

Site inspection: Unstone Grange Gardens 30 / 12 / 05

I was always conscious of keeping the whole site tidy because it is a visitor centre. Visitors are now welcomed by the sight of the laurel glade, devastated to make way for a car park and the utter ugliness of 100m² of black woven plastic, scarring ¼ of the front lawn, which has replaced the herb bed and the Rosemary hedge.



The area behind the wall was most appropriate for storage of bulky organic materials. Now its being used as a landfill for this pile of rubble.



Materials and techniques, like these black plastic monstrosities, are now being used, which had been specifically avoided for a decade, because they are not best practice. There is a residual tradition of good practice. Leaves have been collected but then just left rather than being processed.



The Willow dome has been butchered and the Sunberry and Hops are gone.



Signs of struggling: a monocrop of Clary fill the whole greenhouse / basic upkeep like weeding strawberries has been neglected.



The site is in a real mess: uncleared logs litter the orchard / a mass of random clutter makes the greenhouses inaccessible.



The whole site is a hideous health and safety nightmare.

Short-term maintenance, like repairing the polytunnel.

and long-term development, like weeding ornamental beds, have been abandoned.



When I was being illegally sacked in 2004, I gained an assurance on the record that my intellectual property would not be exploited. This leaflet, signed by the replacement tutor, is evidence that the project has flagrantly used my handouts to deliver their courses, specifically breaching copyright law.

Over the last five years, nearly £200,000 of public funds have gone into the gardens, but the result seems worse than when they were run on a shoestring by volunteers.