



Aldcliffe Road Triangle  
Design Notes  
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## Introduction

A few months ago, I accepted the challenge of creating a design for the Aldcliffe Road Triangle to illustrate what could be done with the space under the main provisos that it should be:

- family friendly and have space for children to enjoy,
- there are plenty of plants to attract insects,
- and there is room to grow edibles in raised beds, with which would be harvested and enjoyed by the community.

Although it is conceptual in its presentation and is not done to any scale, my only hope is that it would get the creative juices flowing of everyone involved in the project as to one of the many possibilities that could be implemented. If that is achieved, then at least I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have played a small part in what is to be a big feature of the local area.

To the far left of the drawing is the view of the plot looking towards the 'pergola' area and feature wall at the back. The pergola, if structurally sound, could have climbers trailing up it to add scent, colour and dappled shade for the area underneath, which could be used for socialising or for further planting in raised beds.

At the far back of the plot stands a wall that, as a result of having a ledge on it, could be used to grow a row of cordoned fruit trees that would be grown in narrow tubs or troughs. Alternatively, wall mounted musical instruments could be attached to the wall and the area used for children to enjoy. To make the area safe and accessible, wooden steps with grip strips could be installed to the left of the wall and a banister erected from one end to the other. In both situations, the sturdiness of the ledge must be assessed if this area is to be used for frequent access.

In front of both the pergola and wall feature could be a raised bed area for growing the edible produce that is to form part of the community garden aspect to the Triangle. The centre piece could be larger with varying depths and could be used to grow permanent crops, such as Rhubarb or Asparagus, herbs or even root vegetables that require extra depth, whilst the smaller planters surrounding it could be used for annual crops that require rotating yearly.

To the right of the back feature wall is currently where a small building is, this will be taken down and could be planted up with a climbing rose with smaller roses around it; if there is no wall behind the current building, trellis could be put up.

To the right of where the building is, is a *Buddleja* with a wall running alongside it, this will be lowered to improve visibility across the grounds with an entrance being installed to connect the adjacent canal towpath to the area. A footpath using the stones from the wall could be laid to join the main site entrance to this new opening.

From the point of the new entrance through to the right hand side of the design, the perspective is skewed as if to look at the entrance of the garden whilst standing at the back of it. The planting is kept to the edges of this half to add colour and to increase biodiversity whilst allowing for plenty of space for young families with children to play on the grass (weather permitting)

Plants that were used in the design (from far left)

- *Lonicera* spp. "Honeysuckle"
- *Malus* 'John Downie' "Crab Apple"
- *Sedum spectabile* 'Brilliant'
- *Euonymus* 'Gold Queen'
- *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- *Eryngium* 'Big Blue'
- *Sorbus aucuparia* "Rowan"
- *Echinacea purpurea*
- *Limnanthes douglasii* "Poached Egg Plant"
- *Lavendula angustifolia*
- *Hebe odora* 'New Zealand Gold'

Further plants that could be used:

- *Sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace' "Elder"
- *Cotoneaster simonsii*
- *Calendula officinalis*
- *Primula veris* "Cowslip"
- *Primula vulgaris* "Oxslip"
- *Centaurea scabiosa* "Knapweed"
- *Viburnum opulus* "Guelder Rose"
- *Silene dioica* "Red Campion"
- *Allium schoenoprasum* "Chive"
- *Carex elata* 'Aurea'
- *Molinia caerulea* subsp. *Arundinacea* 'Poul Petersen'
- *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Kleine Silberspinne'

- *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'White Barlow'
- *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'Ruby Port'
- *Campanula carpatica* 'Blaue Clips'
- *Geranium* 'Rozanne'
- Rose 'Gertrude Jekyll'
- *Fritillaria meleagris* "Snake's head fritillary"
- *Crocus* spp.
- *Narcissus* spp.
- *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* "Bluebell"

### Additional Notes

- As a result of the ground being difficult to plant in, large perennials, shrubs and trees will have to be containerised either in purpose made raised beds, tubs or troughs. Plants grown from seed can be propagated in the manner appropriate to the species.
- Areas of grass could be lightly scarified and oversown with a wildflower seed mix to create further interest to the garden in the summer whilst underplanting it with bulbs in a naturalistic fashion would add interest in the autumn and early spring.
- The whole design is a mixed media collage and so is only just an illustration. Please do not buy blue grass just because of a faulty printer cartridge!