

# LOCAL ANALYSIS

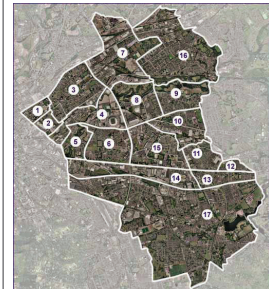
The Herbie Van is a mobile greengrocer and was set up by MERCi to provide affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables to residents living in areas of East Manchester with poor access to fresh foods



Noise festival run the 'Free Arts Lab' opposite the Arndale Centre and are keen to contribute to the Meanwhile Hive, perhaps through an artists in residents scheme



Discussions with Urban Regeneration Company New East Manchester confirms support for projects that promote local enterprise generation and healthy eating



Fab Lab Manchester, located in Chips, is part of a global network of local labs, enabling invention by providing access for individuals to tools for digital fabrication



## MEANWHILE HIVE CONSORTIUM

With very special thanks to [Charlotte Griffiths](#) and [Lily Ash Sekula](#)

**Meanwhile Space** are a CIC set up in 2009 to enable community uses of vacant property and sites. We work to find and reveal meanwhile opportunities and collaborate with stakeholders to deliver these goals. By working with local communities and other stakeholders, interim or 'meanwhile,' uses are deployed to reanimate the space and provide opportunities for community benefit and social enterprise.

Alongside the Development Trusts Association, the CIC are delivery partners of the Meanwhile Project, which has been providing practical and financial support for a wide range of meanwhile approaches in towns throughout the country since 2009, as well as technical advice, manuals and common tools to help anyone who wants to do something positive in the meanwhile.



[www.meanwhitespace.com](http://www.meanwhitespace.com)

**Wood Holmes** is a strategy consultancy, headquartered in Newcastle upon Tyne with offices in Manchester and London, operating nationally and internationally to help a wide range of clients develop solutions to complex problems.

Wood Holmes have been active in promoting the use of techniques from other domains in order to improve regeneration delivery. Techniques include the use of foresight, anthropological community & stakeholder engagement techniques, social network analysis and complexity in regeneration.



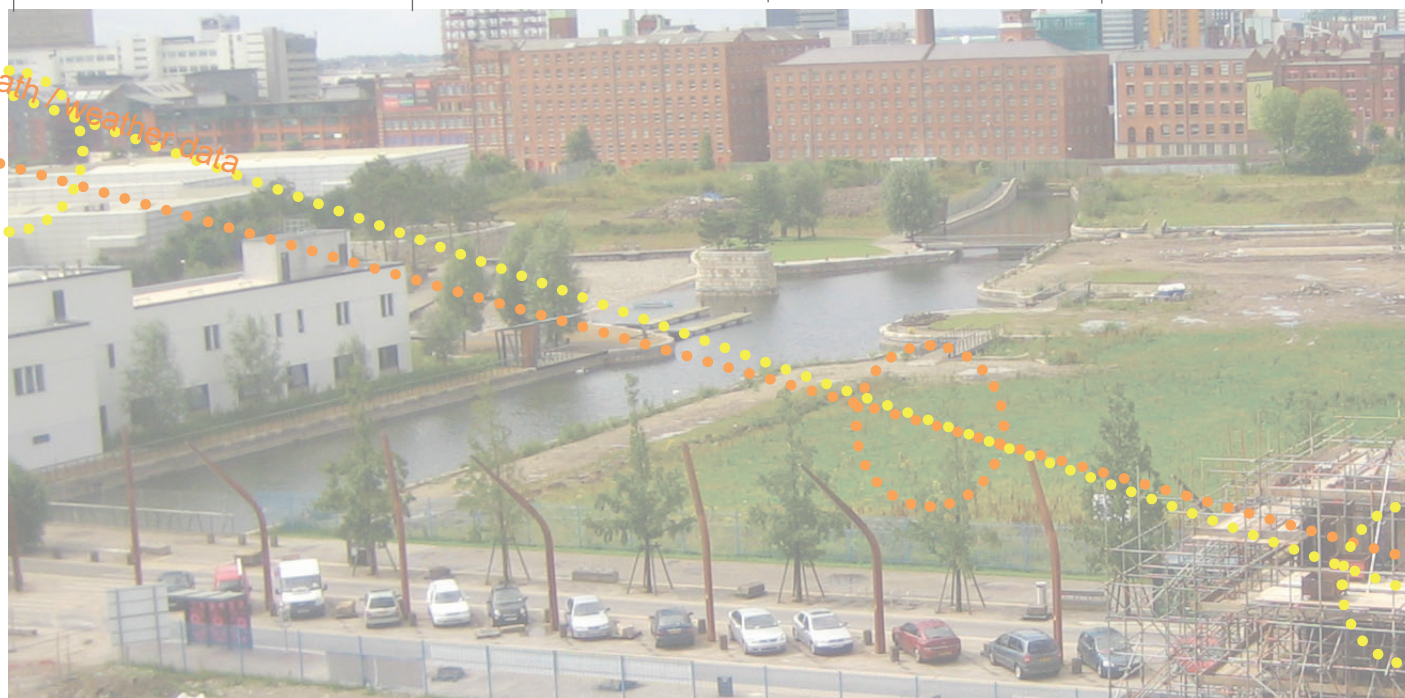
[www.woodholmes.co.uk](http://www.woodholmes.co.uk)

**BOSi** engage people with their public space and urban environment through the use of street theatre, working to create wellbeing and cohesion through shared emotional experience, using the ignored everyday disruption caused by regeneration and maintenance as a focal point.

As well as creating silly installations and remote controlled creations, BOSi works to produce fun, family shows and celebratory events that ensure a positive empathy with the construction process and the final results.



[www.bosi.org.uk](http://www.bosi.org.uk)



## THE BEE ALL AND END ALL

The Meanwhile Hive will set a precedent. It will demonstrate to other developers the latent opportunity that lies in 'yet to be developed' space. By providing both current and future members of the immediate and wider community with the resource of 'space' they can create the seeds of 'place.' It will be the provision of some space and resource for the things that matter and make people's lives richer; an informal place to share ideas and stories, learn skills, discover interests, and try things. Embracing the concept that impermanence is its asset, nothing materially provided will need to remain; the legacy will be the energy, know-how and confidence created in the community to pick up these activities and bring them into their homes, public spaces and networks. The Meanwhile Hive is a catalyst, something that burns out having stimulated a lasting legacy within the community.

While the objective is to create a destination it is underpinned by activity designed to provide residents from the wider area with the space and resources to try activities that could then be continued (post project) in their own public or private spaces on different scales. For example the site provides growing space, which will principally be allocated to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers, and be accompanied by a catering van. Guided by the existing, locally based fruit and veg project called Herbies, there will be the opportunity to learn how to plant and care for plants (and bees to make honey), and how to harvest and prepare them. The catering van provides the opportunity to offer one on one cooking lessons, creating healthy meals that can be sold around the area (on the Herbies route), while the narrative of the bee park will engage people to learn skills to farm and harvest honey.

In other spaces there will be a space to operate a skills exchange, for example someone might be able to offer some time for cookery lessons (as above) in exchange for basic computer training or DIY hours. This can form the basis of a timebanking system. These regular, anchor activities will be the backbone of Meanwhile Hive, as far more visible and animated activity provide the site with a sense of excitement and animation. At the heart of the site will be a temporary bandstand, created for scheduled and (actively encouraged) impromptu performances and rehearsals. Accompanying this will be a screen for a pedal-powered outdoor cinema. This will operate on a for hire basis, but also by signing up local groups, businesses and organisations to enter a fund-raising league, with the opportunity to raise funds by sponsoring the cyclists, and the sales of the food and entertainment on site, from which Meanwhile Hive will take a commission for running costs.



# CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

## Calendar of Parameters

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Enterprise development			Planting session			Seaside festival			Redistribution auction		
Launch narrative		Growing spaces		Band-stand events			Harvest feast		Onwards		

## Theatrical Narrative

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Attraction curiosity: lights, remote controlled ducks		Gigantic potatoes and carrots appear		Discover super-fertile soil		Viral marketing and scientists		Scientists unearth real-life ancient preserved bee colony producing super-fertile soil		People get in on the joke and create content for what happens	

## THE SWEET STUFF

The Meanwhile Hive will be a destination. A place of energy, ideas, resources and activity. A place for locals to use and visitors to enjoy and envy.

Impermanence will be its key asset. Try something new, enjoy it now. Its legacy won't be physical, but will thrive in new skills and interests developed and the stories and memories created.

The Meanwhile Hive will be a new chapter in the history of the Ancoats area, and a new entry in the developer's handbook of how to use phases of the development cycle to make better places.

## The vision



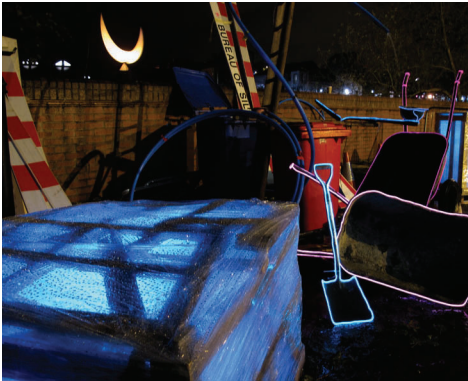
## Precedent Studies



Bureau of Silly Ideas



New Scientist Dinosaur Bunny



Bureau of Silly Ideas



Union Street Urban Orchard

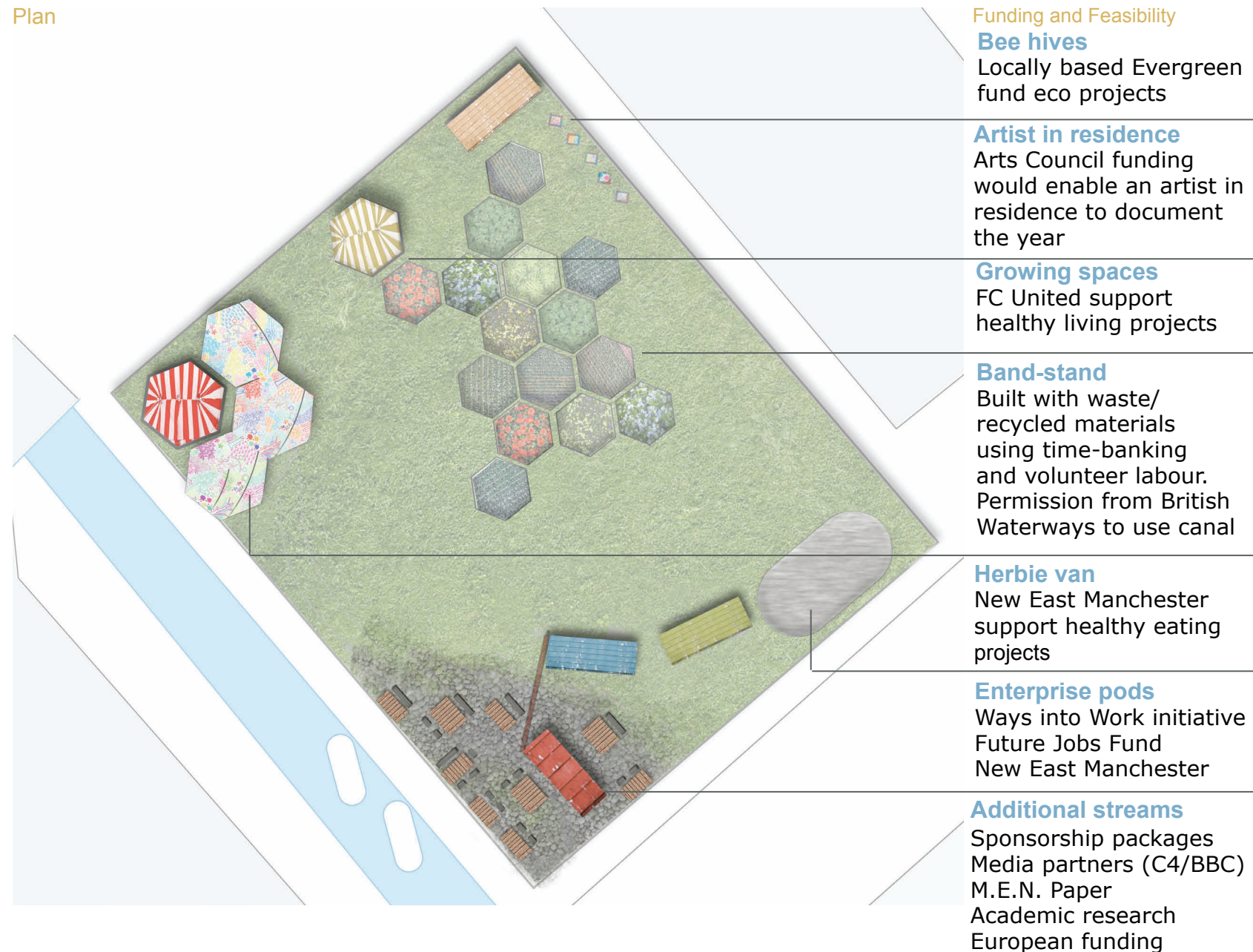


Dalston Eastern Curve Garden

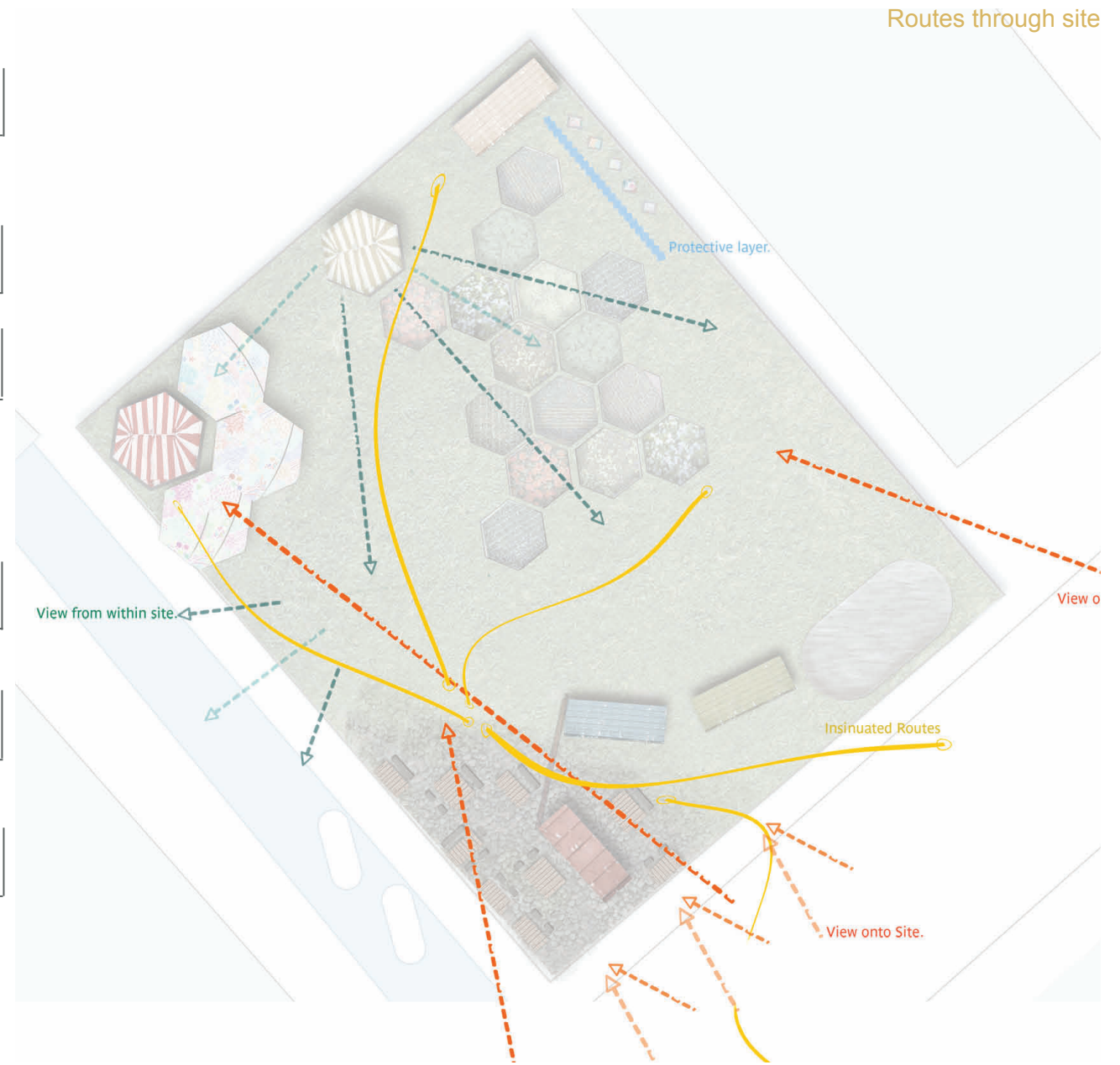


# CONCLUSIVE DESIGNS

Plan



Routes through site



## THE MONEY HONEY

There will be some investment required to prepare the site, purchase core equipment and to market and operate the site (operator recruited locally, with a view to developing a longer term role in the management of the development post-project), although many activities will be produced and delivered by the users. Whilst some activities will be self sufficient, and costs kept low by using recycled site materials and volunteer/timebanked labour, there are other sources of potential funding.

- As a novel, temporary events space with a strong communications strategy revenue can be generated through sponsorship of features of the space and special events
- Initial discussions with a TV documentary company have been undertaken to explore the opportunity of programme funding
- Many of the project activities and outcomes could attract grants and funding from public sector initiatives, although this would need to be reviewed in the autumn
- The most convincing funding arrangement is long term.

The Meanwhile Hive consortium and Urban Splash could contribute time and resources for the project, which with its revenue generating elements and funding potential, need not be excessive. The project could be evaluated and constantly improved, and the findings form the basis of a co-venture.

The capital equipment required to set the project off would become an investment, as it could be moved to another site after the agreed period, and with the knowledge and experience gained become a benchmark for other public and private sector developers in terms of community interaction. It is envisaged this service would then be purchased by other schemes as a package for better community working and to inform a better development through the implementation of meanwhile spaces.