

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



THRIVE GARDEN

Visit msa.ac.uk for more information

MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

 **Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

 **DROYLSDEN JUNIORS
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**MSA
LIVE 25**

Team

Joanna Sobska (MArch1)

Tianshu He (MArch1)

Wanru Li (MArch1)

Eirini Tsiakka (MArch1)

Kiruthyik Karunakaran (MArch1)

Kun Wang (MA AR)

Aurelian Criganuta (BA1)

Louise Higson (BA1)

Sean Brimacombe (BA1)

Yujing Liu (BA1)

Erin Burke (BA2)

Mohammed Hussain (BA2)

Nikita Haria (BA2)

Salman Ismael S Alkoshy (BA2)

Atulya Unny (MLA1)

Zeng Qiu (MLA1)

Partners

Our proud partners, Droylsden Juniors Football Club have been a cornerstone of grassroots sport and youth development since 1963. With over 500 young players, 100 dedicated coaches, and 50 teams, the club continues to champion community, opportunity, and ambition inspiring generations to reach their full potential both on and off the pitch.

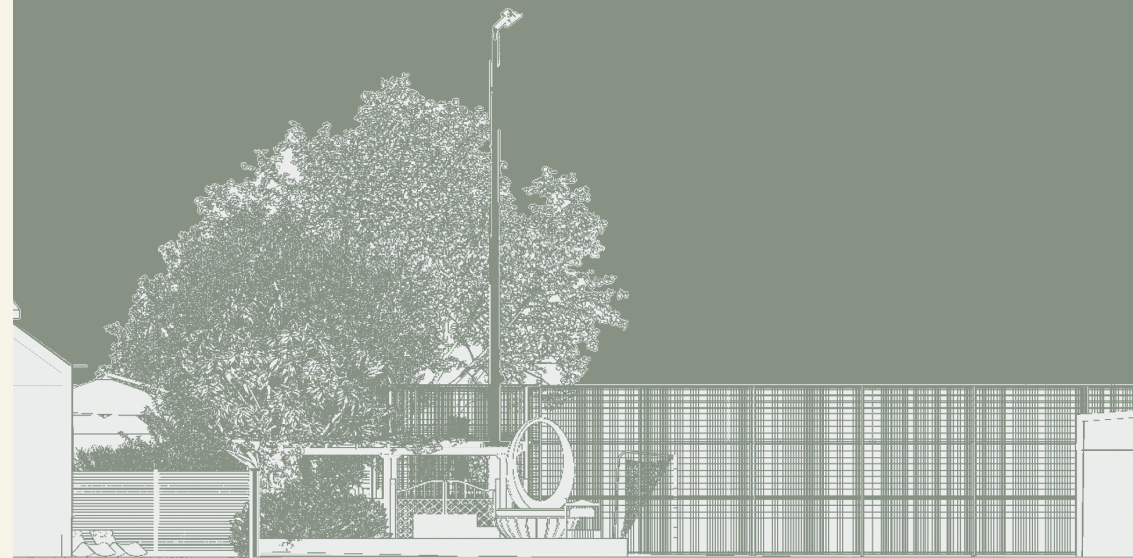
Introduction

THRIVE GARDEN

The agenda of the project is to reclaim underutilized land for sustainable urban development, community empowerment, and environmental education.

This collaborative project with Droylsden Juniors Football Club proposes a vibrant community garden in Manchester, England, designed as a small green space between the football pitch and a residential area. The garden aims to cultivate vegetables and plants in raised beds to create a self-sufficient

ecosystem, while strategically placed planting helps mitigate noise pollution for nearby residents. Beyond its environmental benefits, the space engages volunteers in growing fresh produce and educates children about local history through interactive memory boards. By fostering shared stewardship of the garden, the project strengthens social cohesion, transforming an underutilized site into a hub for sustainable urban living and community connection.

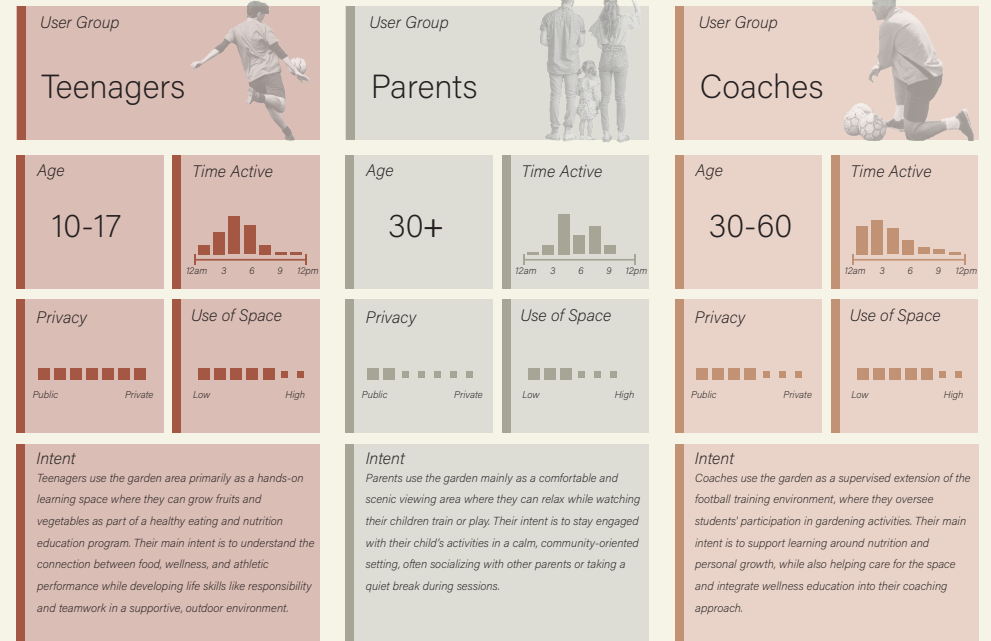


CONCEPT DRAWING

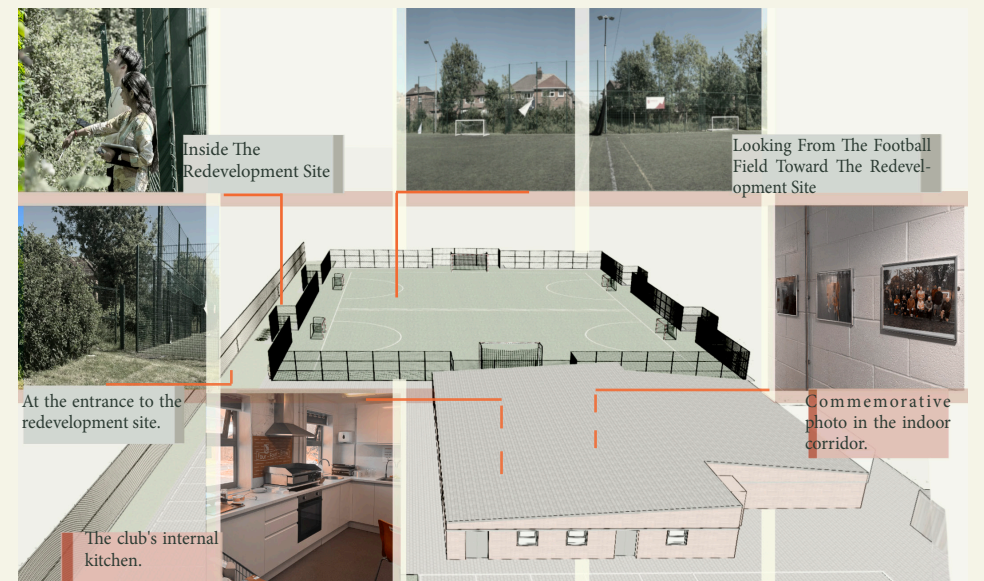


A conceptual landscape designed to explore the relationship between nature, memory, and personal experience. The project leads visitors through various planting beds, memorial signs, and interactive areas, inviting them to honor individuals who supported the club and have since passed away. It also presents meaningful ways to connect with nature while offering a tranquil spot to observe children playing football nearby. Focusing on gardening, this space transforms into a living tribute where growth represents remembrance, healing, and the enduring influence of community support.

CLIENT NEEDS

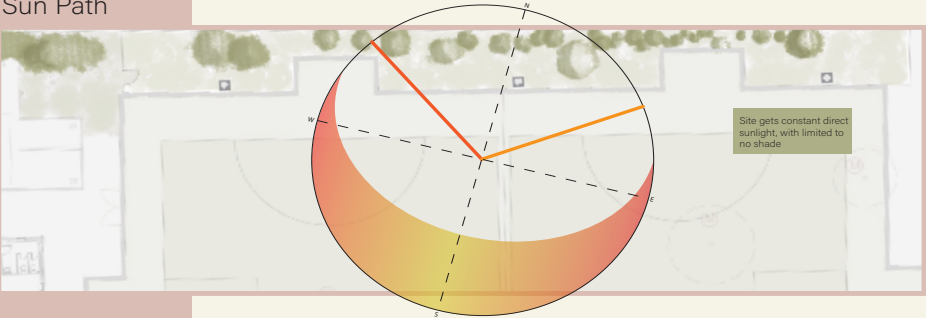


SITE VISIT

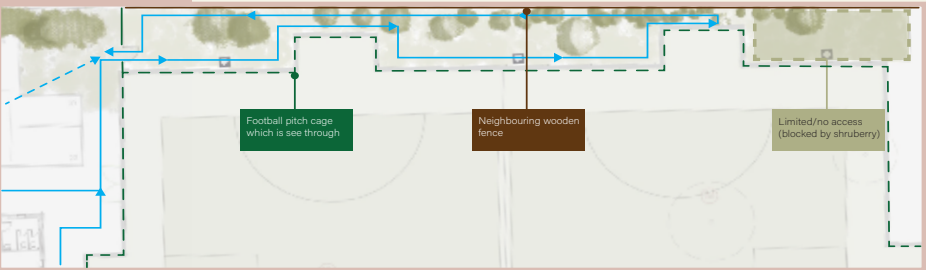


SITE ANALYSIS

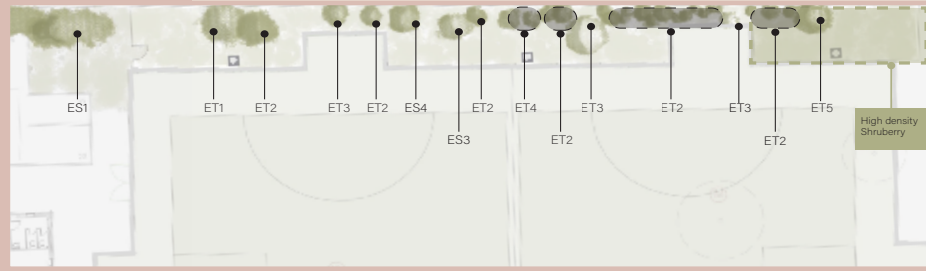
Sun Path



Site Access



Existing Nature

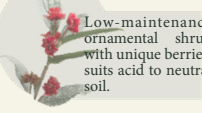


(ET2) Ash Tree



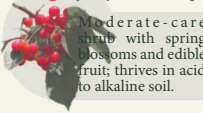
Large shade tree for acidic to alkaline soil; supports wildlife but vulnerable to ash die-back.

(ES1) Twinberry Honeysuckle



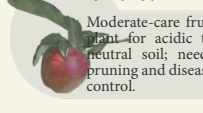
Low-maintenance ornamental shrub with unique berries; suits acid to neutral soil.

(ET5) Wild Cherry



Moderate-care shrub with spring blossoms and edible fruit; thrives in acid to alkaline soil.

(ET1) Apple Tree



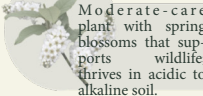
Moderate-care fruit plant for acidic to neutral soil; needs pruning and disease control.

(ES4) Orange Ball Tree



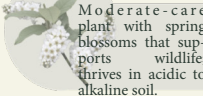
Easy-care shrub with fragrant orange-yellow flowers; suits acidic to neutral soil.

(ET3) Prunus Tree



Moderate-care ornamental shrub with spring blossoms; suits acidic to neutral soil and needs regular pruning.

(ET5) Bird Cherry Tree



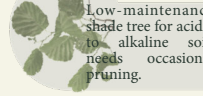
Moderate-care plant with spring blossoms that supports wildlife; thrives in acidic to alkaline soil.

(ES3) Japanese Honeysuckle



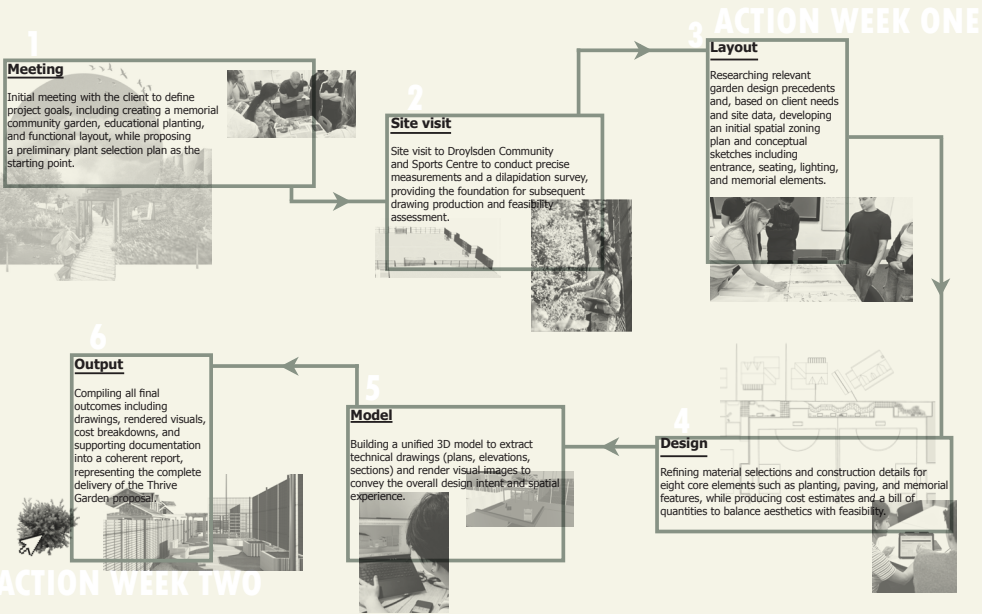
Fragrant, pollinator-friendly plant for acidic to neutral soil; needs regular pruning and may be invasive.

(ET4) Common Alder

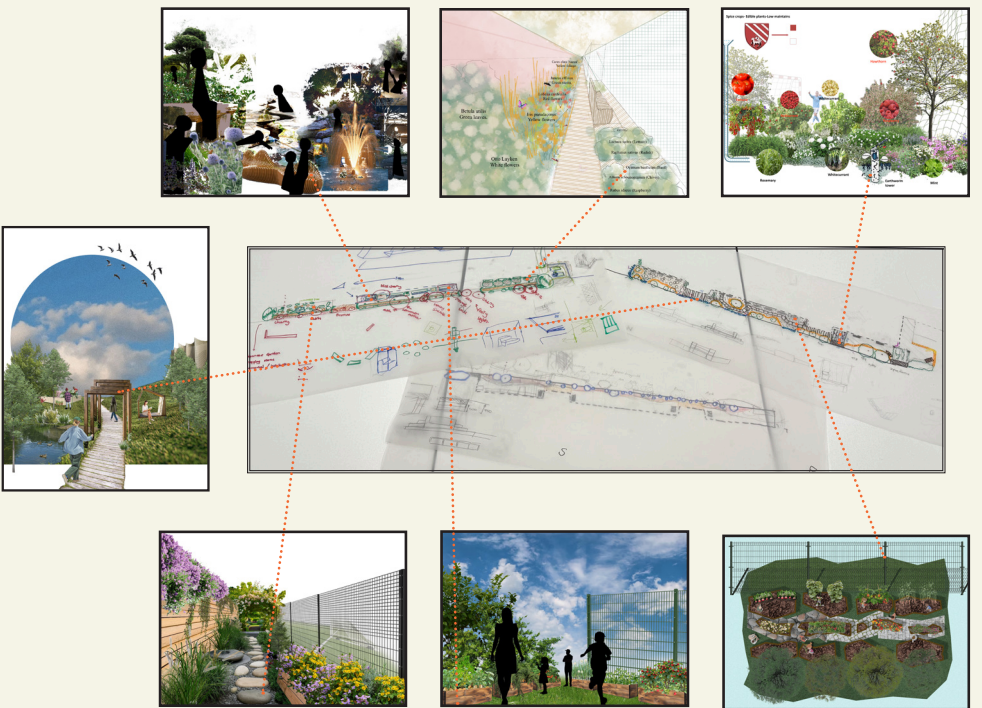


Low-maintenance shade tree for acidic to alkaline soil; needs occasional pruning.

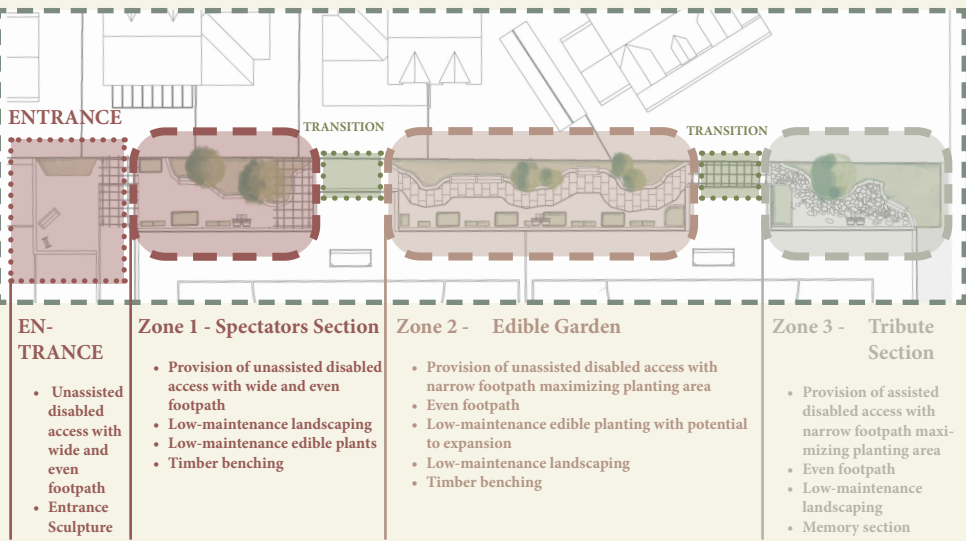
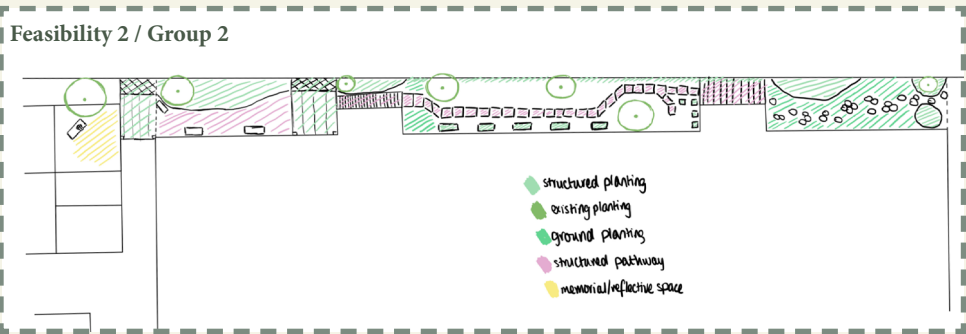
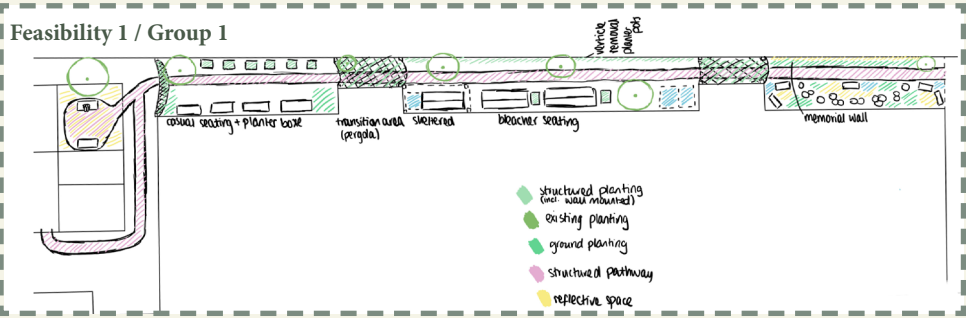
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



IDEAS COLLECTION



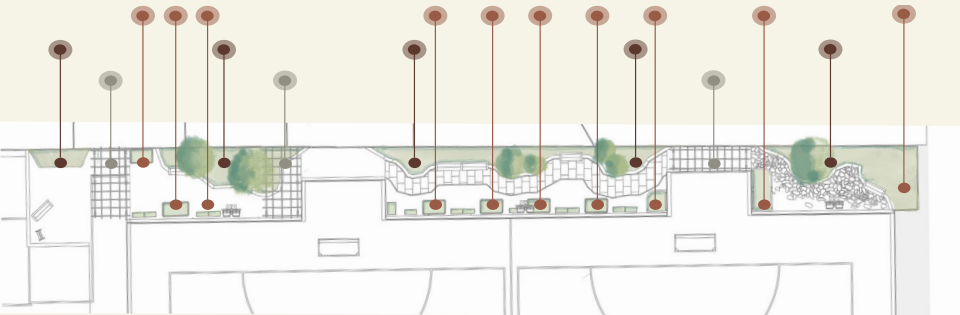
PLAN COMPARISON



PLANT SCHEDULE

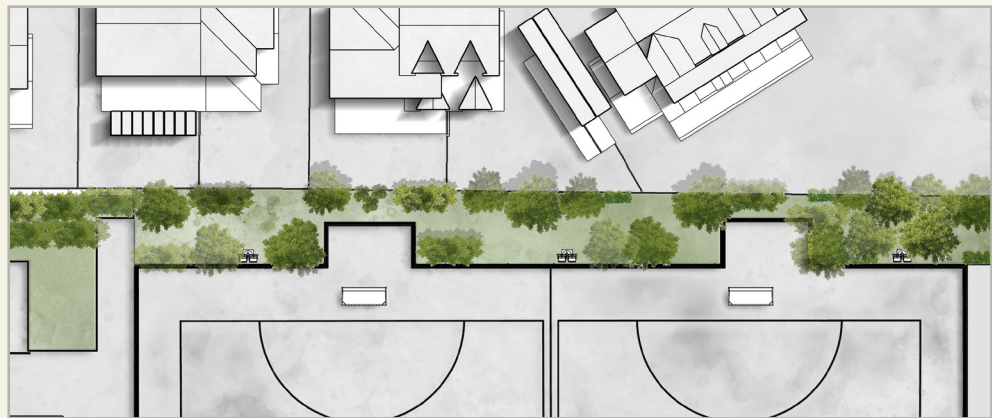
Here's a simple guide to what we're planting in the garden. It shows what each plant needs and makes it easy for everyone to find, care for, and pick things when they're ready to use.

<div>BLUEBERRIES</div> <div></div> <div>5G</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>	<div>CHERRIES</div> <div></div> <div>15G</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>	<div>GRAPES</div> <div></div> <div>20G</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER EVERY 7-10 DAYS</div>	<div>LETTUCE</div> <div></div> <div>6-8 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER TWICE A WEEK</div>
<div>PEAS</div> <div></div> <div>12 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 1-2 PER WEEK</div>	<div>BEETROOT</div> <div></div> <div>10 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 1-2 PER WEEK</div>	<div>CARROTS</div> <div></div> <div>20 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 1-2 PER WEEK</div>	<div>CORRIANDER</div> <div></div> <div>6 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>
<div>MINT</div> <div></div> <div>6 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER EVERY 2-4 DAYS</div>	<div>POTATOES</div> <div></div> <div>20G</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 2-3 PER WEEK</div>	<div>HYDRANGEA</div> <div></div> <div>18 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 1-3 PER WEEK</div>	<div>HONEYSUCKLE</div> <div></div> <div>4 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>
<div>SILVER CHARMER</div> <div></div> <div>18 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>OCCASIONALLY</div>	<div>RUSCUS ACULEAT</div> <div></div> <div>4-6 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>	<div>PICEA PUNGEN</div> <div></div> <div>18 INCH</div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER 1-2 PER WEEK</div>	<div>NEPETA</div> <div></div> <div>ZONE</div> <div>WATER ONCE A WEEK</div>
<div><div> Fruits</div><div> Vegetables</div><div> Flowering plants</div></div> <div><div> Container /pot</div><div>Check with RHS for further details</div></div> <div><div> Seed</div><div>Refer to RHS Seed Scheme</div></div>			



THE PROPOSAL

Existing Site Plan



Proposed Site Plan



Proposed Section A-A'



Proposed Section B-B'



Proposed Section C-C'



Proposed Elevation 1:500

VISUALISATIONS



Masterplan



ZONE 1

The area features smooth paths for wheelchair access, wooden benches for rest, and trellises with climbing plants that provide natural shade and enhance the space's comfort.

ZONE 2
The area features a distinct tile texture marking the transition zone, complemented by edible plantings and comfortable seating oriented towards the football field. This layout offers spectators a pleasant viewing experience while integrating greenery.



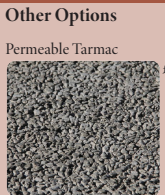
ZONE 3

The area centers around a community memory tree installation, fostering reflection and collective identity. Edible plants subtly frame the space, enhancing sensory engagement. A quieter atmosphere is maintained through spatial separation and natural planting buffers.

MATERIALITY & COST



Zone One
Poured Rubber
Cost: £60 per SQM
life span: 10 years
sourcing: Flexflooring
Labour intensity: medium
Benefits: Durable, maintenance free, recycled and eco friendly, wheelchair friendly



Other Options
Permeable Tarmac
£60 sqm
Resin Bound Paving
£100 sqm



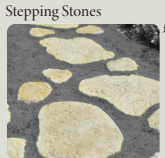
Zone Two
Indian Sandstone
Cost: £30-40 per SQM
life span: 50-100 years
sourcing: Marshall's
Labour intensity: easy
Benefits: Calibrated thickness for easy installation, Hard wearing, long lasting and easy to maintain,



Other Options
Concrete Pavers
£30 sqm
Natural Stone Pavers
£40 sqm



Zone Three
Small Limestone Paving Stones
Cost: £40 per SQM
life span: 40-60 years
sourcing: Marshall's
Labour intensity: medium
Benefits: Hard wearing, long lasting and easy to maintain, naturally sourced, great aesthetic finish,



Other Options
Stepping Stones
£20 sqm
Concrete Blocks
£40 sqm



Transition Zone
Tactile Surface Paving
Cost £35 / sqm
Life span: 30-40 years
Sourcing: Marshall's
Labour intensity: Medium
Benefits: Provides a tactile transition between zones



Other Options
Textured Concrete Pavers
£20 sqm
Traditional Tactiles
£35 sqm



Borders
Timber Sleepers
Cost 26/2.4m
Life span: 10-15 years
Sourcing: Travis Perkins
Labour intensity: 3/5
Benefits: Natural aesthetic, versatile for raised beds and edging



Other Options
Stone Border
£14x0.6m
Steel Border
£60x5m



Gravel
Cotswold Chippings
Cost: £5.99-£6.99 per m²
Lifespan: Indefinite with proper maintenance
Sourcing: Available from suppliers like Trowell
Labour Intensity: Low - easy to spread and compact
Benefits: Light cream colour that brightens shaded areas; angular shape interlocks well, reducing movement



Other Options
Pea Gravel
£15 sqm
Slate Chippings
£25 sqm

REFLECTION

Working on Thrive Garden allowed us to experience the challenges and rewards of collaborative design. One of the most valuable lessons we learned was how to bring together a wide range of ideas while being fair and respectful to each other's contributions. Clear communication, defined roles, and mutual understanding played a vital role in keeping the project on track and ensuring that everyone felt involved.

Our interaction with the client was positive and supportive. They gave us the freedom to explore creative solutions while remaining engaged and approachable throughout the process. Although the site had its constraints, this encouraged us to think more critically and push the boundaries of what was possible. We focused on making the space accessible, welcoming, and meaningful for all users.

We wanted to create a memorial space that felt more personal and engaging than traditional markers. Instead of simply placing names and photographs, we designed a garden that invites visitors, especially children, to reflect, interact, and learn. By encouraging children to care for plants and even take them home during closures, we aimed to build a stronger connection between memory, nature, and everyday life. The garden also promotes healthy living and the importance of nurturing both plants and relationships.

In the end, Thrive Garden evolved into more than simply a design concept as it transformed into a collective vision for remembrance, education, and community engagement.



GROUP COLLABORATION



ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 and Masters of Architecture & Adaptive Reuse students with those in BA year 1 and year 2 and Masters Landscape Architecture 1 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA LIVE projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, time-scale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA LIVE projects are for community benefit or have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts joined for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 650 students from 5 cohorts in MSA have worked on 40 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA LIVE please contact the MSA LIVE team:
msalive@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2025

SOCIAL

#MSALive25
[@msa.live.25](https://twitter.com/msa.live.25)
[@TheMSArch](https://twitter.com/TheMSArch)

[@MLA_TheMSArch](https://twitter.com/MLA_TheMSArch)

WEBSITE

www.msa.ac.uk