

Strategy

The main proposed habitat is flower-rich grassland and pioneer vegetation which will be established on nutrient-poor substrates, features that should be equivalent to habitats of biodiversity value in the wider dock.

The vegetation proposed is associated with industrial and post-industrial sites which can support key foodplants for invertebrates and provide sources of pollen and nectar. Both habitat types are suitable for periodic disturbance, with low maintenance requirements.

Implementation

Where possible (subject to the results of ground investigations), site-won substrates will be used or alternatively similar inert post-industrial substrates will be sourced from the wider dock or will be imported.

These materials will be laid over post development ground levels which will have been cleared of visible elements of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed which may also have been subject to herbicidal treatment in advance of these works.

A weed prevention fabric blanket will be applied across the development site area where necessary, under the supervision of a specialist weed-control contractor, prior to the deposition of the inert substrates to the required depths.

With substrates in place, additional landscape and biodiversity elements will be added (such as the biodiverse gabion walls) and specimen plants and plugs added where necessary/appropriate. brown/biodiverse roofs will be added to completed structures/buildings in the first planting season post construction.

Establishment

Establishment will be secured through a combination of natural colonisation self-seeding, active control of negative indicator plants through monitoring and management actions, and supplementary seeding of a few target positive indicator species appropriate to the ground conditions. Where seeding is necessary, seed stock will be locally sourced from Celtic Wildflowers to ensure local provenance.

Management, Maintenance and Monitoring

Flower-rich grassland, pioneer vegetation, modular biodiversity walls and the brown roof(s) will be subject to annual monitoring for a minimum of five years from the start of operation to assess the extent to which plant populations are establishing.

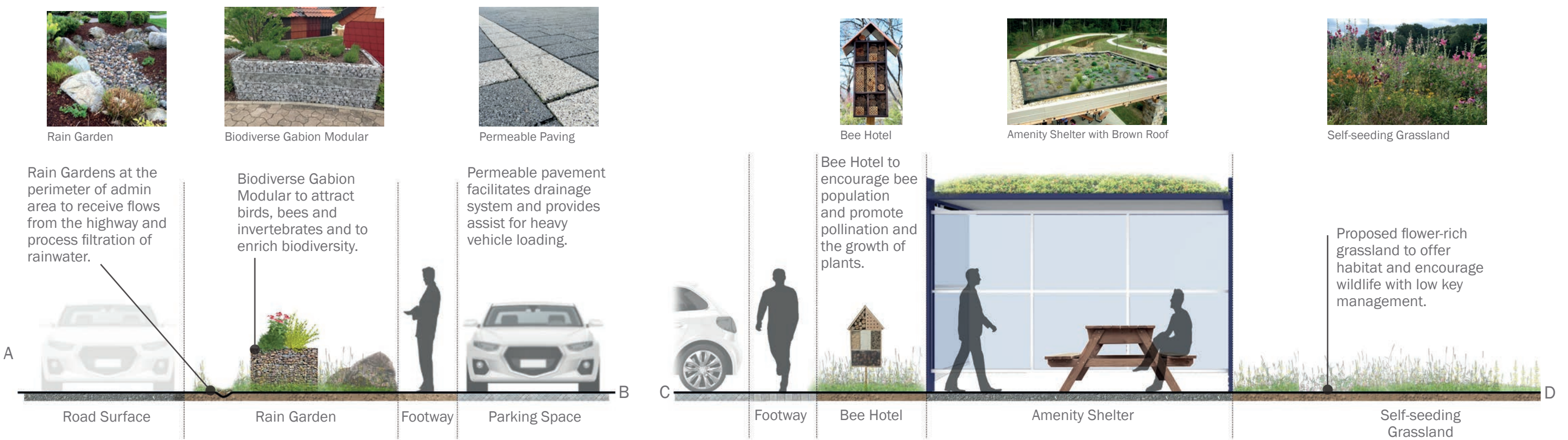
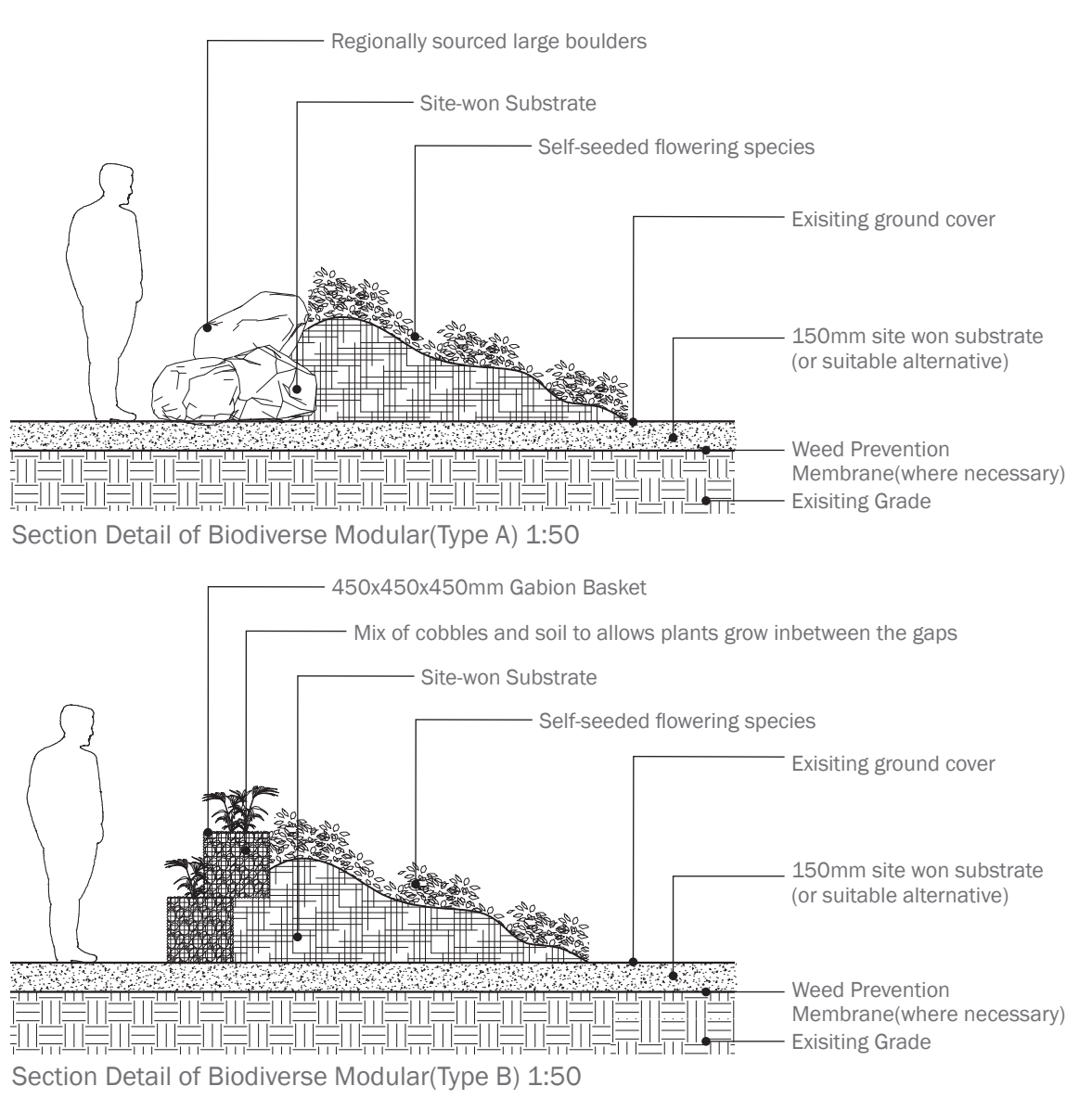
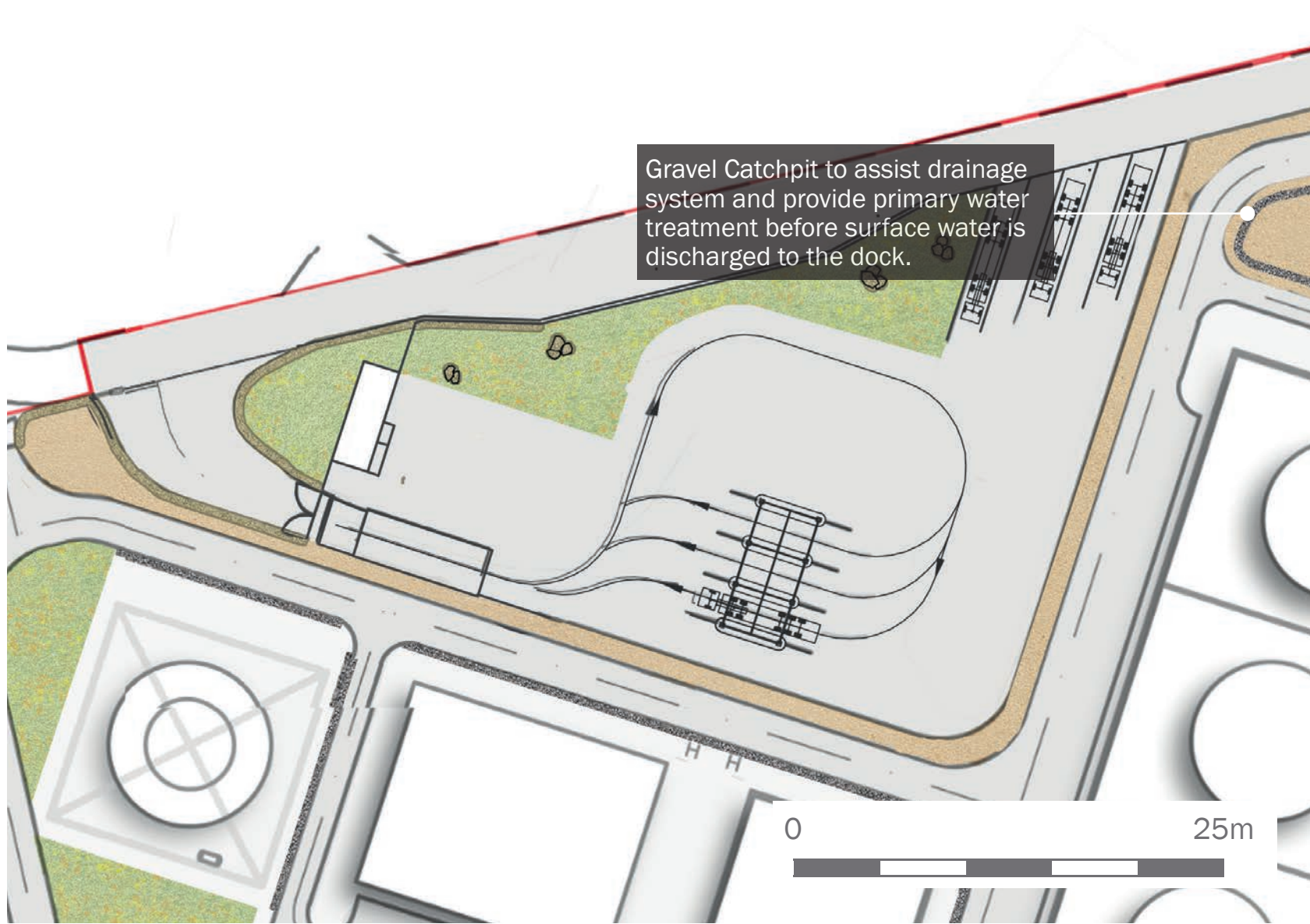
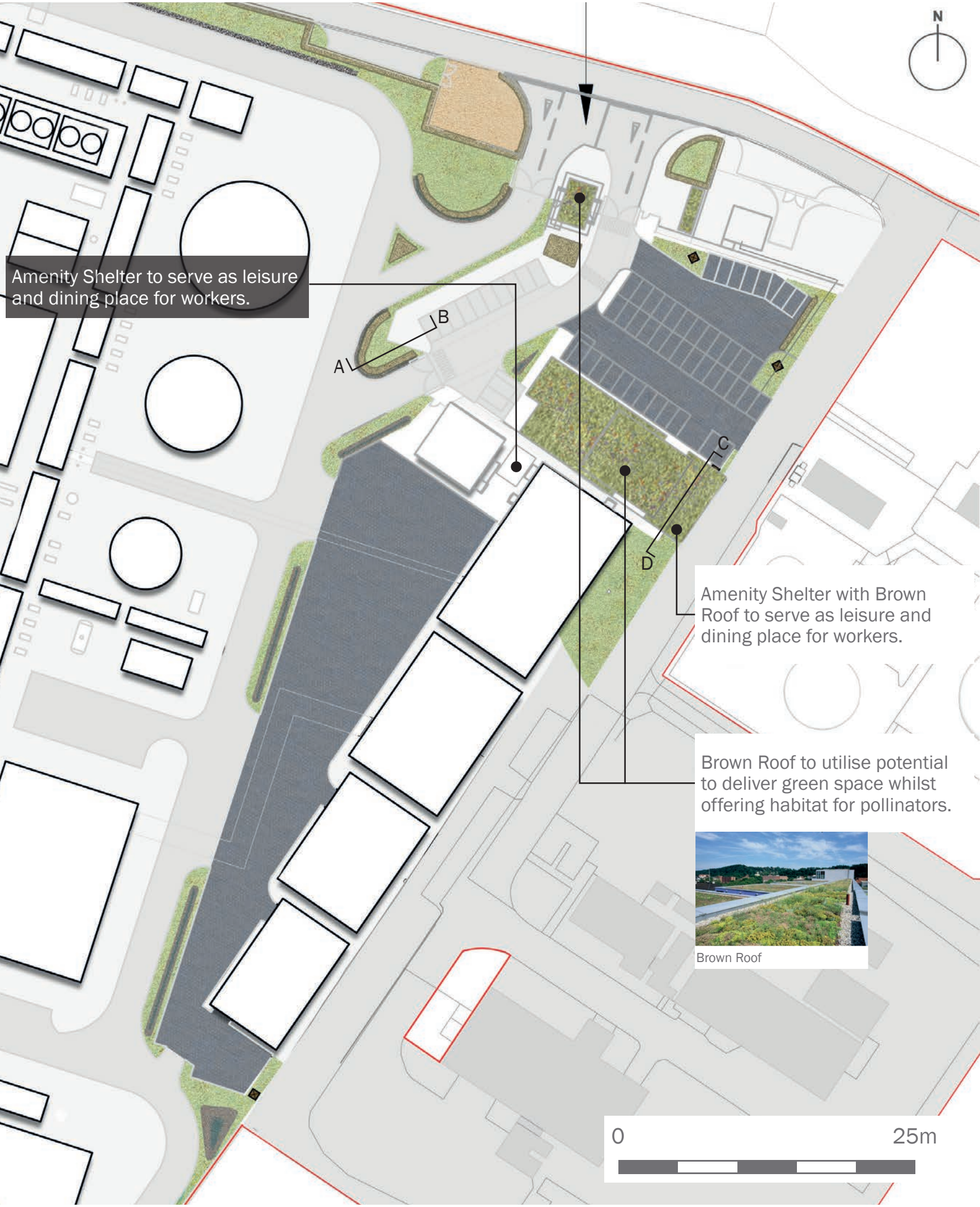
A low intensity management approach will be adopted, appropriate for the habitats being created in the Production Development Zone (PDZ). The open grassland would be subject to the removal of colonising shrubs (periodic cutting) and the control of the perennial weeds (thistles, common nettle and docks).

Long term management of the on-site habitats will be adapted to promote floristic diversity. Periodic cutting and removal of arisings will be adopted where dominant plants lower the diversity and value

Remedial Measures

- A number of situations exist which could require remediation in the longer term:
- the proposed landscape areas remain very sparsely vegetated (i.e. establishment/ colonisation is weak), or
 - establishing negative indicator species form 10% or more of a habitat area, or
 - if the treatment of any Japanese Knotweed regrowth locally kills off establishing habitats.

In these instances, tailored remedial measures would be triggered to ensure the establishment and maintenance of the flower-rich vegetation type defined within the strategy.



- Site Boundary
- Proposed Rain Garden
- Proposed Brown Biodiverse Roof
- Proposed Permeable Paving
- Proposed Biodiverse Gabion Wall
- Proposed Self-seeding Vegetation with Gravel Bed
- Proposed Bee Hotel
- Proposed Gravel Catchpit
- Proposed Self-Binding Gravel
- Proposed Boulders

Note

All landscape and planting illustrated intends to show a general strategy.

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