

COUNTRYSIDE, THE FUTURE?

The early manifesto work and research for this project focused on an attitude towards how things are built and the way in which the needs of the agricultural industry are met globally today. The question of the countryside as the future is most certainly an interesting and pertinent one and my early research investigated this as a concept. I became certain that if countryside were to be the future it should not exist in the current projected format of mass greenhouses. Being a quarry, the work of Bernd and Hilla Becher appealed to me in the way in which the buildings, not built by architects, are beautiful in their own right and are adapted to the situation that they are sited within. This led to investigations surrounding how an architecture of necessity is produced and becomes something born out of function and not simply an exercise in form making. Reading people like Rudofsky and how he speaks about the ‘untutored builders’ inspired me to both carefully consider the landscape in its current form and the built elements that would occupy it. Rudofsky speaks of a humaneness to these buildings, something which I have strived to achieve within my own work given the nature of both Jamie’s Farm as a charity and the Food Co-op as a cooperative, ethical food production facility.

As the scheme was being designed and drawn, it became clear that the ideas and attitudes I had arrived at would be best expressed in how the buildings are made. Given the attitude towards a humaneness within the architecture and for something that is adapted to its situation, the tectonics of the project became ever more apparent and so I focused on this aspect of the drawings primarily. That being said, interesting forms began to emerge from the ‘architecture of necessity’ being drawn and so are presented abstractly here, giving them space but not taking away from the tectonic elements that are most prevalent.

Within this document there are four sections, each with a short description at the start and some process work included in some cases. The process work shown is important I believe, to represent the thinking behind certain decisions and illustrates these decisions more clearly than some of the final drawings.

MANIFESTO



'The inevitability of total urbanisation must be questioned and the countryside re-imagined as a place to resettle, to stay alive.'
Modern agriculture; an 'ill wind sweeping across Europe [that] needs to be recognised and its implications fully considered.'
What remains the extent of the architect's role in this 're-imagined countryside'?

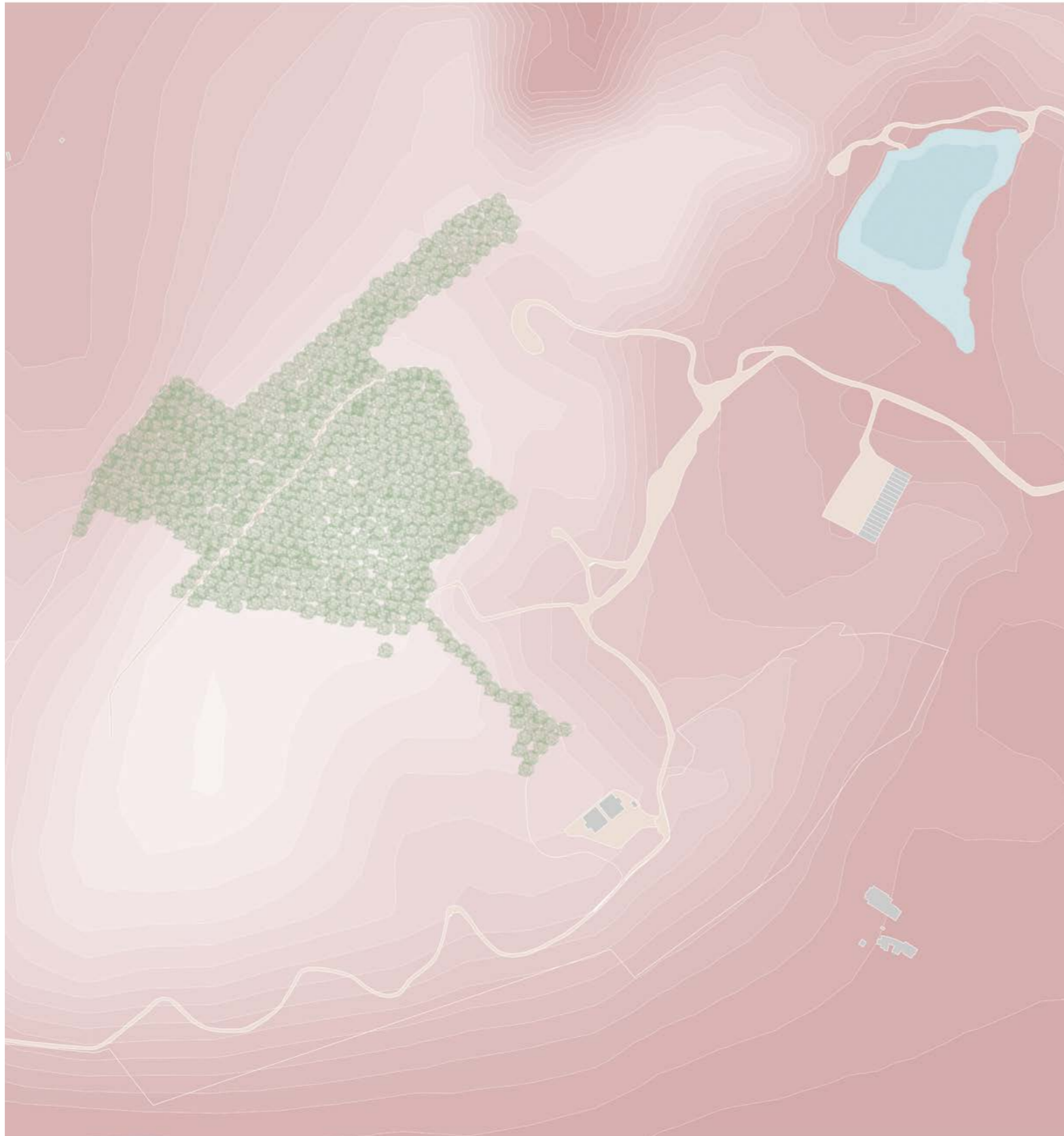
MANIFESTO



‘[The untutored builders] demonstrate an admirable talent for fitting their buildings into the natural surroundings. Instead of trying to “conquer” nature, as we do, they welcome the vagaries of climate and the challenge of topography.’
-Bernard Rudofsky, ‘Architecture Without Architects’



Redbog Pit Site



1:2500 Contour Map, Redbog Pit

The quarry as a site was an interesting place to work within and required a carefully considered landscape strategy in order to re-vegetate the land. The orchards are accommodated along the slopes in a terraced form which is part of a phased re-vegetation strategy within the quarry.

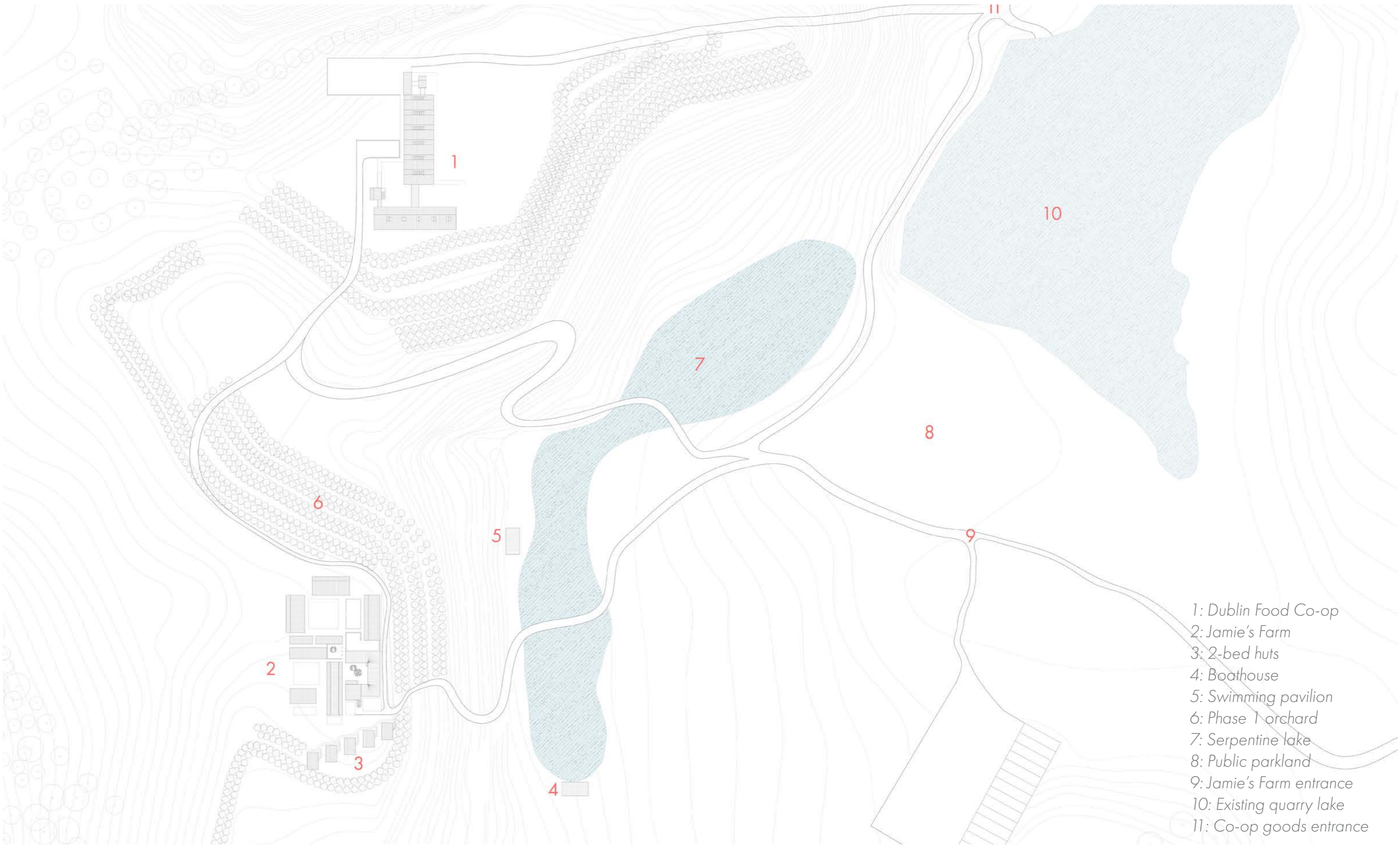
Taking cues from the work of Capability Brown, a serpentine lake is created at the natural low-point within the quarry and routes carved through the orchards to reach both Jamie's Farm and the Dublin Food Co-op.

The combined planting of trees and bodies of freshwater help to irrigate the ground and provide nutrients downslope to the orchard. This results in the lowest points within the site (phase 4) being extremely fertile and suitable for final phase planting of both orchards and walnut groves. Areas of parkland are provided along the edge of the site as a public amenity in an attempt to link the site strategy and public element of the project back to the local community within Blessington.

Pitheads and coal bunkers have historically marked the landscape of a quarry, pitching above horizon lines and marking a place of industry. This same notion of height became an interesting way to mark the new scheme, with towers rising from both the Co-op and Jamie's Farm acting as way-finding devices within the landscape. Their function something original, acting as food storage and viewing towers.

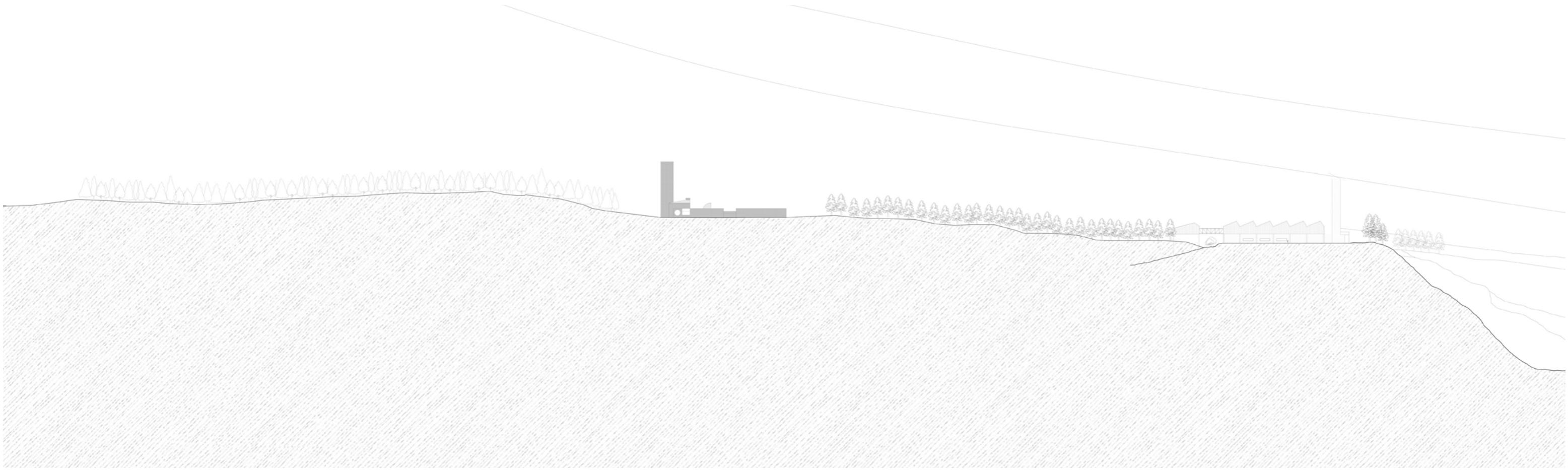


SITE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 1:1000
PHASED QUARRY REVEGETATION

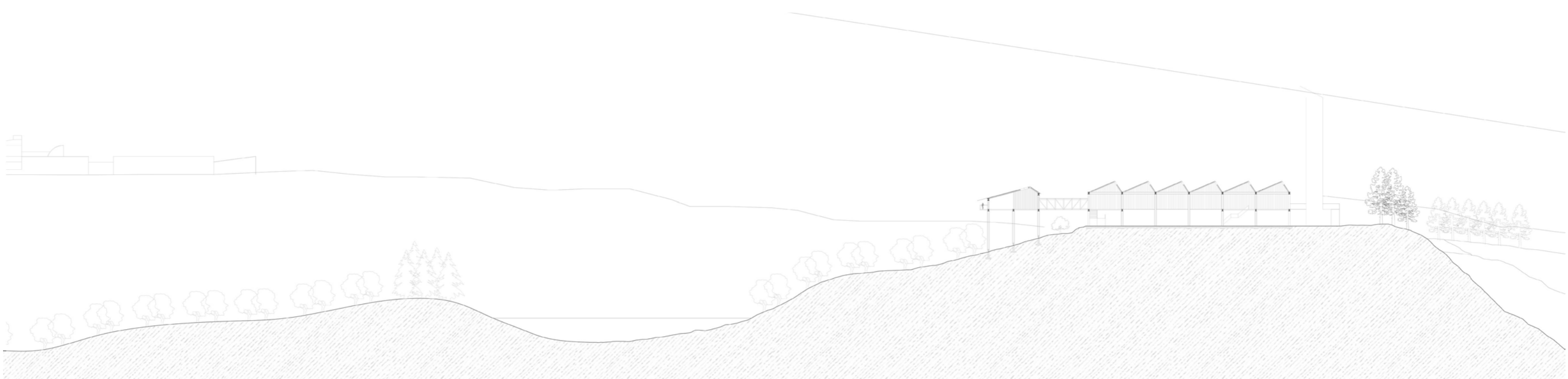


- 1: Dublin Food Co-op
- 2: Jamie's Farm
- 3: 2-bed huts
- 4: Boathouse
- 5: Swimming pavilion
- 6: Phase 1 orchard
- 7: Serpentine lake
- 8: Public parkland
- 9: Jamie's Farm entrance
- 10: Existing quarry lake
- 11: Co-op goods entrance

1:1000 Site Map



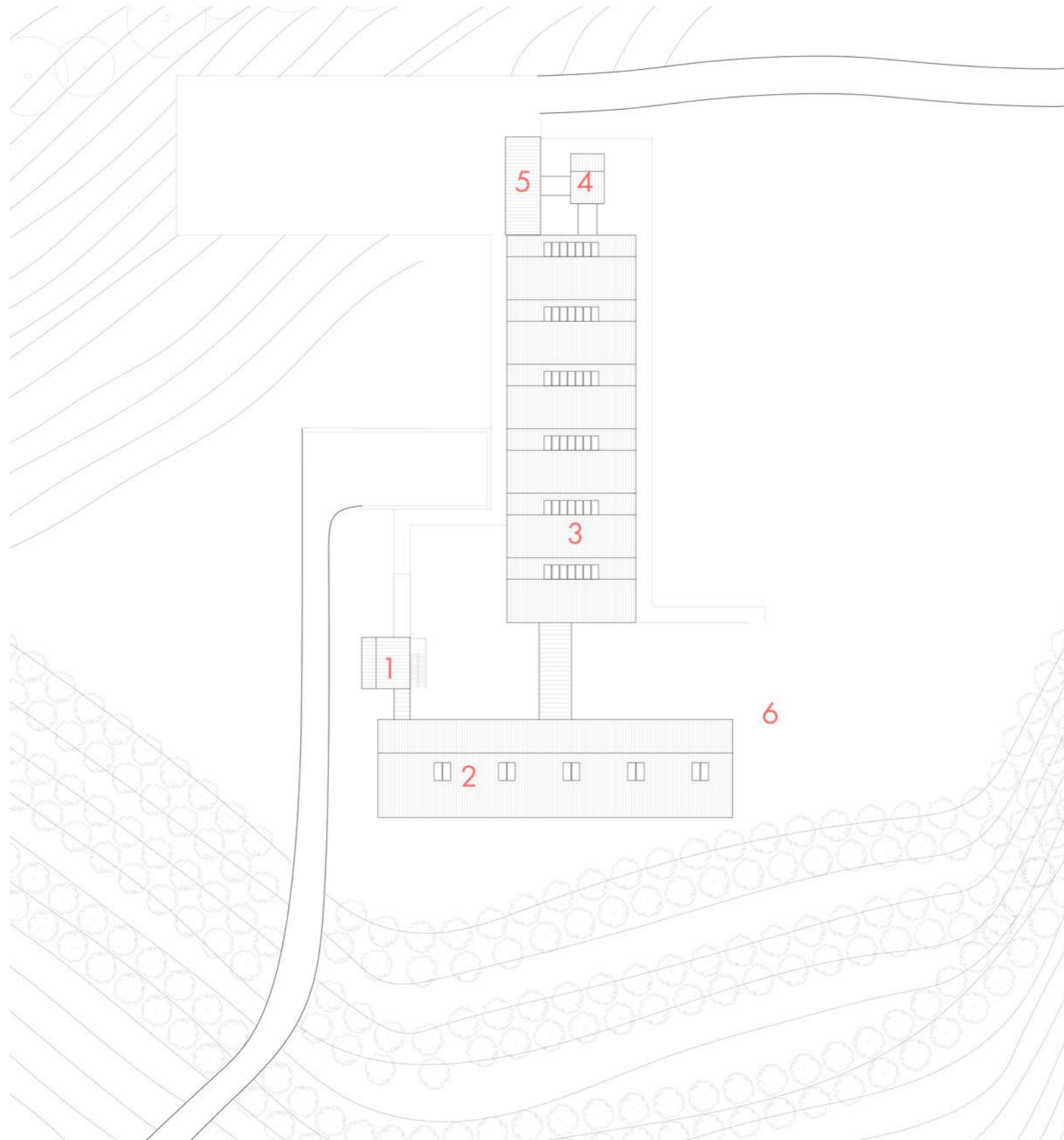
1:1000 Site Elevation



1:500 Site Section



Dublin Food Co-op



The Dublin Food Co-op is arranged in terms of function in order to separate the food production element from the ancillary staff program. The food production building is aligned perpendicular to the ancillary building connected by a bridge that brings workers from the changing rooms into the production setting.

The storage and dispatch areas are located to the north and are served by a separate route where trucks can safely arrive and depart. The storage portion exists as a tower and acts as a way-finding device within the landscape.

The form is derived entirely from the function of the Co-op as a working environment much like the quarry infrastructure that inspired the early work within the manifestos. The structure of the Co-op has a temporal quality to it, constructed of steel frames and industrial roofing materials. The temporal nature of the structure is important here as it allows for the inevitable change that will occur within food production as an industry.

1: Entrance tower

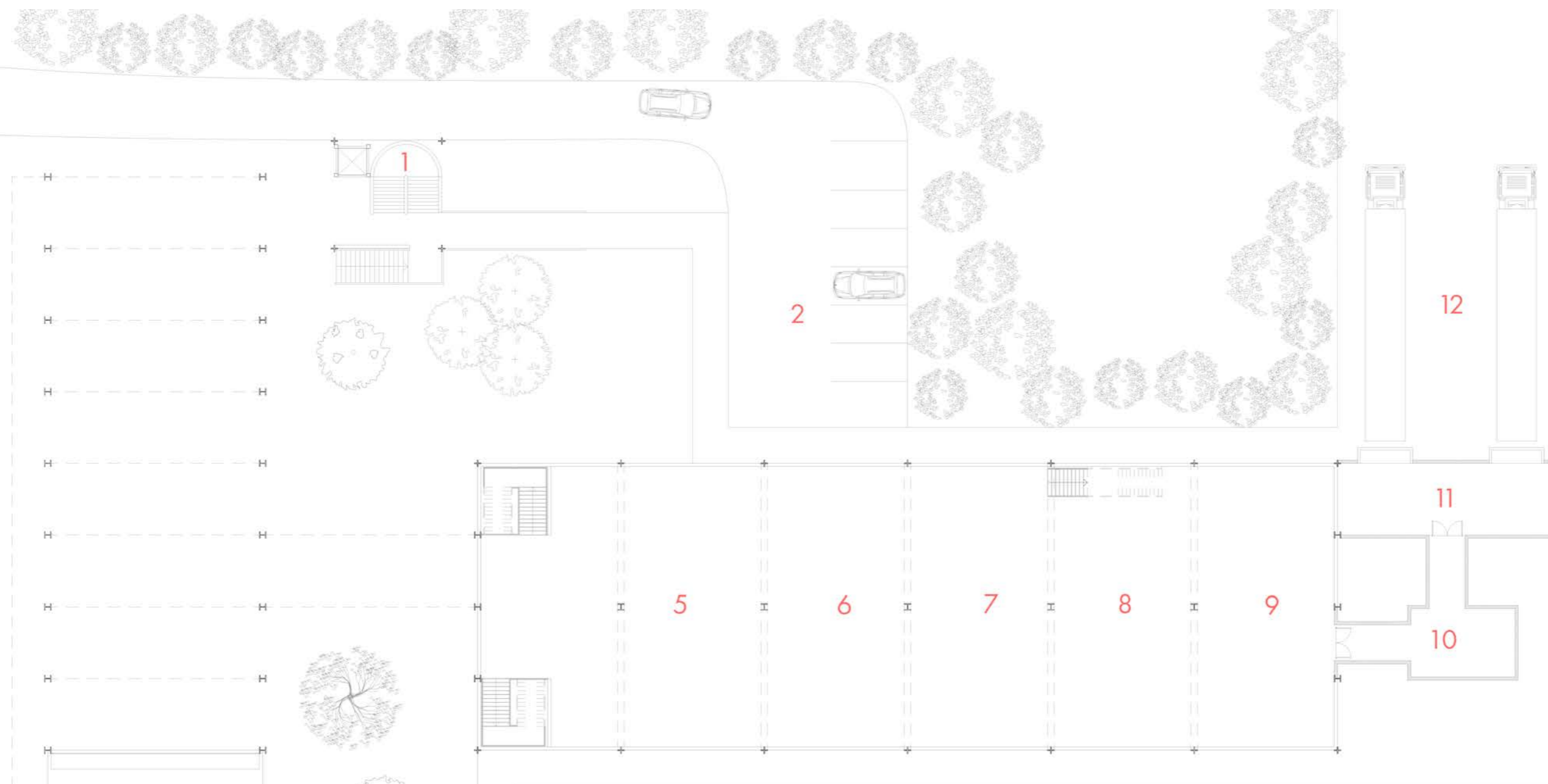
2: Ancillary staff building

3: Food production building

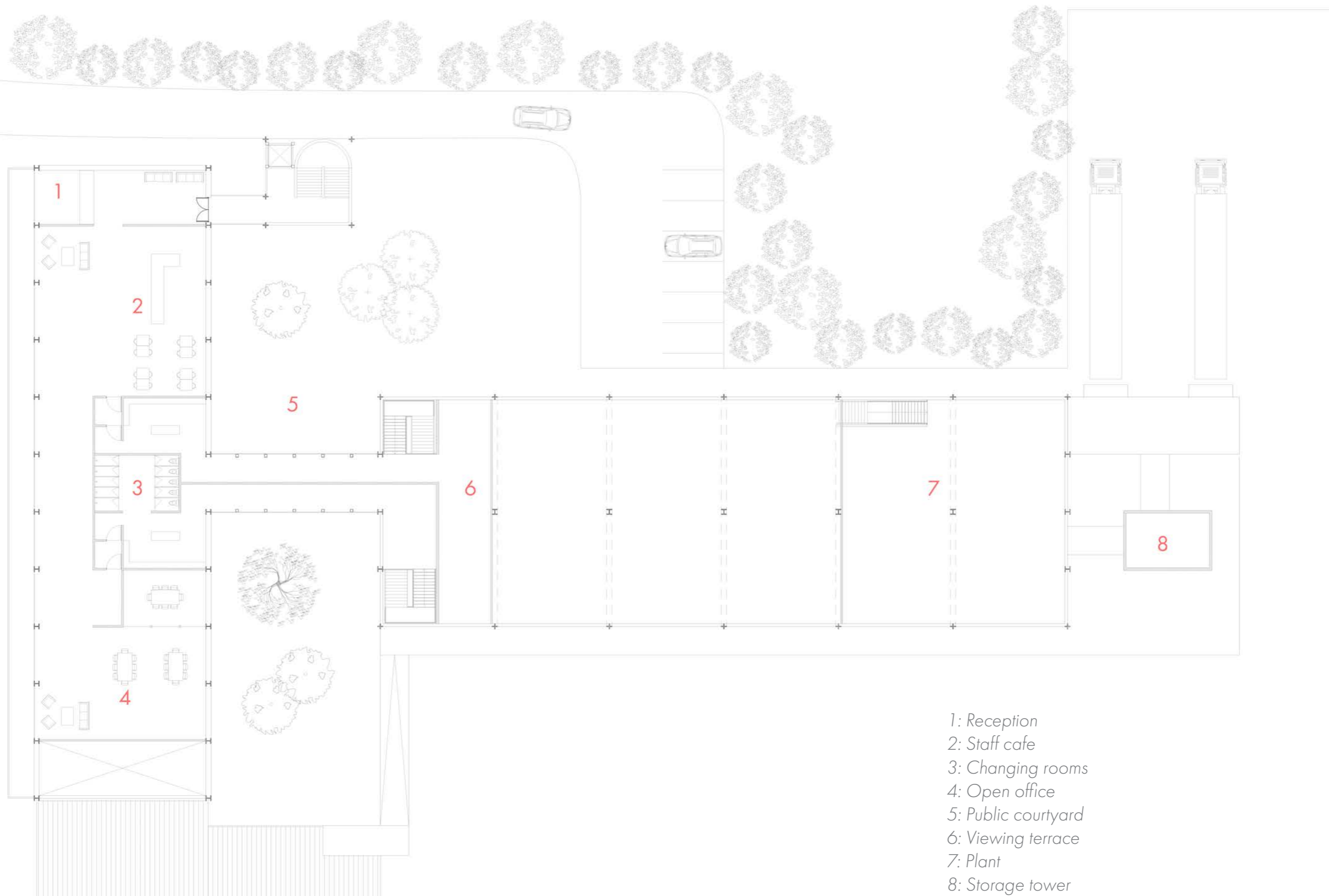
4: Storage tower

5: Dispatch

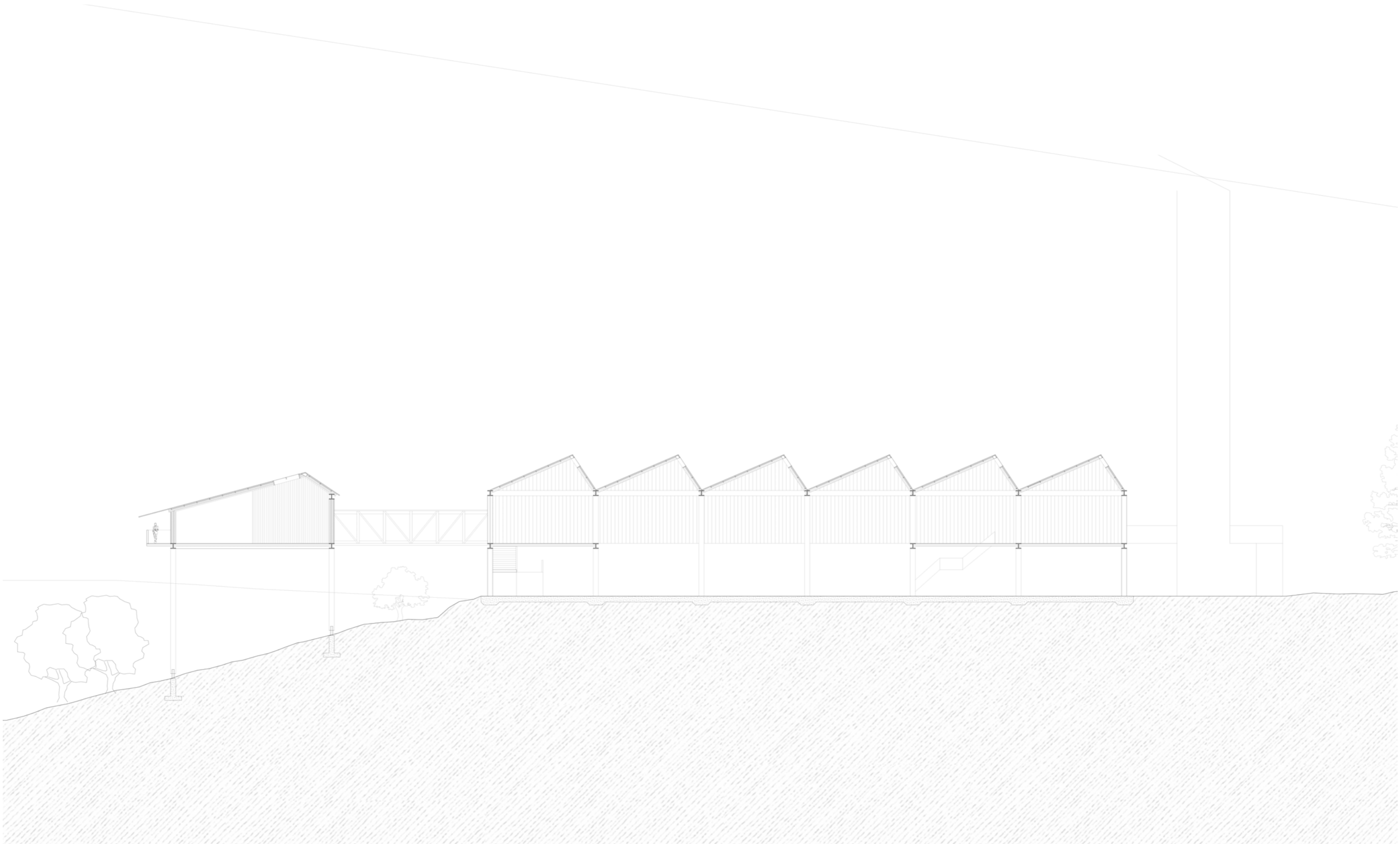
6: Cafe pavilion



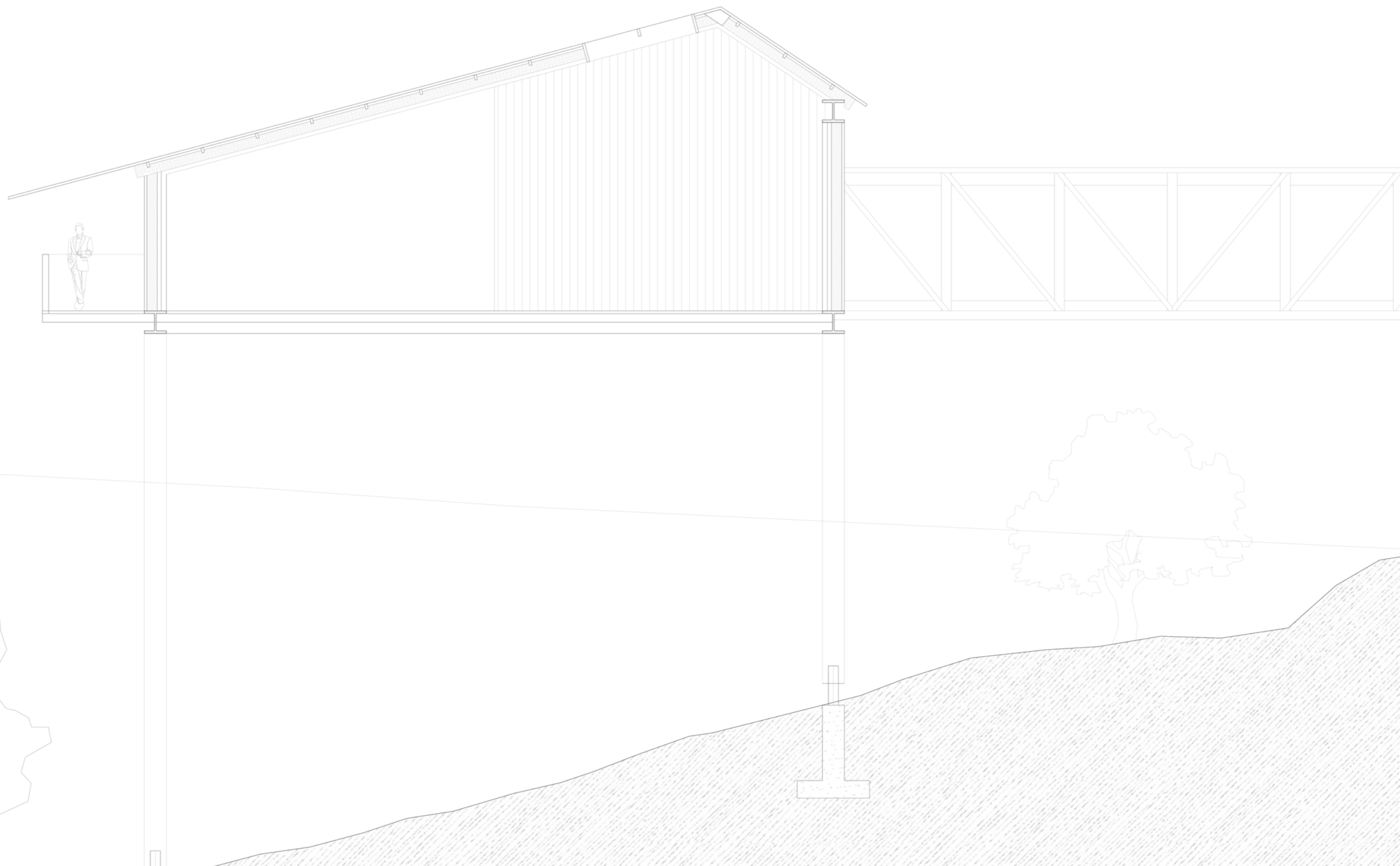
- 1: Entrance tower
- 2: Parking
- 3: Development kitchen
- 4: Cafe pavilion
- 5: 'preparation'
- 6: 'cooking'
- 7: 'assembly'
- 8: 'chilling'
- 9: 'packing'
- 10: 'storage'
- 11: 'dispatch'
- 12: Truck bay



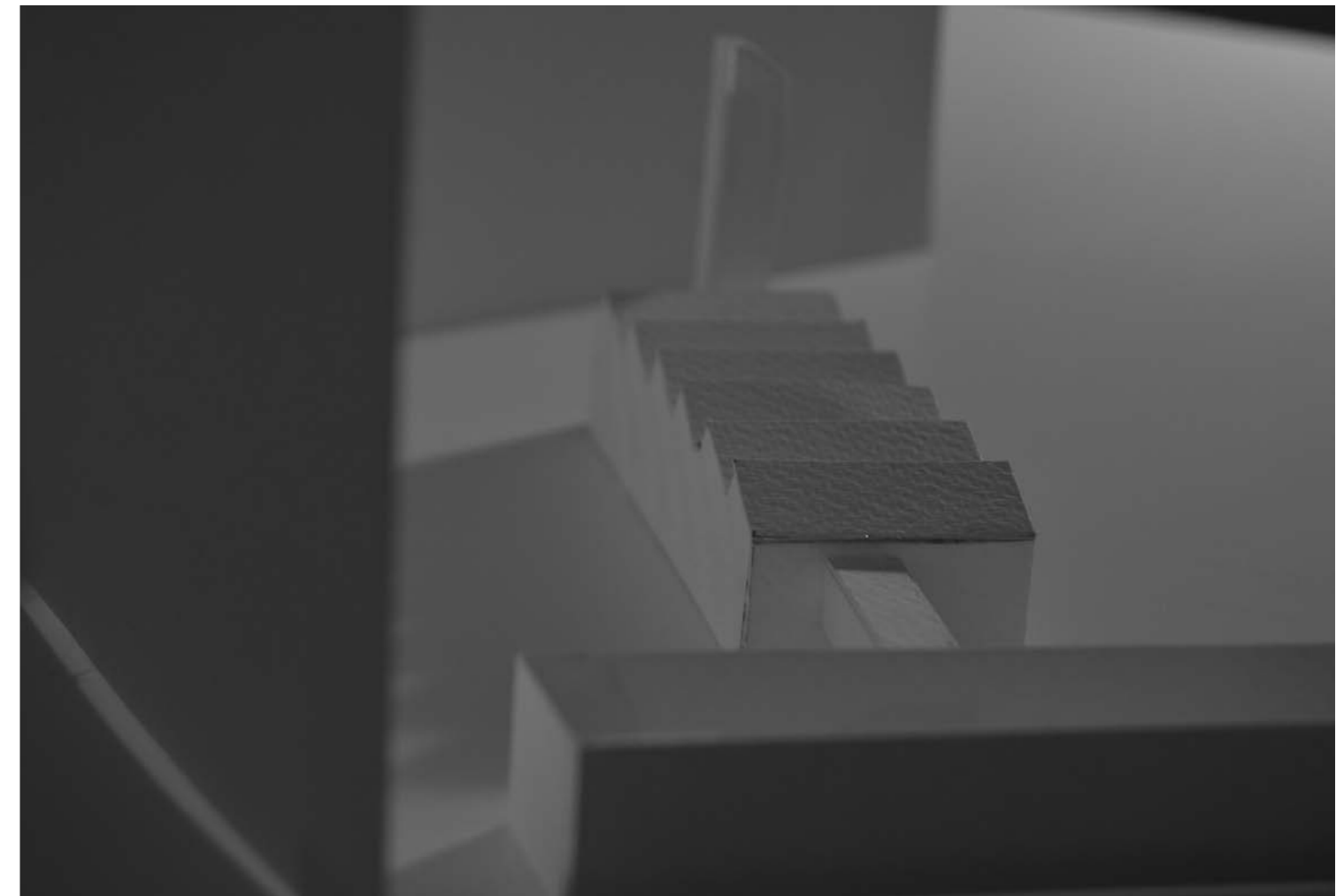
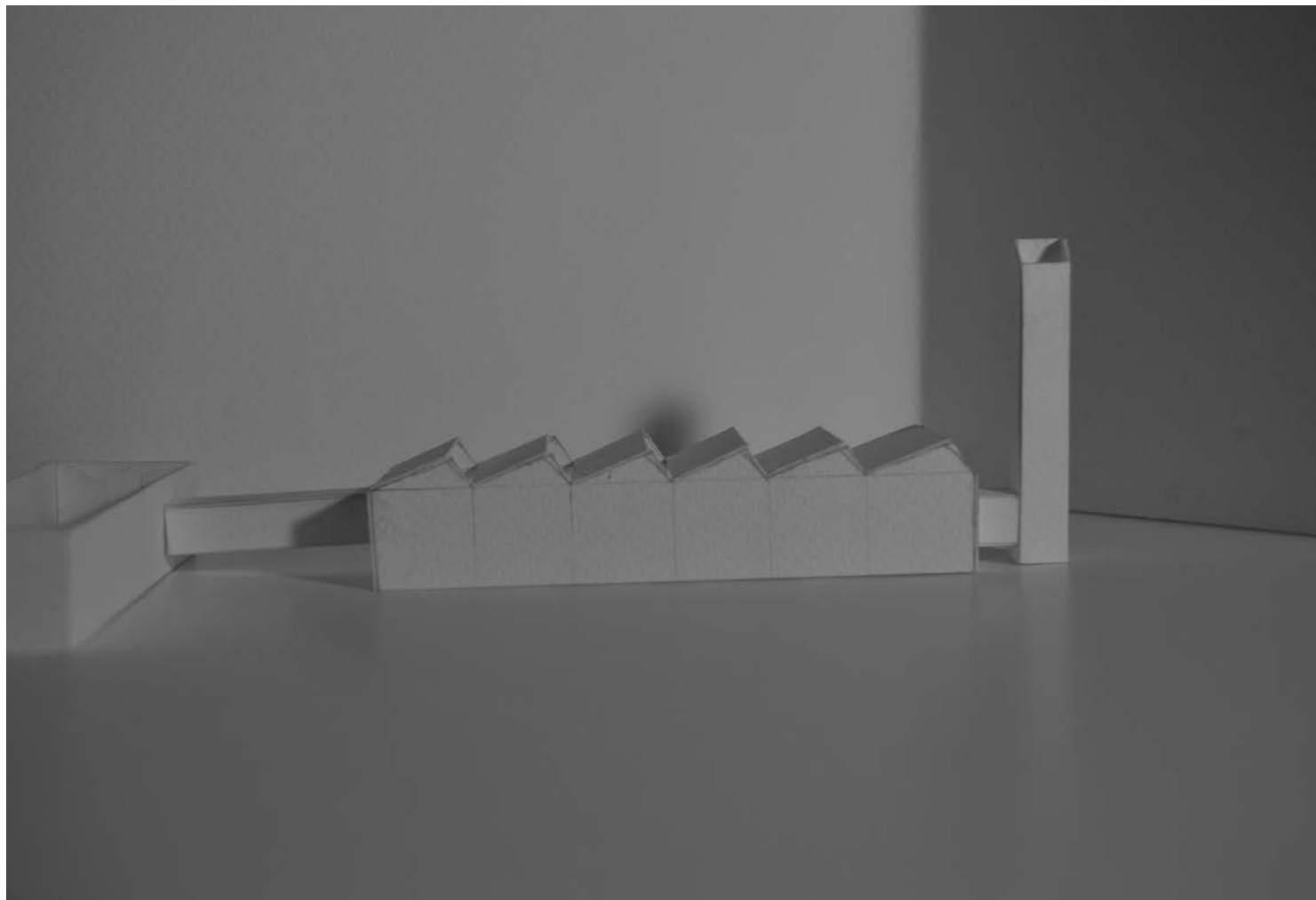
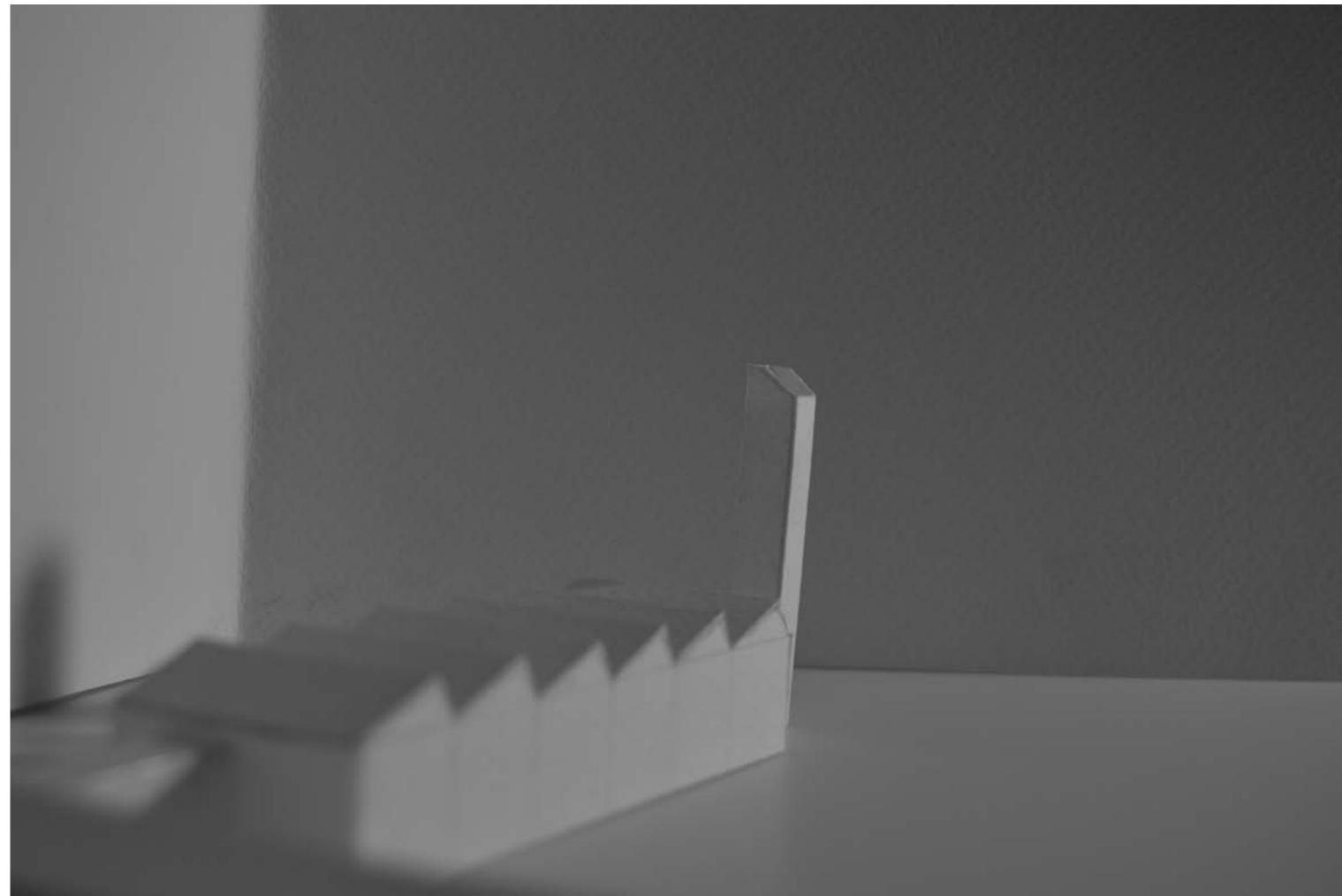
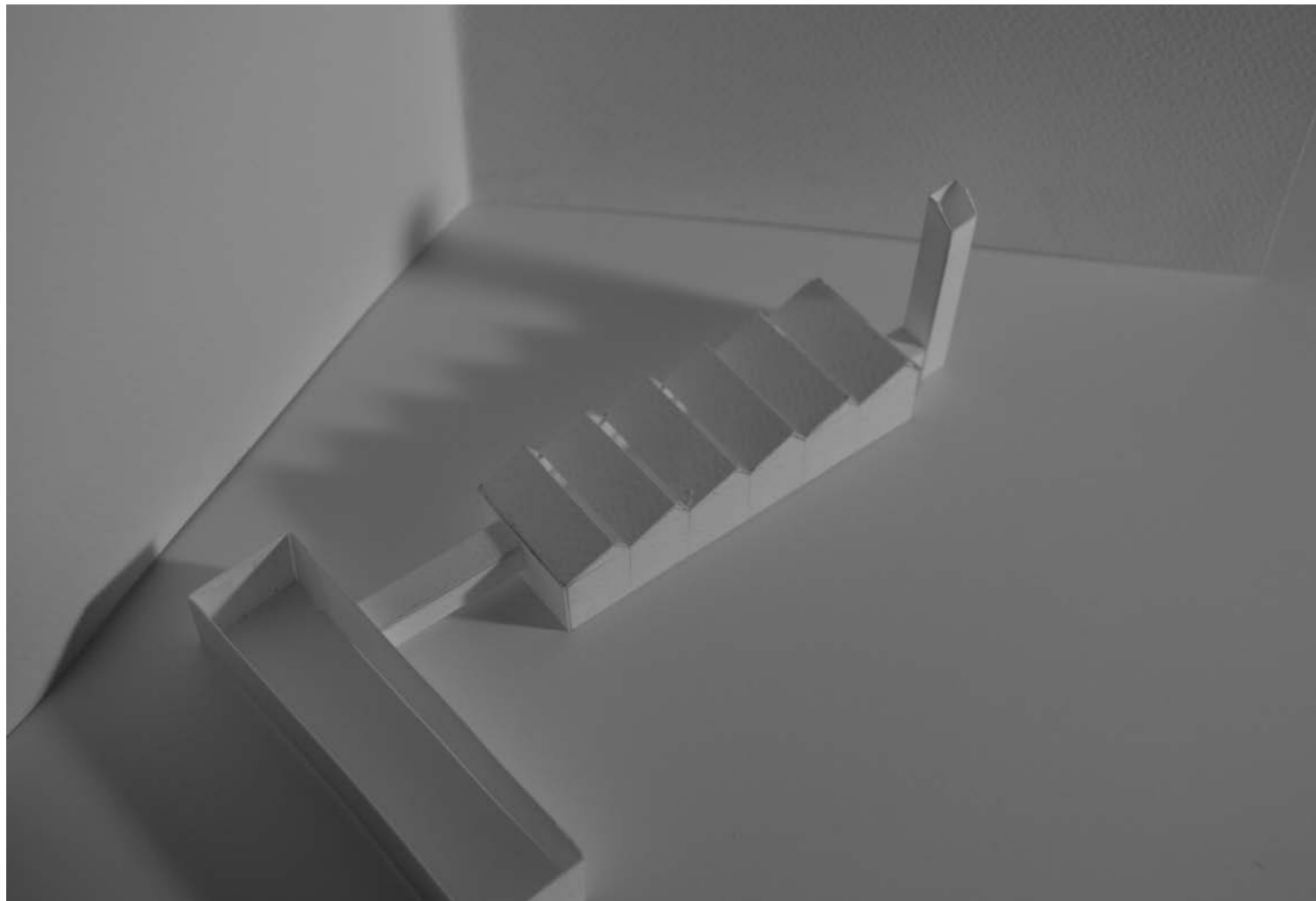
- 1: Reception
- 2: Staff cafe
- 3: Changing rooms
- 4: Open office
- 5: Public courtyard
- 6: Viewing terrace
- 7: Plant
- 8: Storage tower



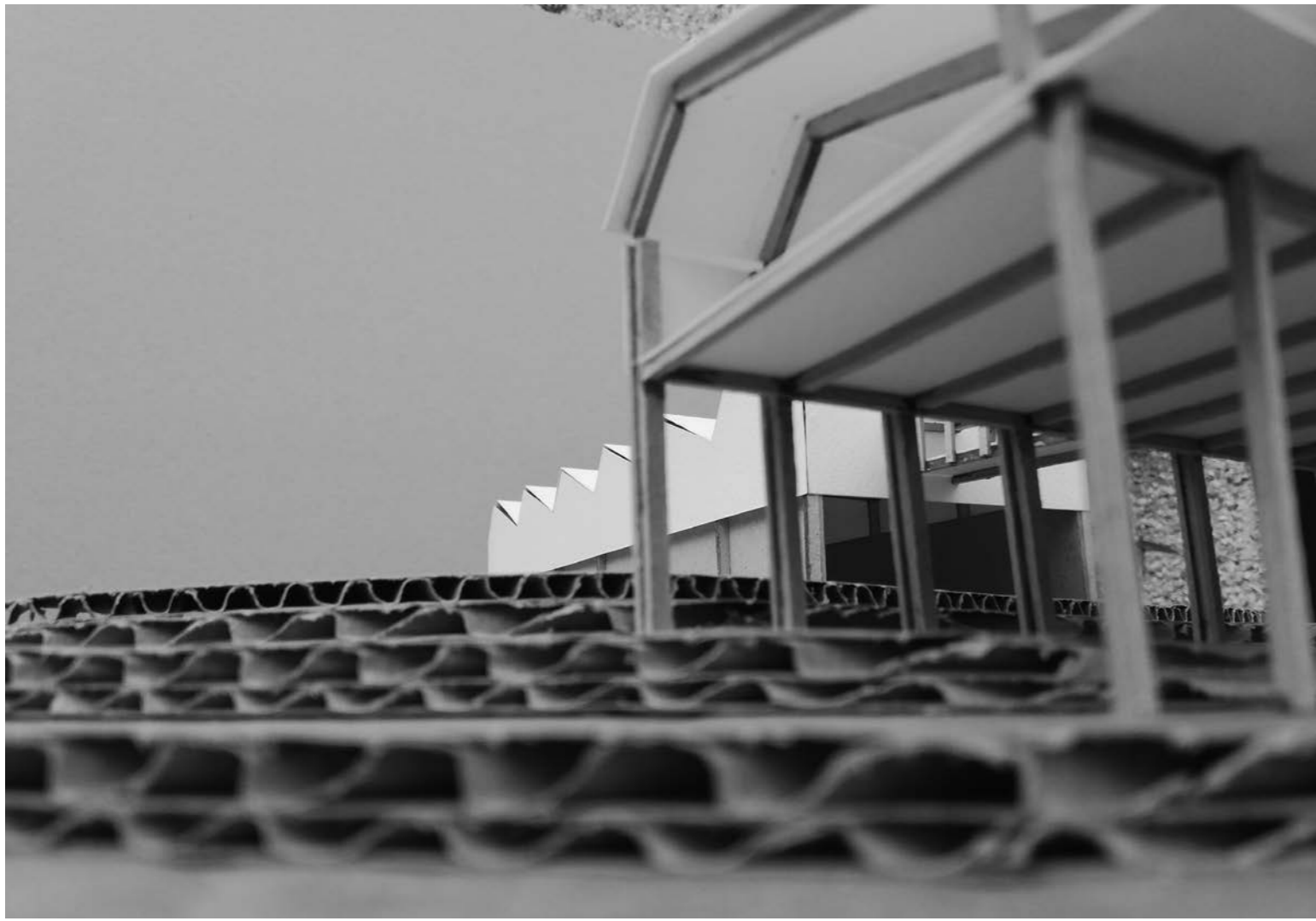
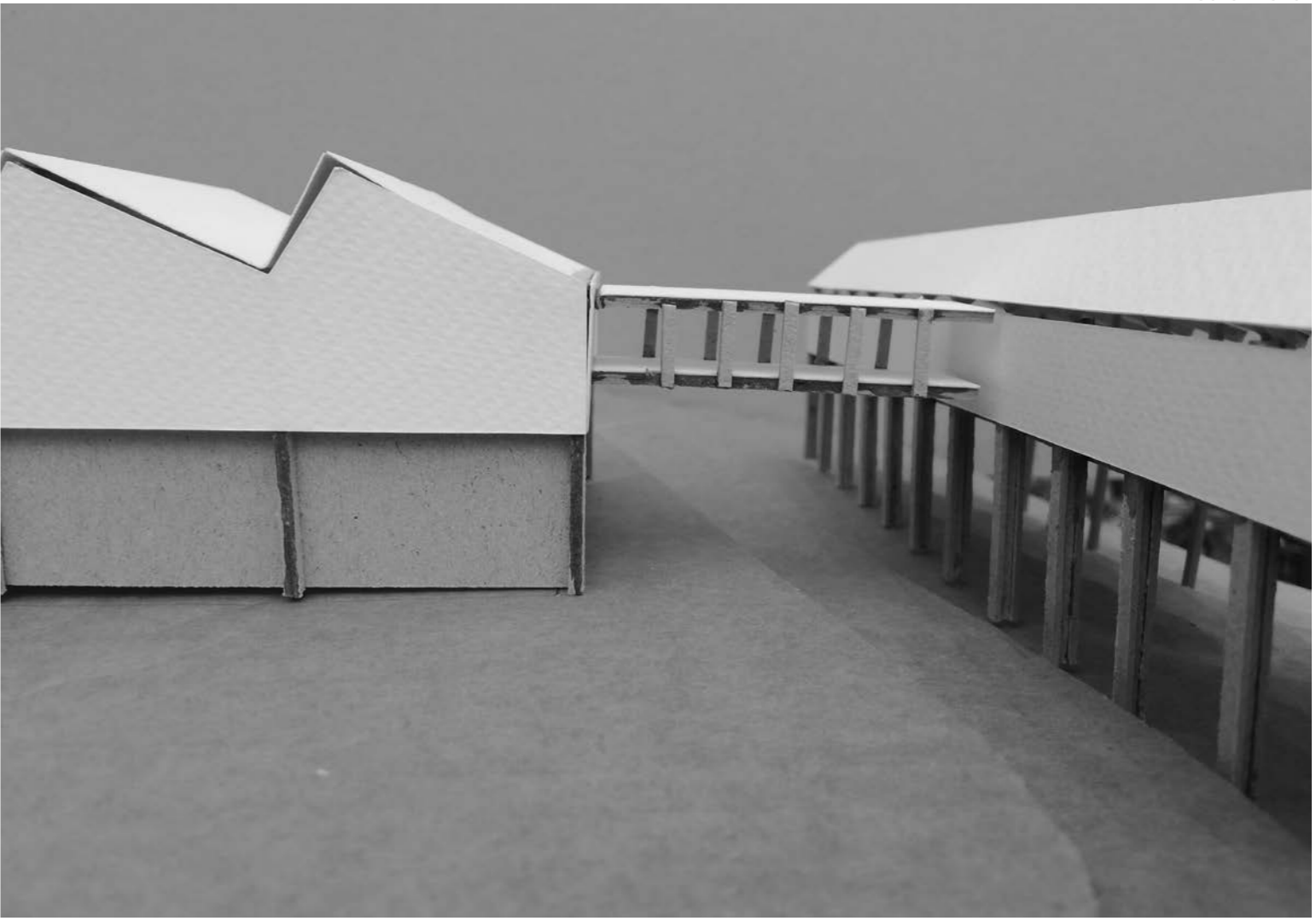
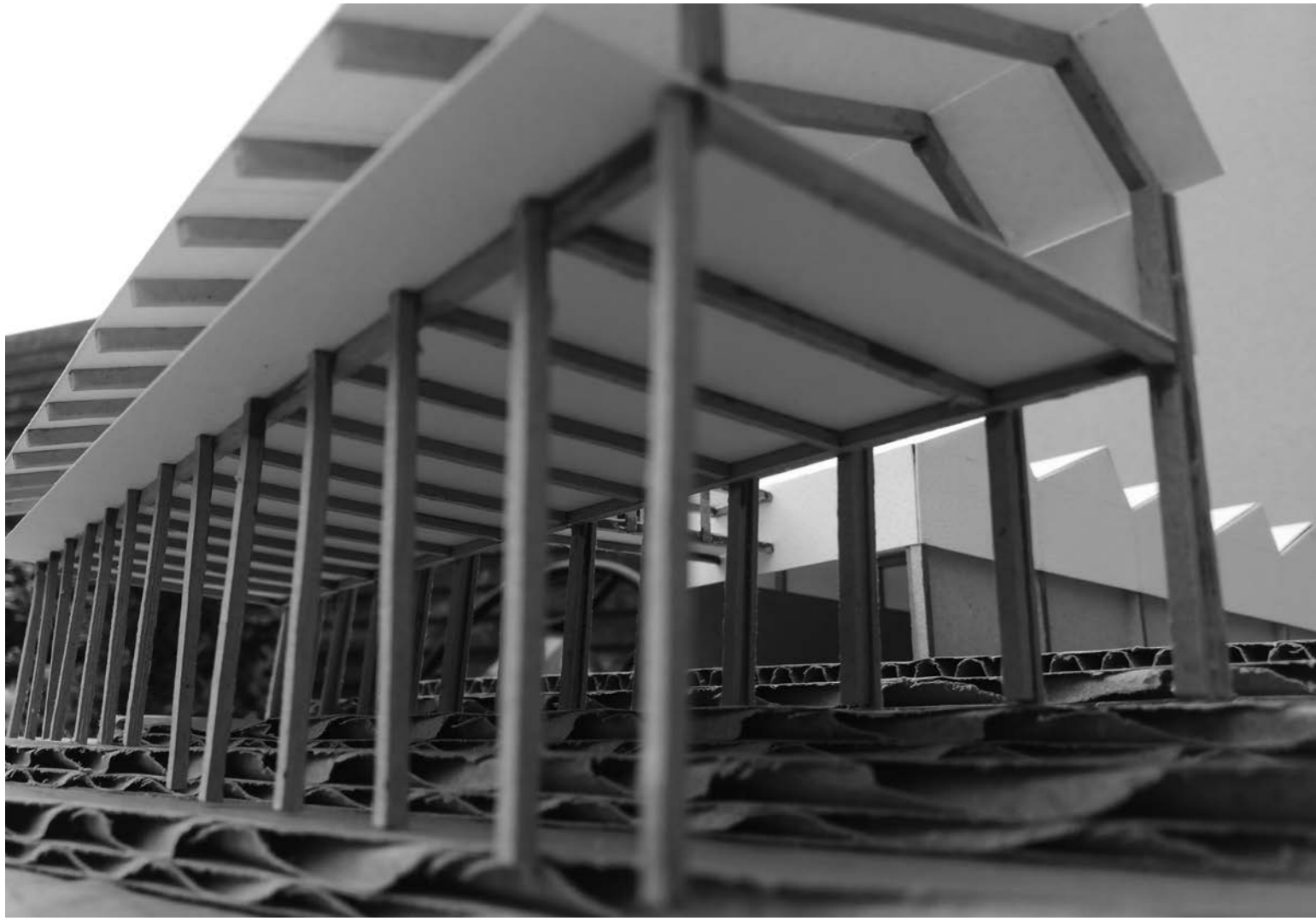
Section Looking West, Food Co-op



1:50 Section, Food Co-op







Jamie's Farm



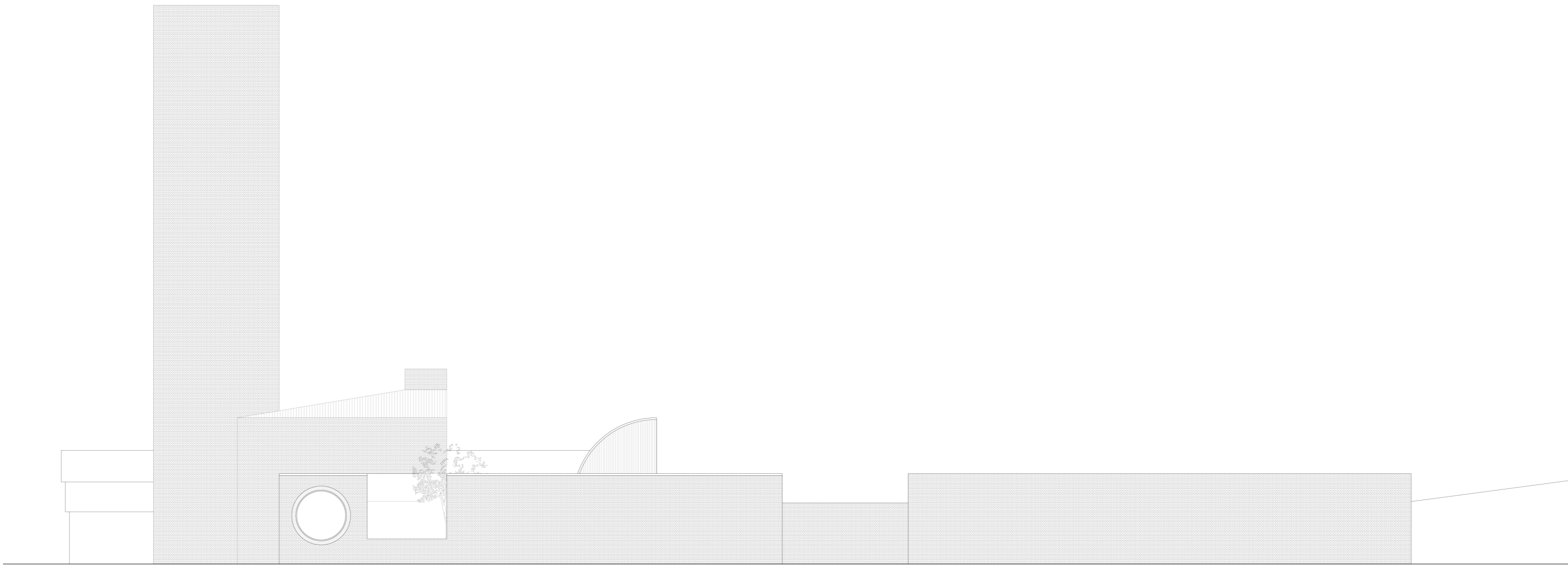
Jamie's Farm was conceived as a complex of buildings arranged to create meaningful spaces between in the form of courtyards and route-ways that link both function and experience together.

The main aim for this element of the brief was to accommodate all areas of the farm buildings, smaller food/drink production and Jamie's Farm accommodation into one working complex where function and space overlap. This was achieved by creating courtyards in void spaces and using buildings like the barn to mediate between different elements of the program. Important to note again is the attitude to tectonics that informed the design and the resultant forms are born out of function, much like the 'untutored builders' Rudofsky writes about.

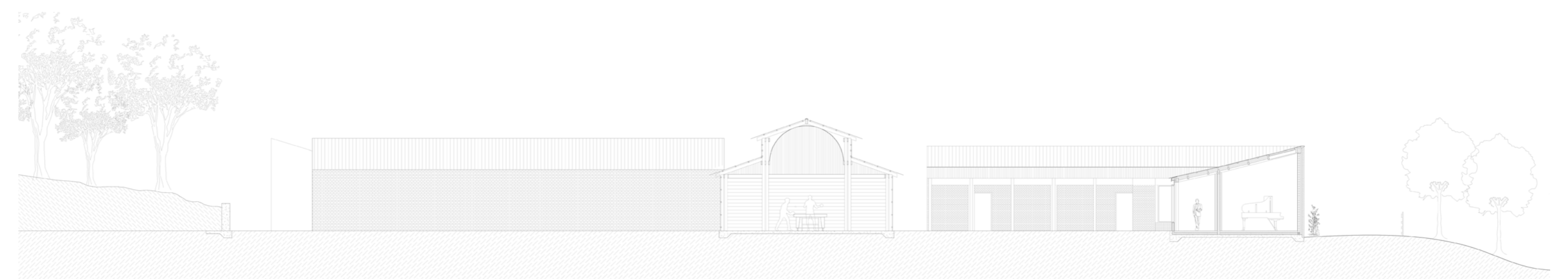
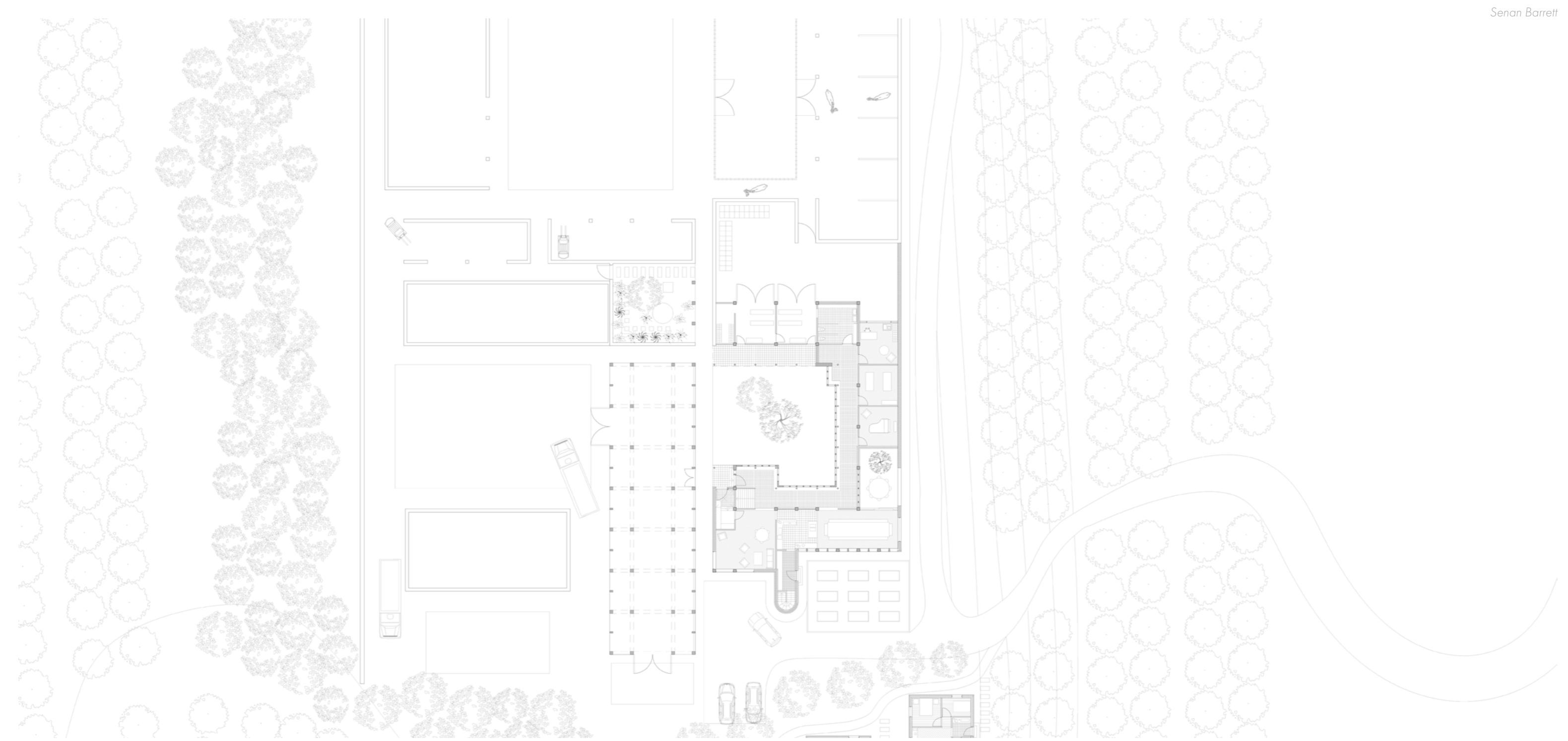
The attitude to Jamie's Farm accommodation building is to create a more permanent structure within the landscape using brick and concrete to anchor it to the site given it's importance and significance within the community of both Blessington and the greater Dublin area.

- 1: Goat shed
- 2: Sheep shed
- 3: Stables
- 4: Storage
- 5: Machine shed
- 6: Cheese/yogurt making
- 7: Jamie's Farm accomodation
- 8: Barn
- 9: Cider making
- 10: 2-bed huts

Roof Plan, Jamie's Farm



Elevation, Jamie's Farm



1:100 Plan & Section, Jamie's Farm



- 1: Front boot room
- 2: Common/living room
- 3: Kitchen
- 4: Pantry
- 5: Circulation tower
- 6: Dining room
- 7: Dining courtyard
- 8: Art room
- 9: Piano room
- 10: Office
- 11: Back boot room
- 12: Machinery workshop
- 13: Wood workshop
- 14: Workshop courtyard
- 15: Walled garden & apiary
- 16: Veg garden
- 17: Parking

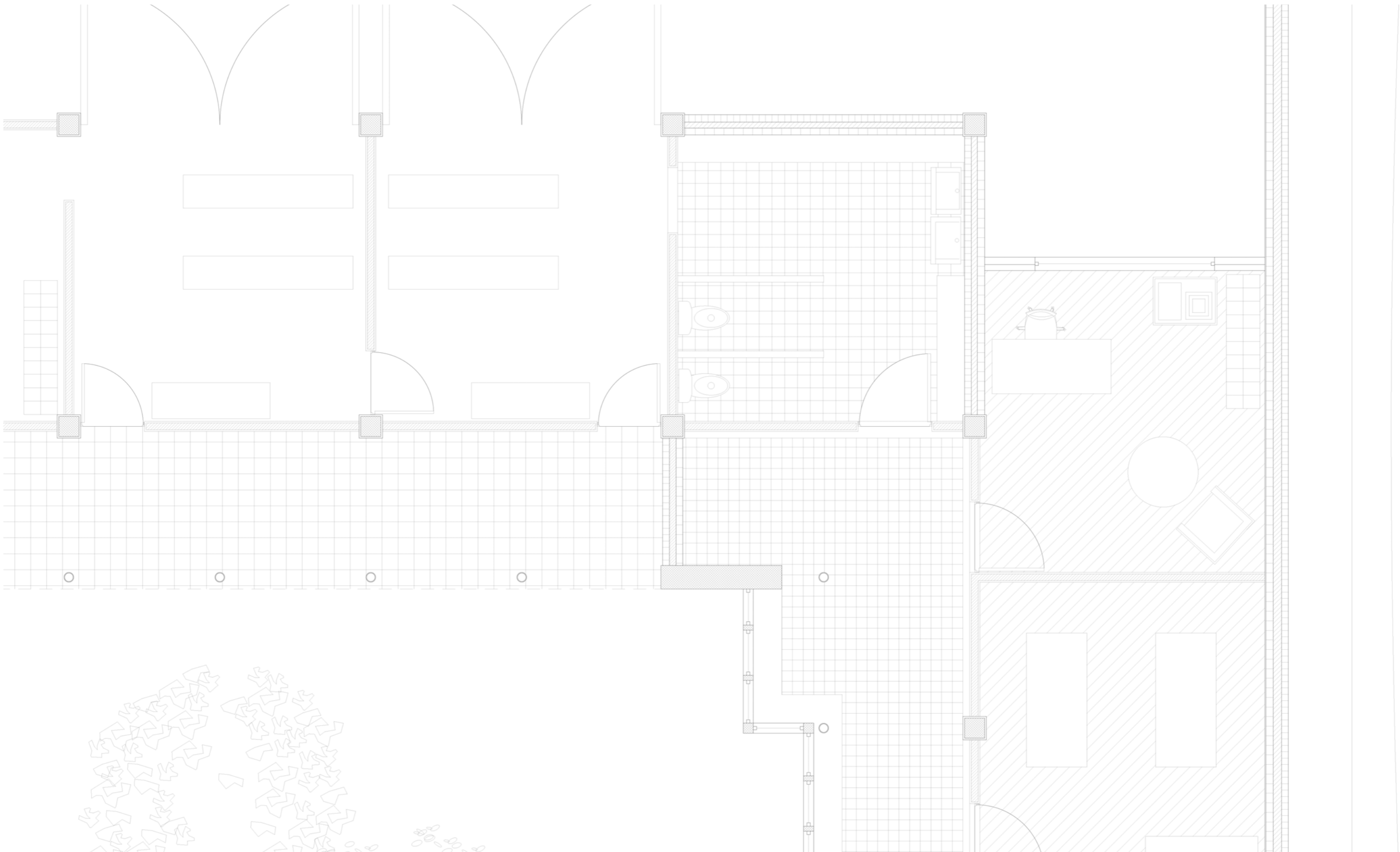
Ground Floor Plan, Jamie's Farm



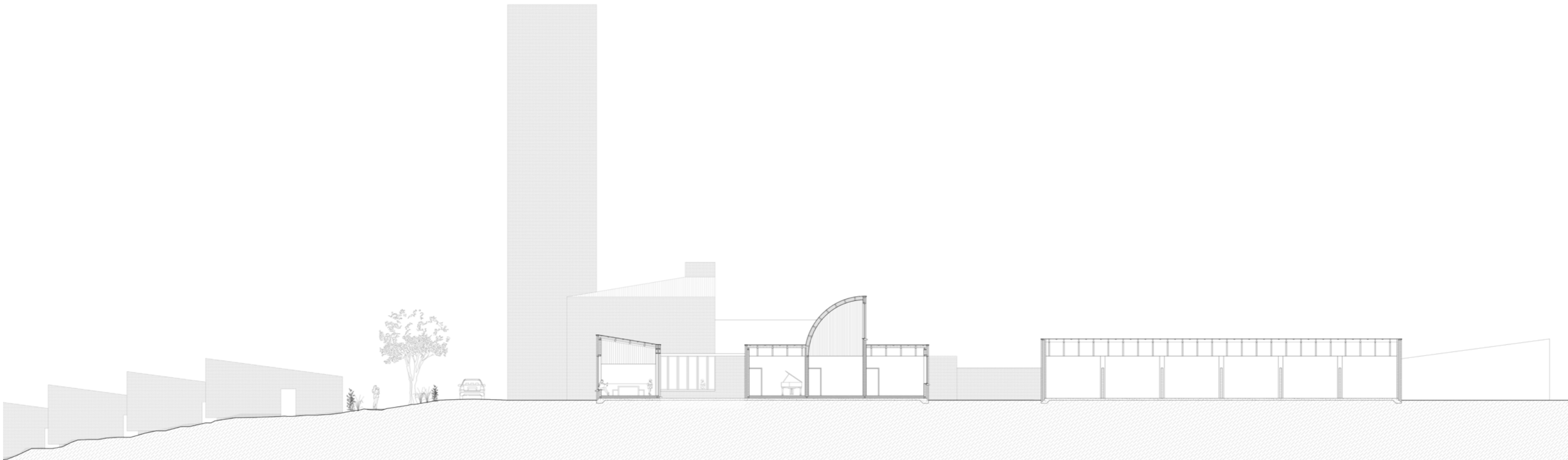
- 1: Staff bedroom
- 2: Girls dorm room
- 3: Boys dorm room
- 4: WC



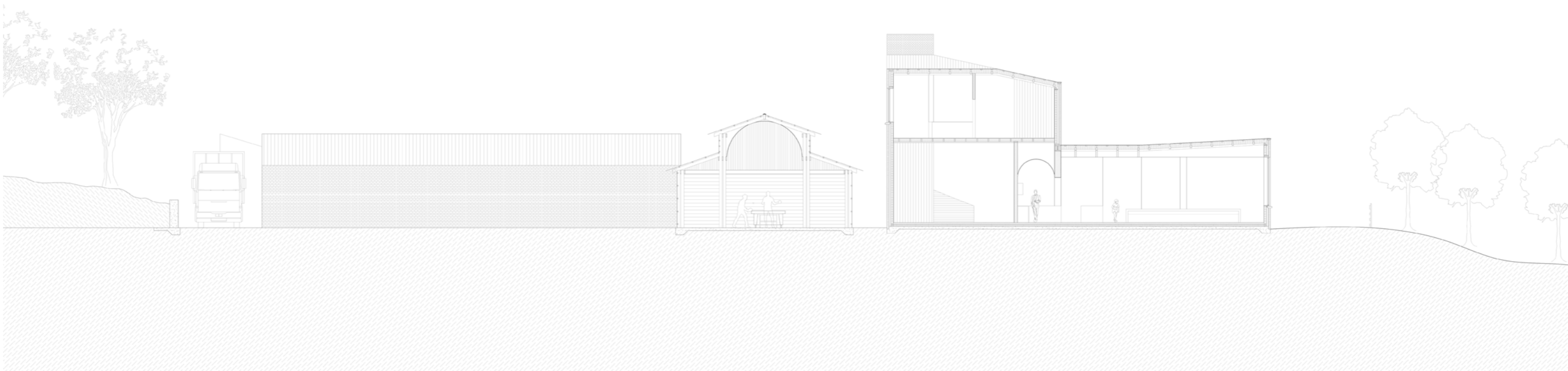
Detail of Entrance, Jamie's Farm



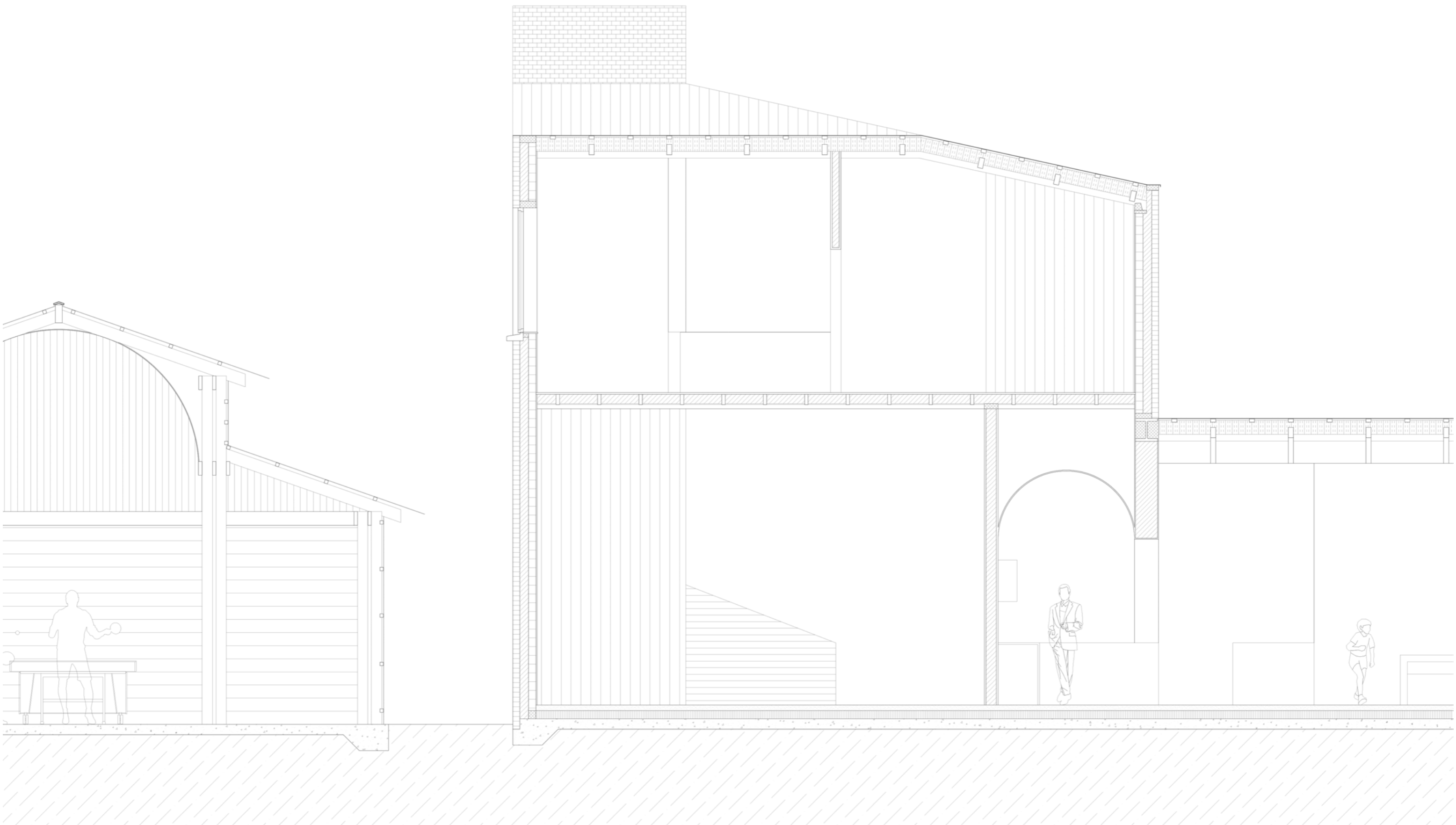
Detail of Workshops, Jamie's Farm



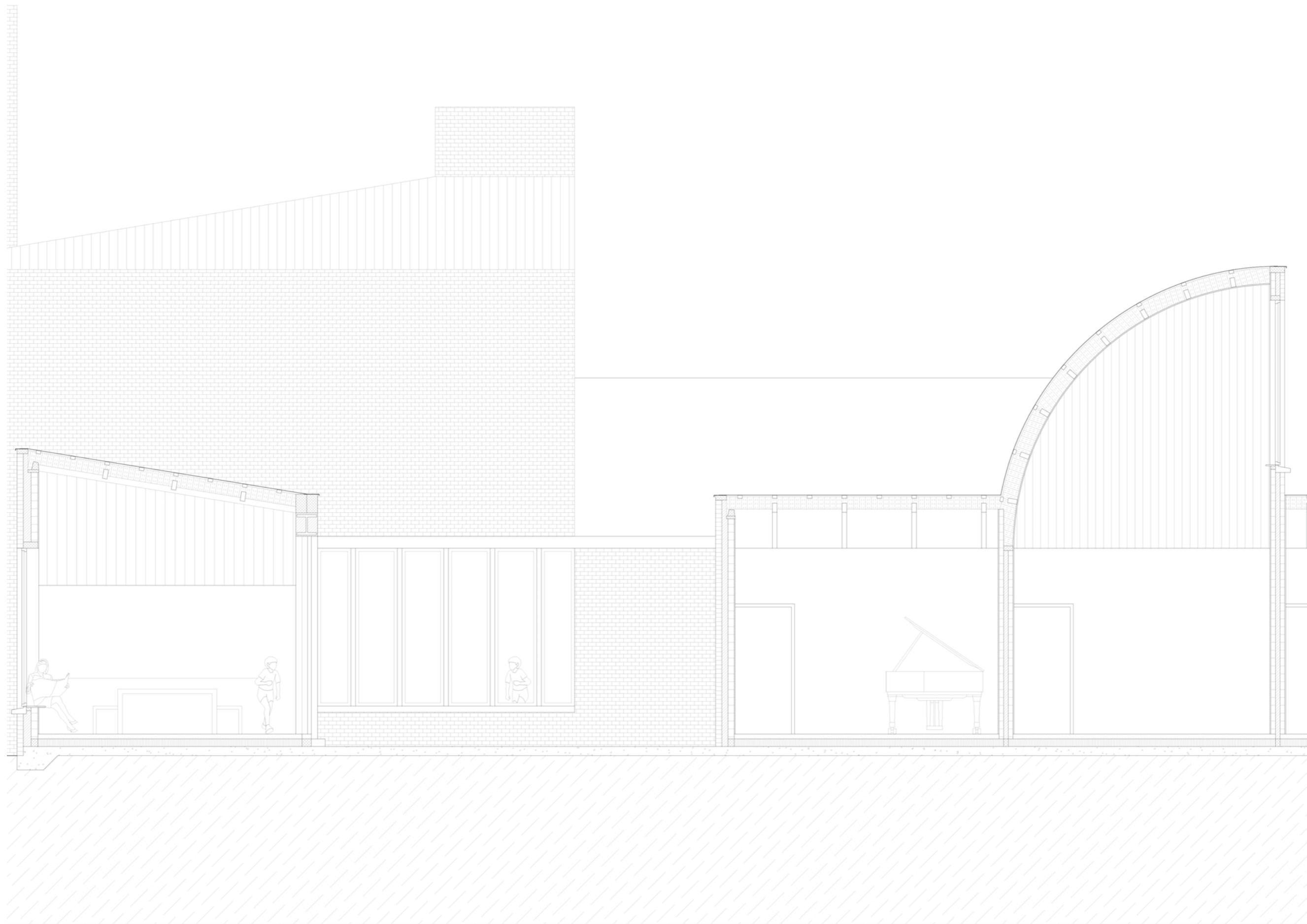
Section Looking West, Jamie's Farm



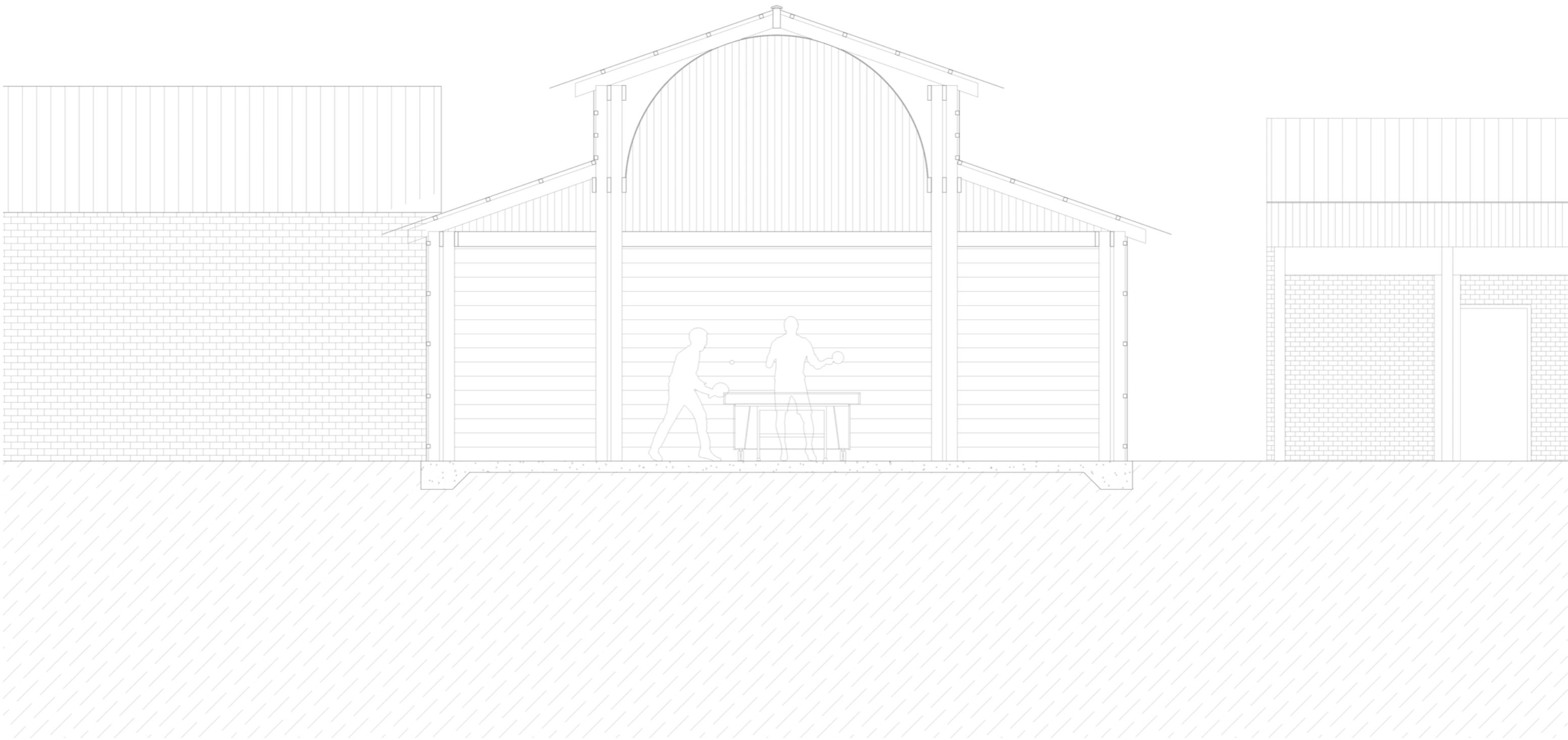
Kitchen/Living Section, Jamie's Farm



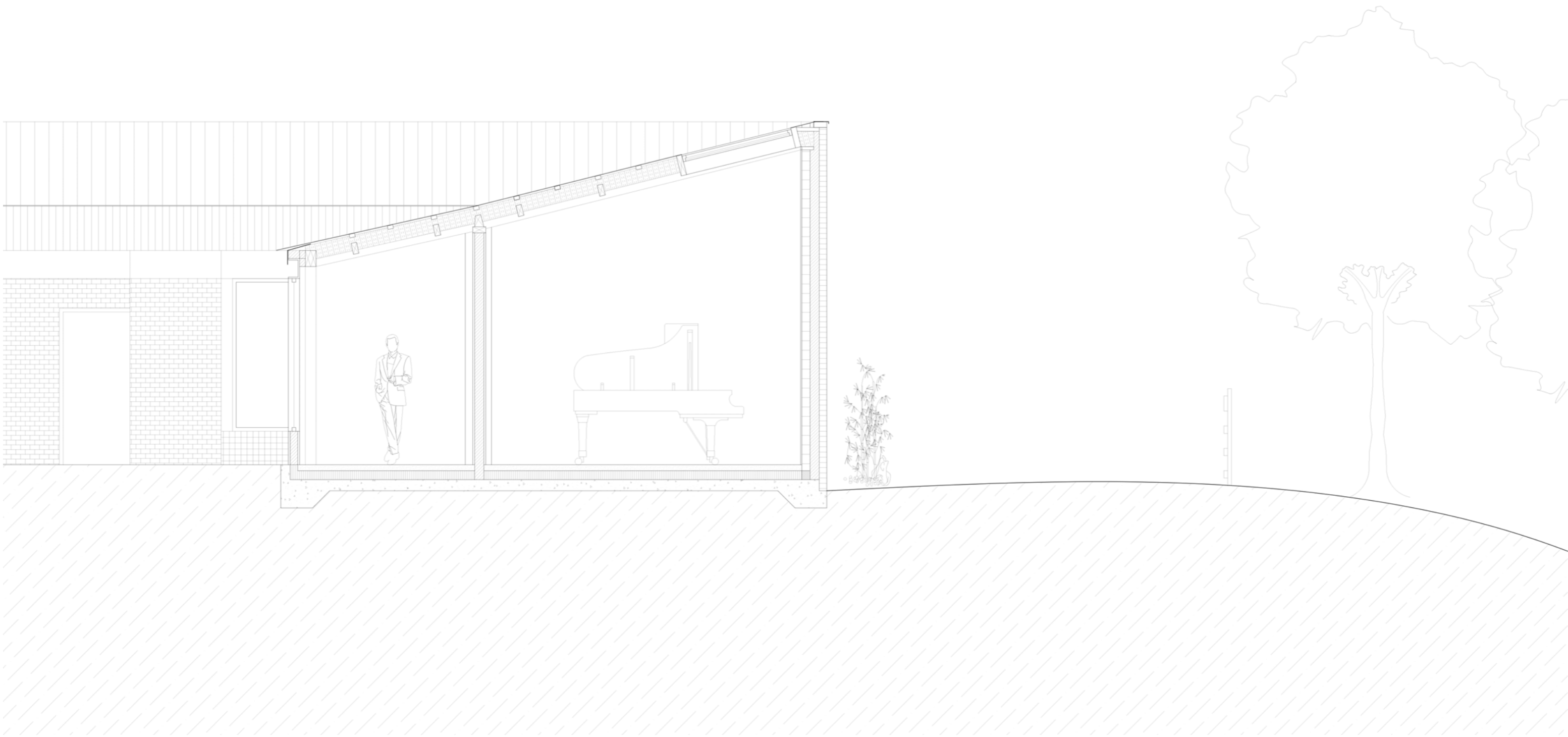
1:50 Kitchen/Living Section, Jamie's Farm



1:50 Section Looking West, Jamie's Farm

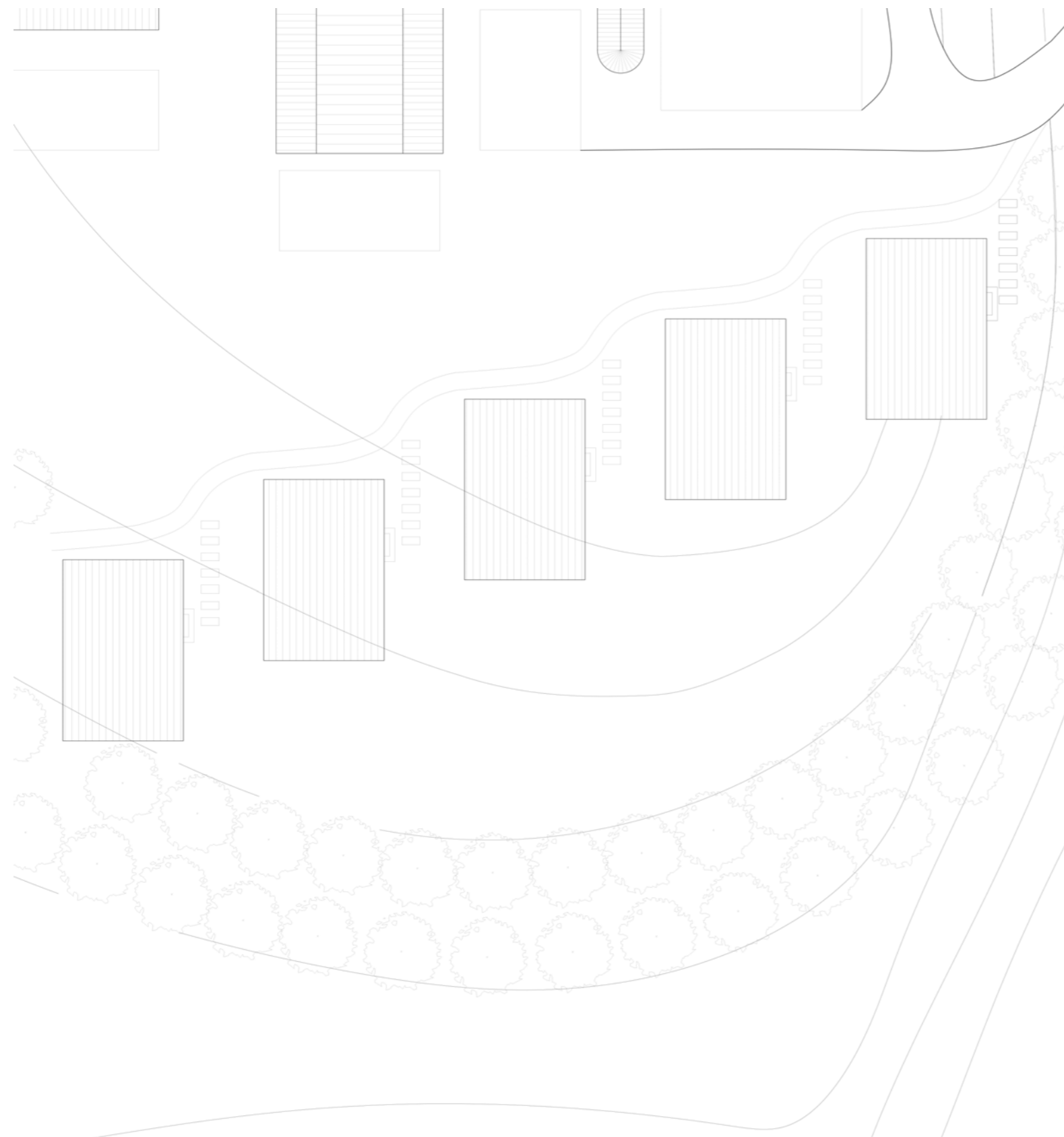


1:50 Barn Section, Jamie's Farm



1:50 Piano Room Section, Jamie's Farm

2 Bedroom Huts



Roof Plan, 2-bed Huts

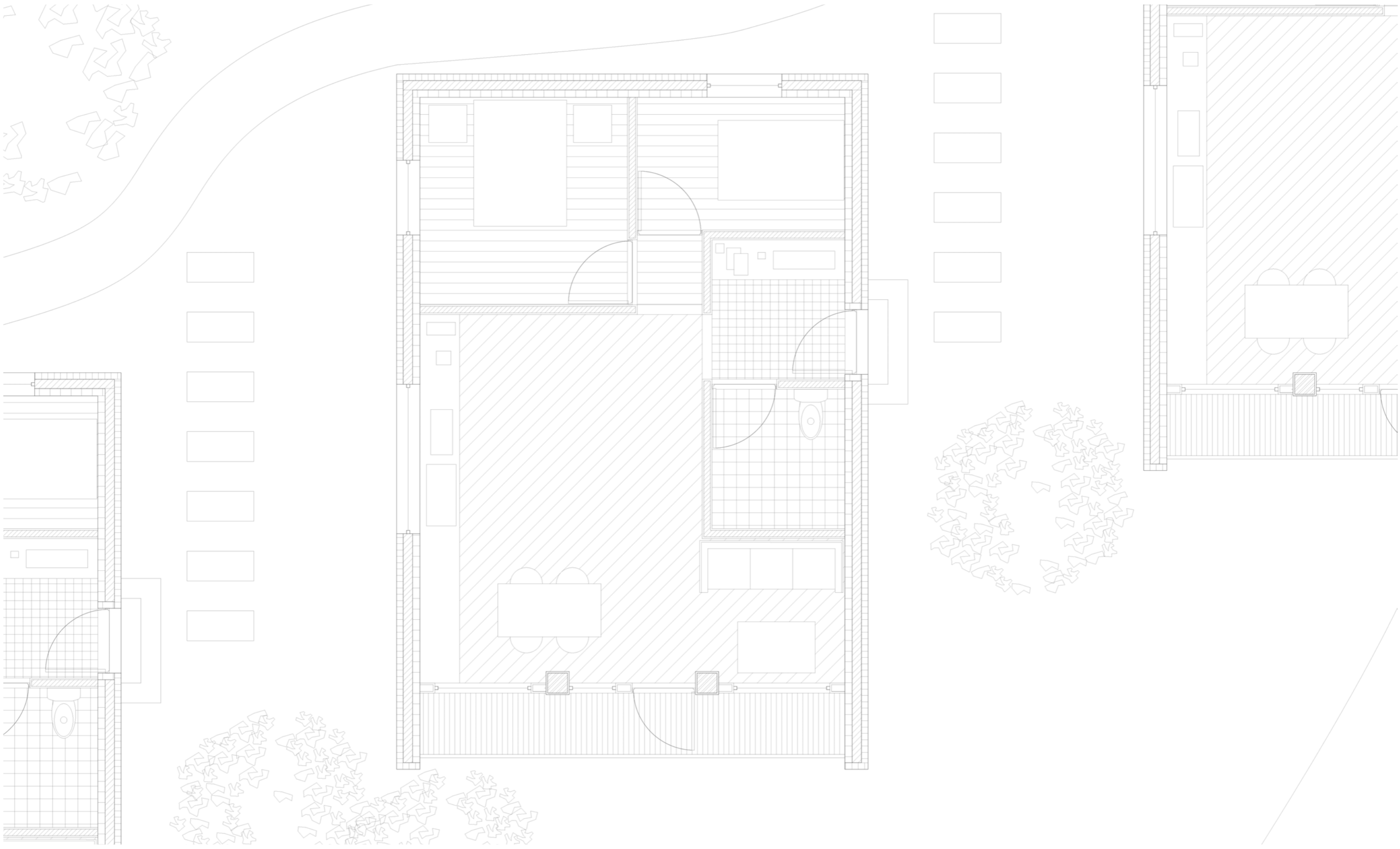
The 2-bed huts are sited south of the Jamie's Farm complex in order to ground them and to have a connection to it. They are a more private realm however, with a separate path and entry to each hut. They have a relationship to one another as they step down the hillside and overlook the orchard. The roof pitches up toward the south and allows light to flood the open space within.

The siting of the huts allows them to function as a more independent entity occupied by both long term workers within Jamie's Farm and also visiting guests who may need a place to live and sleep for a short time.

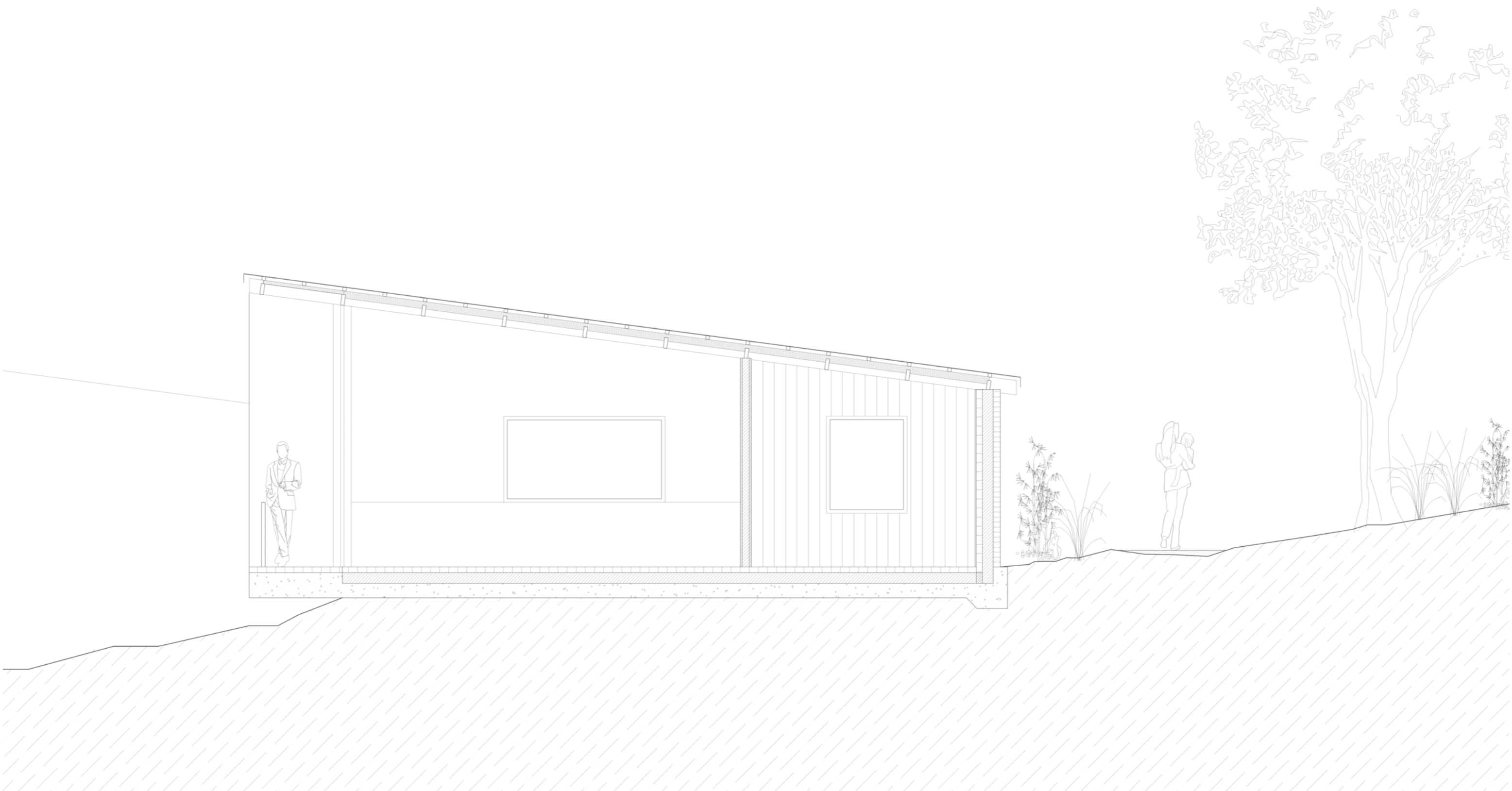
Existing, much like Jamie's Farm, as a more permanent addition to the landscape, the huts are constructed from brick and timber elements. A place for living, they are granted a more enduring presence within the new quarry landscape.



1:100 Plan, 2-bed Huts



1:50 Plan, 2-bed Huts



1:50 Section, 2-bed Huts



