

# 1 The Old Corn Mill – Back Terrace Landscape Design Method Statement

March 2023



## Site context



The Old Corn Mill in Gweek is a Grade II listed building located on the sweeping bend of the main road in from the west. Our clients, Yvette Elcock and Roz Trudgon, live in Flat 1 in the building. This has a large front patio area of outside space on the east side of the building and a smaller, narrow back terrace space to the west of the building. Both these spaces have boundaries to neighbouring properties and the patio area also boundaries the road.

Recently the eastern front patio was landscaped by Iron Orchid in a sympathetic manner after Cornwall County Council granted planning and conservation applications (PA21/12205 & PA21/12206) permission.

## Current state

These images show the west terrace in its current state. The neighbours recently erected an intrusive timber fence along the boundary without detailed consultation. The ground is bare soil and becomes very weedy and overgrown. Drainage can also be poor here.

This area has very poor access down some unstable, dangerous steps due to being uneven and without a handrail. The ground is sloping and ends in a significant drop into another neighbour's garden with no barrier for safety purposes.

This makes it inaccessible and unmaintainable by the owners.

The view looking down from the steps.



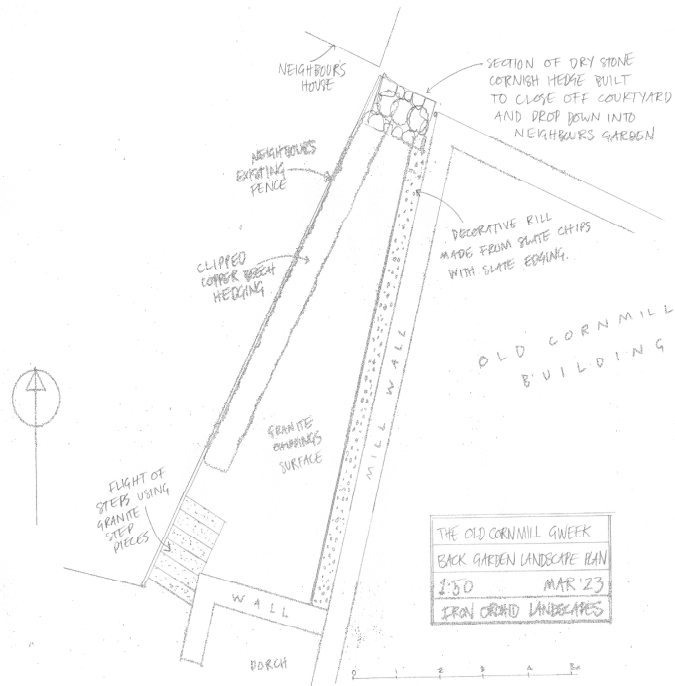
The steps.



The view looking up to the steps.



# Landscape design method statement



This is the layout plan for the back terrace space to the west, the view looking down from the steps and the view looking up to the steps

We will mask and soften the boundary fence with a clipped copper beech hedge that will run down the length of the space to the narrow end. This also provides an environment more conducive to wildlife.

A traditional Cornish hedge will close off the gap at the bottom of the space. We will build using local granite and earth, and plant with native hedging plants to reflect the distinctive heritage of the Cornish landscape generally and align with the heritage of The Old Corn Mill. A gap between this new stonework and the old building, as there currently is, will continue to allow the down pipe to discharge in this area as it does

as present. We hope that a rich flora develops in keeping with the main road into Gweek and that the Cornish hedge contributes in some small way to the county's largest semi-natural wildlife habitat.

The main area will be local granite chippings over a soil membrane to reduce weed growth and allow rainwater drainage. This supports the need to treat water as a resource for the county's reservoirs particularly as we remain under severe water pressure across all reservoirs. The light grey colour will bounce light upwards and into the rooms along this side of Flat 1, given the height of the neighbour's fencing.

A dry 'rill' or 'leat' will run against the building in a deeper grey/blue to represent the flow of water that the water wheel would have discharged when powering the mill. This will be local slate chippings with a 'slate on edge' retaining strip and be approximately 600mm wide.

Finally, we will install a flight of steps to replace the current uneven arrangement using reclaimed local granite steps or lintels. The handrail will be stainless steel supports and a hardwood timber rail. The steps will have tread depths of approximately 300mm minimum and risers of 180mm in height.



The overall view of the back garden area showing the copper beech hedge as boundary treatment, granite chipping surface with slate 'rill' or 'leat' feature and traditional Cornish hedge to enclose the end of the space.

We will complete all relevant risk assessments before undertaking the work.

Michael Talbot  
Landscape designer and consultant Iron Orchid Landscapes

Additional photos for clarity

