

AALU advocates for landscape-oriented design to address planetary urbanisation and its attendant environmental, racial, socioeconomic, and health crises. We examine how policies shape consequential landscapes under capitalism. By making visible the commodity chains and the ecologies of urban-rural and core-periphery dependencies, AALU's agenda intends to build on the relevance of the landscape discipline. The selected projects here focus on UK farming policies through an agroecological urbanism lens, critically advocating for progressive policies such as Biobased Public Common Partnerships, Land-sharing Rewilding, Agroecological Enterprise Stacking, Wales' One-Planet Development and a Land-use Carbon Emission Tax in Scotland. These theses foreground the contested landscapes, labour, and ownership behind urbanisation processes. These models challenge urban and rural binaries through organisational strategies and models, innovative regulatory plans, alternative relations to land, and visual decision-making tools within world-ecology frameworks.

Collaborating with public bodies in UK, think tank organisations, design practices and farms, we put forward a methodology that weaves critical thinking with cartographic technologies (including a drone and a microscope) and radical visualisation perspectives. Moving beyond historical landscape painting -which often validates and affirms certain nature-society relationships- sections, manuals, scenarios, and models challenge conventional landscape frames around community agency. Across the projects, a common multiscalar thread spans from anti-imperialist global perspectives towards just socio-ecological transitions, critical analysis of national landscape policies, bioregional management to soil care. Through this work, AALU reasserts the political and ecological relevance of landscape as a discipline, offering tools to imagine just futures.

Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Prize. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection process with a single image, characteristic of the academic process, to accompany the text.

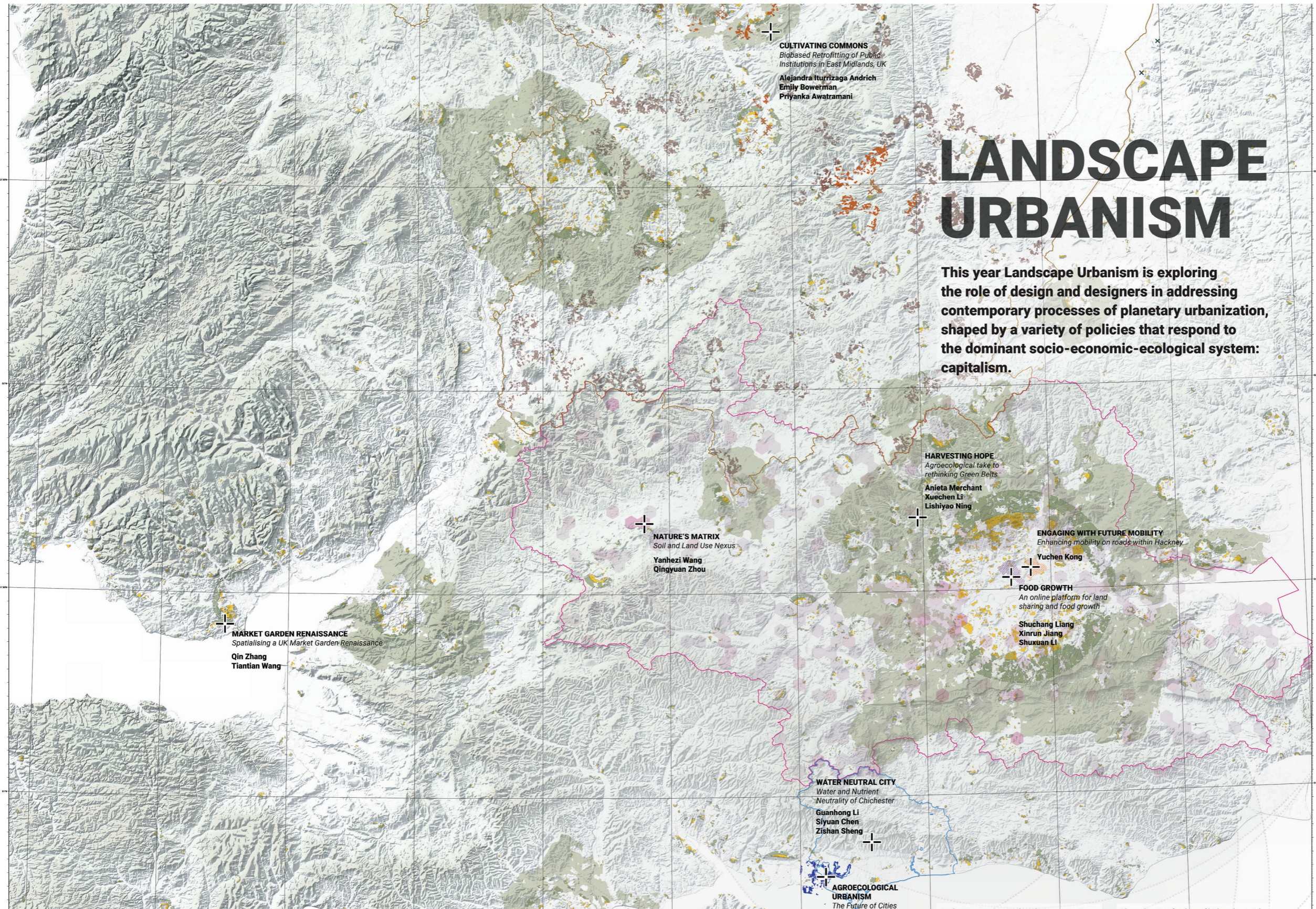
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◀ End of the year Projects Review exhibition poster AALU, 2024.

It shows an overlap of the policies explored in the 2023-24 AALU theses in England: from Market Garden Renaissance on Green Belts to Public Common Partnerships through Biobased Retrofitting and Transitions, Green Belt Enterprise Stacking, Water Neutrality, and Agroecological strategies in Coastal Interfaces.

Collaborative Map by: Emily Bowerman, Daniel Kiss and Priyanka

Country/City	LONDON, UK
University / School	ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Academic year	2023-24
Title of the project	AALU PROJECTS REVIEW EXHIBITION POSTER
Authors	Emily Bowerman, Daniel Kiss and Priyanka



Title of the project	Cultivating Commons
Authors	Priyanka Awatramani (MArch), Emily Bowerman (MArch) and Alejandra Iturrizaga (MSc)
Title of the course	AA Landscape Urbanism Masters Programme Final Thesis
Academic year	2023-2025
Teaching Staff	Clara Oloriz Sanjuan, Daniel Kiss
Department / Section / Program of belonging	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc MArch Masters Programme
University / School	Architectural Association School of Architecture

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

In the context of 2050 UK decarbonisation targets, Cultivating Commons examines biobased retrofitting to go beyond Net-zero, addressing landscape, labour, and governance structures. It proposes an architecture that is inextricably linked to the landscapes where the materials originate, advocating for a reformed policy to landscape design and planning that enhances regional ecologies and local economies. Therefore, it calls for a re-evaluation of how sustainability is defined and measured by addressing three key questions: How are materials produced? Who benefits from material production? And who will produce biobased materials?

In collaboration with the British Geological Survey, a biobased retrofitting prototype for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) campuses propels the transition away from extractive materials towards biobased alternatives such as straw insulation and kelp acoustic panels. Nearly 80 campuses serve as regional anchor institutions to kickstart the biobased construction industry through local supply chains and Community Wealth Building. A phased approach involves biobased prototyping and transitioning conventional monoculture farms to agroecology. It improves ecological conditions on farms, based on community-centred approaches to land management, material production, and local economic benefits.

Through a Public Common Partnership (PCP) policy, the project reimagines ownership structures, fair resource distribution, and decision-making processes. It proposes a shared stewardship of productive landscapes by engaging institutions, local authorities, land and marine workers, local businesses, designers, and community members. PCPs offer a pathway beyond capitalism, ensuring that biobased materials do not merely substitute extractive industries but instead reshape the material economy.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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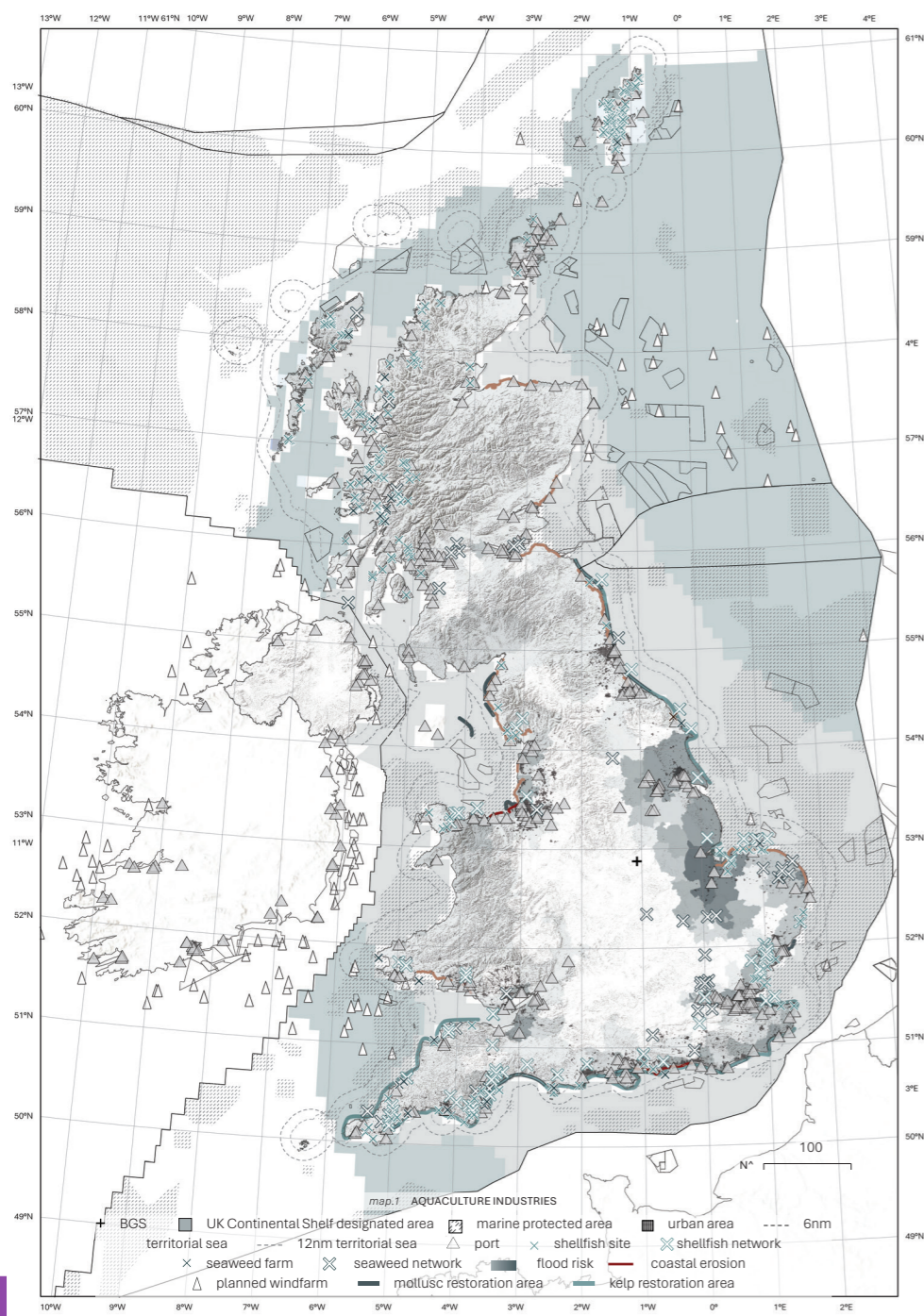
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## Global Map ▶

The global map visualises the extent of UK imported materials in 2020 for the construction industry. The project traced global supply chains to unveil the relationships between “sites” where construction occurs, and “non-sites” (Hutton) where materials are extracted, focusing on impacts associated with the landscapes, labour and ownership structures.



## Existing UK Aquaculture Industry ▼

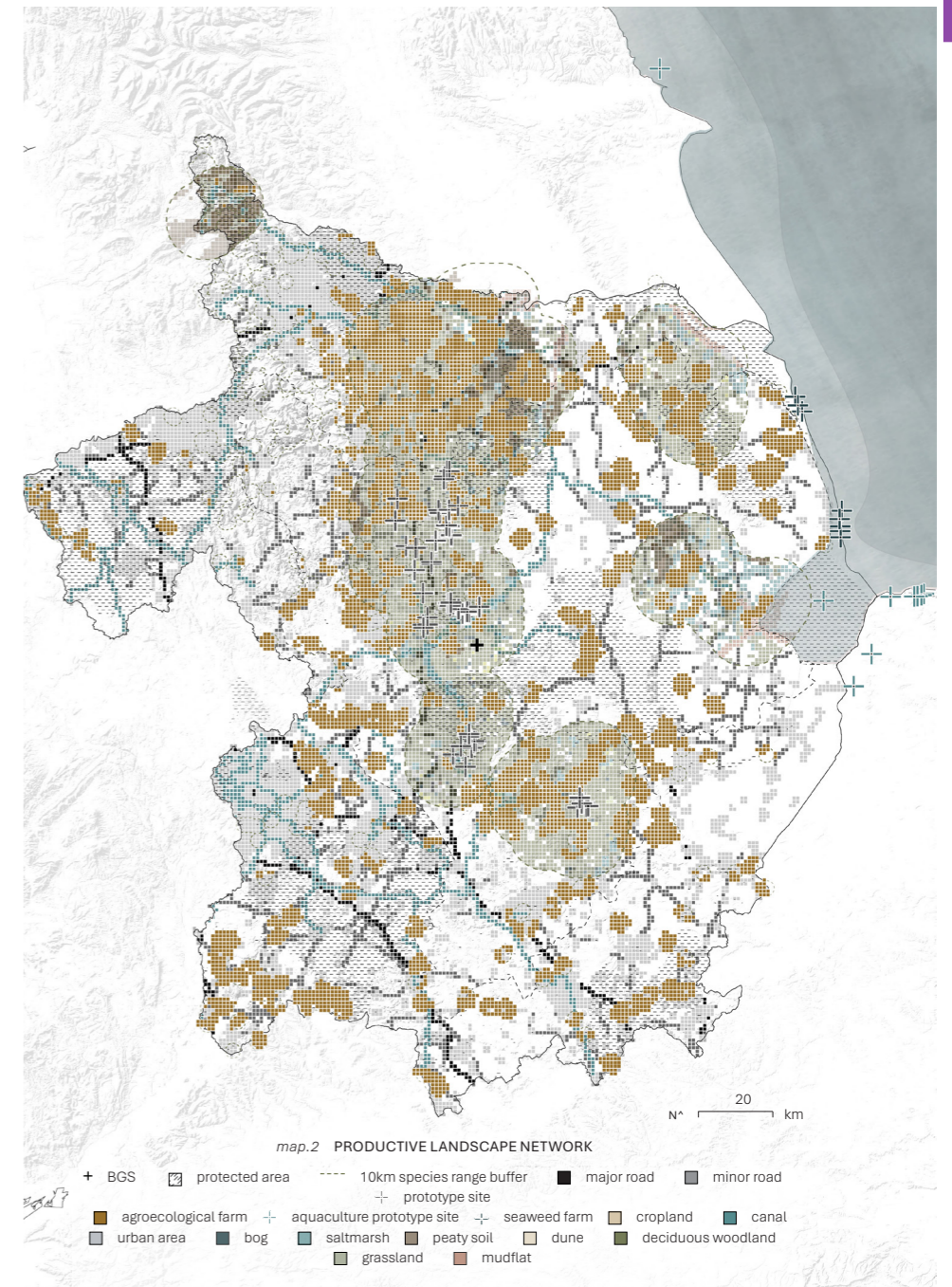


▲ Existing BGS Campus, part of UKRI

▼ Biobased retrofitting of BGS campus (developed by MSc student, the rest of the images are from MARCH students' thesis)

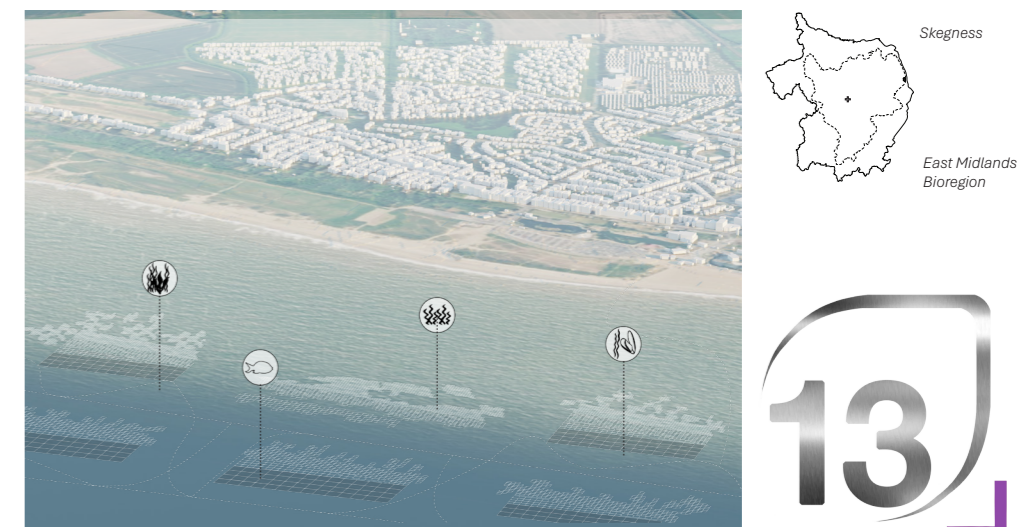


To understand the opportunities for kelp and aquaculture sites in the UK, we inventoried existing aquaculture and seaweed sites, coastal communities and infrastructure such as ports, planned windfarms and vessel traffic routes as well as ownership structures in conventional supply chains.



▲ Productive Landscape Network

▼ Future Seaweed & Aquaculture Farm Expansion in Skegness



## Biobased Prototype Site ▶

### Prototype Site 1:33 Model

Model visualising actors in the Public Common Partnership (PCP) who contribute to democratic mobilisation of the biobased industry.

PCPs are a policy framework for partnering diverse interest groups to forge an anticapitalist approach to material production, supply, use, and disposal so profits remain in the hands of communities who contribute to material production and use in design and construction.



Country/City	LONDON, UK
University / School	ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Academic year	2023-2025
Title of the project	CULTIVATING COMMONS
Authors	Priyanka Awatramani (MArch), Emily Bowerman (MArch), and Alejandra Iturrizaga (MSc)



Title of the project	Towards Agroecological Urbanism in Chichester
Authors	Yun Zheng, Shuheng Qie, Yi Duan
Title of the course	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme Final Thesis
Academic year	2024-2025
Teaching Staff	Jose Alfredo Ramirez, Daniel Kiss
Department / Section / Program of belonging	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme
University / School	Architectural Association

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

UK landscapes are currently managed in a fragmented manner. Agrarian, coastal, and urban landscapes operate independently, overlooking their interconnectedness and mutual dependencies. A prime example is Chichester, where Chichester Bay suffers from pollution caused by urban sewage, agricultural runoff, and fertilisers from nearby monocultures. Yet existing policies address coastal, agrarian, or urban landscapes in isolation, failing to consider their systemic relationships.

The Towards Agroecological Urbanism in Chichester project recognizes these connections and applies agroecological principles to integrate these landscapes. It proposes a comprehensive set of agrarian policies to foster productive interdependence, diversifying production in both coastal and rural areas to supply local food and bio-based materials while reducing pollution in Chichester Bay.

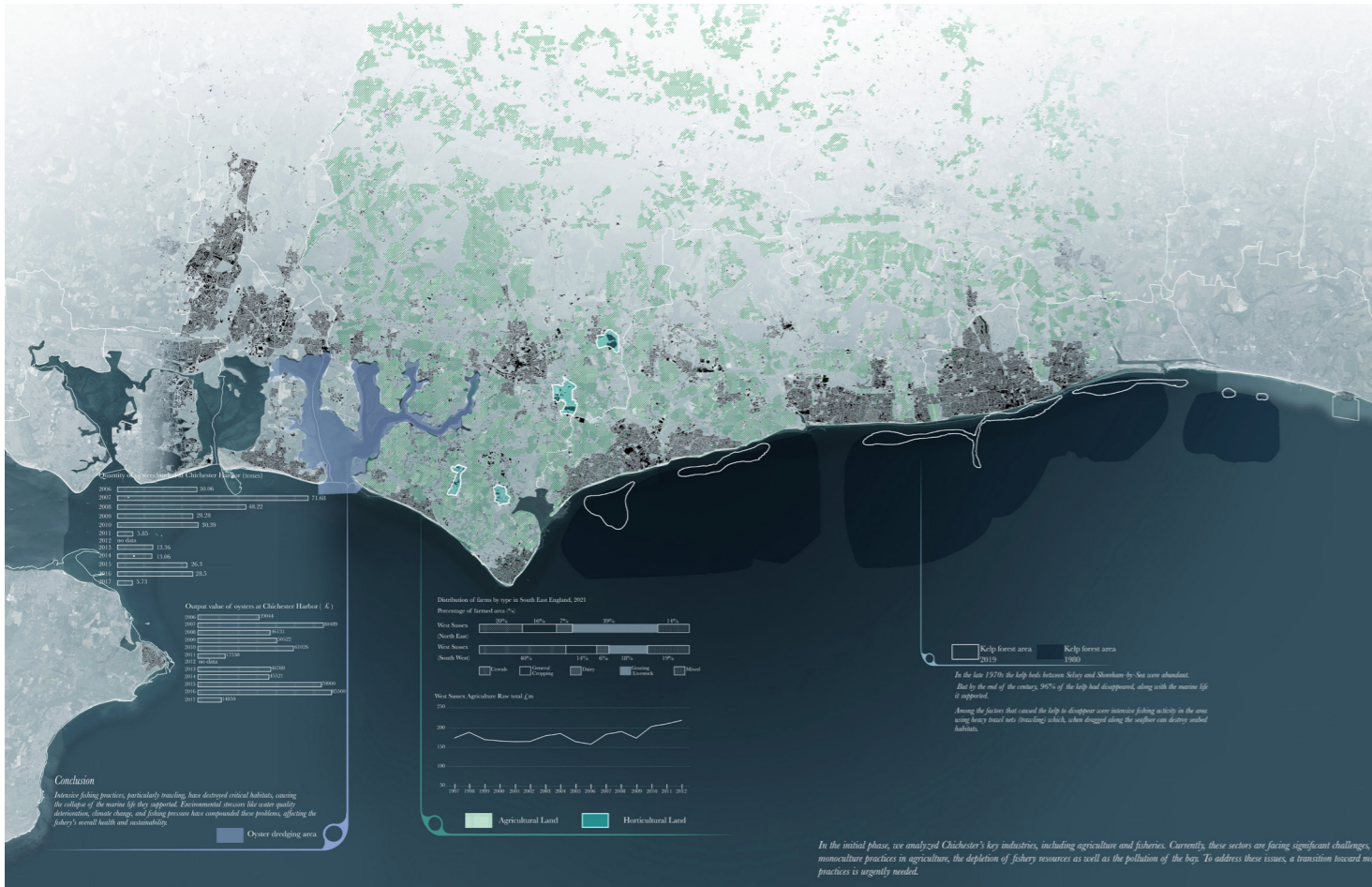
By reconnecting people with their landscapes through local food production, the project stimulates the economy, supporting businesses such as bakeries, housing retrofitting, and university research. A Chichester Community Benefit Society is suggested as a governance model, forming partnerships between public bodies (e.g., conservation authorities and the Chichester Council), farmers, restaurants, and other enterprises to ensure shared benefits from this transformation. Additional advantages include reduced agricultural carbon emissions and increased biodiversity across coastal and agrarian landscapes.

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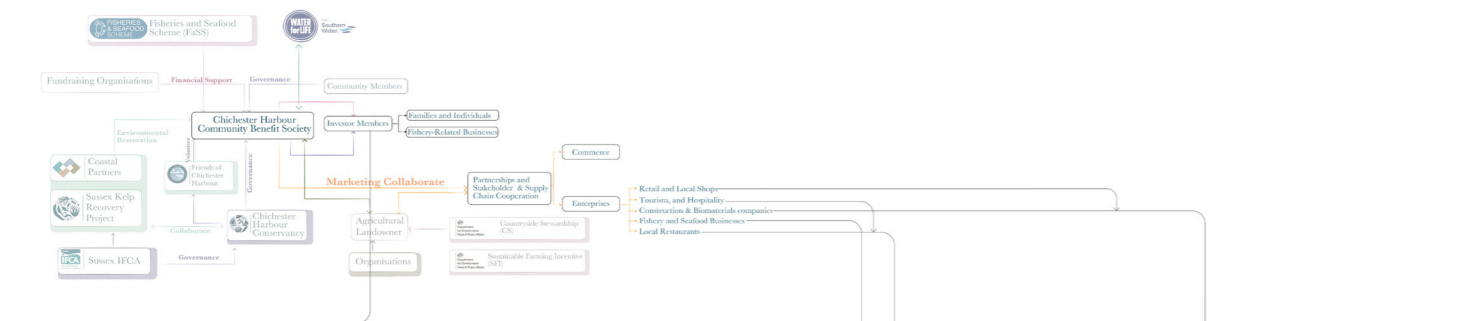
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Maps of Chichester landuse highlighting monoculture in the agrarian landscape and areas with potential kelp and oyster production along the coast.



Chichester Harbour Community Benefit Society

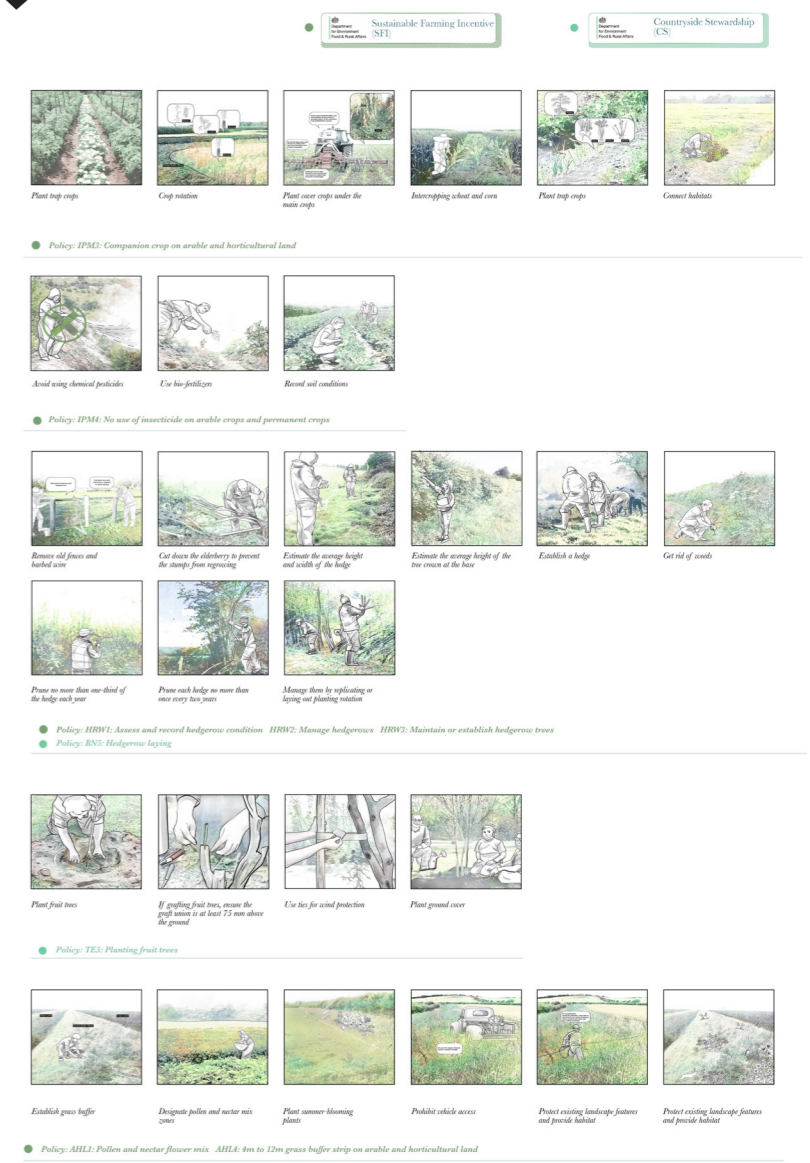
In this section we visualize in more detail the actions taken by the CBS in different stages to transform the landscape.

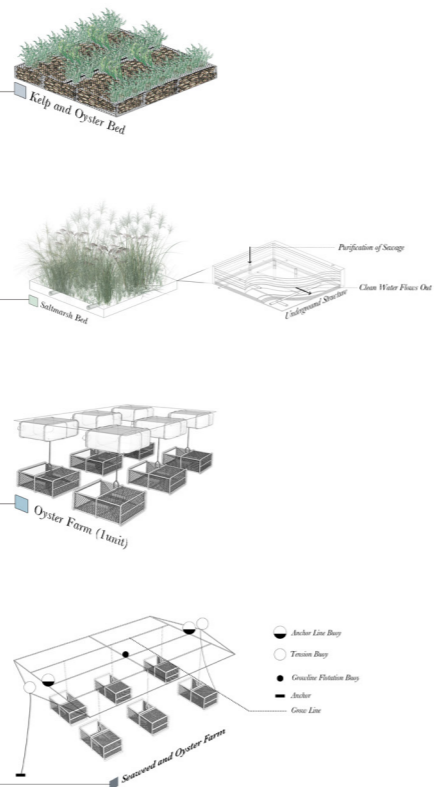


Agroecological section/ Section A



Catalogue of Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) illustrated policies.



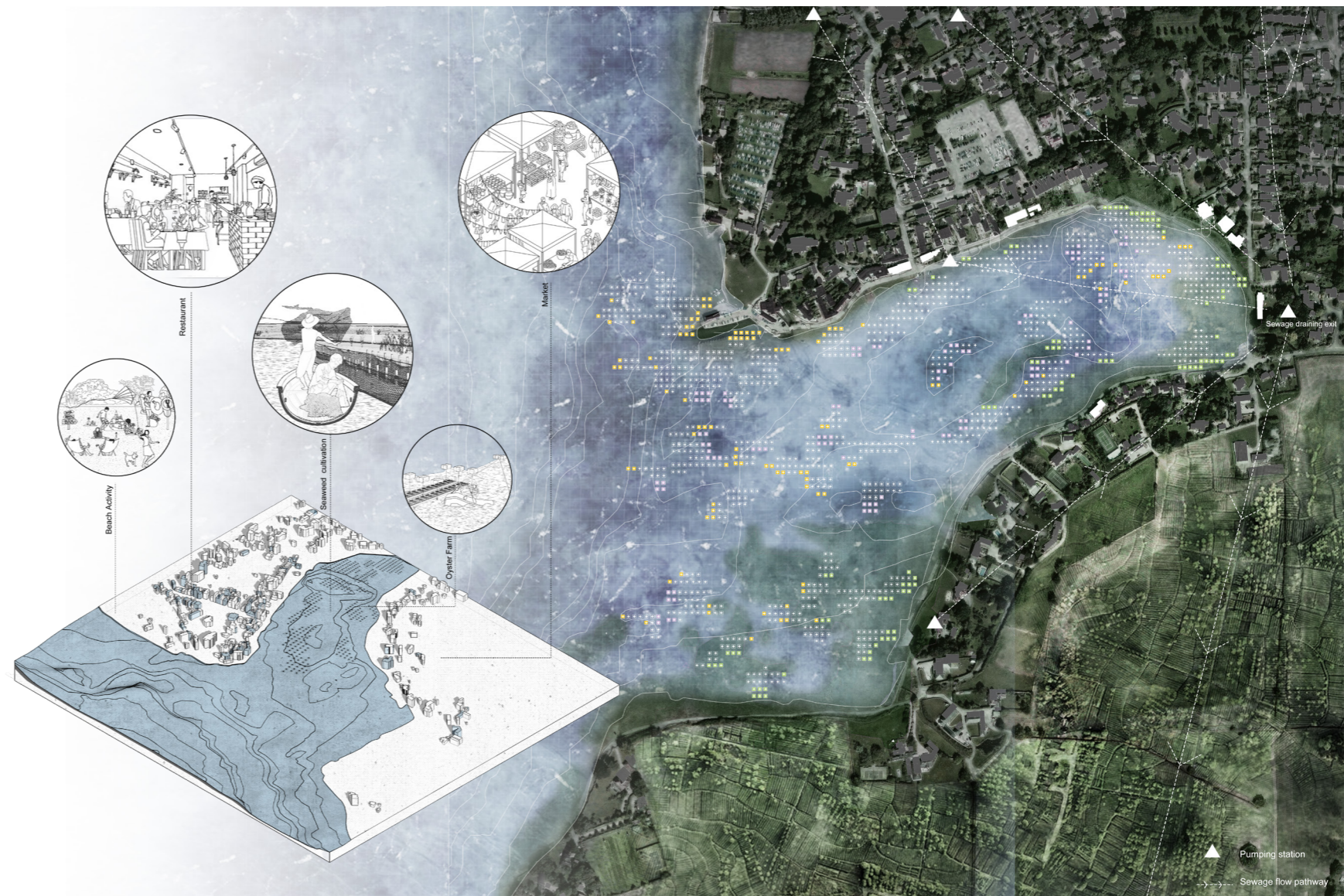


◀ Agrarian Landscape Visualisation

Harbour prototype and landscape connection

▲ Sea Farm Proposal

Coastal Sea Farm Visualisation



Country/City LONDON, UK

University / School ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Academic year 2023-25

Title of the project TOWARDS AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM IN CHICHESTER

Authors Yun Zheng, Shuheng Qie, Yi Duan



Title of the project	Un Cmyru (One Wales)
Authors	Parth Mehta, Reshma Sushan Mathew, Wenxue Hu and Runqi Ye
Title of the course	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme Final Thesis
Academic year	2022-2023
Teaching Staff	Clara Oloriz, Carlotta Olivari, Elena Luciano, Daniel Kiss
Department / Section / Program of belonging	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme
University / School	Architectural Association

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

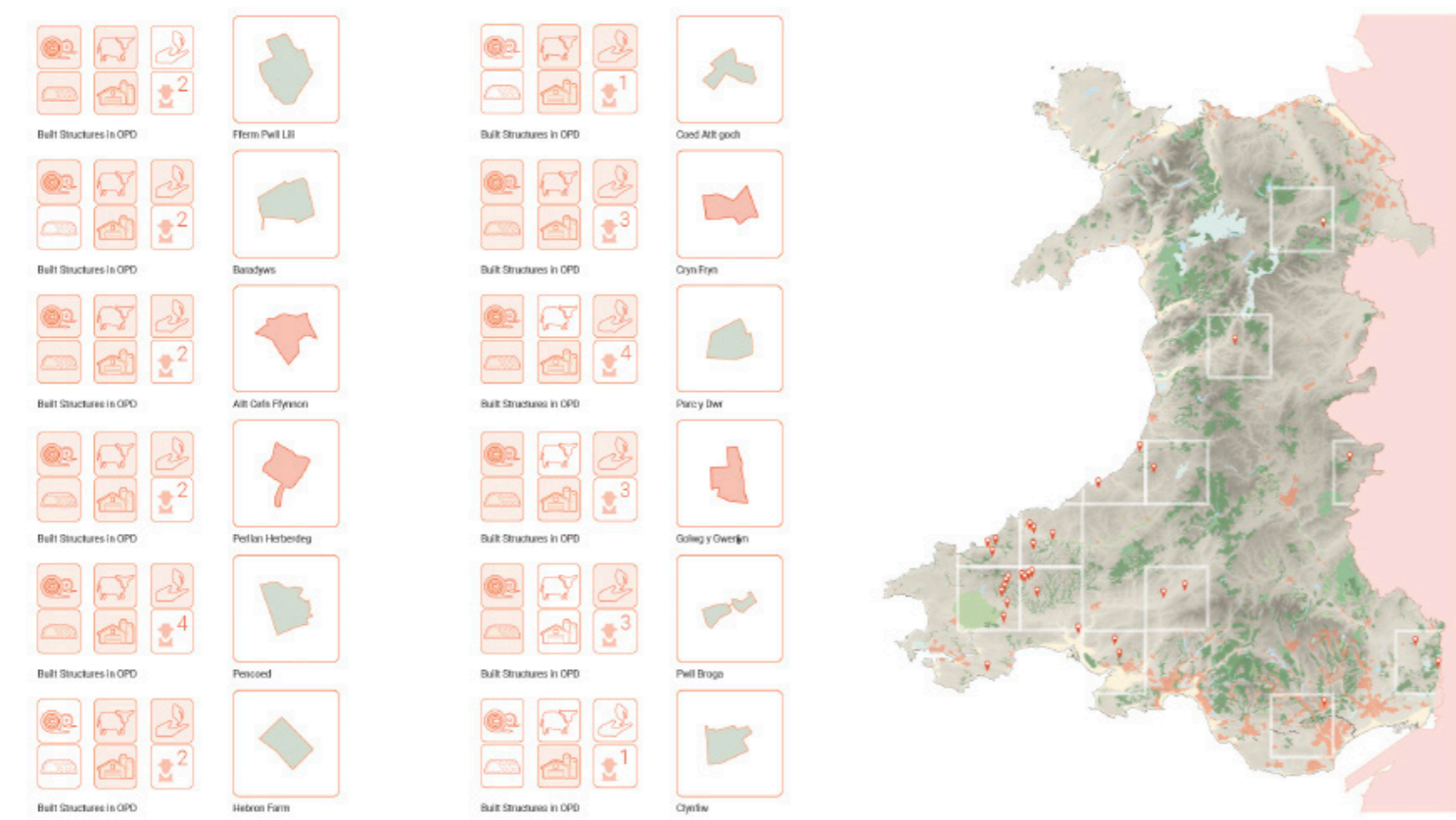
The climate crisis has prompted varied governmental responses. This thesis examined one such policy in Wales, UK: the One Planet Development Policy (OPD, 2011), aimed at climate action by reducing residents’ individual Ecological Footprints (EF). Though Wales is a small, proud nation of 4 million with magnificent scenery, its ecological footprint rivals that of many top emitters, challenging assumptions about its global impact. Analysis also revealed that despite nearly 80% of its landscape being used for agriculture (Welsh Parliament, 2022), Wales remains highly food insecure. This project challenges current policies around food production, land management and climate action, based on the business-as-usual and the capitalist economic system. OPD allows applicants to live on agricultural land with the condition to live from the land, construct low-carbon buildings and facilities and low-impact enterprises. However, interviews with successful OPD projects and local organisations revealed that the individualistic approach has led to local animosity, low intake and limited impacts. Through collaboration with local climate activists and farmers, the project rethinks the OPD through the design of a more collective and resilient local food system. By challenging current food production methods, it proposes a unique spatial model of food zones, where land use and distribution foster collaborations and ecological adaptation, while reducing dependency on food imports. Proximity, lowland and highland conditions and soil quality determine the distribution of different food models. Ultimately, the reformed OPD reconsiders the relationship between people and their land, suggesting dwelling and agroforestry strategies that take care of ecosystems through more efficient carbon capture.

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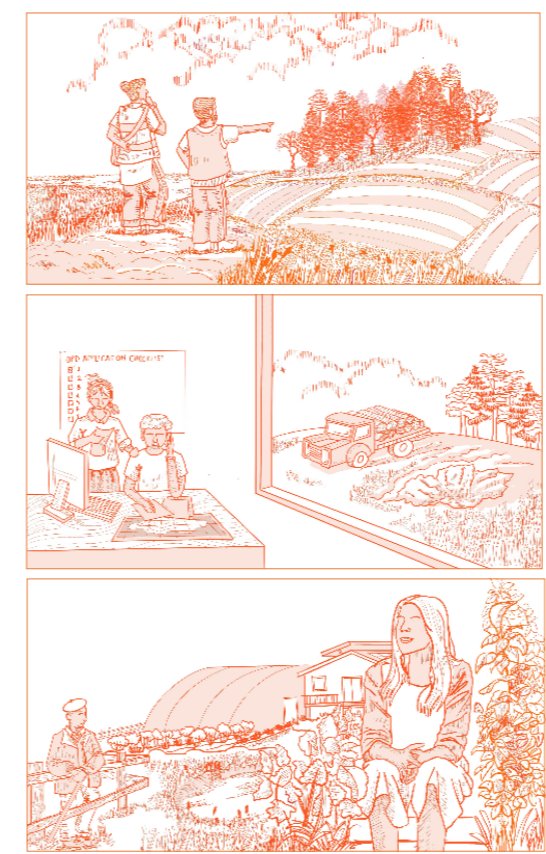
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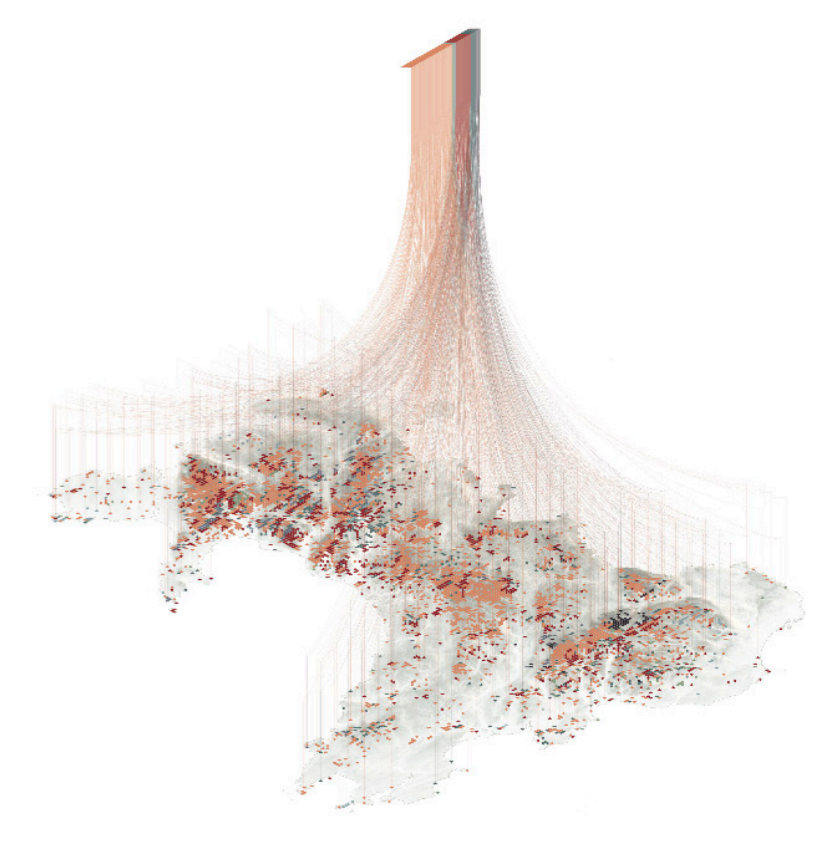
# Case study of 12 OPD Sites



# Scenes from Successful OPD



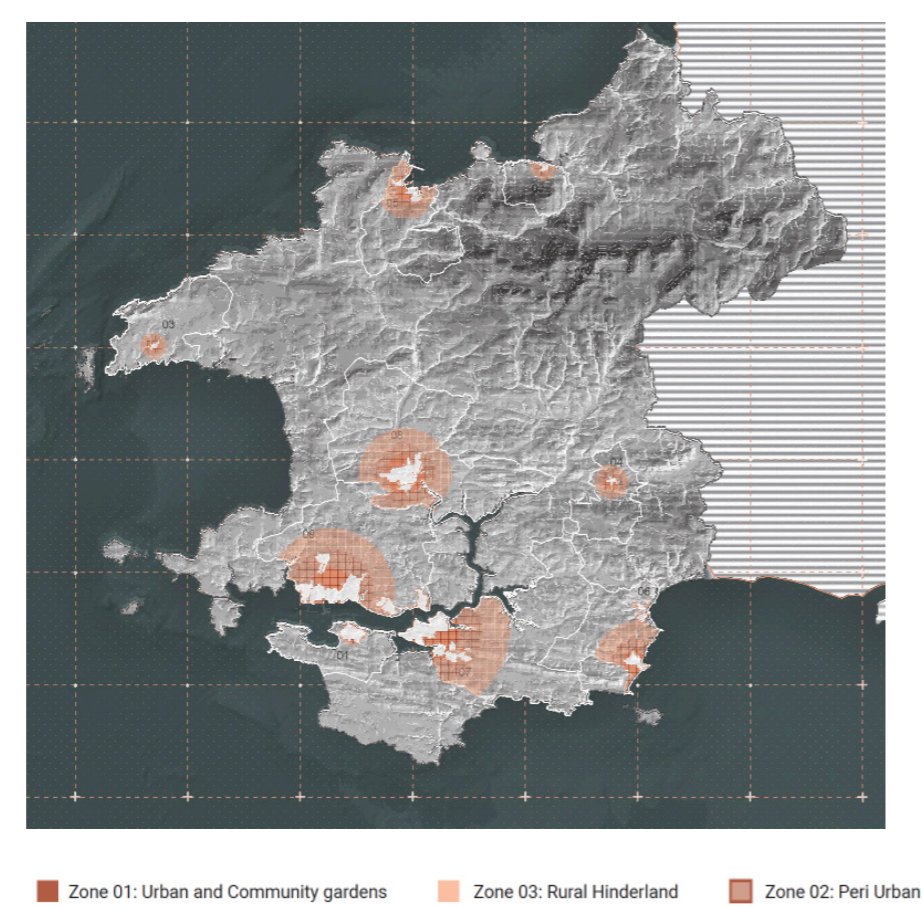
# Land Cover Variations



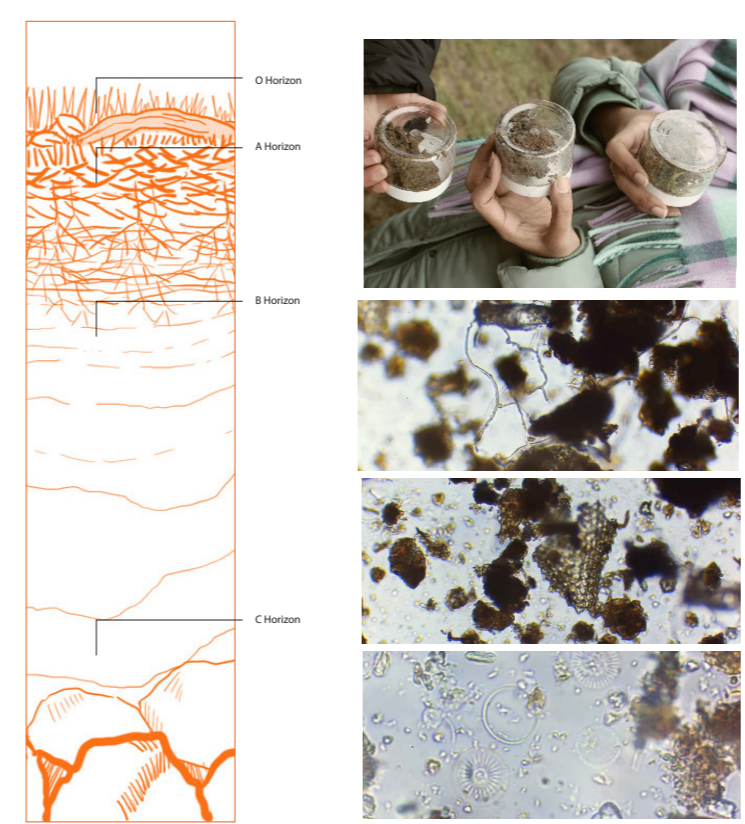
# Food Zones (Process)



# Food Zones



# Soil under the Microscope



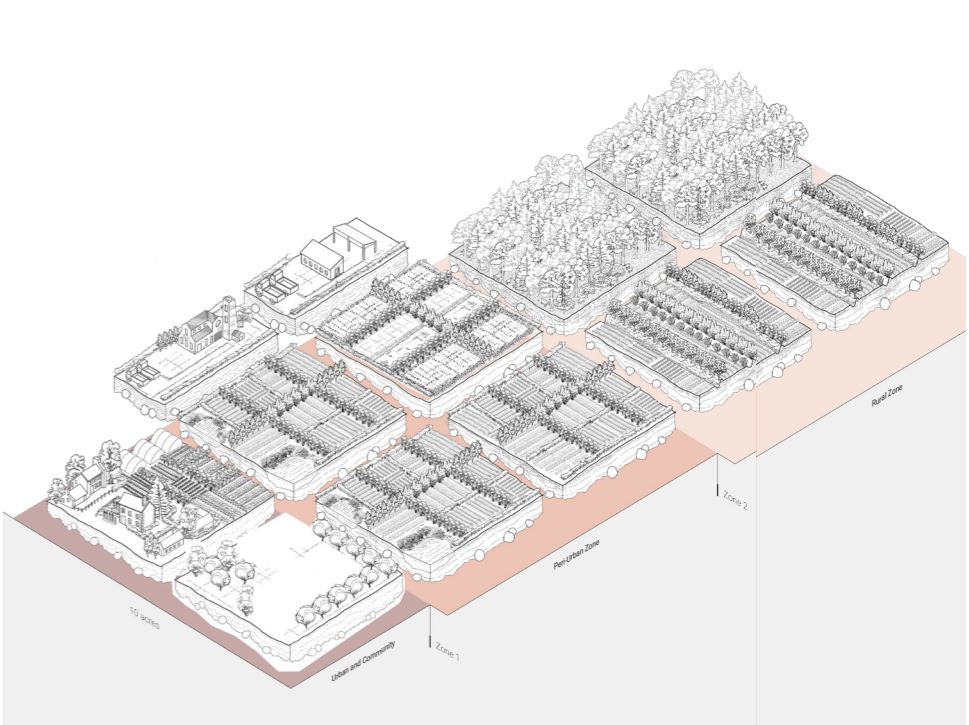
# OPD Sites



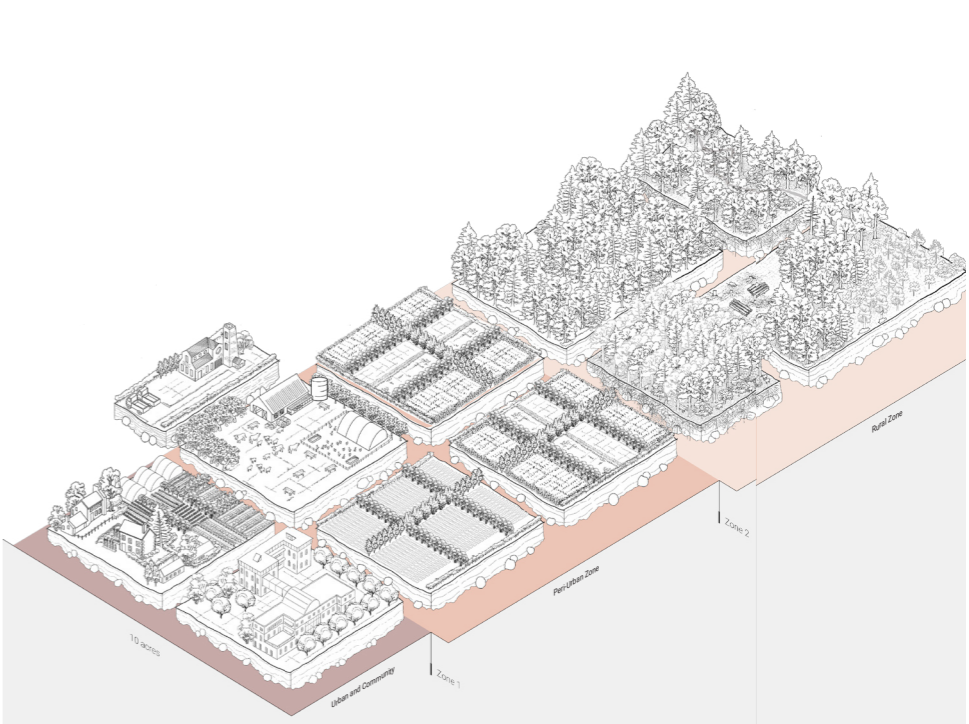
Growing Communities' Food Zone Spatialisation



Lowland 10 Acre Market Garden Model



Highland 10 Acre Market Garden Model



Country/City	LONDON, UK
University / School	ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Academic year	2022-23
Title of the project	UN.CMYRU.(ONE WALES)
Authors	Parth Mehta, Reshma Sushan Mathew, Wenxue Hu and Runqi Ye



Title of the project	Re-Peatland Scotland
Authors	Yu-Ting Liu, Sara Halaoui, Ting-Yu Chao, Chai-Chun Chen
Title of the course	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc MArch Masters Programme Final Thesis
Academic year	2021-2022
Teaching Staff	Clara Oloriz, Daniel Kiss, Elena Luciano, Teresa Stoppani
Department / Section / Program of belonging	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc MArch Masters Programme
University / School	Architectural Association

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

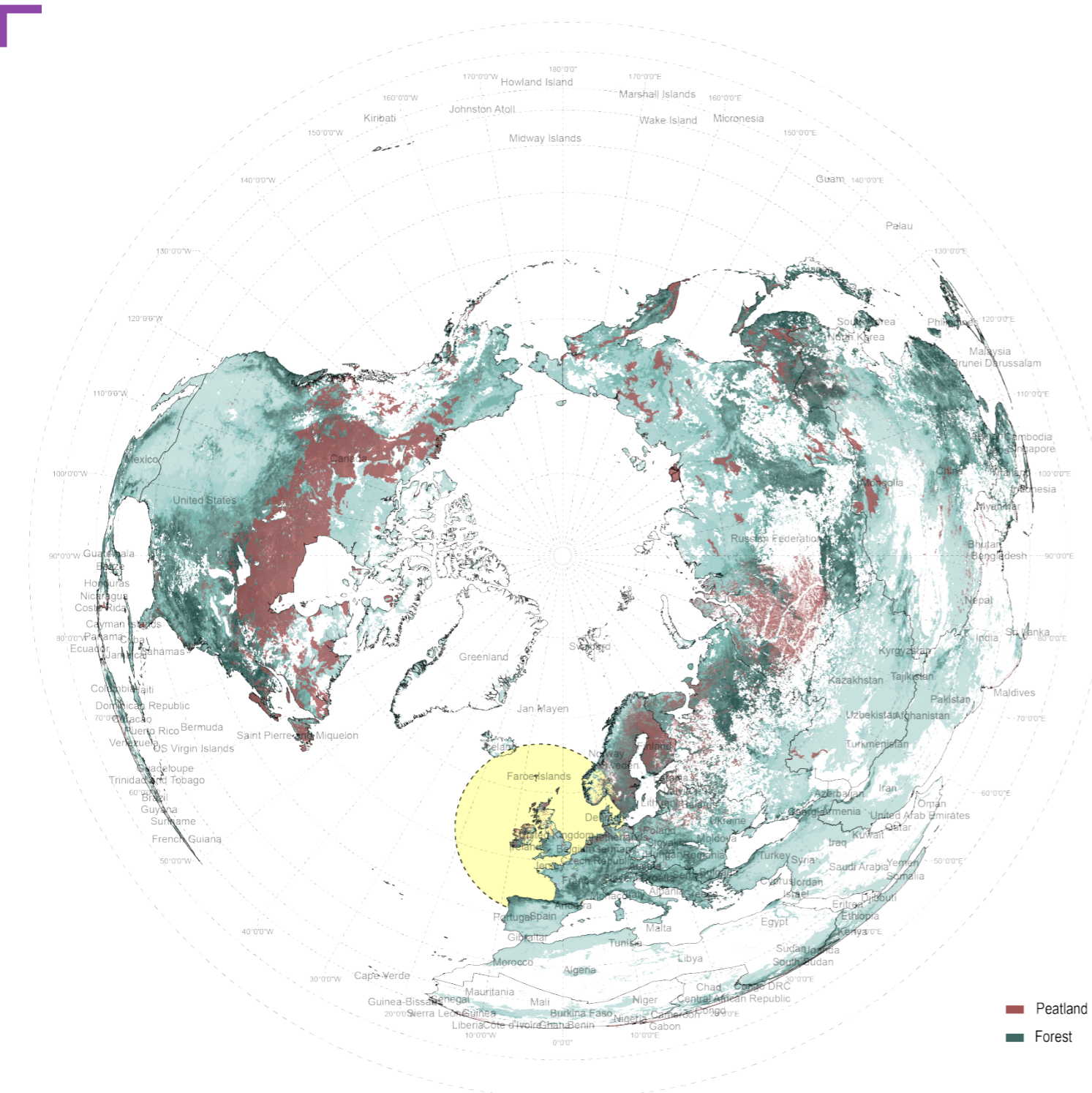
This project looks critically at carbon crediting systems and how they are shaping landscapes at a global scale. It focuses on the UK and Scotland, where a fifth to a third of its surface is peatland. Historically and worldwide considered wastelands, they have been drained for agriculture, designated for forestry, and more recently, wind farms are being installed on these remote landscapes. These land use conflicts, mapped in this project at multiple scales, pose severe threats to these unique environments and terrestrial carbon sinks. The Scottish National Planning Framework 4, for example, allows the construction of wind farms on Peatlands to meet Net-Zero targets. Afforestation and wind farms count as positive carbon credits; however, if these land cover changes are effected on peatlands, their disturbance releases so much carbon, that it can result in negative net sums. ....

In collaboration with the John Muir Trust, this project proposes a Carbon Emissions Land Tax policy for large landowners (over 500 Ha) in Scotland, based on the landuse emissions. Tools and guidance are provided to incentivise the reduction of emissions and the tax. The revenue is used for further peatland restoration and expansion of community projects. The policy is accompanied by management strategies, land assessment tools based on soil sampling, an interactive platform, and low-tech and high-tech site mapping techniques. Funding coming from the land tax, low-tech soil knowledges and institutional support empower local community stewardship of peatlands. Addressing ownership concentration, the project frames alternative relations to soil and knowledge engagement in peatland landscapes. ....

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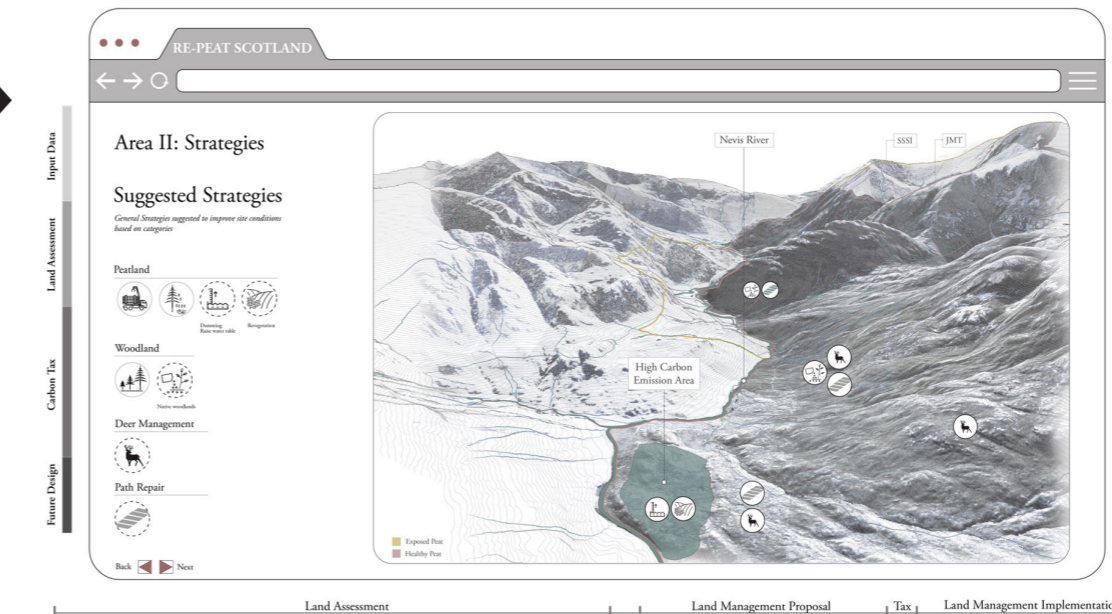


▲ GIS global mapping \_ Peatland and Woodlands

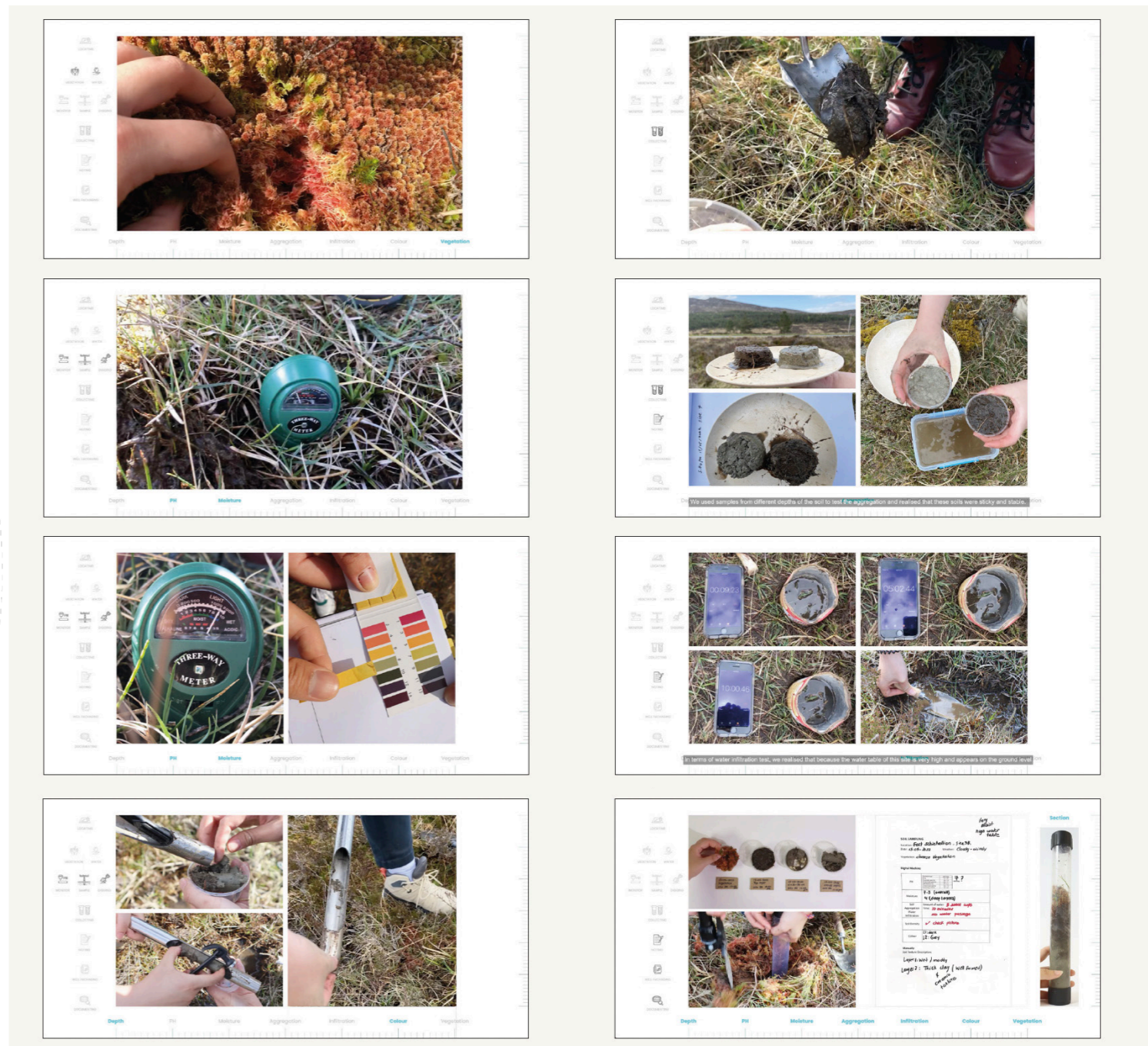
▼ Afforestation conflicts in Peatlands

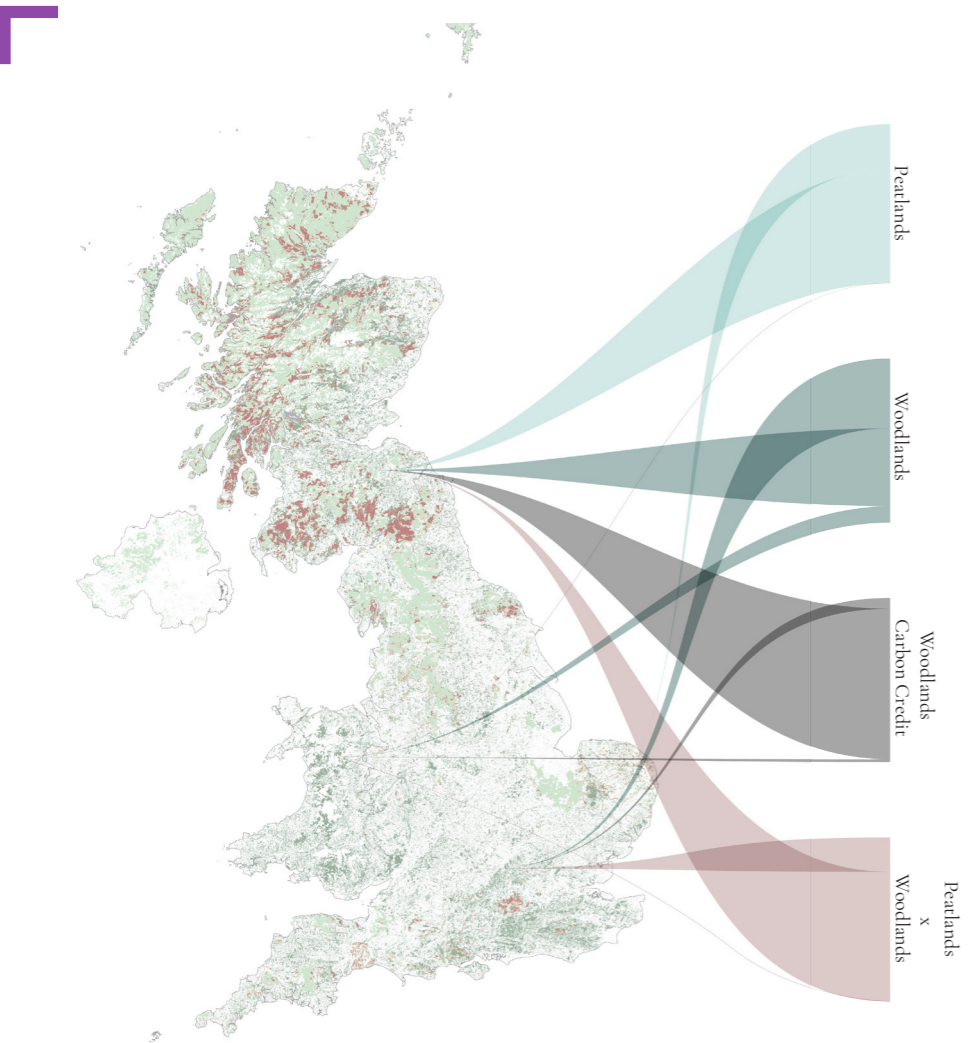


Interactive platform for peatland assessment in Scotland ▶



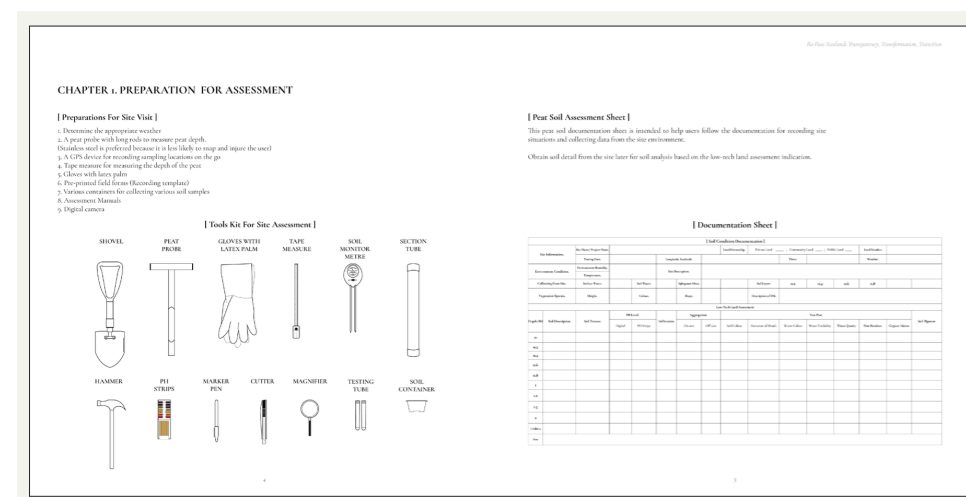
▲ Community manual for peatland soil testing





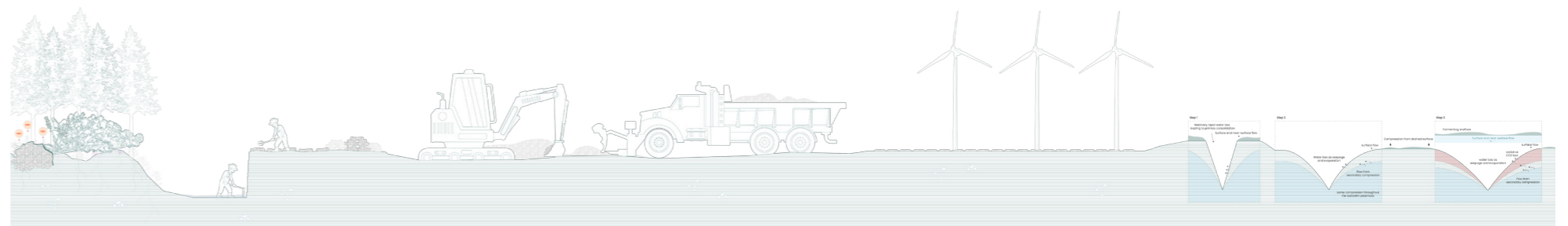
▲ Peatland landuse conflicts in UK

▼ Community soil testing tools



▲ Community peatland restoration and engagement

▼ Peatland degradation



Country/City

LONDON, UK

University / School

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Academic year

2021-2022

Title of the project

RE-PEAT SCOTLAND

Authors

Yu-Ting Liu, Sara Halaoui, Ting-Yu Chao, Chai-Chun Chen



Title of the project	Rewilding UK. Rewilding the Productive Landscape.....
Authors	Carlotta Olivari, Zhuqing Li, Yuanyuan Huang.....
Title of the course	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme Final Thesis.....
Academic year	2020-2021.....
Teaching Staff	Jose, Alfredo Ramlrez, Eduardo Rico, Clara Oloriz, Liam Mouritz, Claudio Campanile, Daniel Kiss.....
Department / Section / Program of belonging	AA Landscape Urbanism MSc March Masters Programme.....
University / School	Architectural Association.....

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

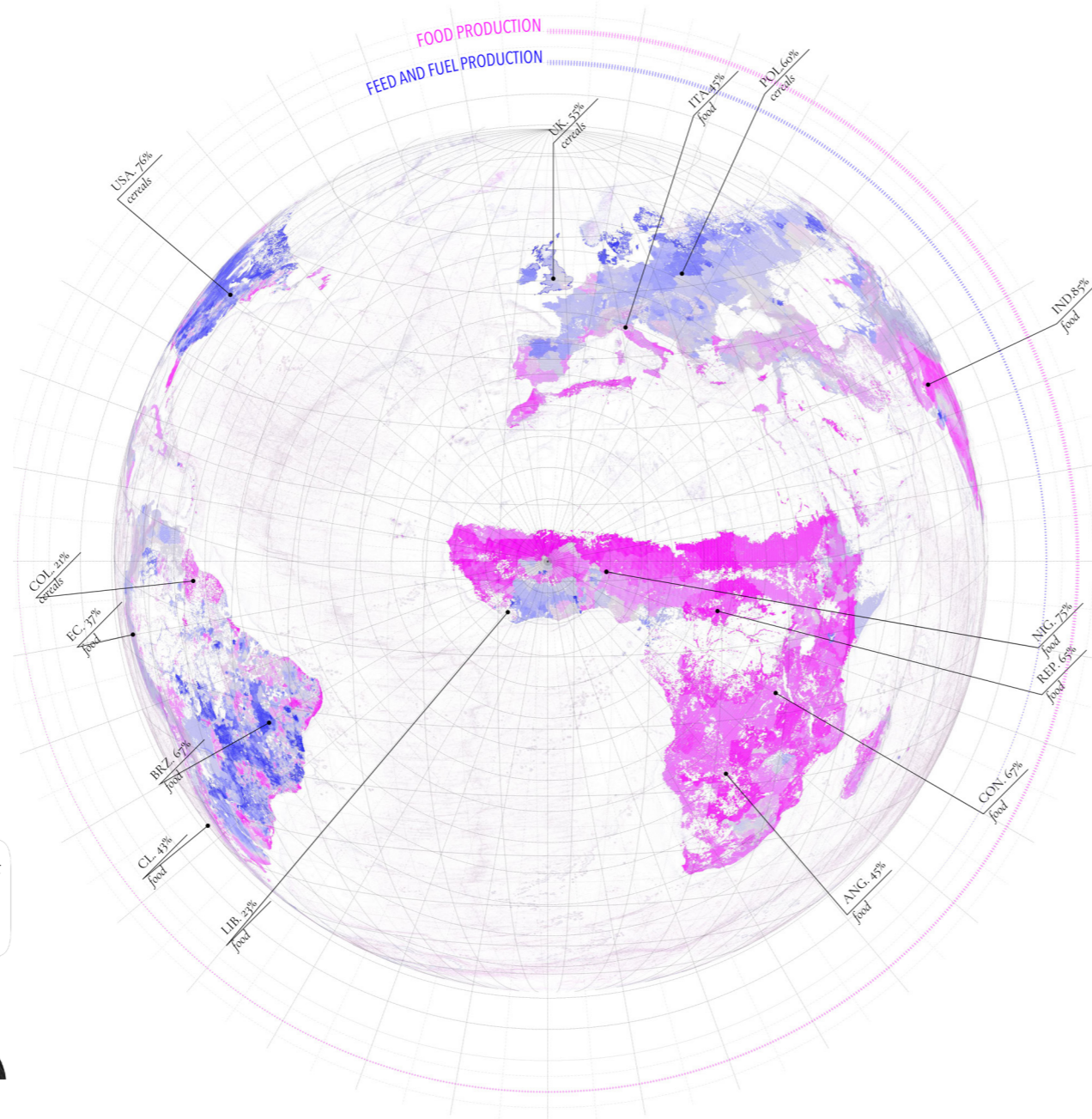
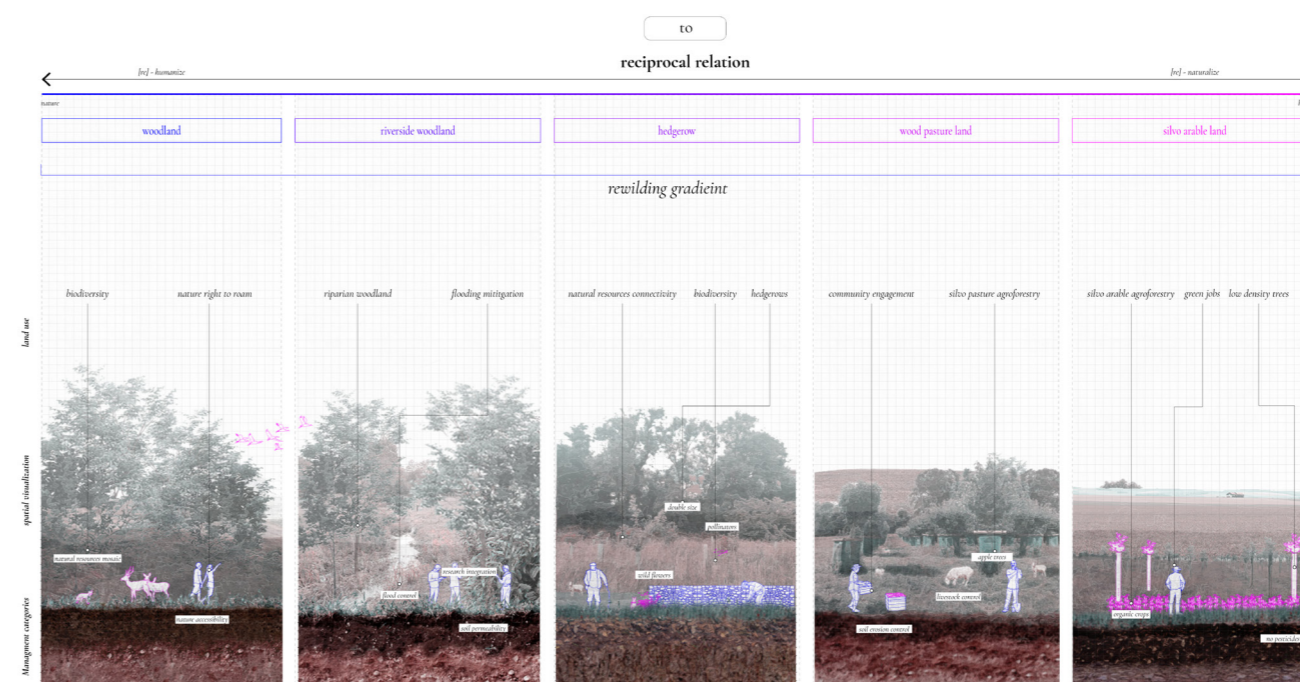
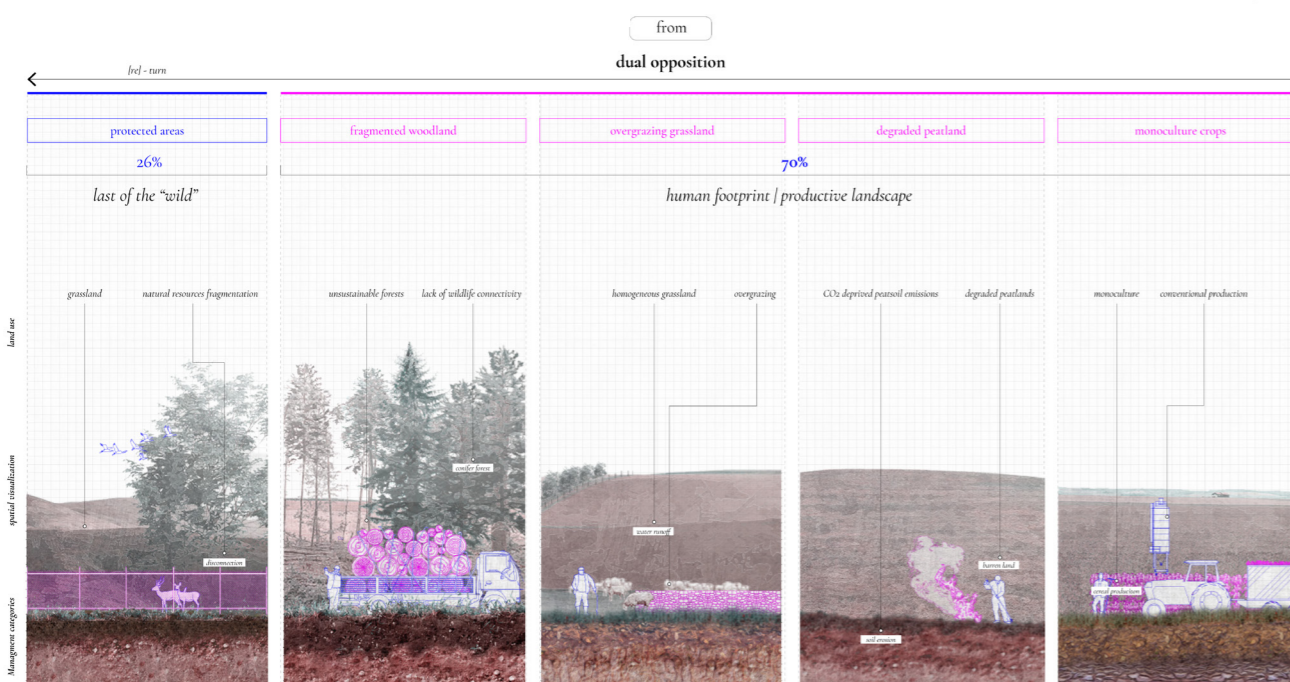
In the context of the UK transition away from the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after Brexit, this project confronts the dual opposition between nature and human footprint in the UK in farming policy conversations. Decades of CAP and concentrated land ownership have caused soil erosion, extreme flooding, and biodiversity loss, as 70% of UK land is used for agriculture. In the remaining 30%, existing small, isolated rewilding efforts and static protected areas are proving insufficient. The central research question aims to design an integrated strategy to productively rewild agricultural land in a just transition, fostering a reciprocal relationship between human and non-human processes by empowering farmers. This requires a new rewilding definition for productive landscapes, rethinking land relations, integrating agroecological schemes, including farmers' voices and rejecting the human-nature dualism. Rather than "protecting" nearly 30% of land, preventing local communities from accessing it, the proposal rewilds harmful agro-industrial practices with reciprocal farming relations. The strategy utilises a basin systemic approach and a gradient of rewilding actions adapted to the current Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grades to allocate the new farming subsidies or Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS). These actions include broadleaved woodland, riparian land, hedgerows, silvo-arable and silvo-pasture practices. To support this, a new rewilding policy is proposed, complemented by practical tools: a spatial mapping tool for farmer cluster negotiations and connectivity, and a local handbook for step-by-step guidance. This framework enables farmers, through collaboration and revised grants, to transition over time into land managers of public goods, enhancing ecological connectivity.....

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55% of the UK agriculture production is for animal feed. This trend of fuel and feed production is common in the Global North as shown in the planetary projection, while food for human production concentrates in the Global South. Within this context, rewilding strategies should not depend on the instrumentalization of virtual agriculture from the Global South.

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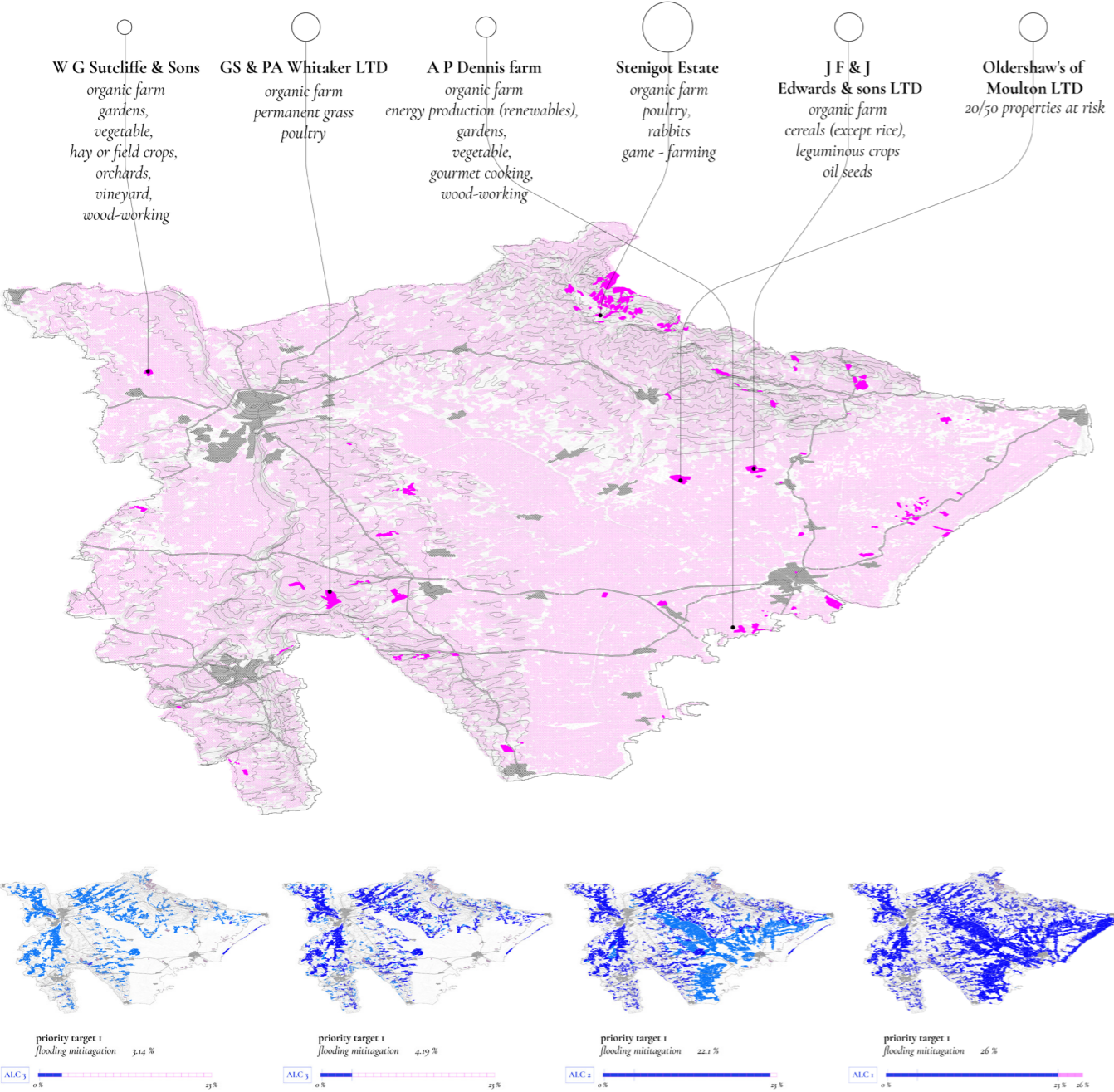
## ◀ The Rewilding definition

Wilderness is addressed through a new lens where culture and nature are not in opposition (right) vs existing paradigm (left).

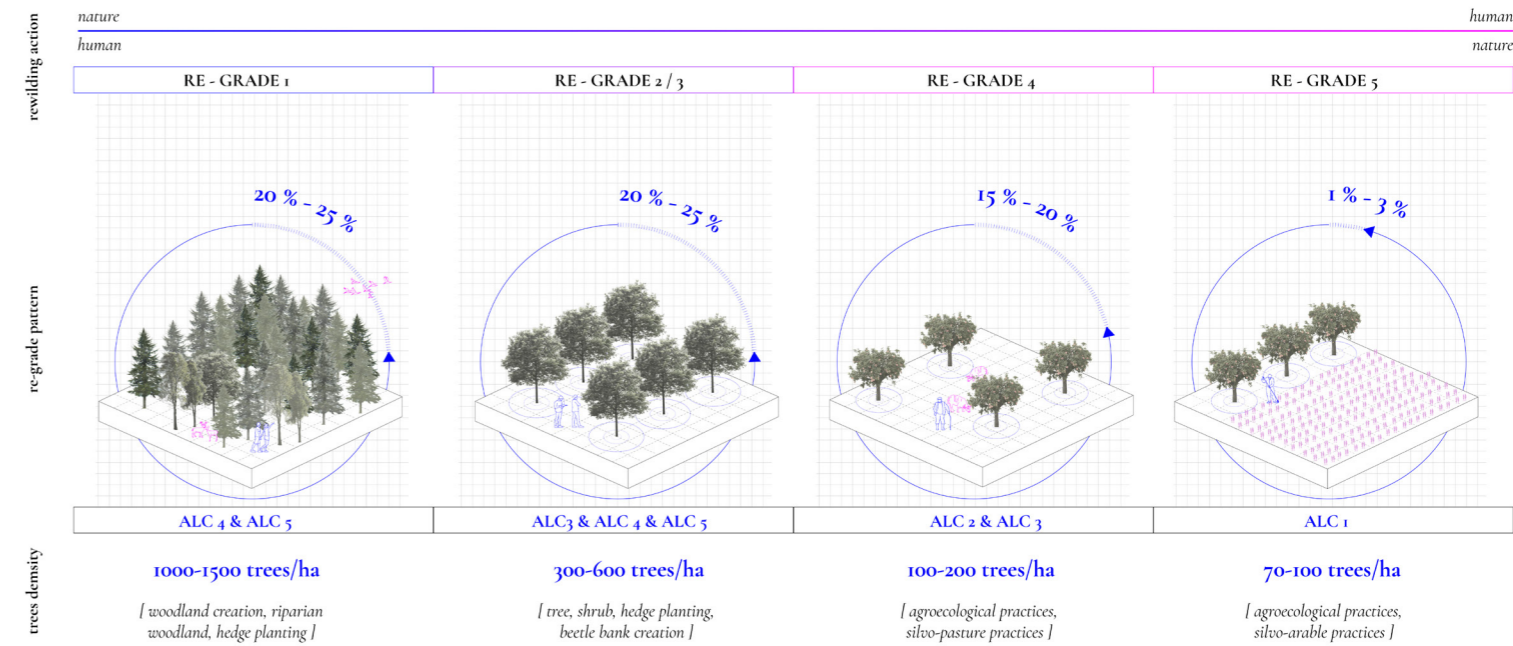
The Basin Scale Strategy

The basin policy implementation is proposed to spatialise opportunity areas at a landscape scale and empower small farmers to access to rewilding actions. East Anglian basin is used as a prototypical case.

The basin policy would act locally, empowering small farmers to collaborate and activate rewilding actions. A time-based rewilding transition is imagined, shaping a new integrated landscape.



Proposed UK Rewilding Policy based on current ALC



Rewilding future vision



Country/City

LONDON, UK

University / School

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Academic year

2020-21

Title of the project

REWILDING.UK

Authors

Carlotta Olivari, Zhuqing Li, Yuanyuan Huang