



Stone furniture by Assemble at Valerie Traan Gallery

VISUAL AMENITY

The garden will provide a rich and atmospheric alternative to the surrounding of the site. Within the enclosure of the hedge, the plants will be abundant and wild with a landscape character both of the location and the site and yet in contrast to the mannered world beyond.

The garden will be distinctive from across the site as a beautiful block of beech with apertures cut into it to reveal the wildness inside.

Much in the manner of a garden like Ian Hamilton Findlay's Little Sparta, stone objects will be scattered through and on the periphery of the garden alluding to unknown histories and local geologies. We imagine these to be mixed of newly formed objects and of found objects from salvage yards.

All of this will combine to make a place of other beauty.



A formed beech hedge at Marnas by Sven-Ingvar Andersson



A stone bench at Rainham Marshes by Peter Beard

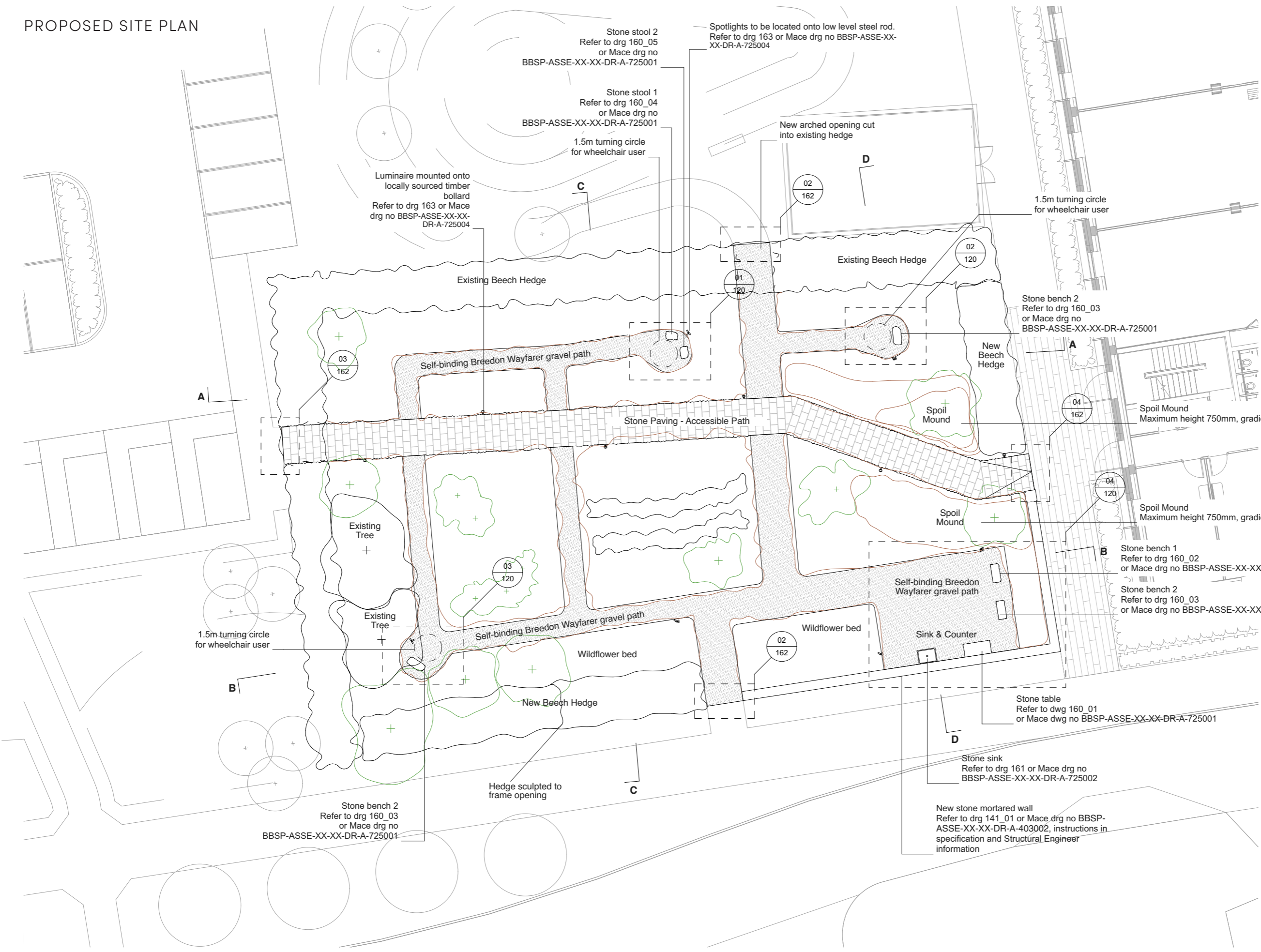


Wildflower planting at La Vallee by Gilles Clement



The walled garden at Lindisfarne by Gertrude Jekyll

PROPOSED SITE PLAN



1. All dimensions and levels to be checked on site before commencing work.
2. This drawing to be read in conjunction with all relevant contract documents.
3. Do not scale from this drawing, use figured dimensions only.
4. Report any errors, contradictions or omissions to the designer as soon as possible

| RevID | Change Name | Date |
|-------|------------------|----------|
| P1 | Tender | 31/03/22 |
| P2 | For Construction | 31/03/23 |

- Stone wall revised to mortared stone wall
- Accessible path revised to machine cut stone paved path

KEY

- Stone paving for Accessible Path
- Self-binding gravel path

Construction

Drawing
Proposed GA

Project
Begbroke Weed Garden

Client **Mace Drawing No**
 OUD BBSP-ASSE-XX-XX-DR-A-301001

Date **Drawing No**
 14/06/2023 1259_05_120

Drawn by **Scale**
 AE 1:200 @ A3

ASSEMBLE

Sugarhouse Studios, 19 Collett Road, SE16 4DJ
 +44 (0)2072370000
 info@assemblestudio.co.uk

SOFT LANDSCAPING

Upon visiting the garden, we observed a wide variety of ‘weeds’ already growing in the area. The idea is to take this as inspiration. Why bring in new ‘weeds’ when the weed garden has already been made? These ‘weeds’ have found their way into the garden already and are adapted to the space, offering up a ready made colour palette and a variety of shapes and forms, that already give us the elements of what makes ‘good’ garden design.

We’re interested in the definition of a weed, which is quite simply ‘a plant in the wrong place’. Ragwort, for example, is famed for being poisonous to horses, an idea that is completely unsubstantiated but has become a commonly held belief, so much so that countryside ladies who ride will fall out with neighbours for their refusal to remove it. A more cultivated version just a few cultivars away, Dusty Miller, is prized by florists and gardeners. Our planting in this garden will look to explore the line between the two.

The idea is to create a journey around the space. Beginning on the north side of the garden, the existing plants would simply be left to be, as a kind of mini re-wilding experiment. We would then take the elements of what is already there and start to transform the planting in the other areas into something more formal, as the garden loops around to where the existing trees are.

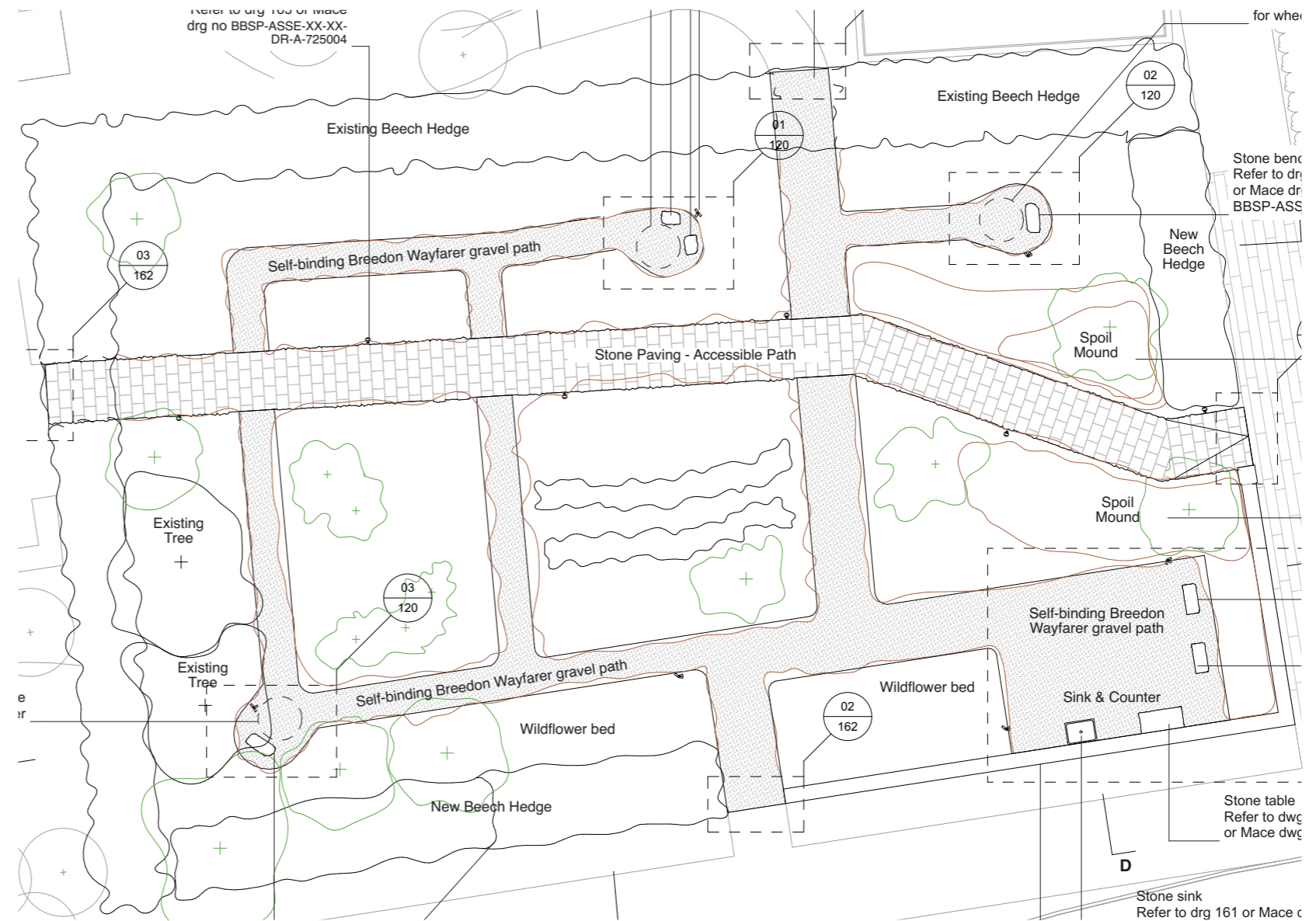
The scheme here would take from the palette of what is already present in the ‘weed’ area; yellows, whites and browns, and begin to add in the cultivated versions of these ‘weeds’, arranging them in more recognised planting shapes and patterns. This creates a formal, more visible design from the language of the existing site. On the south edge of the garden we are proposing a bank of about 2m, which would be made from spoil (either from the other side of the garden, or from elsewhere on the site - e.g. the car park). This is the best way to grow wild flowers and would add some height. It would also mirror the spoil that is already there.

The last two spaces in the journey, on the east side of the garden, would become more formalistic, with a clipped hawthorn hedge and symmetrically planted trees. Rowans and elders are both culturally significant and are found near the space, and so would be an interesting fit.

The area around the kitchen would be planted with climbing dog rose and Clematis Old Man’s Beard. Both beautiful climbers that often grace railway tracks and scrubland.

The hedge, which we will extend will play between being clipped and unclipped. There are many species living in and on the hedge that it could be interesting to leave in some places.

The images on this page show a selection of Sarah’s photographs of the weeds already living on the site.



Achillea Millefolium



Artemisia



Ragwort



Verbascum

PLANTING LIST

FOUND IN THE WEED GARDEN

These plants already exist within the weed garden site

Grasses

Achillea Millefolium, wild

Linaria purpurea, wild form

Convolvulus

Teasel

Rosa Canina

Dock

Verbascum (yellow)

Ragwort

Clover

Ribwort plantain

Crataegus Monogyna

Thistle

Artemisia, wormwood

PROPOSED FOR THE CULTIVATED GARDEN

These would be plants, related to those already existing within the weed garden site that we would seek to introduce alongside those already there

Grasses / stipa tenuissima, stipa gigantea etc

Achillea millefolium 'Terracotta'

Linaria purpurea, 'Canon went'

Convolvulus Cneorum

Teasel/ Eryngium

Cultivated rose / shrub rose

Sorrel/ Dock

Verbascum bombyciferum, Verbascum blattaria

Jacobaea maritima (dusty miller)

Trifolium Ochroleucum

Ornamental plantain

Crataegus Monogyna

Scabious

Artemisia 'Silver Mound', Tarragon

Sorbus subg. sorbus (Rowan)

Sambucus Nigra



Achillea Millefolium 'Terracotta'



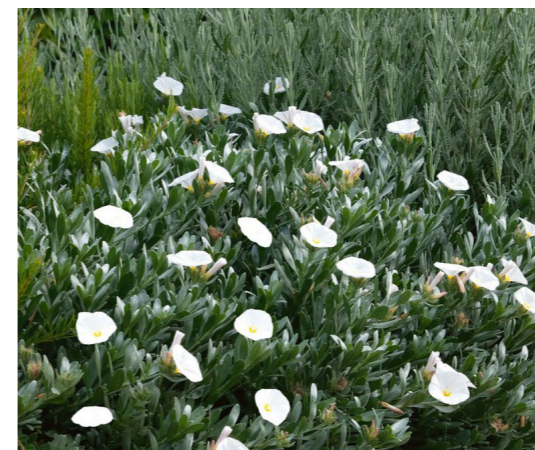
Linaria Purpurea



Trifolium Ochroleucum



Artemisia 'Silver Mound'



Convolvulus Cneorum



Verbascum Bombyciferum

The difficulty lies in the very expression “relation to the world,” which presupposes two sorts of domains, that of nature and that of culture, domains that are at once distinct and impossible to separate completely.

Bruno Latour, Facing Gaia: Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime



SUMMARY

In response to the Public Art Brief for Begbroke Science Park our proposal is site specific and in reaction to finding a large, striking mature beech hedge that defines an area of untended landscape to create an imposing, natural landmark.

Inspired by the site's history for facilitating the Weed Research Organisation in the 1960's our proposal will complete the garden that is already defined by the existing mature hedge on site, by adding two new walls to create an enclosed 'weed garden'. The new enclosure would combine an extension to the existing beech hedge, providing further ecological habitats, and a new wall built out of the oolithic limestone on which and of which Oxford is made.

Within this new enclosure the garden would provide a rich ecological environment with the existing weeds of the site added to and enriched by a complimentary planting scheme of related plants. Visitors will be able to enjoy the garden by walking through or around it on stone dust paths, or seated on a stone slab bench.

As Richard Mabey writes in his book 'Weeds: the Story of Outlaw Plants', 'plants become weeds because people label them as such'. So as a result the idea of the weed, and our relationship with these plants that have often evolved to cohabit with humans strike to the heart of the false distinction between nature and culture.

All gardens are sites of active engagement with the land, and this site will be no different, enabling visitors, gardeners and members of the Begbroke community to understand the landscape of the site and in its valuing of 'weeds' challenge our perceptions of what belongs and what can contribute to a sense of place.

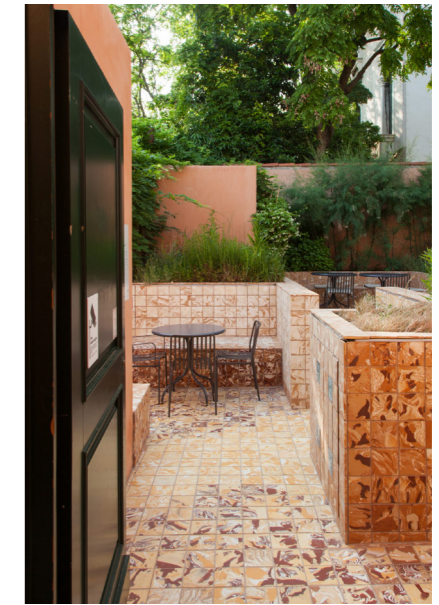
The weed garden will be an amenity for the current community at Begbroke, and will continue to grow and develop and be enjoyed as the community enlarges, but most importantly it will provide an amenity and a landscape feature that can continue to benefit the wider area as it develops into a neighbourhood.



Totteridge Academy Quad, Assemble



Laguna Viva, Assemble



Granby Winter Garden, Assemble



OTO Projects, Assemble

ASSEMBLE

Assemble is a multi-disciplinary collective working across architecture, design and art.

Founded in 2010 to undertake a single self-built project, Assemble has since delivered a diverse and award-winning body of work, whilst retaining a democratic and co-operative working method that enables built, social and research-based work at a variety of scales, both making things and making things happen.

The social focus and impact of our work was recognised in the receipt of the Turner Prize in 2015 for the network of neighbourhood projects created in collaboration with the residents of Granby, Liverpool.

SARAH ALUN-JONES

Assemble's Project Team has been extended to include Sarah Alun-Jones, a Farmer and Outdoor Education Manager; as a Critical Partner in developing the concept proposal for the soft landscaping.

CURATORS

About Rebecca Heald: Specialising in art, architecture and urban planning I shape city spaces that transform the everyday. My work with leading organisations including Tate, Southbank Centre, British Council, Art on the Underground, Aga Khan Development Network, Argent, Arup, Science Gallery London, and the Royal College of Art demonstrate my ability to communicate and connect with the most wide-ranging audiences. Drawing on two decades of experience, I work at scale with ambition to match. From liaising with structural engineers to untangling legal intricacies, I embrace any situation and agenda to make art happen.

About Company, Place: Company, Place was founded in 2018 by Vickie Hayward. We provide curation, programming, partnerships and all-round enlivenment for brands and spaces. Our work builds a foundation for places to continuously engage with their audiences in a meaningful way. We use local knowledge and history to inform our core creative ideas. Through championing communities and collaboration we devise programmes that connect people with place. Currently we are working on ongoing commissions for Argent, Argent Related and Peabody. Company, Place is actively working on projects that focus on reducing consumption and waste.



ASSEMBLE