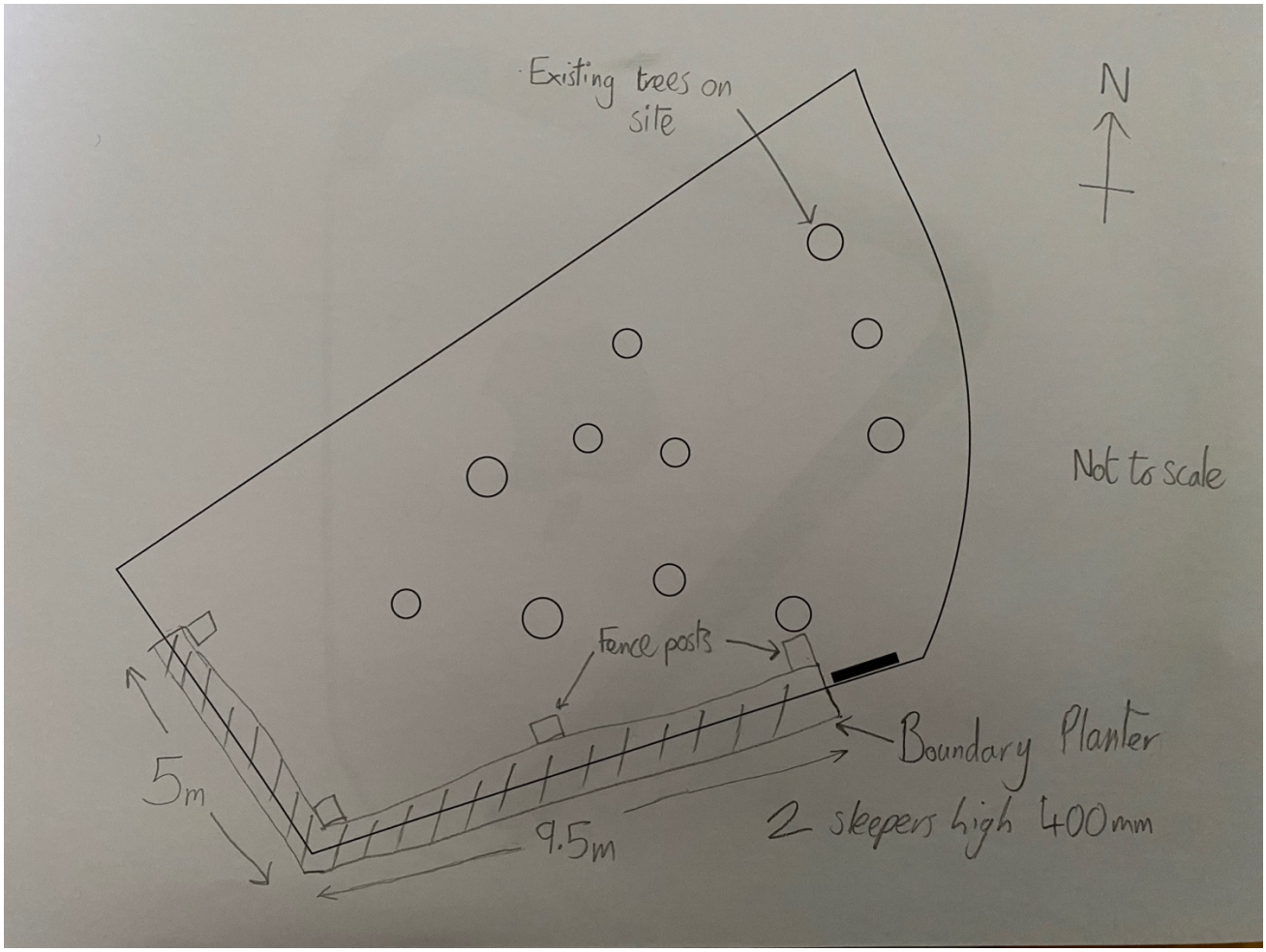
Design for developing Parsonage Garden

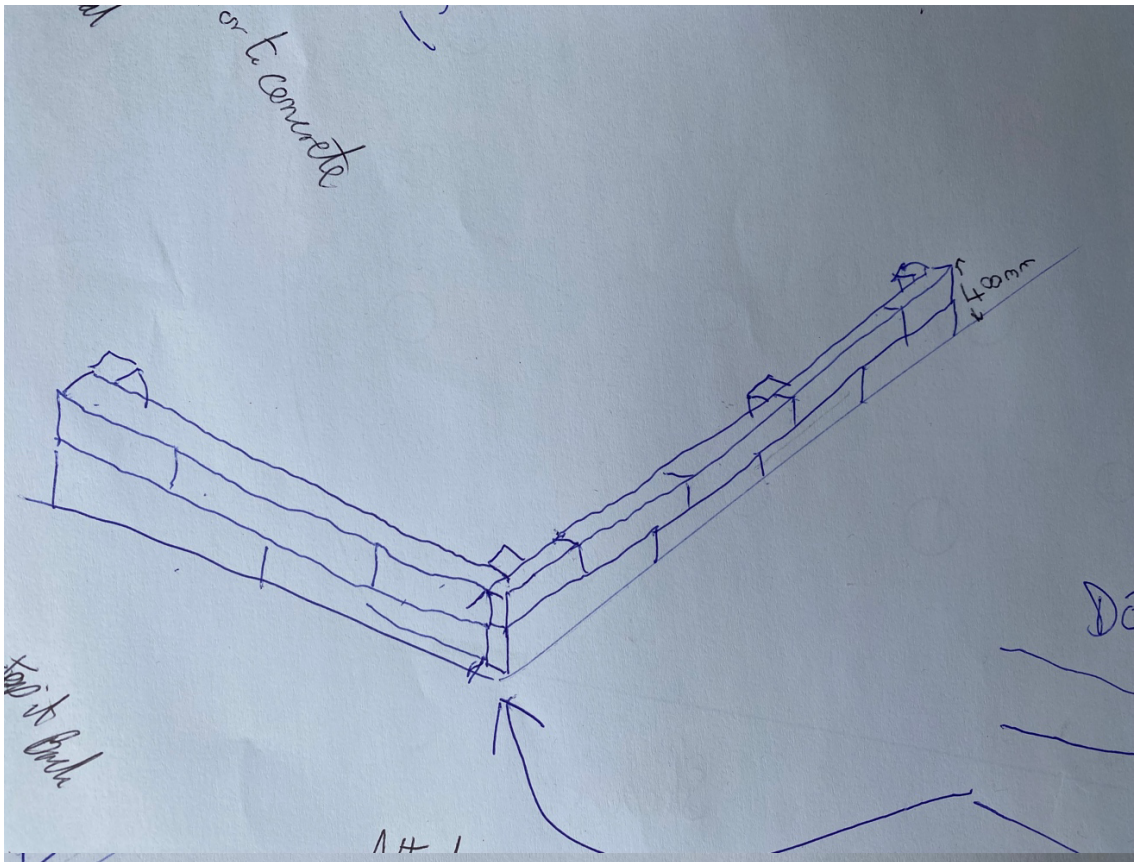
Parsonage Garden is the green space on the corner of St Marys Street, and Parsonage Street in Hulme, M15 5WB. This space has been managed by the local community for a year, we have improved biodiversity, but would like to improve the space further. Sustainable Communities Hulme (SusCoHulme) have run multiple consultation events to understand what green spaces our members would like to improve, and how they would like to improve them. This document outlines the plans we have created with members for the space. We are requesting permission to build a retaining wall. We have secured funding to deliver this landscaping.

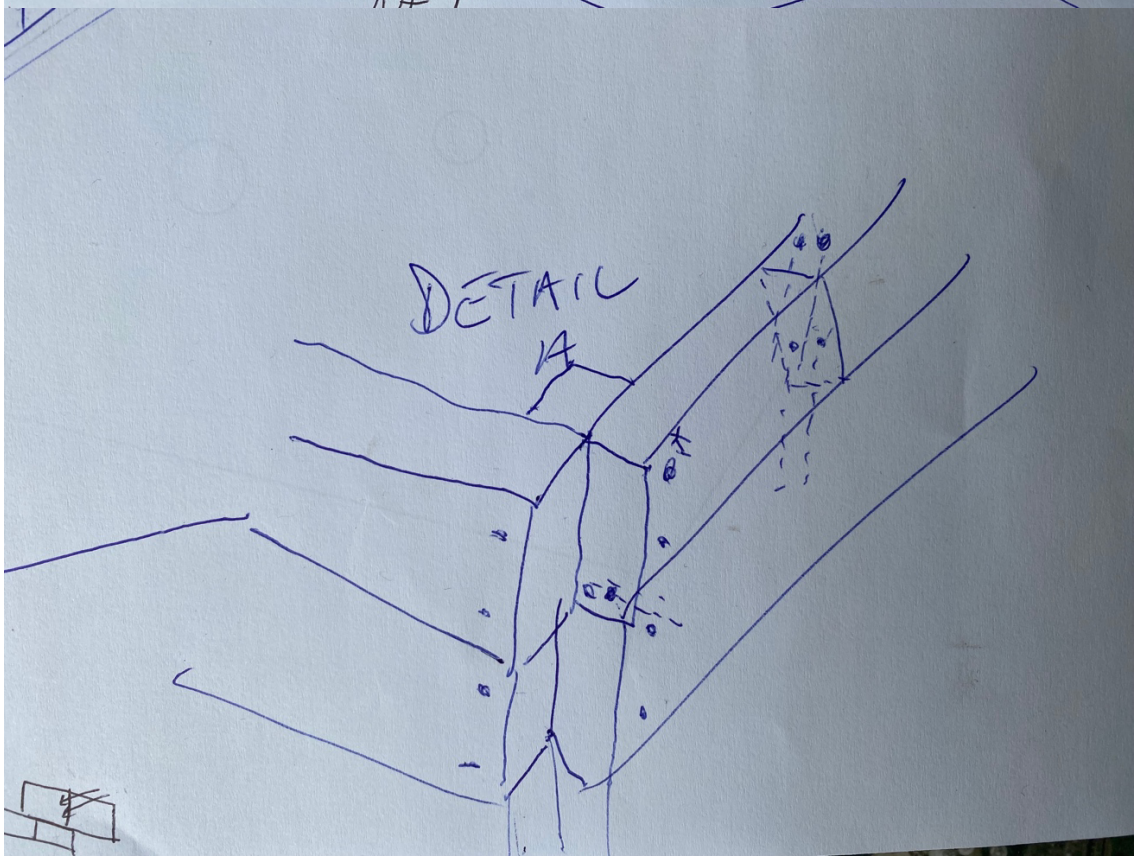
The plan

We want to put sleepers around the south and west edge of the site to build up a higher layer of soil. The sleepers will be stacked on their short edge, screwed into each other creating a retaining wall 40cm high. The sleepers will be staked into the ground at either a depth of 80 cm deep into the soil with post setting cement or cemented to the concrete basin of the green space.



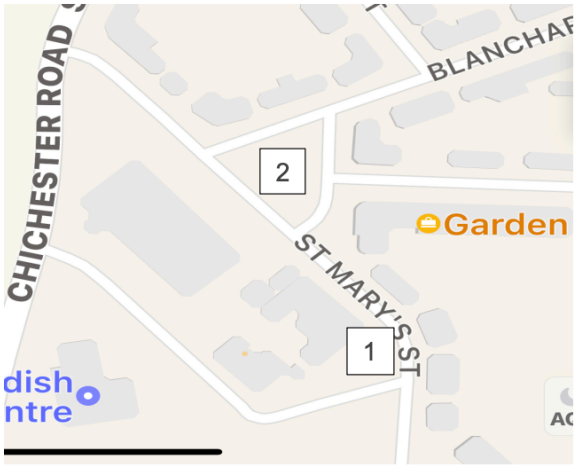
How will the retaining wall be constructed





Recommendations plan provided by a consultant gardener

Community Growing Space Parsonage Street Hulme.







Site Review

With thanks to SusCoHulme for the introduction to the exciting developments at Parsonage Street Hulme. It was a pleasure to meet your team of volunteers who are keen to create and maintain an accessible biodiverse space where nature and people can interact.

There is a great opportunity for development once the permissions for development are obtained from the relevant land owners. We visited a similar site Leaf street for inspiration. (https://www.redbricks.org/)

Below I have summarised our discussions with recommendations for planting and future works.

Location



Overall Site

Currently the site is a collection of mature trees with lawn and a sowing of wildflowers. The main challenges with the site are car parking along the edge of the lawn area, poor soil access for growing other plants due to root compaction on site. During the summer the site will become darker due to the tree canopy, this will restrict the plants list, especially to the rear of the site. Using natural theme permaculture garden design this has great potential to become a haven for wildlife, education and relaxation.



Creation of pathways and planting.

As discussed the addition of a woodchip pathway edged with logs leading to the center would create interest to the site as well as starting to improve the health of the soil. Reducing the compaction of the soil will increase rainwater absorptions and create habitat for insects to thrive. Along the paved path edges will be very dark during the summer months so I recommend planting a mixture of spring flowering bulbs such as winter aconite, snowdrops, crocus, native bluebells, native daffodils. with the addition of Helleborus, Cow Parsley, ferns and wild garlic. This will give all year round interest.



South side of the site

This area has great potential for herb planting. With the additions of retaining walls, see recommendation below, extra soil layer could be added which will enable the plants to establish. It will also stop the cars parking over the grassed area and provide a visual boundary to the site. Recommended planting Globe artichoke, rosemary, sage, thyme, lavender, lovage, chives, jeruselum artichokes, fennel, oregano, marjoram, chamomile, feverfew. Hazle and small amount of living will could provide useful materials.

Recommendations



Oak Sleeper retaining walls

https://youtu.be/5gqo9yArXMY the link will show a similar build of a retaining wall that would fit your location. The costings I have sourced are £50 per oak sleeper plus the relevant stainless steel fittings. Once the length of walls need is measured we can calculate the materials needed.



Wood Chip Pathways with log edging and log seating

We have access to the cardboard and woodchip and it can be collect from our site in Salford or we can deliver to you for a charge. This is a very cost effective way to improve the soil structure and create a large scale bug hotel.



Edible landscaping Forest gardening style

https://www.agroforestry.co.uk/about-agroforestry/forest-gardening/ the link is a good start for researching the creation of an edible forest garden. I would recommend not over planting the area so as to retain the open aspect of the site. There are also other none edible plants that could be added for ornamental interest. Consideration should be given to the potential contamination of soil on site and we would always recommend edible crops grown in raised beds with imported soil.