely with the intended client group to ensure that lived experience was included as a factor influencing design as well as professional design expertise and national guidance.

The homes will be 100% affordable tenure and will be net zero in use.

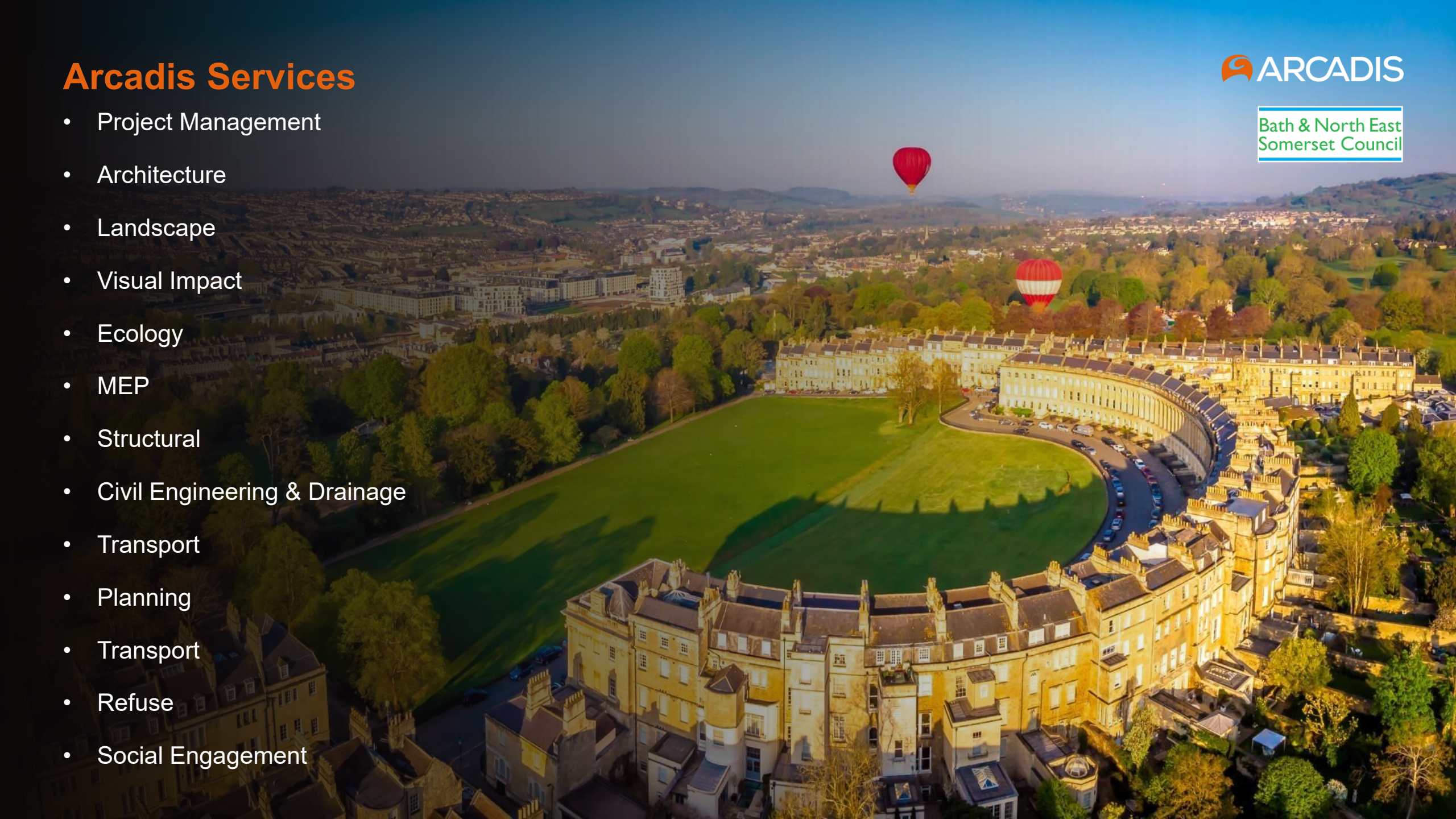
To make the scheme viable, the Council intends to draw together its own capital subsidy, seek affordable homes funding from Homes England and capitalise savings to the social care budget derived by accommodating people in low cost housing and by commissioning care directly.

The planning application is currently under consideration and the Council feels very positive about the schemes potential.

Nick Plumley, Housing Enabling & Development Manager, Bath & North East Somerset

Arcadis Services

- Project Management
- Architecture
- Landscape
- Visual Impact
- Ecology
- MEP
- Structural
- Civil Engineering & Drainage
- Transport
- Planning
- Transport
- Refuse
- Social Engagement

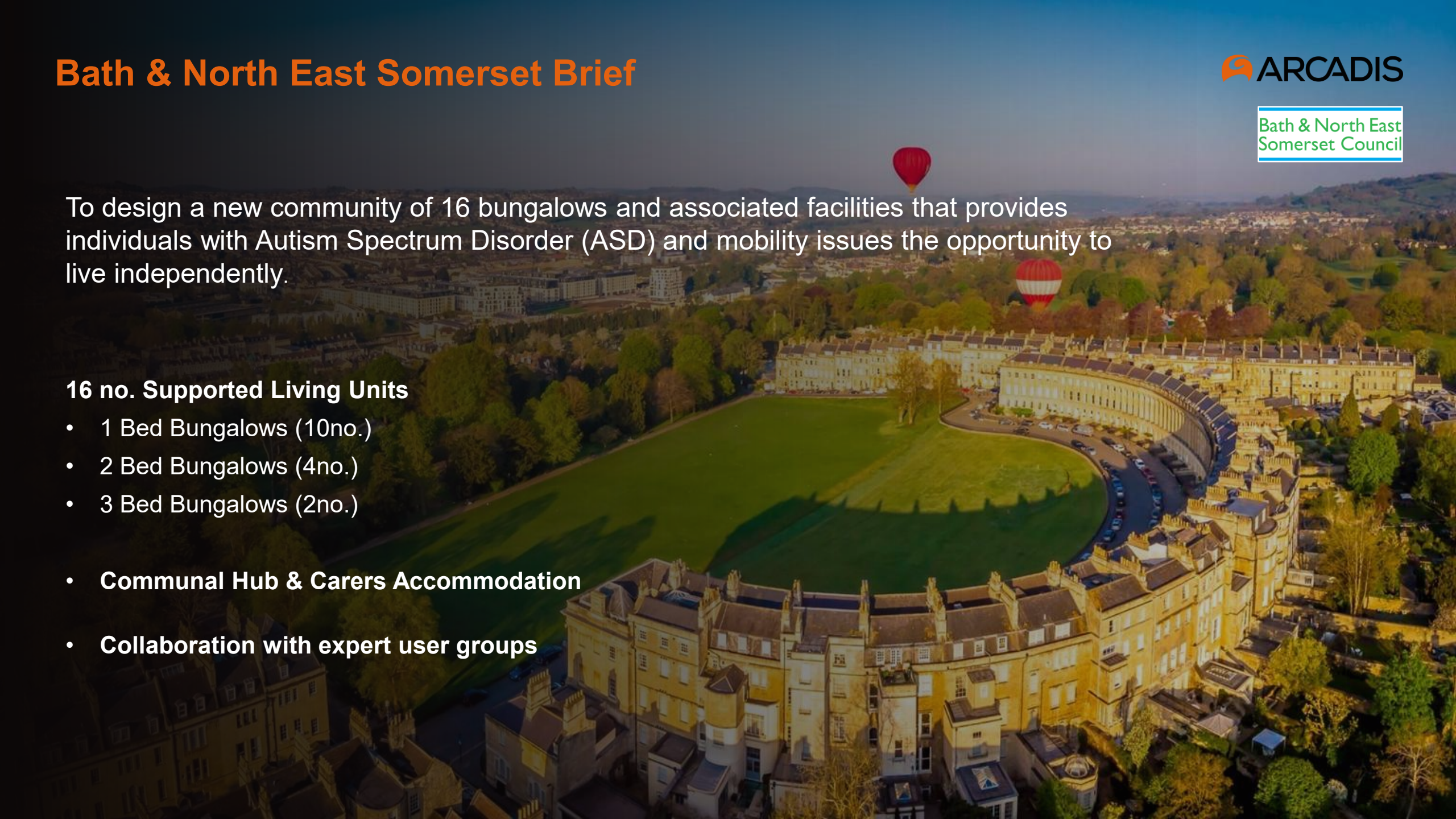


Bath & North East Somerset Brief

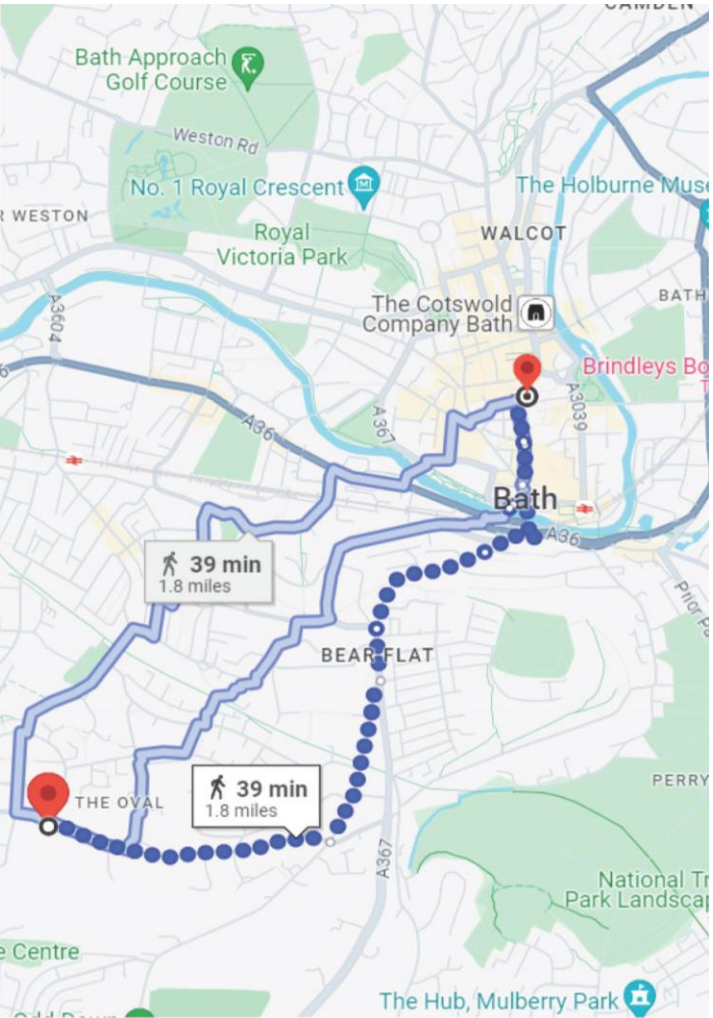
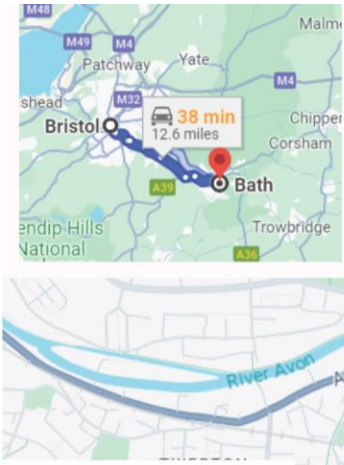
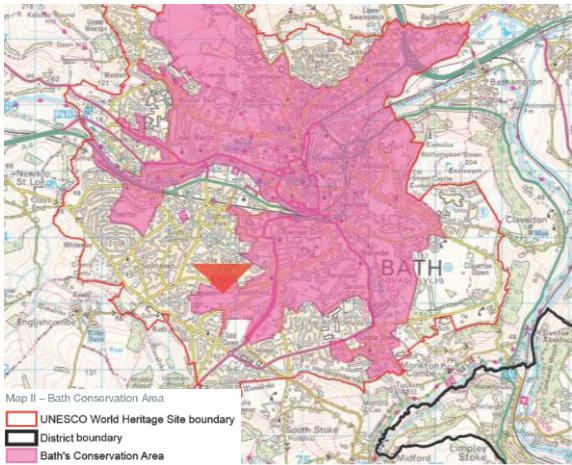
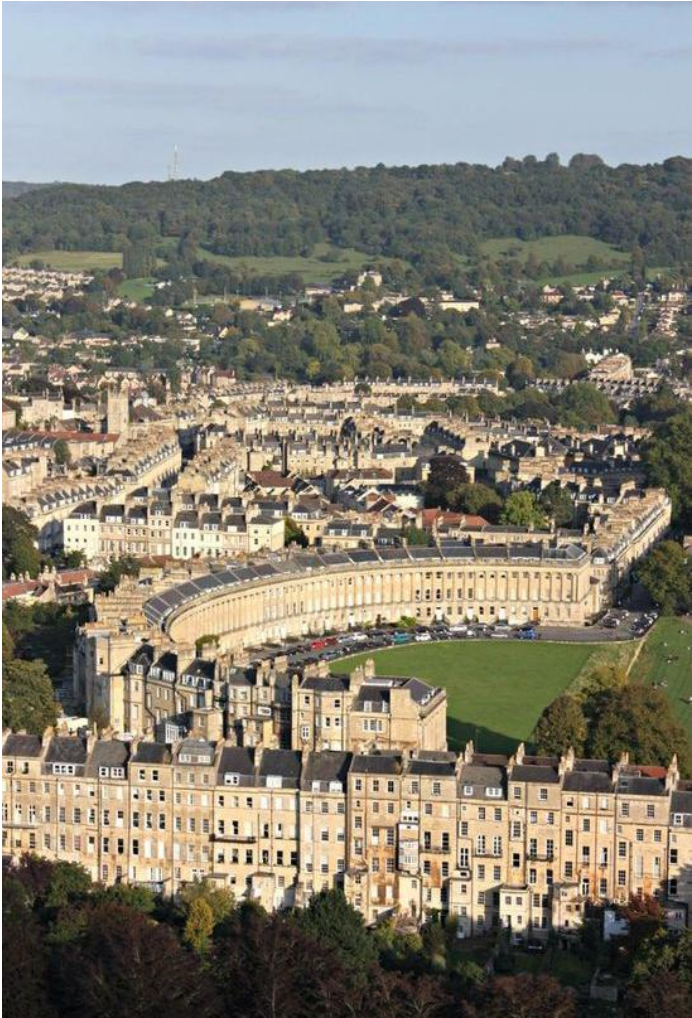
To design a new community of 16 bungalows and associated facilities that provides individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and mobility issues the opportunity to live independently.

16 no. Supported Living Units

- 1 Bed Bungalows (10no.)
- 2 Bed Bungalows (4no.)
- 3 Bed Bungalows (2no.)
- Communal Hub & Carers Accommodation
- Collaboration with expert user groups



Site Location



Local Context

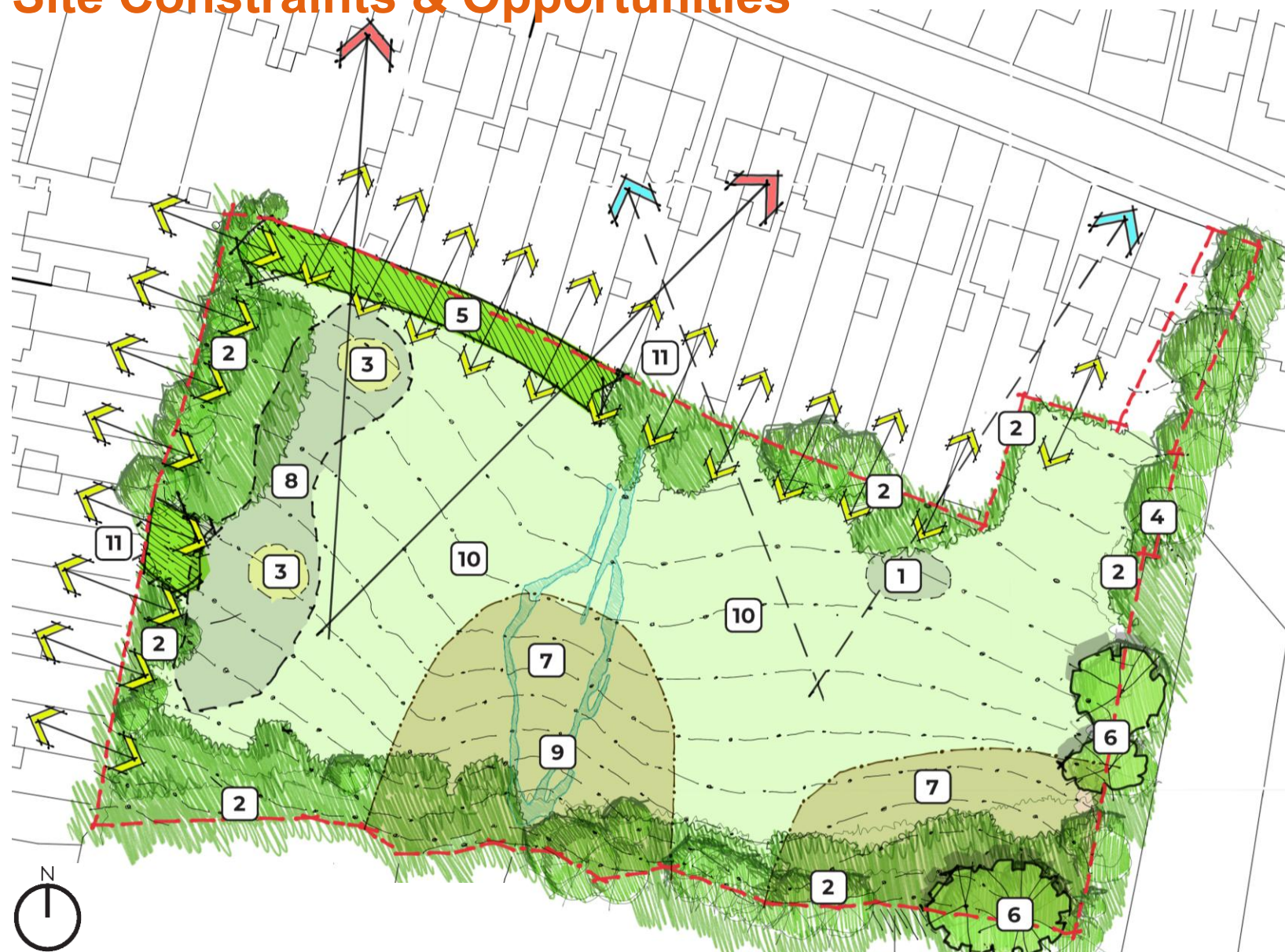


Site Constraints



- Site Boundary
- Existing vegetation / scrub / trees
- 1 Mud slip area
- 2 Existing Watercourse

Site Constraints & Opportunities



SITE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Neutral grassland improvements
- 2 Existing boundary planting - enhance and improve
- 3 Affinities with calcareous grassland
- 4 Potential to improve species poor hedgerow/bat lines
- 5 Introduce screen planting
Plant boundary to soften views into site whilst retaining/framing extensive views out
- 6 Veteran Trees
Assess/Protect/Management plan

SITE CONSTRAINTS

- 7 Mud slip area
- 8 Potential for creation/restoration of species rich grassland
- 9 Ridge with surface water
Opportunity to celebrate water onsite
- 10 Challenging levels
Opportunity to work with existing contours to minimise cut and fill
- 11 Views in and out from neighbouring dwellings

Key

-  Extensive views out
-  Filtered views out
-  Views in and out to neighbouring dwellings

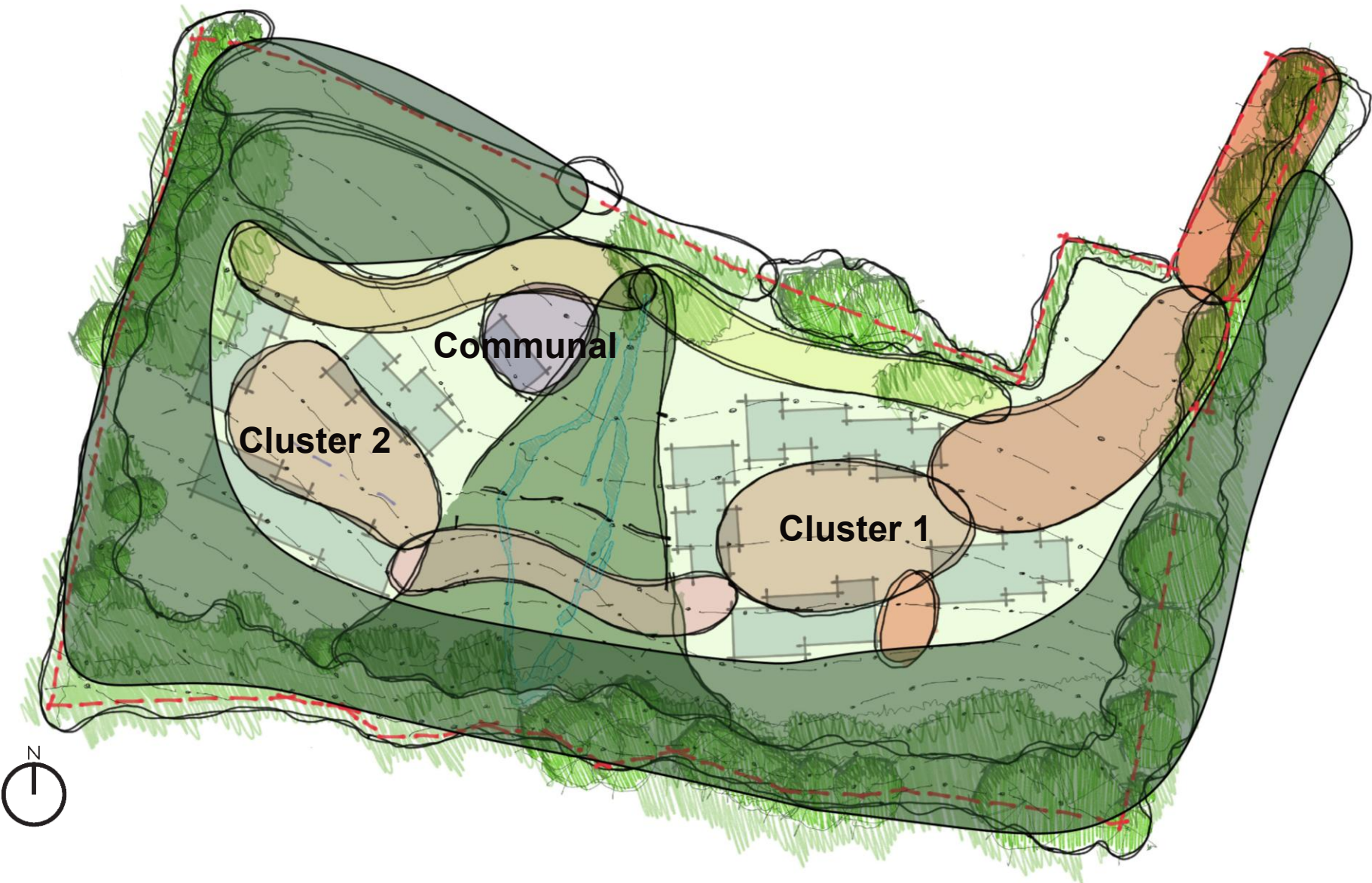
Site Photo



Site Photo



Place-Making Concept



Key

- Access road - steeper incline 1:8 slope, similar to existing
- Approach road and parking area with permeable paving, 1:21 slope
- Courtyards with Raingardens level area, planting and raingarden
- Access Lane change in character from entrance
- Drop Off 1:21 slope
- Deck across ridge
- Area associated with community hub
- Landscaped Edges Ecological zone including dark corridor
- Forest Garden Ecological zone - wet woodland

Landscape Masterplan



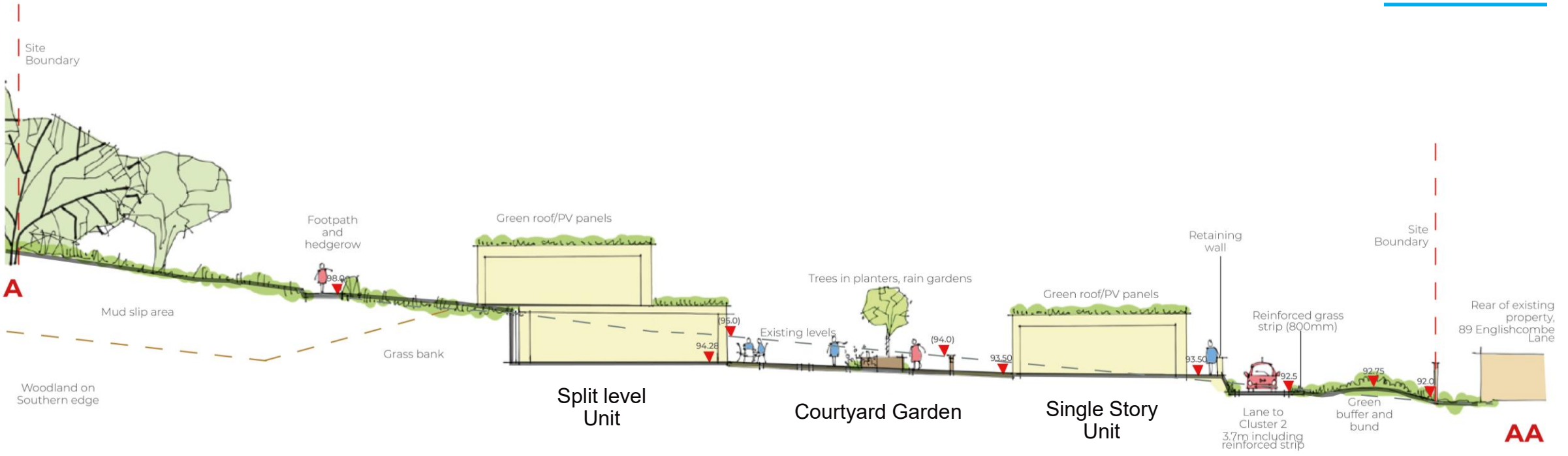
- 1** The Approach and Car Park
- 2** The Green Lane and Drop-off
- 3** The Community Hub
- 4** The Forest Garden
- 5** Cluster 1 Courtyard Gardens
- 6** Cluster 2 Courtyard Gardens
- 7** The Accessible Walkway
- 8** The Recreation Walkway
- 9** The Meadow

- Recreational Walkway (includes ramps/steps)
- Active / Passive EV charging point
- Species rich grassland
Managed for biodiversity
- Existing and proposed trees
- Refer to Landscape General Arrangement Drawing for details
- Understorey shrub/herbaceous planting
Native species managed for biodiversity
- Resin bound gravel walkways
Built to lower/level access paths, light grey to higher/steeper paths
- Permeable paving
Permeable paving allowing for surface water drainage
- Green roof & defensible space offset
Residential and Communal Facility service areas
- Reinforced grass
0.8m strip to lane and turning space in reinforced grass to enable emergency vehicle access and movement
- Courtyard area paving
High quality paving and kerbs
- Existing contours
- Proposed contours
- SuDS features
Suggested scrapes, swales and perched ponds within wet woodland area

Site and Roof Plan



Site Section



Site Plan



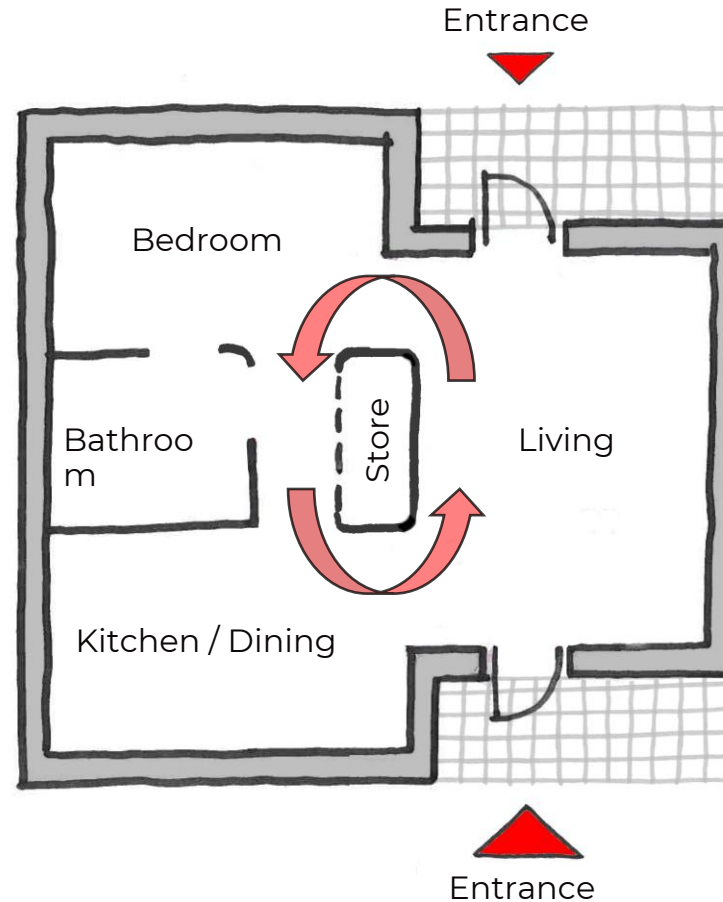
Design items to Consider (PAS 6463)

- Layout
- Wayfinding
- Familiarity
- Clarity
- Safety
- Lighting
- Décor
- Flooring
- Acoustics
- Odour
- Outlook
- And other sensory design considerations



Design Approach to the Accommodation

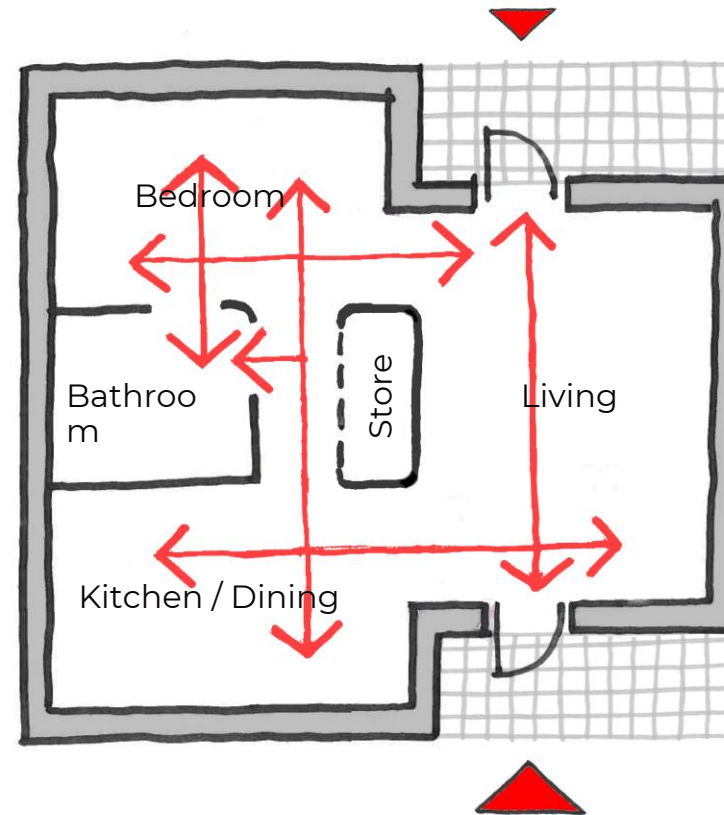
- **Clear entrances**
- **Circulation**
- **Observation**
- Permeability
- 2 Means of egress
- Control
- Flexibility
- Adaptability



- Natural light
- Time of day
- Circadian clock
- Views
- External Space
- Change of environment
- Shelter
- Nature

Design Approach

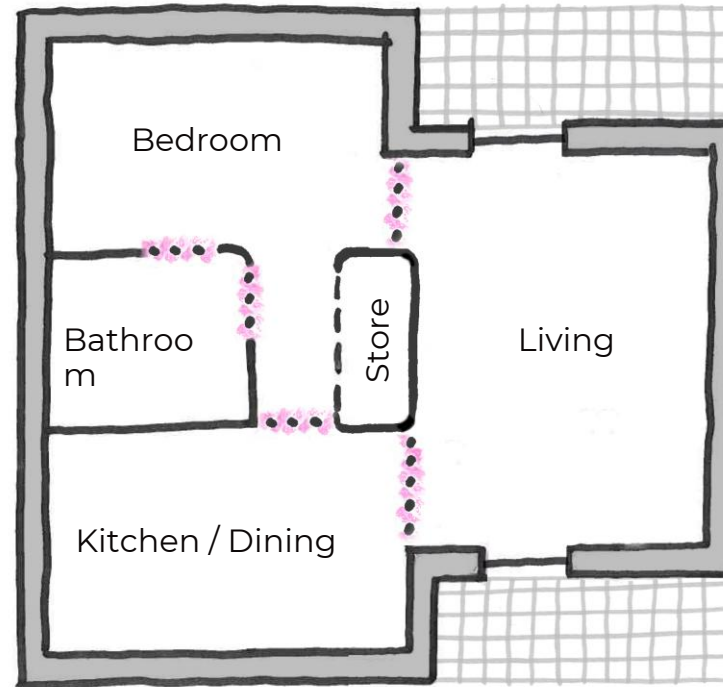
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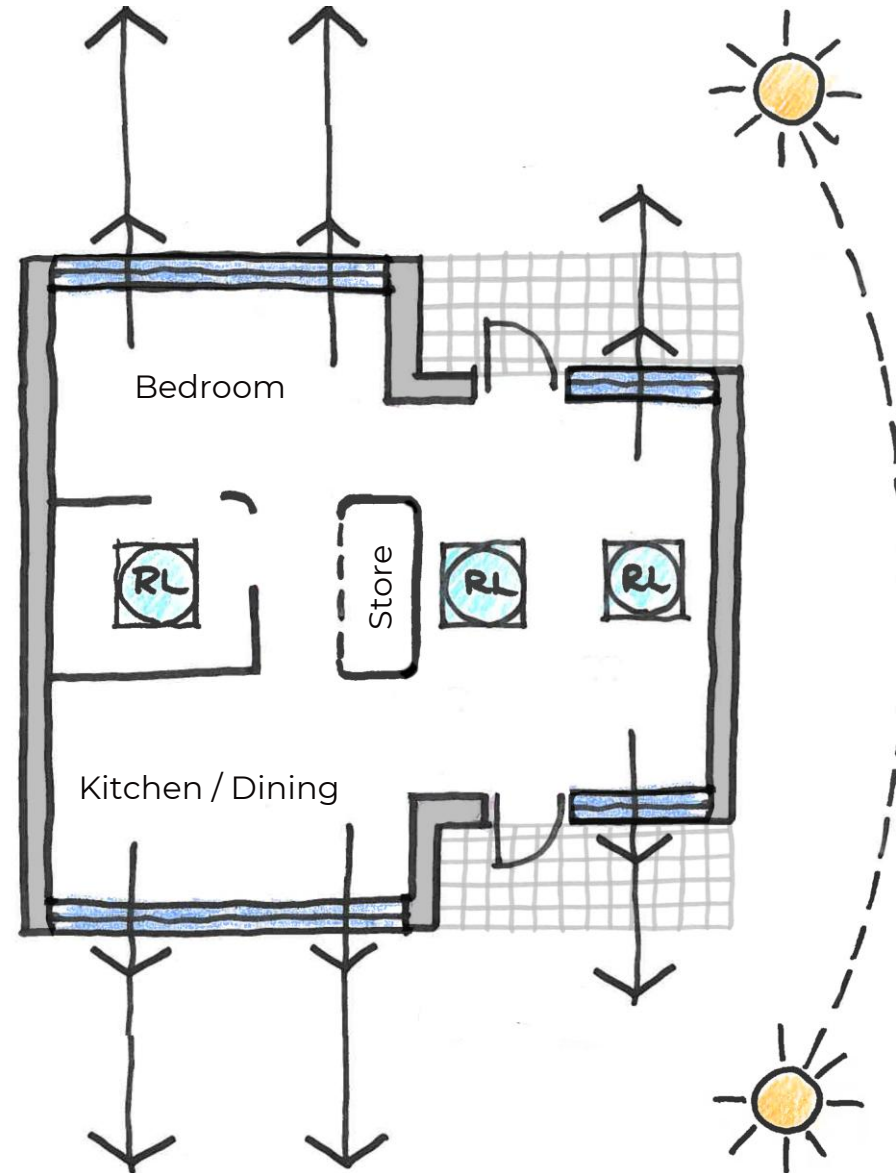
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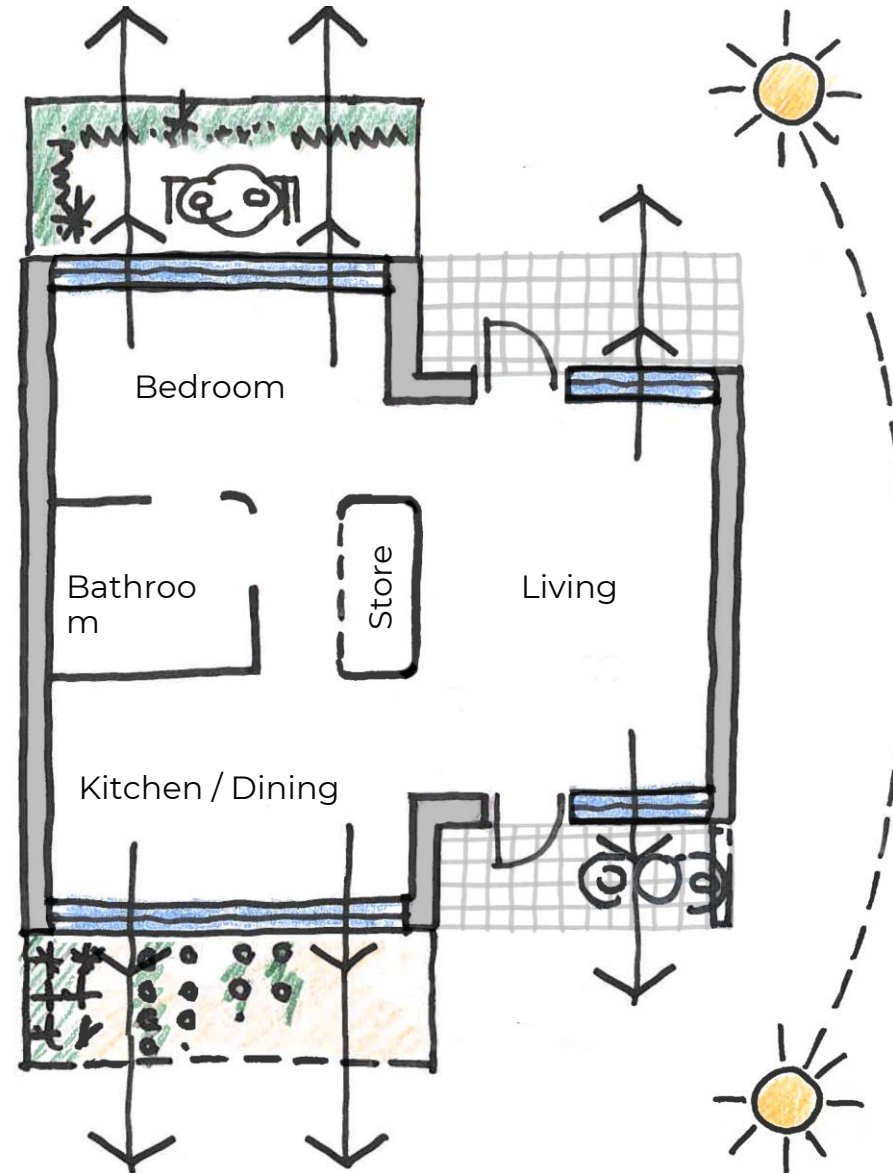
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- **Natural light**
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- **Circadian clock**
- **Views**
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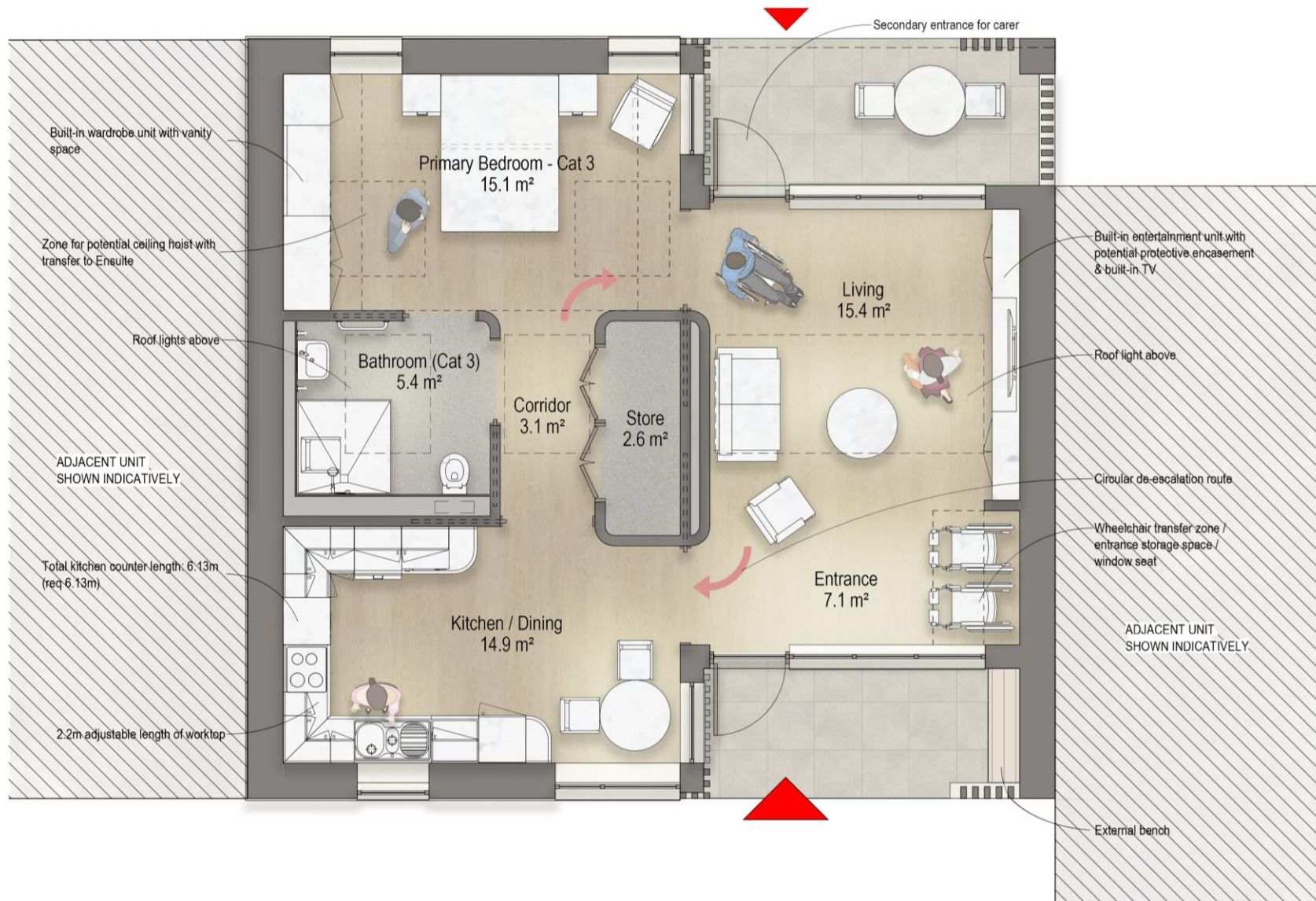
Design Approach

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- Natural light
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- **External Space**
- **Change of environment**
- **Shelter**
- **Nature**

1 Bed Unit - Single Level - Cat 3 / 2 - 65-70m²



1 Bed Unit - Single Level - Cat 3 / 2 - 65-70m²



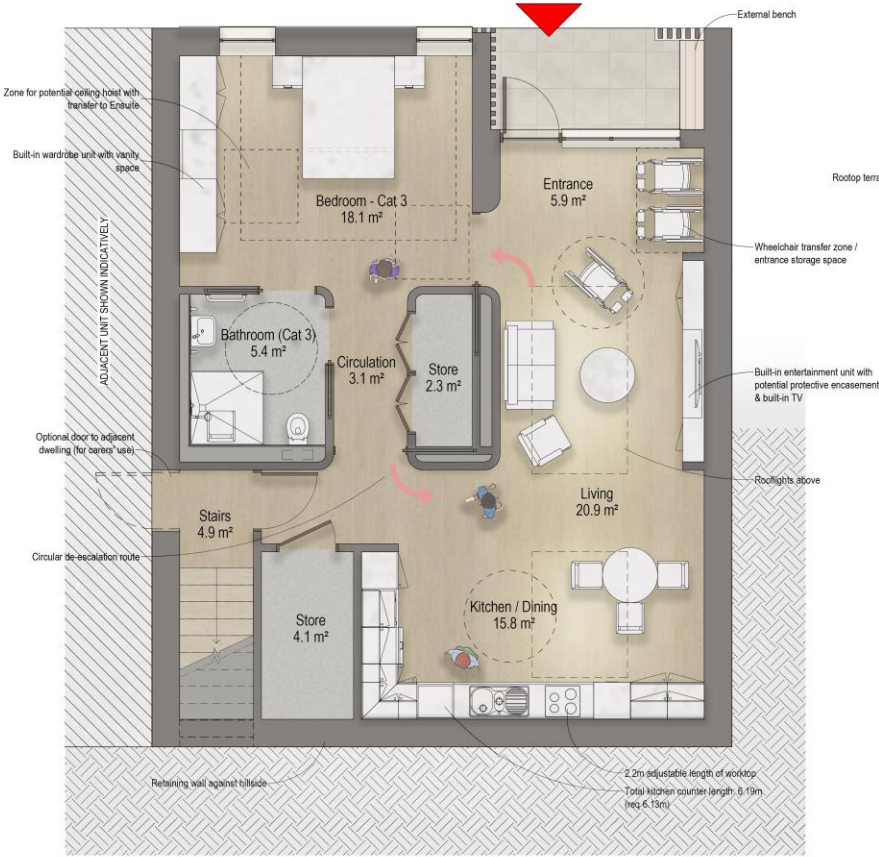
1 Bed - Single Story Bungalow



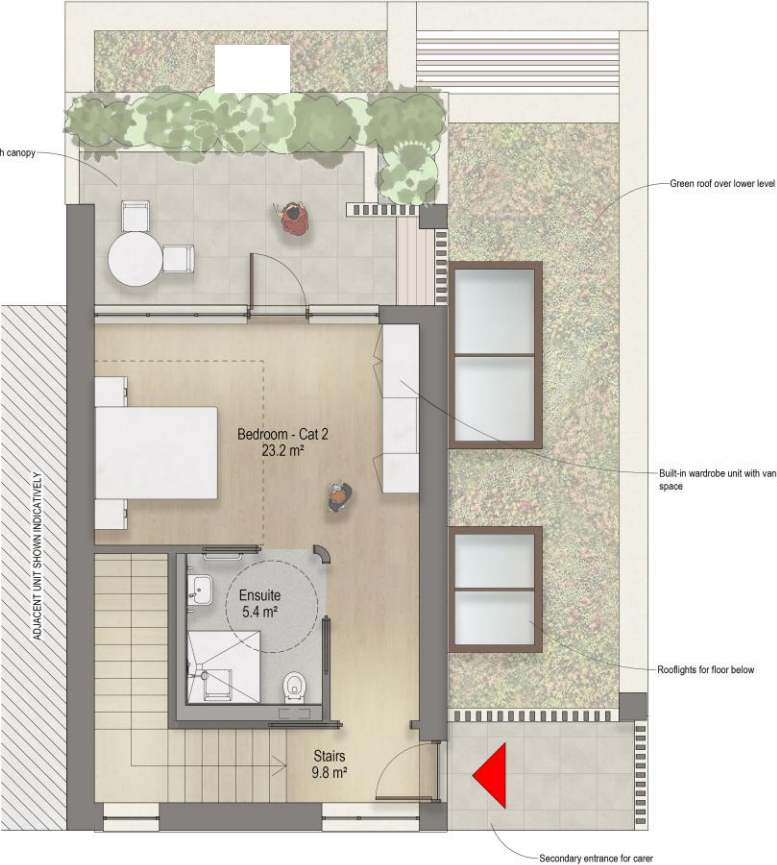
Contextual



2 Bed Unit - Split Level - Cat 3 / 2 - 95-100m²



Lower Level



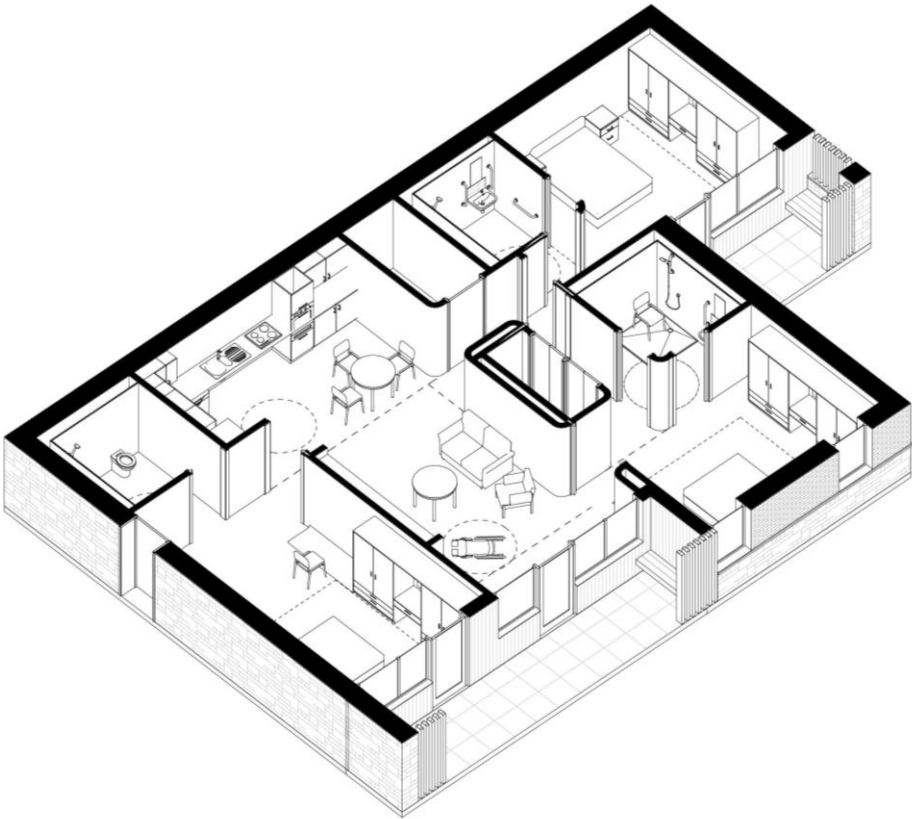
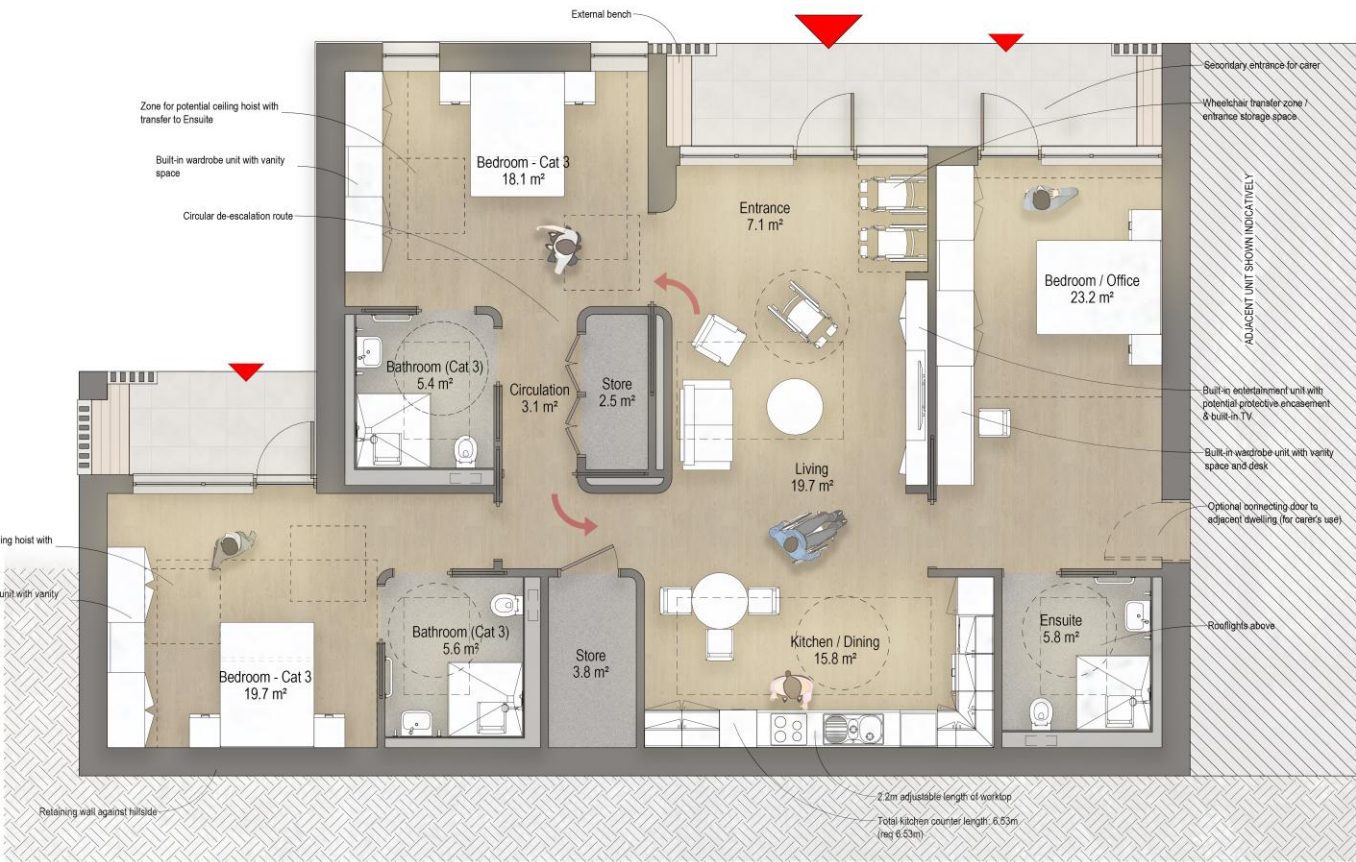
Upper Level



3 Bed Unit - Single Level - Cat 3 / 2 - 140-145m²



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Typical Elevations



South Elevation



North Elevation

2 Bed – Split Level Bungalow

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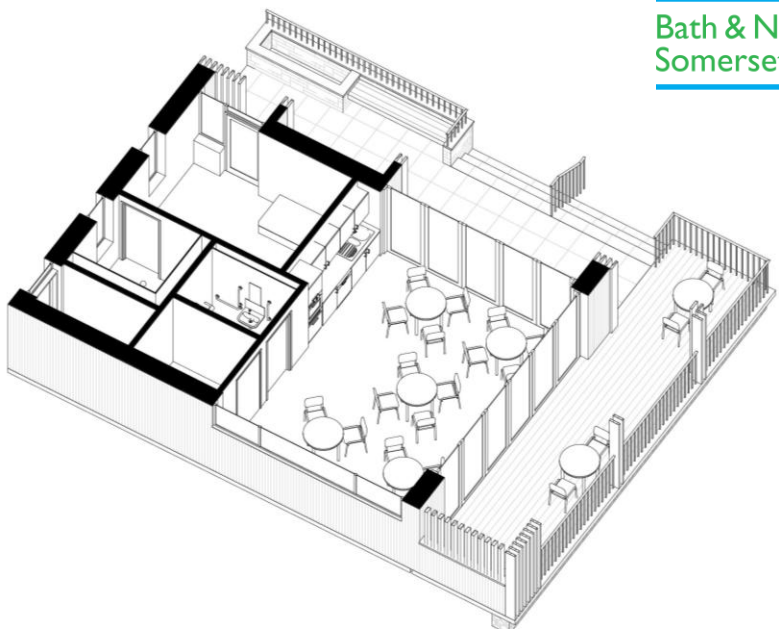
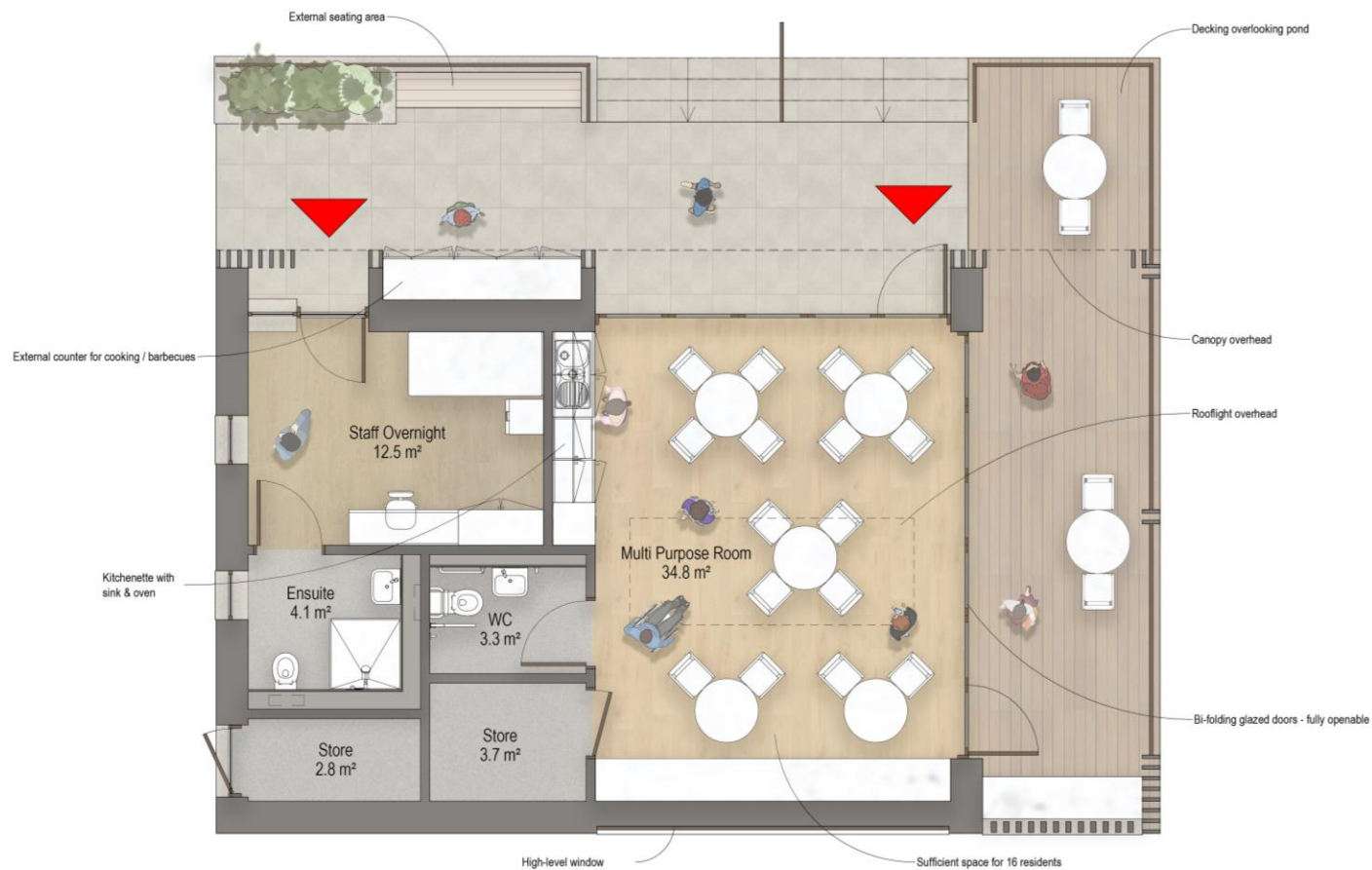
Bath & North East
Somerset Council



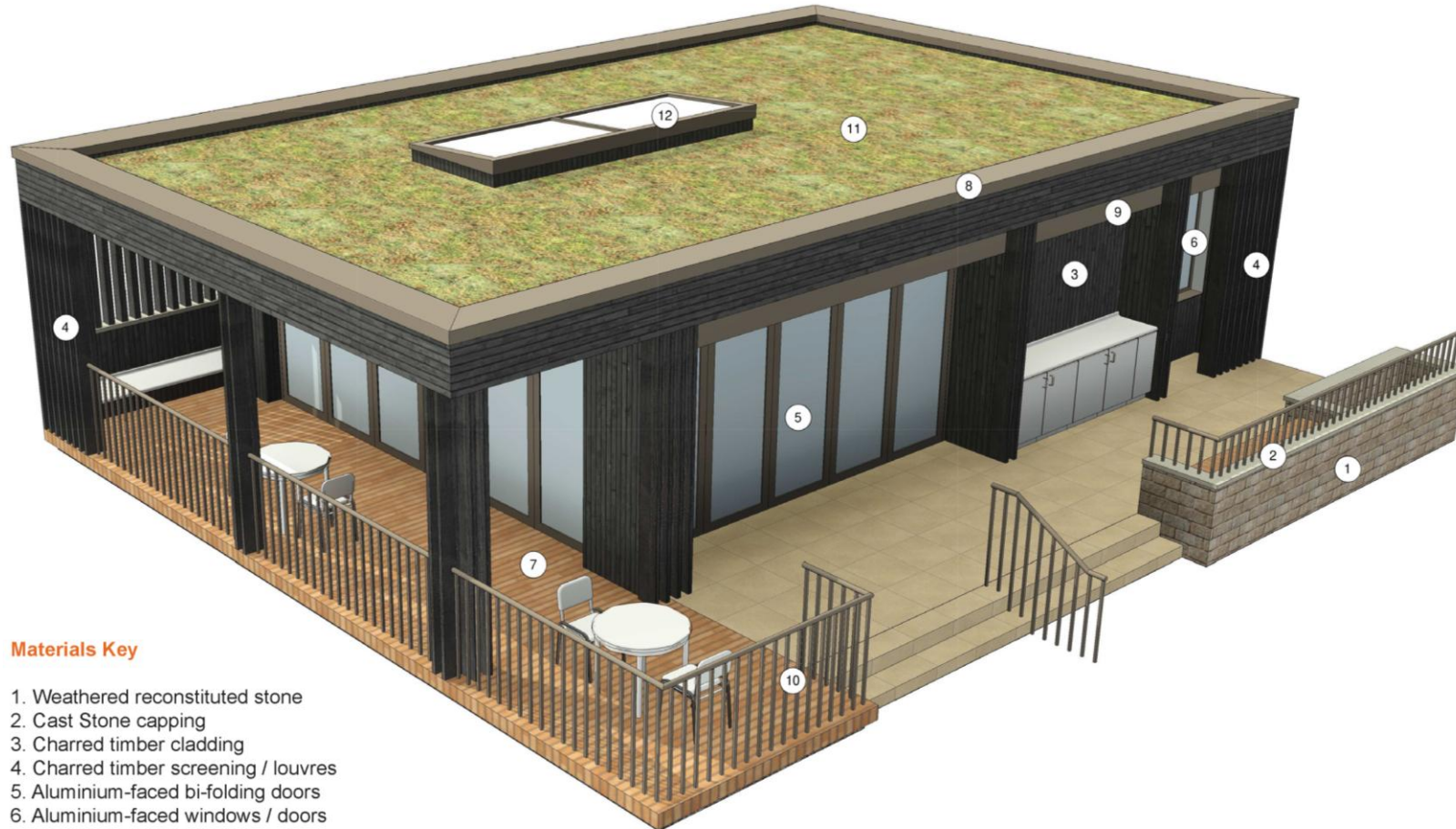
Communal Hub



Communal Hub



Community Hub

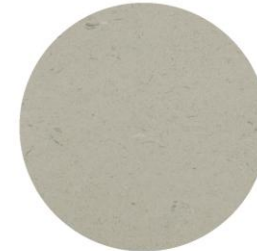


Materials Key

1. Weathered reconstituted stone
2. Cast Stone capping
3. Charred timber cladding
4. Charred timber screening / louvres
5. Aluminium-faced bi-folding doors
6. Aluminium-faced windows / doors
7. Composite decking
8. Aluminium parapet capping
9. Aluminium window header details
10. Railings
11. Extensive green roof
12. Aluminium-faced rooflights



Weathered reconstituted stone



Cast Stone capping



Charred timber cladding



Bi-folding doors

Community Hub

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Somerset Council





Thank you

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