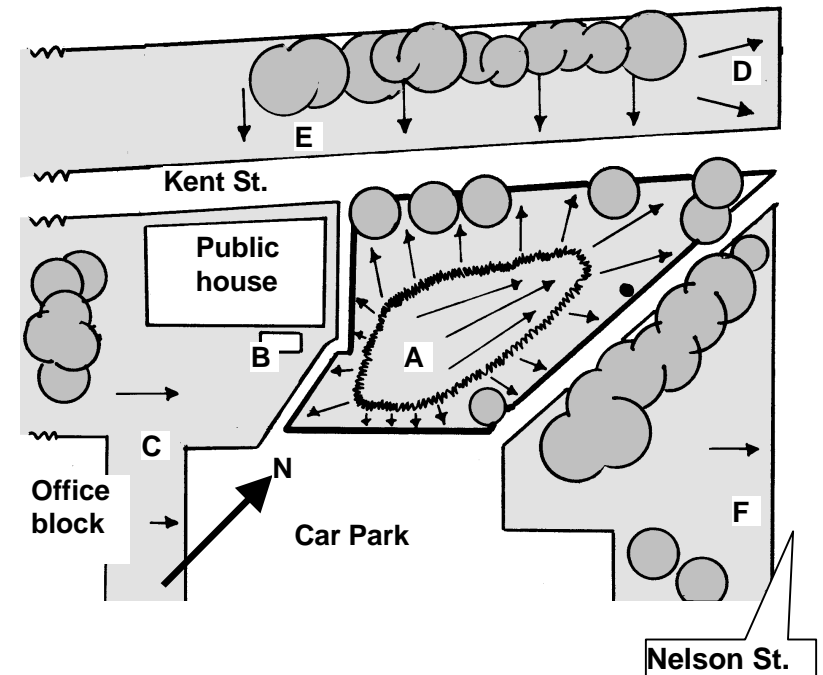


The mound spine slopes down almost S to N, with the highest point of the spine having the most width. The fall-away to the NW to Kent St. has a gradient of around 25% (1 in 4 – the arrows on the figure indicate the direction of fall). The fall to the SE (into the car park and path) is mostly short and can be abrupt with a gradient of nearly 40% (1 in 2-3). There is one tree to the SE of the spine, which throws a small shadow that moves as the earth rotates. The remaining trees are to the N and NE and pose no problems of shade. Thus the site is **open** and has a **sunny aspect**. The soil is free draining.

From observation during a day of surveying, this landscaped, city centre area has many sites of **people use**. For instance, coach parties tend to congregate on the grass bank (F) bordering Nelson St. because the road is a pick-up point. At **site D** workers from the Yorkshire Rider workshop (directly opposite) congregate on the grass bank during breaks. The public house provides a picnic table to its rear (B) which soon fills up with lunch time drinkers. **Site E** is also favoured by similar people. Others use the mound (A) to eat packed lunches but there are rarely more than four on the mound at any one time. Greater numbers, particularly from the adjacent offices, are found around the banking of **site C**. Apart from **site B**, none of the other sites of people use have permanent seating. (Permanent seating does exist on the hard-standing immediately outside of the office building but it is rarely used.) During mapping of the boundaries of this garden, an opportunity was presented to poll users of the area for their opinions of the proposed gardens. This **vox populi** is recorded later.



THE MOTTE AND BAILEY GARDEN

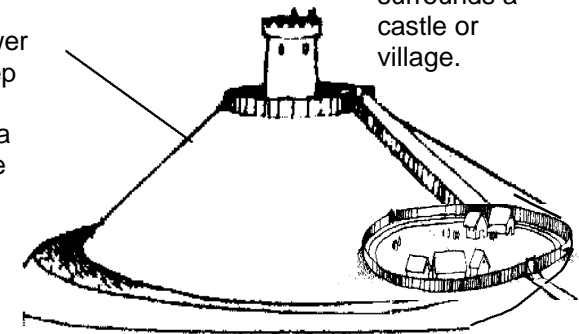
The **mounded spine** has its it's widest and flattest area to the S. Overall, it was very suggestive of a Norman **motte** and **bailey** and so the garden was designed to mimic this style (see design overleaf). A majority of the flatter area of the mound was given over to seating and access, with a free standing area for wheel chairs. Two paths climb easily to the mound, and would have sufficient width for **wheel chair** users (about 90cm). A further two paths (60cm width) climb more steeply from the N, and offer alternatives for access and exit, alleviating any **congestion**.

The **flat area** of the mound was extended by using **terraced beds**. These **semi-circular** beds are formed from tanalised **wooden posts** driven into the ground, the resulting cusp-shaped beds being back-filled with turfs and soil. The use of posts for the bed edges gives the impression of a stockade, again resembling a **bailey** (a defensive wall - see detail overleaf).

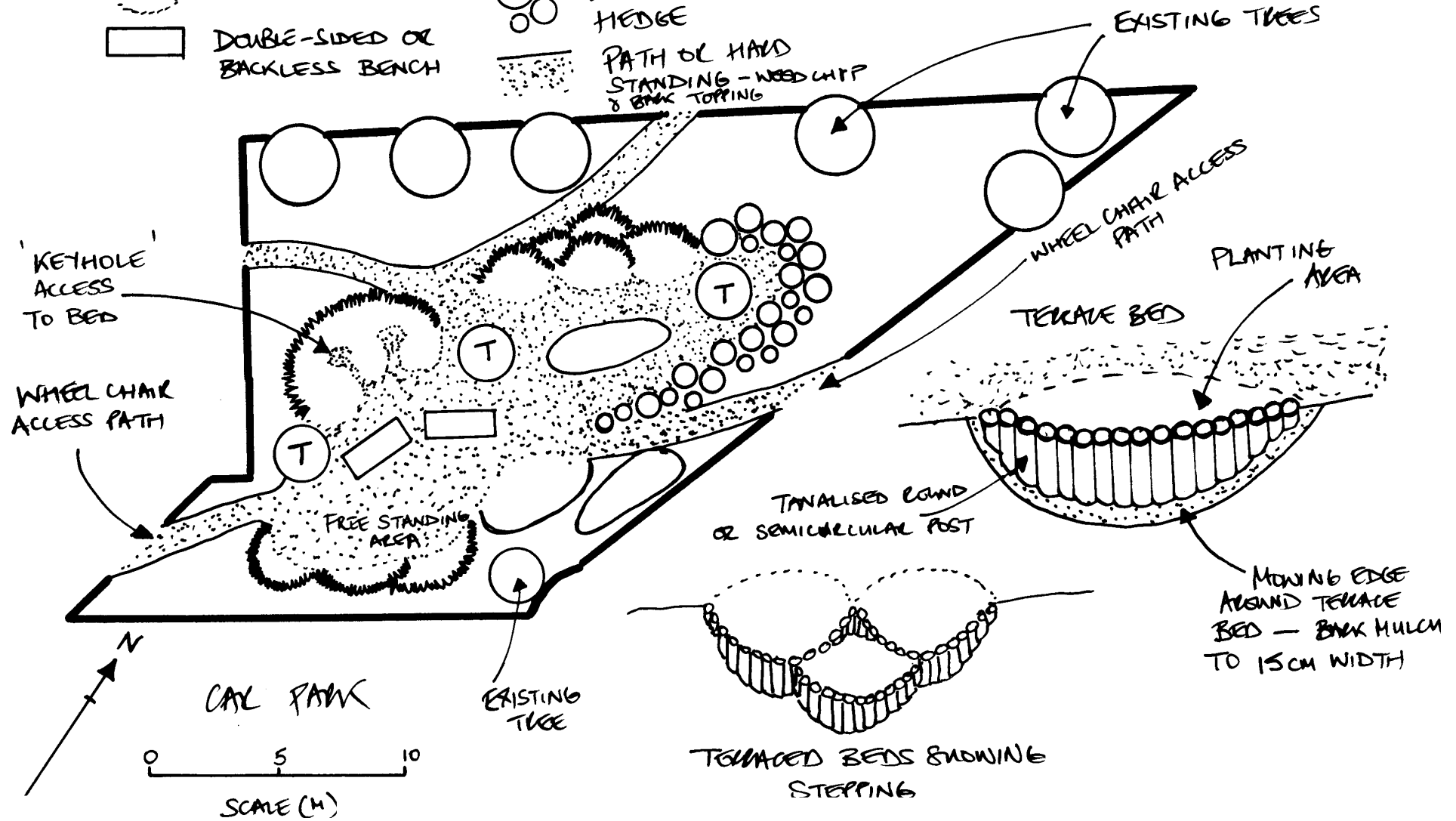
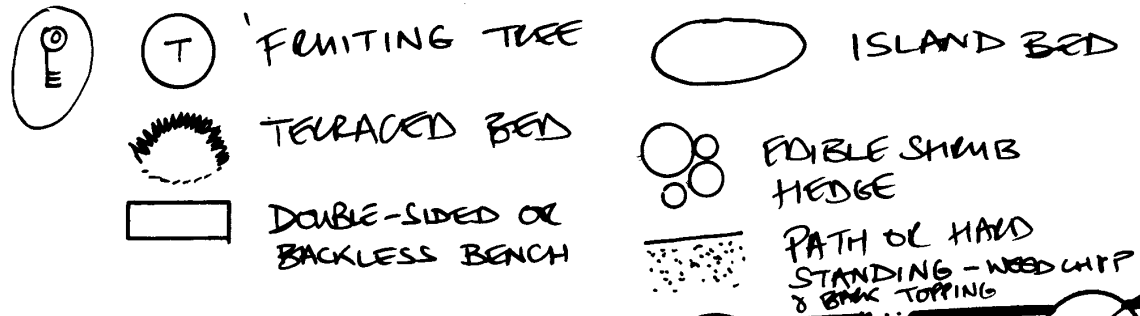
MOTTE AND BAILEY – A
Norman castle consisting of a motte placed within a bailey

BAILEY –
stockade or palisade that surrounds a castle or village.

MOTTE – a tower on top of a steep mound of earth surrounded by a timber stockade



THE MOTTE AND BAILEY GARDEN



One of the terraced beds was too large for planting or maintenance without it being trodden on (the size and shape of the bed was suggested by the topography at this point of the mound). To avoid compaction by treading, access to the whole of the bed was given by two **keyhole** paths into the bulk of the bed. All other beds, including the island beds (see overleaf) would be of a size such that their middle can be reached from all sides. Some of the terraces would be **stepped** so as to make best use of the landfall, and to give complexity and interest (see detail overleaf). Where a bed backs on to grass, efforts would be made to prevent obstruction of grass mowing. This would require the inclusion of a slightly depressed **mulch strip** surrounding the bed, thus separating the bed from the grass (see detail overleaf).

The terraced beds would have the **freer draining** soil and thus were suitable for planting with **Mediterranean herbs** (i.e. sage and rosemary) and other plants requiring **warm** and **dry** conditions. The **island beds** (see overleaf) would be planted with those plants requiring more **moisture** such as many herbaceous perennials and rhubarb. Two of these island beds take advantage of the modest **shade** thrown by the one tree on the eastern edge. To give height on the plateau area of the spine, fruiting trees would be planted (with staking) and these could include a crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and a sweet cherry such as the variety Stella (*Prunus*).

At the narrow, low end of the spine, the impression of a bailey would be carried on by the planting of **edible** shrubs (overleaf). These would include less common berry fruit such as the barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) the Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) and the service berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) as well as the more common blackcurrant and raspberry. Some of the areas of slope around the garden could be considered for planting with edible **ground cover** plants such as wild strawberries (*Fragraria vesca*) bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and the chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*). These are not shown in the design as the completion of the hard landscaping would more readily show where this would be appropriate.

The plantings in this garden have similarity to a **Forest Garden** or **forest edge** in that they combine to form the different **storeys** or layers in a forest. The trees form the canopy or **upper storey**, the shrubs forming the **middle storey**, with the perennials, herbs and ground cover representing the **lowest storey**.

PLANTINGS The three trees would be *light standards* of mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) a crab apple such as John Downie (*Malus sylvestris*) and a sweet cherry such as Stella (*Prunus* - on Colt graftstock). The number of edible-berry shrubs would be 12 to 15, depending on size and availability. The table lists a range of suitable choices. The number of herbs and perennials to be used assumes two of each of some of the smaller plants, and one of each of the larger (except for rhubarb where an early and mid-season variety would be required). The second table lists a range of herbs and perennials to consider. Edible ground cover has not been budgeted for but can form part of the design. Suitable choices for this ground cover include: wild strawberries (*Fragraria vesca*) bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) *Rubus tricolor* (evergreen) and *Houttuynia cordata*.

EDIBLE-BERRY SHRUBS (common & Latin name)	
Autumn raspberry	<i>Rubus</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>
French rose	<i>Rosa gallica</i>
Japanese wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>
Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Redcurrant	<i>Ribes</i>
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Thornless blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Whitecurrant	<i>Ribes</i>
Worcesterberry	<i>Ribes divaricum</i>

HERBS & EDIBLE PERENNIALS	
Sweet cicely	Wild garlic
Tree onions	Rhubarb
Fennel	Lovage
Lady's mantle	Yarrow
Thyme	Sage
Mints	Good King Henry
Feverfew	Winter savory
Meadowsweet	Salad burnet
Succory	Chives
Marsh mallow	Perpetual spinach
Bistort	Elecampane
Lady's smock	Lucerne
Hyssop	Marjoram
Lemon balm	Tansy
Bergamot	Rosemary
Horse radish	Sorrel

"The whole garden should be labelled" (x3) "I would take some rhubarb home"
"Children are always told not to eat berries" (x2) "I didn't know you could eat that" (x3)
"I wouldn't be interested in maintaining the garden" (virtually everybody!)
"The garden would be vandalised" (many - but admit ingrained culture of negativity on this)

MISCELLANEOUS

"Need open air volleyball and badminton courts for lunchtimes"
"I would be interested in playing boule. Where would the bowls be kept?" (x2)
"Need steps or ridges along the path as it is dangerous when wet" (this is the long, sloping path that runs down to Nelson St. from the North corner of the car park)
"I have no idea what Local Agenda 21 is" (everyone!)

IMPLEMENTATION

Here is indication of some of the tasks and the order in which the garden would be built:

1. Mark out the plateau mound
2. Mark out the terrace beds
3. Mark out the island beds and border
4. Remove turf from the mound plateau
5. Remove turf from the paths
6. Excavate mound plateau to 7cm
7. Excavate paths to 7cm
8. Drive in the terrace posts
9. Line the terrace posts with phormisol fabric
10. Backfill terrace beds with turf and excavated soil
11. Drive in the half-round bed edging
12. Strip and bury turf in island beds and shrub border
13. Remove turf from mowing edges
14. Lay geotextile on paths, mound plateau & mowing strips
15. Plant the trees, shrubs and perennials
16. Set up the seats
17. Mulch paths, plateau and mowing strips with woodchip
18. Mulch paths, plateau and mowing strips with bark
19. Mulch beds with manure

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