

INTRODUCTION



The garden is 2.85 acres and situated on the coast in Kerry. The house was built in 1986 and was bought in 2004. The site is south facing sloping up from the sea to the northern boundary. The house is on mains electricity and phone, has a private well and its own septic tank/grey water system.

Currently the house is occupied half the time but the plan is to move in full-time in a couple of years. The owners are Irish and New Zealand.

The eastern half of the site is untouched rocky moorland with heathland plants and some bog areas. Dividing the east from the west is a small conifer woodland which shelters the house from the north & east (probably Lodgepole pine, 20+ years old). The western side has some established planting near the house as well as areas overgrown with briars, gorse and bracken. An area that was full of brackish water has recently been filled in with hardcore (the tidal pool). There is an outstanding building project for an annex for office & living accommodation next to the house.

The main design considerations for the garden are to

- + create a plan that can be implemented over several years
- + encourage birds & bats
- + leave undisturbed / actively encourage wild life such as otters, badgers & rabbits.
- + have walks around the garden
- + have several areas for sitting / outside entertaining / gazebos
- + provide shelter from the sea without compromising the view
- + screen neighbours to the west (existing houses and potential new site)
- + have a vegetable & fruit garden
- + include plants from New Zealand
- + long term the house may be empty over the winter
- + maintenance not to be overwhelming
- + provide for utility functions for storage, compost etc.

These design considerations are further elaborated on in the various 'Design Details' sections.

CURRENT STATE (Feb 2010)





DESIGN CONCEPT

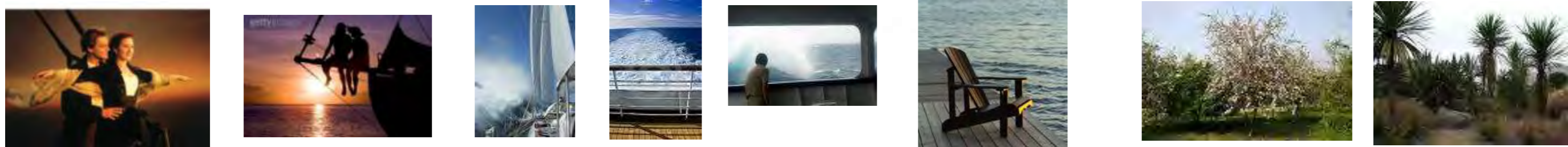
As the house is designed like a ship's bridge, the land is so close to the sea and that you have an interest in sailing & boats the maritime theme is continued throughout the garden.



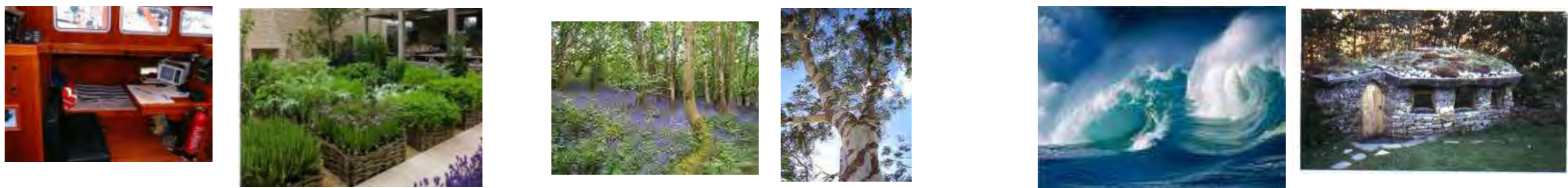
..... Sometimes understated like a wave shape on a garden bench; sometimes obvious like a lighthouse lookout; sometimes quirky like a flotsam 'art' gallery of driftwood sculptures; sometimes fun like the traditional painted beach huts; sometimes pure art like a mosaic sea serpent. You can add to it over time ...be it with a simple shell wall or an elaborate shell house.



A large ship has different decks and hidden corners allowing one to face and revel in the weather or find a sheltered seat. So the garden has open viewpoints and enclosed garden 'rooms'. The overall emphasis is to merge with the beautiful wild surrounding landscape but at the same time provide micro-climates for sheltered seating and plants. This idea also echoes the sheltered courtyards integral to the house. Each garden 'room' has a different planting theme like traditional orchard or exotic New Zealand plants only.



The inside of a ship is usually cleverly designed to maximise space – this is the west of the garden. In and around the the house is the area of intensive activity and function. The woodland is where west meets east – or north meets south where native Irish trees mingle with New Zealand Eucalyptus. The decks of a boat are where we meet the elements. This is the eastern end of the garden. It will be lightly managed; enhancing the native flora and creating habitats for native fauna. Paths, benches, buildings will be low key and 'of' the place.



Everything is designed so it can be implemented as individual projects as time, energy and money allows. Missing out some parts won't affect the integrity of the garden.

Crows Nest lookout



Orchard



Terraced Vegetable beds



Broad walk through bog



Bog garden



Pond with viewing jetty



Decked Barbeque area



Fire Pit



Seaside Hot tub



Paved Courtyard garden



New Zealand Courtyard Garden



Mediterranean Gravel Courtyard garden



Woodland – Native & New Zealand



Stone and green roof wildlife viewing bothy

EASTERN GARDEN



The Eastern end of the garden will be lightly managed with the aim of creating as rich an area of native flora and fauna as possible. Intervention will only be to create access and viewing areas. Planting and maintenance will be aimed at actively encouraging or introducing some species (eg Bog cotton, Heathers, Autumn Gorse *Ulex galii*) while discouraging more aggressive species (eg Briars, Bracken, Common gorse *Ulex europaeus*). The design for this area is broad brush; the idea being that the final detail will be decided on site rather than designed on paper.

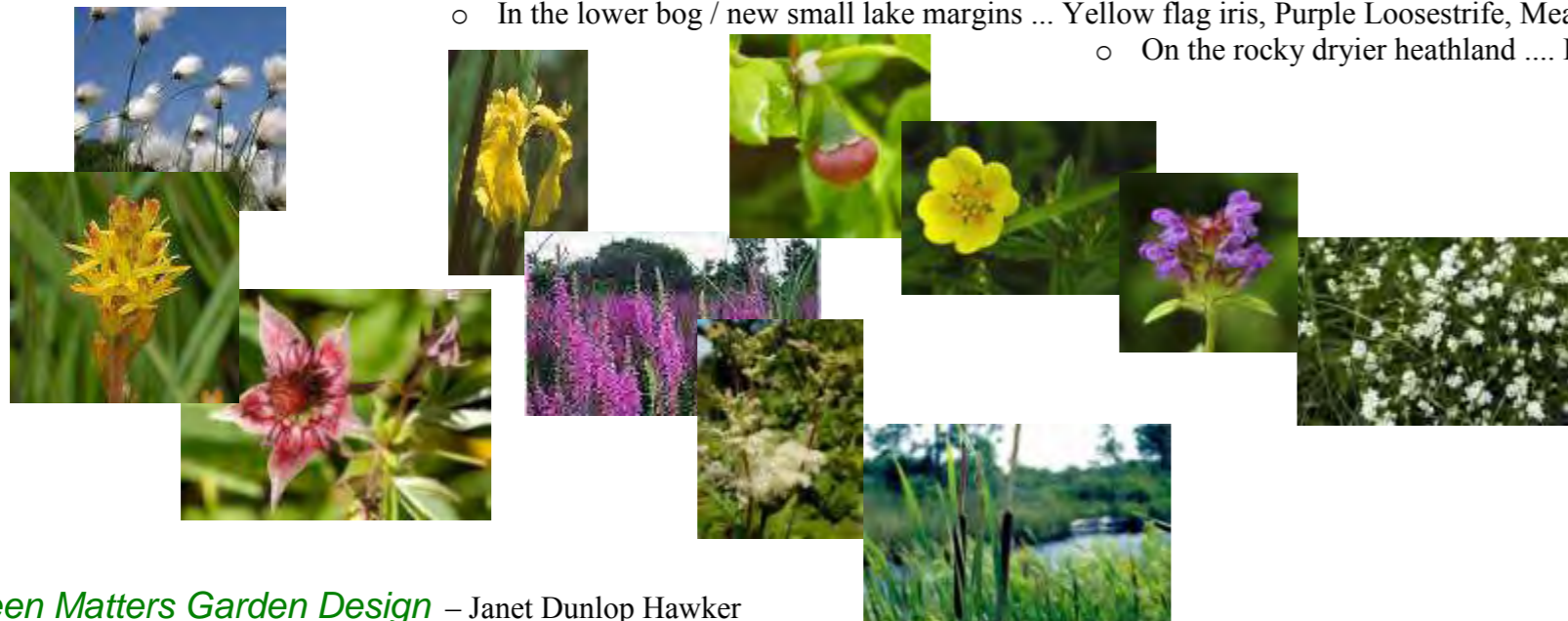
The design features are

- A network of paths to allow access to all parts of the area
 - A broad walk taking you over the centre of the bog area
 - A small open water area in the lowest lying point with broad walk and viewing pier to enable pond dipping
 - Small copse of native trees suitable to boggy conditions at north-eastern end (Downy birch, Swamp Cypress)
 - A wildlife viewing bothy / hide built in stone and with a green roof so it merges with the landscape. This will provide a sheltered sitting area where the sea and wildlife such as otters can be seen without disturbing them.



The stages are

- Fence to keep cattle out
- Create access paths to the area from the road, through the conifer woodland and along the coast (mindful of not disturbing the otters routes)
- Identify natural paths through the area (ie existing animal tracks, drier, smoother areas). Mark these tracks (with bamboo stakes or similar).
- Decide on network of paths and main viewing areas. Identify where paths must be made across boggy areas, or steps created down slopes etc.
- Create paths as appropriate. Clearing natural paths with brushcutter. Making stepping stones or broadwalks across bogs. Making steps.
- Create viewing areas / seats / wildlife viewing bothy
- Over first year identify existing flora as much as possible
- Second year onwards introduce or increase population of attractive flowers such as
 - In the bogs ... bog cotton, bog asphodel, Marsh Cinquefoil,
 - In the lower bog / new small lake margins ... Yellow flag iris, Purple Loosestrife, Meadowsweet, Reedmace
 - On the rocky drier heathland Bilberry, Tormentil, Self-heal, Heath Bedstraw and Heathers



EASTERN GARDEN

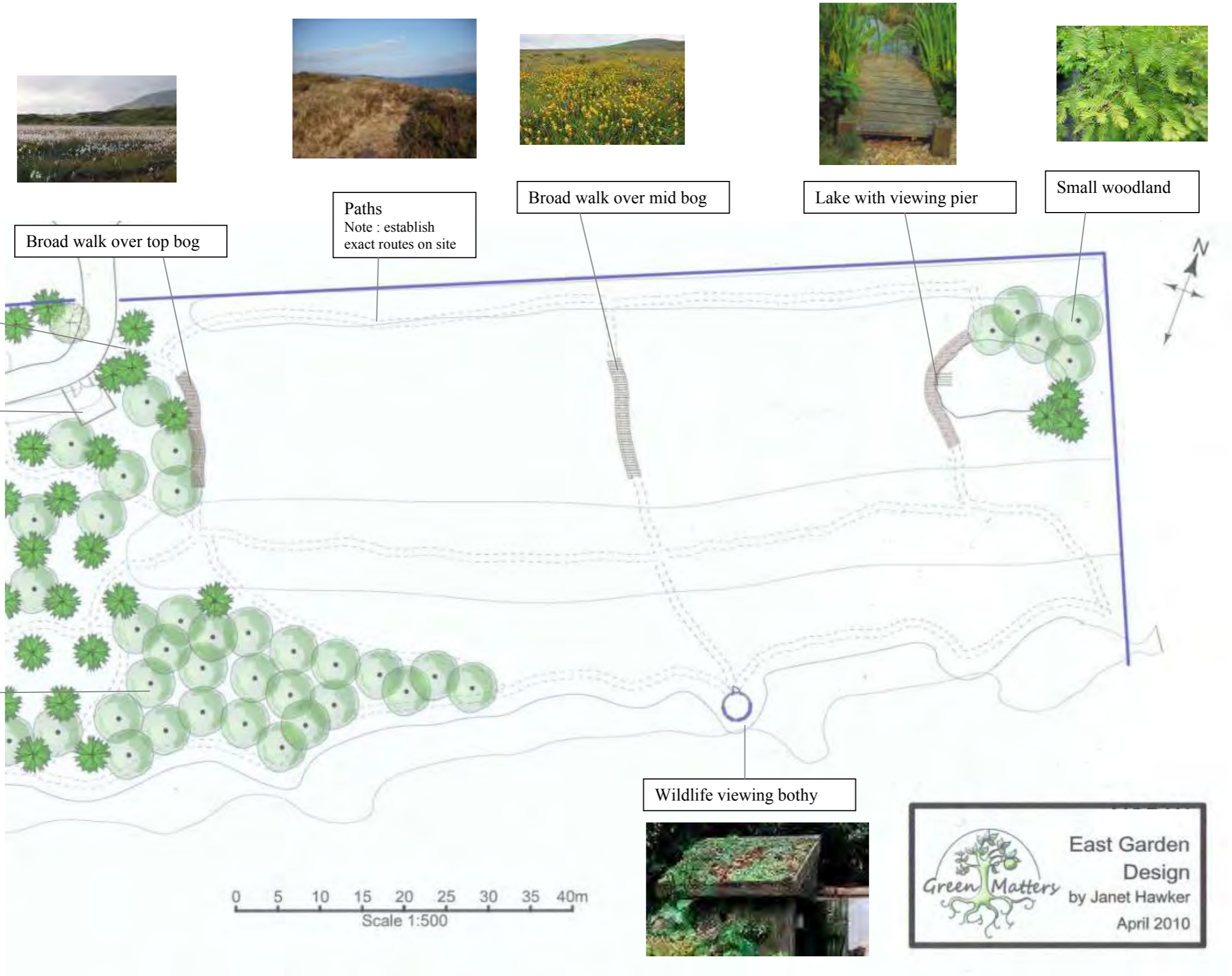


Access to Eastern garden
Note : Raise canopy of existing conifers

Yard site
NB 2 possible sites
Decide once scrub cleared on best one




Red Alder wood
Note : See Woodland section for details



0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40m
Scale 1:500

Wildlife viewing bothy

East Garden
Design
by Janet Hawker
April 2010

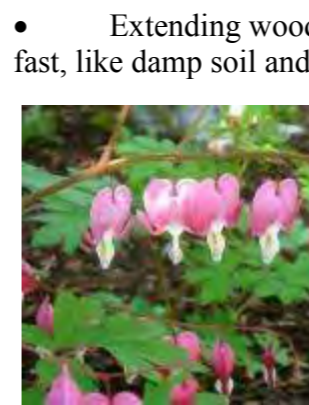
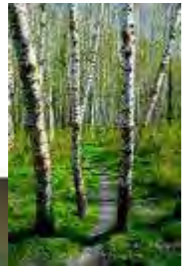
WOODLAND



The central section of the site is a well established woodland of single species conifer – lodgepole pine. The aim will be to create a more mixed woodland which will make a better habitat for wildlife, have visual interest and also potentially provide some food & firewood in time.

The design features are

- Network of paths through the woodland linking the western & eastern ends of the garden
- Planting of native Irish broadleaf trees like birch, oak etc
 - Planting of nut trees in more sheltered areas (chestnut, walnut, heartnut)
 - Planting of some New Zealand trees like Eucalyptus, Myoporum, Knightia



- Extending woodland to east with a stand of Red Alder that cope with coastal exposure, grow fast, like damp soil and can be coppiced on a 7-10 year cycle for firewood

- Creating of areas suitable for woodland flowers and plants such as New Zealand Tree Ferns
- A yard at the top for gravel etc. (This is one of two suggested sites. This site is easiest for a lorry to back into but may require some rock breaking. I suggest you decide once the scrub is cleared).



The stages are

- Clear the strong grass and scrub along pathways and into areas of tree planting (NB leave some areas untouched as wildlife habitats).
- Winter 2010/2011 (or later) plant trees, spot clear around them and stake (NB leaving some scrub to the seaward side will provide shelter in the early years)
- Ongoing – keep trees clear 3m at least around.
- As trees get established, shade will increase and the undergrowth layer will reduce
- As appropriate and time allowing – create areas of more intensive interest ie woodland flowering plants along the paths or a glade of New Zealand Ferns.
- In time harvest timber by thinning Lodgepole pine and replanting or coppicing Alder
- In time harvest nut crops



WOODLAND



Polytunnel,
Fruit cage &
Potting shed

Terraced
Vegetable Garden

Woodland
flowers

Yard site
Note Out of sight
area for 'messy
stuff'

Eastern Courtyard
of house

New building

Nut
Trees

Tough Native
Trees

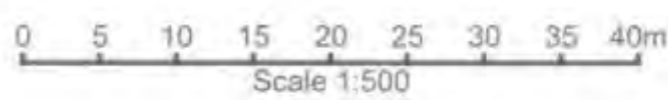



Yard site
NB 2 possible sites
Decide once scrub
cleared on best one

Paths
Note : establish
exact routes on site

Mixed Native
& New
Zealand trees

Eastern garden

Woodland
Design
by Janet Hawker
April 2010

NEW BUILDING, NEW COURTYARD, NEW ZEALAND

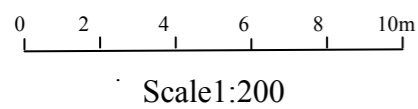
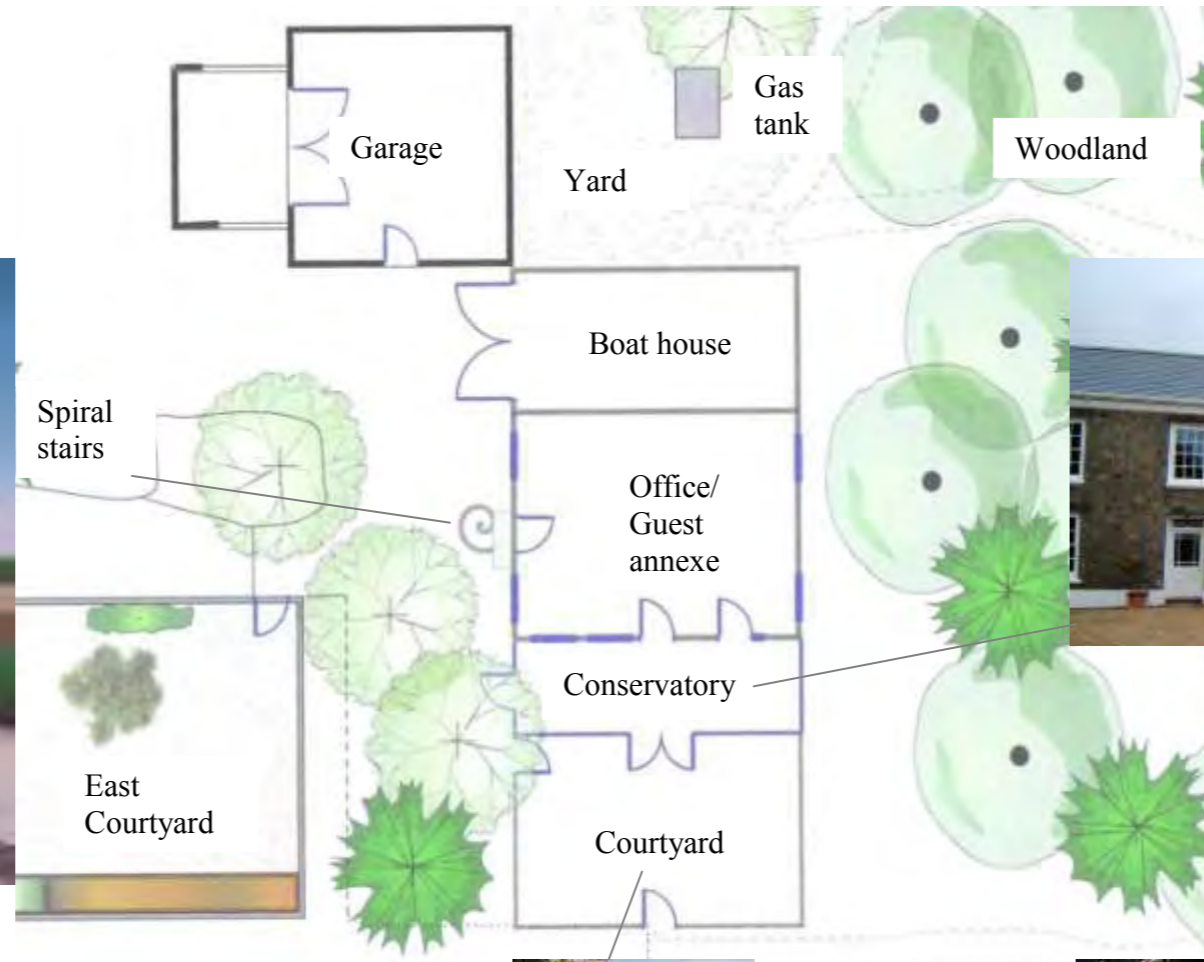


The new building incorporates boat storage, an office, possible guest annexe, glass lean-to for growing and to provide solar gain to the building plus a courtyard. This building is a suggestion and will obviously need more input from you, architects and planners.

The design features are

- 2 storey building in same style as garage – upper storey for office space and the downstairs for a guest annex or additional workshop space.
- Spiral steel staircase on western gable as access to upper storey office space. Suggest making a feature of this with some fun maritime theme.
- North side lean to building to provide winter storage for boats.
- South side lean-to glass house for growing grapes and citrus fruits. Additionally it would be a conservatory for the guest annexe and will warm and insulate the main building
- A courtyard on the south side in the same style of the house courtyards will make a small private garden with the theme of New Zealand plants.

The stages are
 Break rock and clear scrub
 Get building plans, planning permission etc
 Build
 Plant up (easy!)



EASTERN COURTYARD



The Eastern courtyard will have a theme of a Mediterranean gravel garden as well as giving over some space for storage of fuel.

The design features are

- A specimen Olive tree and a wall trained fig tree
- Planted with perennial herbs Rosemary, Thyme, Marjoram that like warm dry conditions. A contained mint bed which collects the water from the fuel store (mint spreads and needs moist soil)
- A neat low wall store for timber, coal (hidden behind doors) & compost – nice and close to the house on wet evenings. Purpose built so stone wall at back shows
- Flowers that enjoy growing in a gravel bed especially ones that self-seed freely

The stages are

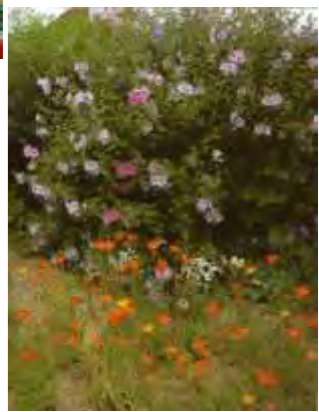
- Remove Phormium
- Build fuel stores and mint bed
- Plant up



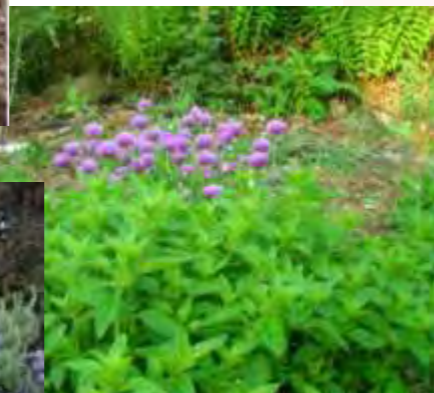
Olive



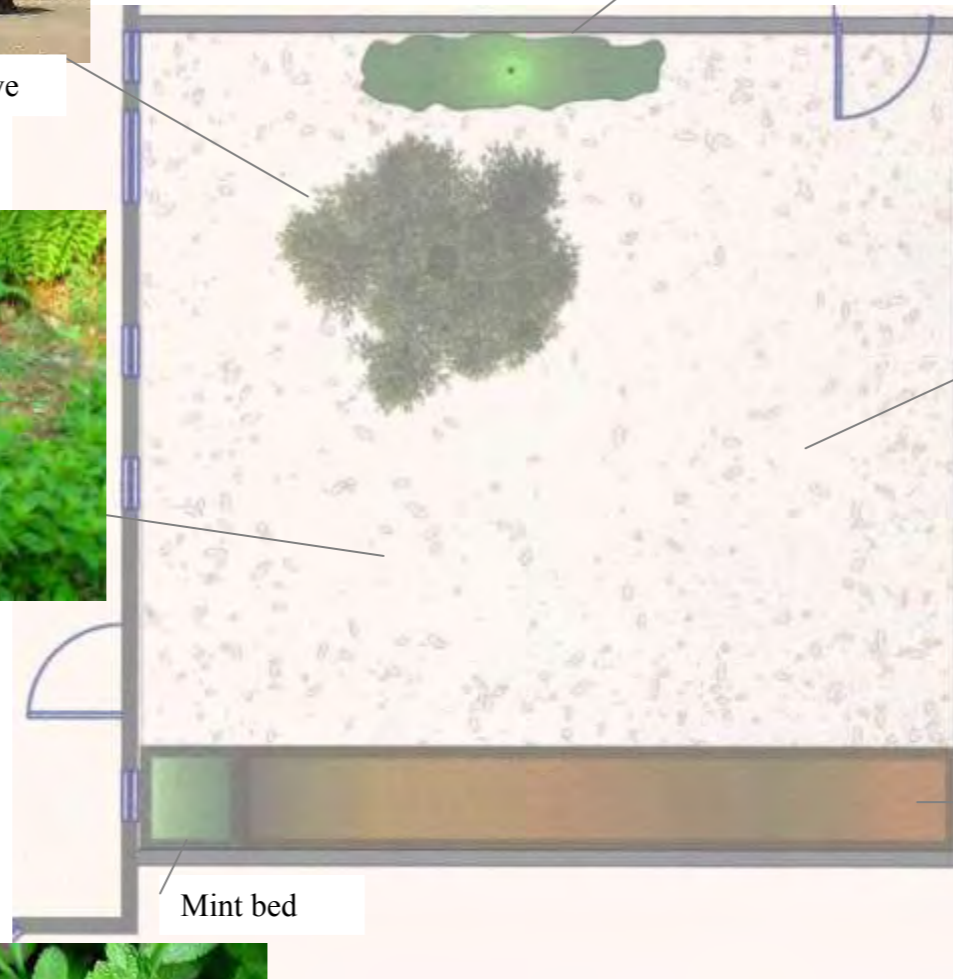
Fig



Gravel loving flowers



Perennial Herbs



Mint bed

Storage chests

0 1 2 3 4 5m

Scale 1:100



WESTERN COURTYARD



The western courtyard is the main 'outside room' so here a bit of luxury is suggested – in the materials used and the planting.

The design features are

- A lean-to greenhouse purpose built to fit in the north end of the courtyard will create a microclimate so some luxury fruit can be grown. give a small sheltered sitting area under cover as well as providing some extra insulation to the adjoining bedroom.
- The back wall of the greenhouse will have fan-trained peaches & nectarines on it. The front of the greenhouse will have raised beds for heat-loving herbs.
- A selection of the exotic evergreen climber – passionfruit – will clothe the western walls inside & outside the greenhouse. After the beautiful flowers comes an edible fruit.
- A flag stone surface in Valentia slate with an engraved step out of the house (see picture of compass engraved in Valentia flagstone)
- A small circular chamomile daisy lawn around the existing rock will break up the paving and make a soft place to sit with the delicious aroma of chamomile around you.
- A blueberry bed tucked under the shelter of the south-western wall. Blueberries have white nodding flowers, edible berries and good autumn colour. A groundcover of Gaultheria will give winter interest with evergreen leaves & red berries. They will enjoy the damp soil and shade in that corner.
- A rain water store under the herb beds in the greenhouse will act as a heat store as well as a reservoir of water for the plants.

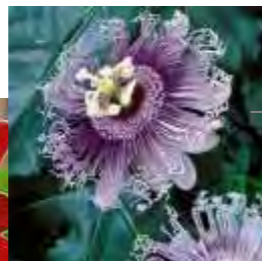


Peach Blossom

The stages are
 Check & sort out (if necessary) all pipes from house (ie rain water, grey water and sewage system)
 Paving
 Finalise plans for lean-to, get quotes and build
 Planting



Passionfruit



Lean-to greenhouse



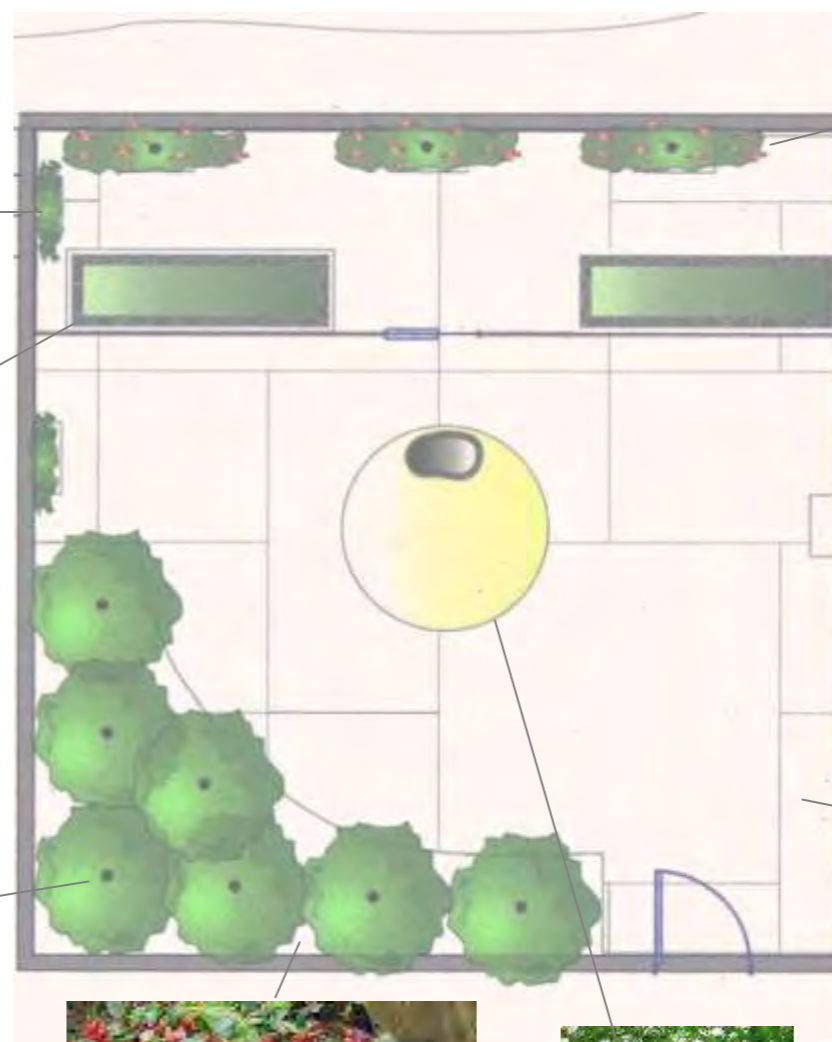
Blueberries



Gaultheria



Chamomile lawn



Fan trained fruit trees



Valentia Slate



Scale 1:100

AROUND THE HOUSE



Immediately around the house and courtyards no major changes are proposed – just a few adjustments.

The design features are

- Keep the wild look on the seaward side – perhaps just trying to keep the rough grass under control with some strimming which should encourage the heather
- Remove young trees from grass near septic tank (Replant in woodland). Their roots could cause problems with the septic system which also needs to be revamped at some stage.



- Have removable rotary washing line in grass area near septic tank.
 - Move household compost to eastern courtyard in fuel stores. Invest in Little Pig for the best in easy household composting. This is the only domestic composter that copes with meat, is rodent proof and reliably produces good compost.

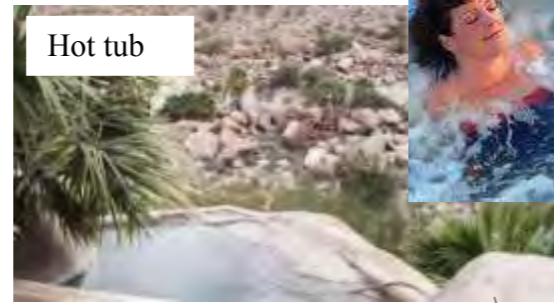
- Add some trees hedging – as a windbreak and to provide a screen from the neighbours to the east. Adjust paths as necessary
- Revamp planting on the big rock with Lampranthus, Sea pinks *Armenia spp*, Sedums and Erigerons



GAZEBO AND FLOWFORM



As you head from the house to the old tidal pool the main thing that strikes you is the great view across the bay and the need to get down to the water's edge.



Hot tub



Gazebo



Barrel Water Store

The design features are

- A glass gazebo at the main viewpoint
- A water store in old oak barrels on the small headland to feed into the hot tub below (mimicking the cargo on the deck of a ship)
- A Boulder sea-wall for extra storm protection with integrated stone/boulder steps down to the hot tub
- A Flow-form waterfall to energise the water on its way down to the hot tub. This will also be a 'rain sculpture' as it will flow faster the heavier it rains.



Flow Form



Boulder wall



0 1 2 3 4 5m

Scale 1:100

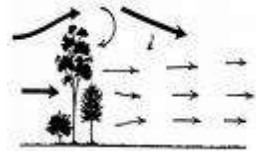
NORTH-WESTERN CORNER



The North-Western corner will be left fairly wild apart from some planting to lift the wind over the garden, paths and a view point.

The design features are

- A crow's nest viewing platform on the high point. This site should give you a magnificent vista up and down the bay. A secondary function of this structure is to blur the sight of the large telegraph pole so the overall effect when you look that way is of two large wooden masts as on an old sailing ship. If you want shelter I suggest you build a mini lighthouse style building.
- Planting of some tall conifers such as Scot's Pine, Monkey Puzzle (which eventually will give edible nuts) and a few broadleaf trees. These will lift the wind lessen its effect over the lower part of the garden. (Note : All the tree planting and hedge planting has been designed to mitigate the effects of the wind by lifting it or buffering the funnelling effect.)



- Paths up to the Crow's Nest from various points lower down.
- A yard at the bend of the drive for gravel etc. (This is one of two suggested sites. This site is closer to the house but may be rather awkward to back into. I suggest you decide once the scrub is cleared).



The stages are

- Clear scrub for paths and tree planting
- Plant trees. Keep clear around new trees until well established
- Build Crow's Nest. Determine best position on-site with a marking poles and viewing the effect and alignment with the telegraph pole from the lower parts of the garden.



0 2 4 6 8 10m
Scale 1:200

OLD TIDAL POOL / NEW DECK



The old tidal pool will be transformed into your main outside leisure area. Storm proofing is a major consideration although some elements are designed to be expendable to the worst weather and can be easily rebuilt as necessary.

The design features are



- Drift wood beach art (eg surfer)



- Large deck in the style of an old-fashioned wooden pier. Recommend using composite decking for durability, maintenance & non-slip properties.



- Broadwalk from the deck to the shoreline. The broadwalk could be designed in sections that can be taken up in winter if necessary.



- Beach hut sheds for storage of garden furniture, BBQs etc



- Sail shades for shelter from the blistering sun and occasional soft day! Easily taken down for the winter or a summer storm



- Sea-side hot tub fed with rain water and heated by the sun. There are two options for this. One a permanent pool built out of concrete, the other a portable pool. The concrete pool will have a drain and can be left empty. In storms it will act like a rock pool but can be cleaned out easily and refilled from the barrel water store. The portable pool can be stored in the winter and moved to the deck or fire-pit area if preferred.



- Flo- form waterfall feeding into the hot tub to provide energised water. Solar heated hot water (detail to be confirmed if you want this feature)



- Stone edged fire pit/bonfire site surrounded with boulder seats. This is an 'expendable element' as it will be simply made and if storm-damaged can be easily rebuilt



- Dead wood fence at eastern boundary. It can be filled with old branches as well as organic flotsam. This is another expendable element in that it is cheap and cheerful. It will provide immediate screening to the east. It can be made with a removable section so if access is needed (and the road still exists) it can be taken down.



- A hedge of Eleasgnus angustifolia and Sea Buckthorn behind the dead wood fence for extra shelter and screening.

- A (cheap) gravel surface over the remaining area. Flat stone stepping stone path through the gravel from the deck to the shore. These are expendable elements that can be topped up / replaced easily and cheaply if washed away by storms.



- More willows, especially with coloured stems for winter interest, around the existing willow pool. The water from the existing outlet should be piped into here for extra purification before it seeps into the water table/sea.

- Planting that can cope with saline conditions and will help to stabilise the gravel surface. All plants that self-seed or need minimal maintenance. eg Sea Campion, Sea Beet, Sea Sandwort, Sea Lavender.





LARGE GARDEN - DESIGN DETAIL

NEW DECK



Willow ditch



Fire pit



Beach hut sheds

Deck & Broad walk

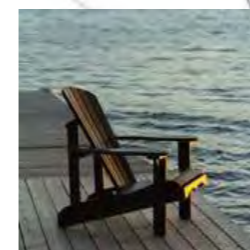


Sea Buckthorn & Eleagnus hedge



Dead Wood Fence

Hot tub



Scale 1:200

BERRY BUSHES, BIRDS & BATS



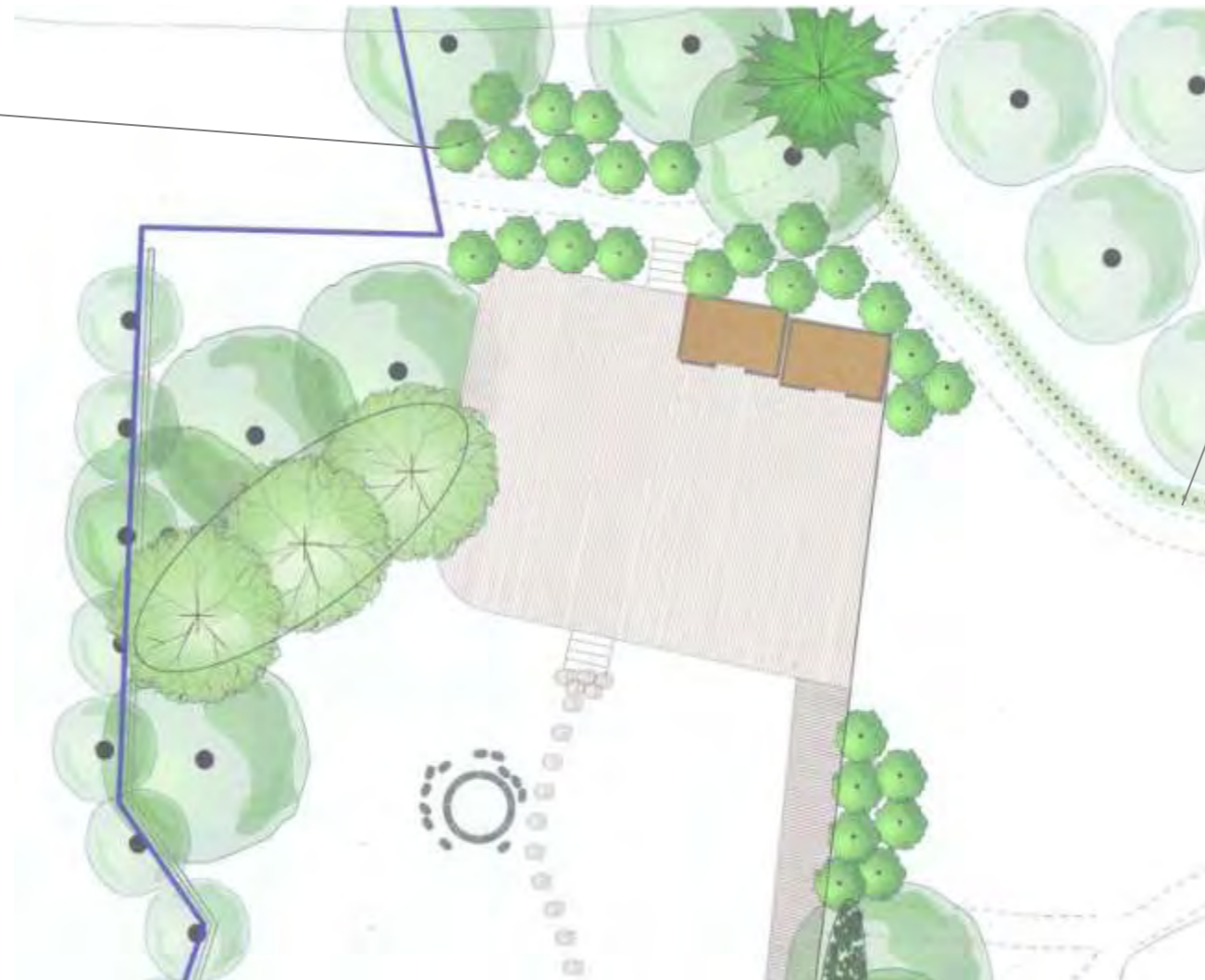
Throughout the garden shrubs and plants are chosen to provide edible fruits or seeds for both humans and birds. Or to encourage insects which in turn will encourage birds and get a pest/predator balance.

The design features are

- A Berry walk of unusual fruiting shrubs behind the deck and leading to the gate in the western boundary
- Rosa rugosa is used in the windbreak hedging. It has scented roses throughout the summer, large red hips (for humans or birds) in autumn & copes with salt winds
- Eleagnus x ebbingea is the main windbreak hedging. It has silver grey-green leaves, is evergreen, has small but scented flowers in autumn, edible fruit, grows anywhere including in the full force of a sea wind, is frost hardy and fixes nitrogen in the soil so it is available to other plants. What a star!
- Allow for bird or bat nesting sites in any new building or garden outhouse
- Hang bird nest boxes including one with a camera



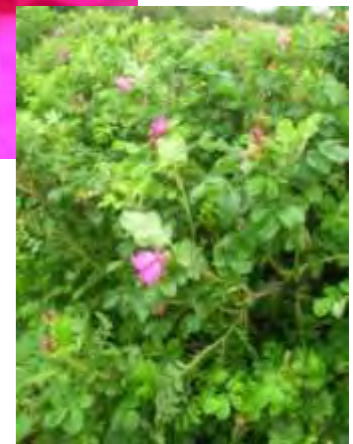
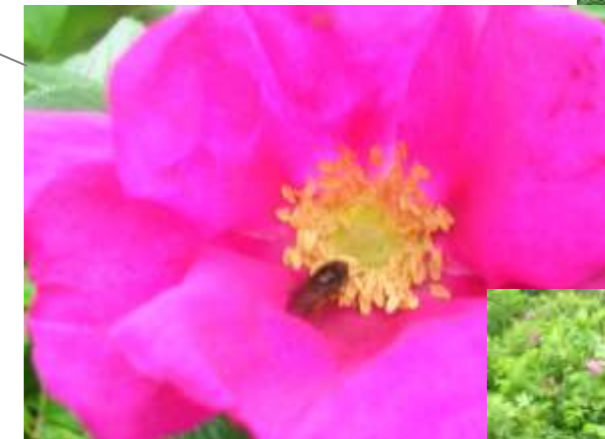
Berry Walk



Eleagnus x ebbingea



Rosa rugosa



Scale 1:200



Birds in nest & green roofed bird box

VEGETABLE GARDEN



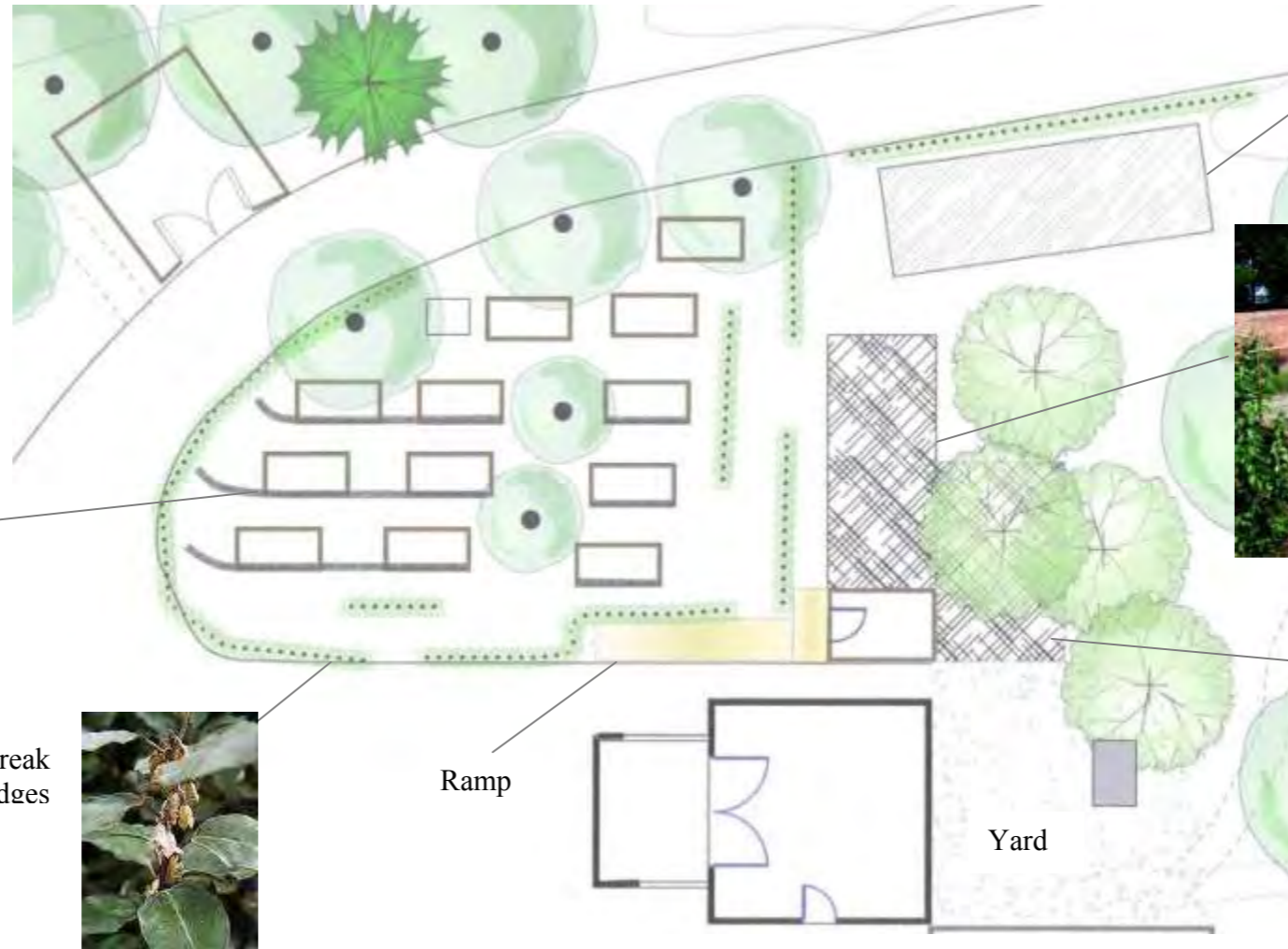
The sloped grassy area bounded by the drive and parking area is to become your vegetable growing area.

The design features are

- Terraced vegetable & flower beds. Local stone to be used for the retaining walls of the terraces. Vegetable beds can be made with wooden sides or rendered blocks or blocks faced with stone. The sides of the vegetable beds to be above the level of the soil so small plants get extra shelter. The stone or block options will add extra warmth as the stone will hold the heat.
- Flowers to be mixed with the vegetables – especially good companions like Poached egg, Marigold, Fennel, Feverfew that attract beneficial insects.
- A windbreak hedge of *Eleagnus x ebbingea* to the seaward side. Highest in the centre and trimmed to slope down to a low hedge at the top and bottom.
- A Polytunnel. Go for a straight-sided one with strong plastic. Try the Solar tunnel with green mesh embedded in the plastic for strength and visual appeal (if you can't run to a greenhouse)
- A fruit cage for soft fruit like currents and raspberries (birds love them SO much you won't get any without a cage)
- A series of windbreak hedges to the east that allow entry to the soft fruit & polytunnel area without creating wind funnels. Some trees to the north and a couple of small ones in the centre to lift the wind.
- A potting shed and yard behind the garage for all the messy 'stuff' that every garden has. A ramp from the drive up to the potting shed will allow wheelbarrow access to the area.
- A chicken run. This is sited behind the fruit cage but my best recommendation is a system with a moveable house and an electric poultry fence. This system is very fox-proof and very flexible. You will be able to move the hens over fallow parts of the vegetable garden to pick for bugs, slugs and weeds, into the orchard to keep the grass down and eat bugs or into the woods for some shade. They always have fresh grass, there is no build up of pest and it confuses Mr Fox – as well as getting an electric shock on his nose if he tries to get in.



Terraced vegetable & flower beds



Polytunnel



Fruit cage



Chicken run



Windbreak hedges



Ramp

Yard



Scale 1:200



ORCHARD



The area between the drive and the old tidal pool will be left as it is mostly except for a new orchard.

The design features are

- A windbreak hedge snaking from the drive down to the back of decking. Planted with *Eleagnus x ebbingea* and mixed with *Rosa rugosa*
- A small orchard of traditional top fruit – apples, plums, pears. The trees selected to cover as long a season as possible of fresh or stored fruit
- A beautiful new swing seat with a wave shape in the back so you can enjoy your fabulous new garden.



The stages are

- Clear existing hedge (shred if possible for source of mulch)
- Clear scrub
- Plant hedge & orchard (between Nov & Mar)
- Buy seat
- Sit and enjoy!



Scale 1:200



Have fun!