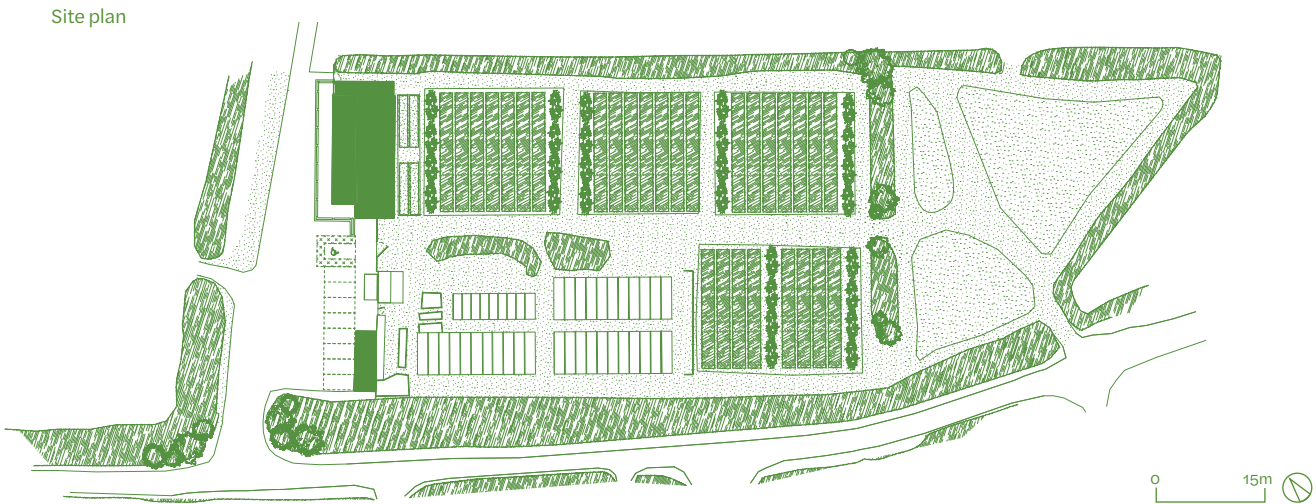


AJ



Small projects



Location Porthtowan, Cornwall | **Start on site** August 2024 | **Completion** June 2025 | **Gross internal floor area** 106m² | **Client** Community Roots CIC | **Funding** Good Growth Cornwall, Isles of Scilly Shared Prosperity Fund | **Structural engineer** Martin Perry Associates | **Services engineer** Natural Generation | **Main contractor** Warvena Construction | **Annual CO₂ emissions** 33.17 kgCO₂/m² | **Embodied carbon** 345 kgCO₂e/m² | **Whole-life carbon** 1180.88 kgCO₂e/m² | **Design life** 60 years | **Photography** FORM Photography



Situated next to a World Heritage Mining Site on the North Cornwall coast, this hub has been created for community interest company (CIC) Community Roots, which cultivates a one-acre, 'no-dig' market garden. The brief called for a robust, low-budget building to expand the CIC's processing capacity and community outreach.

Inspired by agricultural vernacular, the building is a simple timber-framed form that sits low in its landscape and is clad in UK-grown thermally modified ash. Mirroring the client's 'no-dig' cultivation approach, the structure has minimal strip foundations, making it almost concrete-free.

The north façade is barn-style, while the southern elevation has a series of windows and sliding doors facing the garden.

Internally, finishes are deliberately raw – OSB, wood wool ceilings and an industrial kitchen – reducing the need for additional trades and labour on site during the build. Integrated storage accommodates fold-out furniture, allowing the space to pivot flexibly from vegetable bagging to yoga class to pickling party.

Intended to be net zero in operation, the highly insulated fabric is ventilated via MVHR and has a full roof of PVs. There are step-free thresholds throughout and a Changing Places WC is incorporated, inclusively extending a welcome to all. FW



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