

14 Alma Terrace Landscape Design Statement

March 2021





Site context

The garden of 14 Alma Terrace, Penzance is a long, narrow strip of land typical of the adjacent gardens along the terrace. It is detached from the house and is accessed via a pedestrian gate off the road of Alma Terrace. The garden slopes slightly along its length and at the far eastern end terminates in a steep cliff. This cliff has recently been stabilised by a Concrete Canvas and rock anchor system to civil engineering standards. The aspect of the garden is East/South facing and receives a lot of both sun light and wind exposure from this quarter.

Current state



The garden is in a state of neglect and is largely overgrown due to its legal ownership having been in dispute for several years. It is mainly flanked by mature mixed hedging down either boundary. The ground has been naturalised by grass and invasive weeds.

There are two trees of medium stature; a bay and a myrtle that have been pruned and reduced in recent years.

There is a considerable clump of invasive bamboo growing on the north boundary close to the road.

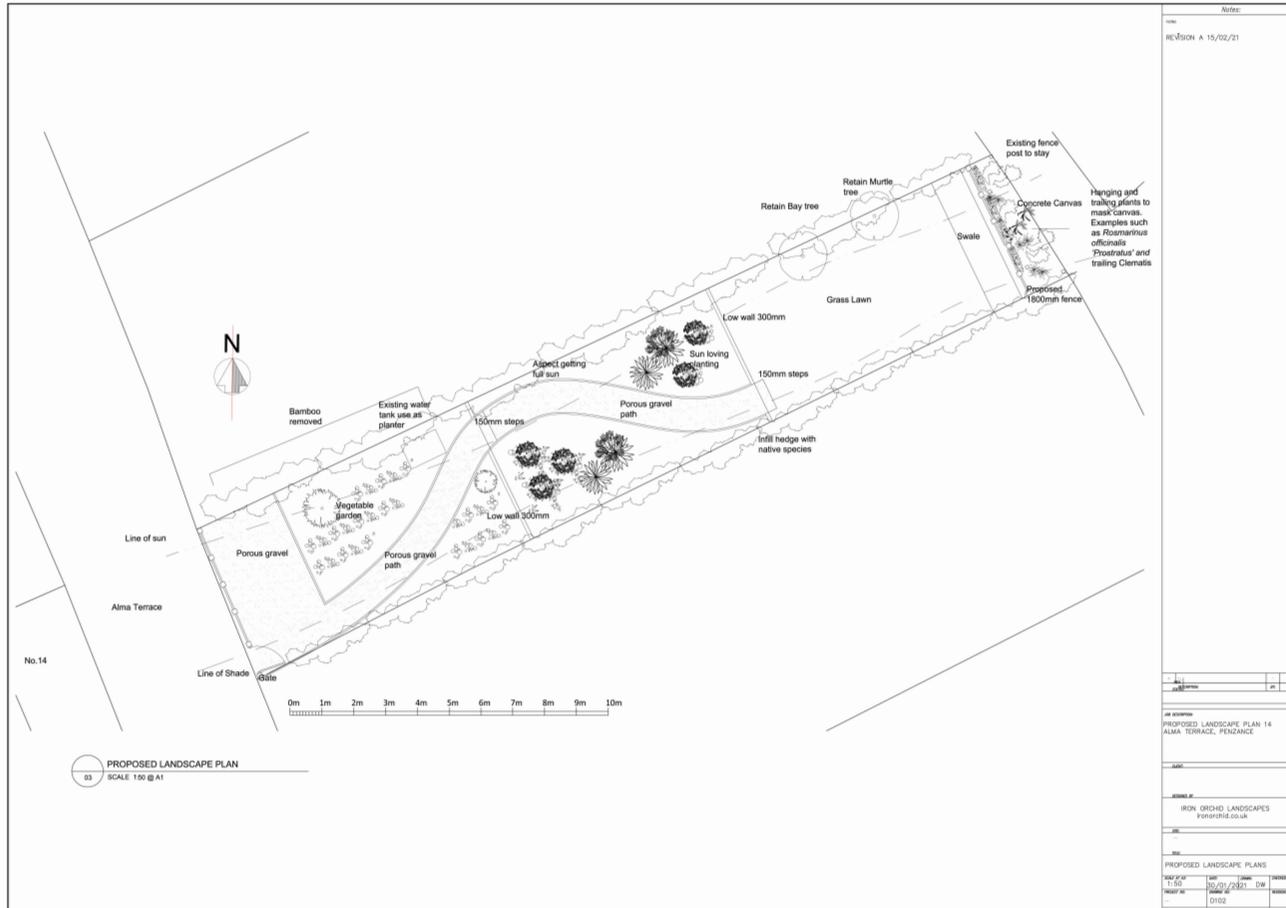
There is also a large bund of topsoil that has been piled along the same boundary position. This is arising from the cliff stabilisation works.





This photo shows the stabilised cliff at the far eastern end of the garden. The surface is Concrete Canvas and steel mesh pinned with rock anchors. There are some advantageous plant species such as buddleja, echium and ivy starting to colonise the slope.

Landscaping design proposal



Below is the proposed landscape design lay out plan. The main concept is to create a natural, wildlife garden with minimal hard landscape feature. From the road a new low wall will be built to support a fence of 1.8m high to provide privacy and security. There will also be a 0.9m wide pedestrian gate. Immediately inside the gate there will be a level area laid to gravel and porous membrane to allow for rain water to permeate into the ground. This will lead onto a gently curved path running along the garden also surfaced in porous gravel. The bamboo clump will be excavated and all visible rhizomes removed. The bund of top soil left from the cliff engineering works will be screened for contaminants and spread over the garden, making up the terrace levels. All the soils will be rotovated. The garden will be terraced into three levels by use of low retaining walls made of stone or timber sleepers. This levelling will make the garden easier to cultivate and maintain and prevent any run off from heavy rain flowing towards the cliff at the end. The first terrace will be an area laid to vegetable growing on the left hand sunny aspect. The second terrace will be laid to sun loving ornamental perennials

and shrubs that will attract and support wildlife. The third, lowest terrace will be laid to lawn, retaining the existing myrtle and bay trees. An existing metal water tank will be moved to the first terrace and used as a planter with the vegetables. At the very end of the garden before the cliff there will be a swale excavated and back filled with clean 50mm crushed granite to collect any run off rainwater and prevent overflow down the cliff face. A new 1.8m high timber fence will be erected in front of the cliff face to provide privacy and safe guard against risk of falls. The boundary hedges will be replenished with a mixture of evergreen, wind tolerant hedging plants. The area above the stabilised cliff will be planted with a selection of cascading perennial plants such as *Rosemarinus prostratus*, *Clematis montana* and *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*.

It is highly recommended that these works are carried out as soon as possible during the spring season allowing new planting and seeding to establish before the onset of next winter thus stabilising the ground and preventing any potential groundwater run off and erosion.

Michael Talbot
Landscape designer and consultant
Iron Orchid Landscapes





Boston ivy, rosemary and clematis; examples of trailing plants to cover cliff.