

# LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Totnes Fire Station.

**1. Present;** Jim Carfrae; Roma Church; Sue Holmes; Janet Mitchell; David Mitchell; Catherine Munro; Robert Vint; Liz Warnes; Shirley Prendergast, Charlotte Rathbone, Laurel Ellis; Jenny Gellatly.

**Apologies:** Wendy Reid; Ed Vidler, Lorette Logie; Stephanie Parker; Keith Rennells

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting:** Confirmed as accurate.

**3. Reports:** the bulk of the meeting was taken up with two topics:

1. Presentation by Charlotte Rathbone of possible plans for the Pool Area
2. Discussion with Laurel and Jenny about Gardening for Health sessions in the Leechwell Garden

### 3.1. Pool Area Schemes

Charlotte presented two possible schemes - option 1, which involved enlarging the current fenced pool area considerably and option 2, which kept the area pretty close to its current size. Detailed drawings of the two schemes are attached to these minutes. During the following question and answer session, several points emerged:

- Option 1 will cost more than option 2 - Charlotte gave rough estimates of £10k vs £6k (in each case, work on the pool itself would cost around £3-4k. These estimates assumed the work was done by a contractor (rather than by volunteers).
- A hazel hurdle fence would be the basis of the hedge surrounding the area. Construction of the hurdle fence would make a good volunteer project (along the lines of the dry-stone walling project run by Don Gaskins of the Devon Rural Skills Trust.
- There was a general feeling by those present that option 1 was preferable - it was less cramped, less rectangular and had more 'atmosphere'.
- Sight-lines to the 3 guardians need to be preserved
- Further design work will wait until John Clipson has consulted with English Heritage.

### 3.2. Gardening for Health Sessions

Sue explained that Gardening for Health needed more space for its activities if it was to justify a bigger grant, and the Leechwell Garden was an obvious choice. While Laurel and Jenny had some ideas for activities they could undertake in their 2 hour slots it would help them if we (the LGA) could identify work needed in the garden a few weeks in advance. It was agreed that:

- Laurel and Jenny would be copied on the minutes of the LGA so they knew what was going on
- A Gardening for Health item would be added to the agenda for all future committee meetings
- Catherine would act as the interface between the LGA (specifically Roma, as volunteer co-ordinator) and Laurel and Jenny
- One or two ideas for activities were suggested - Janet proposed planting a trellis of sweet peas along the wall behind the herb garden.

## 4. Fund-raiser for the Totnes Lantern Procession

Jim had been approached by Shanni Ong, organiser of the Lantern Procession, who wants to hold a fund-raising activity in the garden in the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> September. It was decided that the Heath Way residents should be consulted first, since the event would continue until 9.30pm - an hour or so after dusk and would involve (unamplified) music. There would be a strict 'no alcohol' policy and while refreshments could be charged for and donations requested, there would not be an admission fee payable at the gate.

## **5. Planting the Heath Way bank**

Liz explained that 18 months or so ago Lorette had produced a plan for planting the bank separating the garden from the path behind the upper 5 Heath Way houses but while Alex Whish had agreed to it, nothing had been done. One virtue of the plan was that it would greatly discourage young children getting on the top of the wall along the path (the scene of an accident recently). Dave mentioned that following the accident; Keith had been considering ways of reducing the likelihood of further accidents (e.g. by crenellating the wall and/or planting the bank). It was agreed that Liz or Roma should contact Keith when he returns from holiday to agree a scheme.

## **6. SHDC Activity**

Jim to circulate written update report from Keith (attached)

## **7. AOB**

Jim mentioned that David Martin had agreed to join the LGA Committee at the AGM.

The Bay Horse Quiz night on 9th April raised just over £180!

The NHS are visiting the garden on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April (as part of the process of getting a grant for Gardening for Health). Sue wondered if the grass could be cut beforehand.

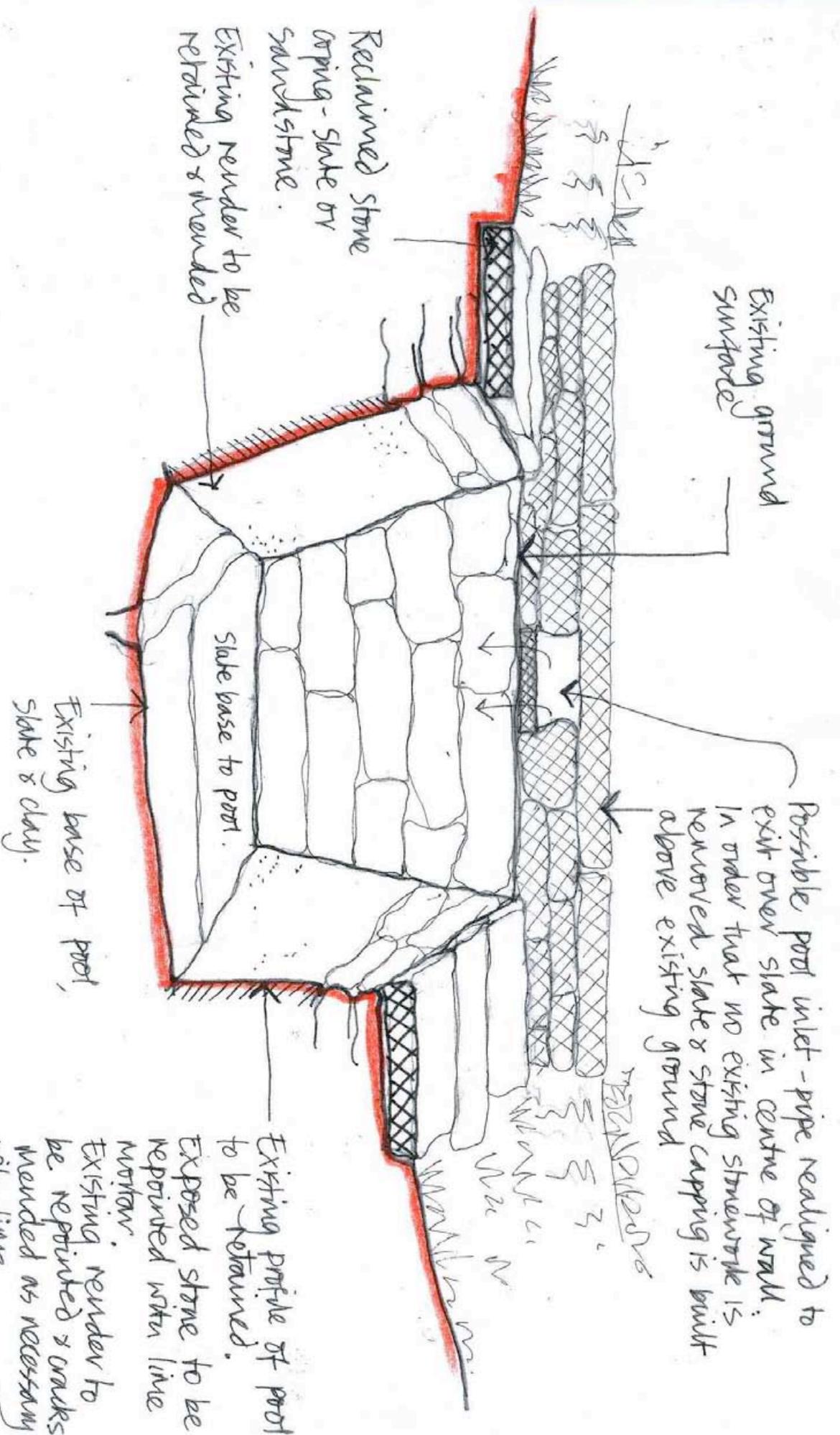
Dave and Roma had produced a design for a banner to be displayed on the LGA booth at activities etc. It was agreed to purchase one from VistaPrint (at a cost of £30 approx.)

**NEXT MEETING: 5.30pm, TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY, VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED.**

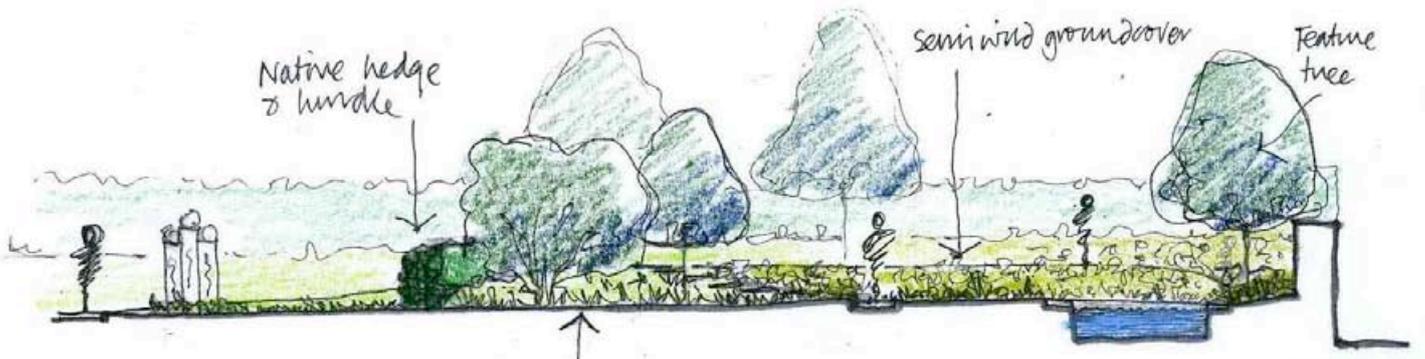
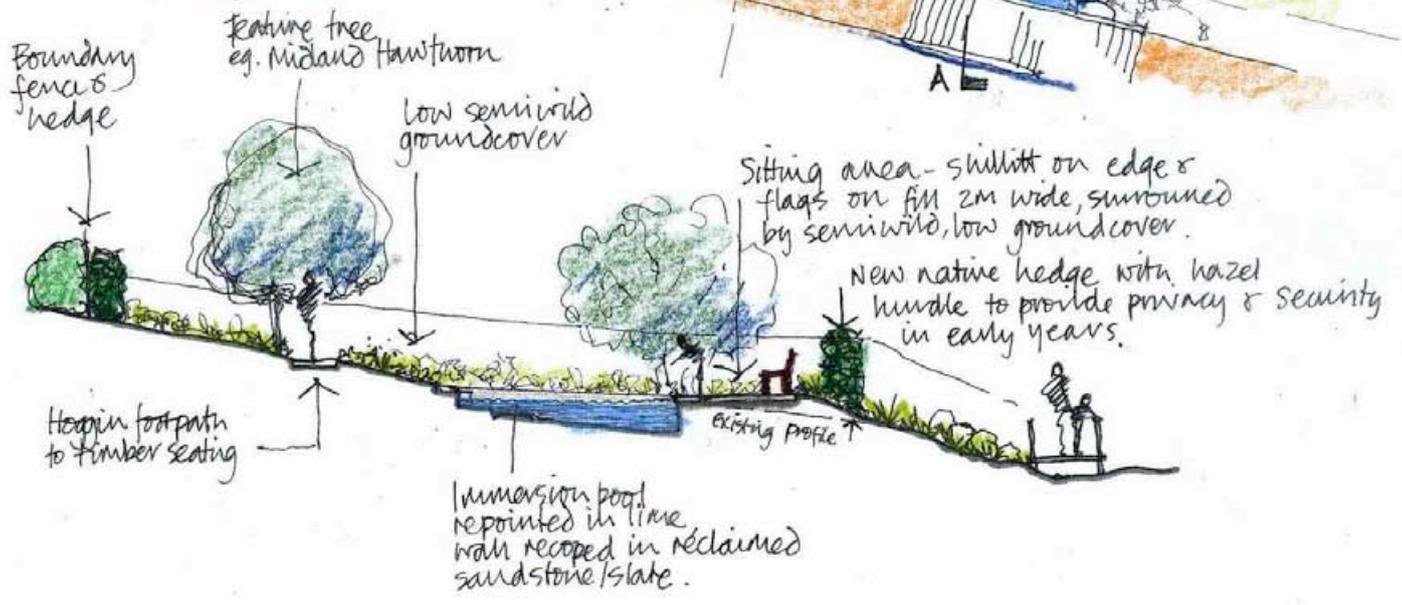
**Update from South Hams District Council – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012****Keith Rennells – Greenspace Projects Officer**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Actions/position</b>
Tree planting	Liquidambar planted with <b>Wendy</b> 24/02/12
Tree whips	Currently heeled in at Follaton. Not required at Moorashes now, so could be planted into bank area at Leechwell, as originally planned, next winter if appropriate?
Bird and bat boxes	Mostly installed by Tim Pollard and GM team as requested. Tim liaising with <b>Roma</b> over siting of remainder.
Volunteer parking	Have been obtained and distributed to volunteer gardeners via <b>Catherine</b>
Herb garden information panel	Awaiting further information from <b>Jeannette</b> before finishing off at SHDC design team + printing
Pool project	Awaiting further information on design; SHDC meeting designers fee.
Site safety	Meeting on site 02-04-12 with H&S officer and accident witness to discuss issues. Recommendation to continue natural stone castellation along 7m length of flat wall paving to discourage children from using it as platform. SHDC following up. Further suggestion to plant some of the tree whips on the bank above to create more of a screen.
Path maintenance	Following chemical spraying of moss/lichen on path surfaces, will follow up this month for further path edge weeding and resurfacing with rolled stone on stretches eroded by water run off.
Lower pool repairs	Will chase Property Services team this month to find out what progress is.
Japanese knotweed	Already in the annual schedule for treatment – gradually being eradicated
Solitary bees in bank	Great to see them. Not a hazard/risk but notice attached to pergola could put minds at rest. Have briefed <b>Roma</b> on this
Maintenance plan	A few revisions being finished off – will circulate later this month.
	Apologies if there are other issues I'm working on that I've not noted! <b>Keith</b>

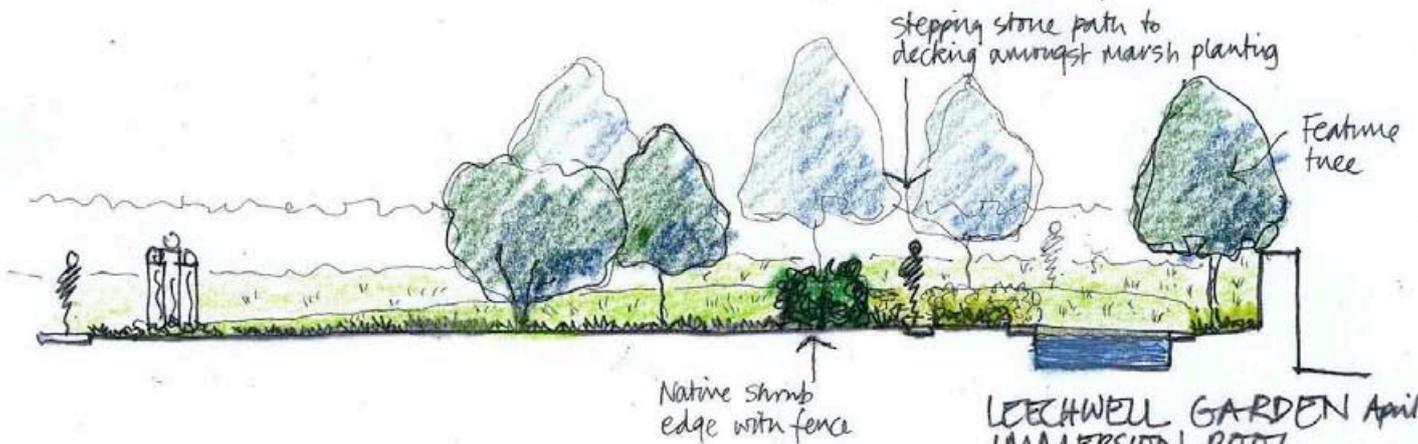
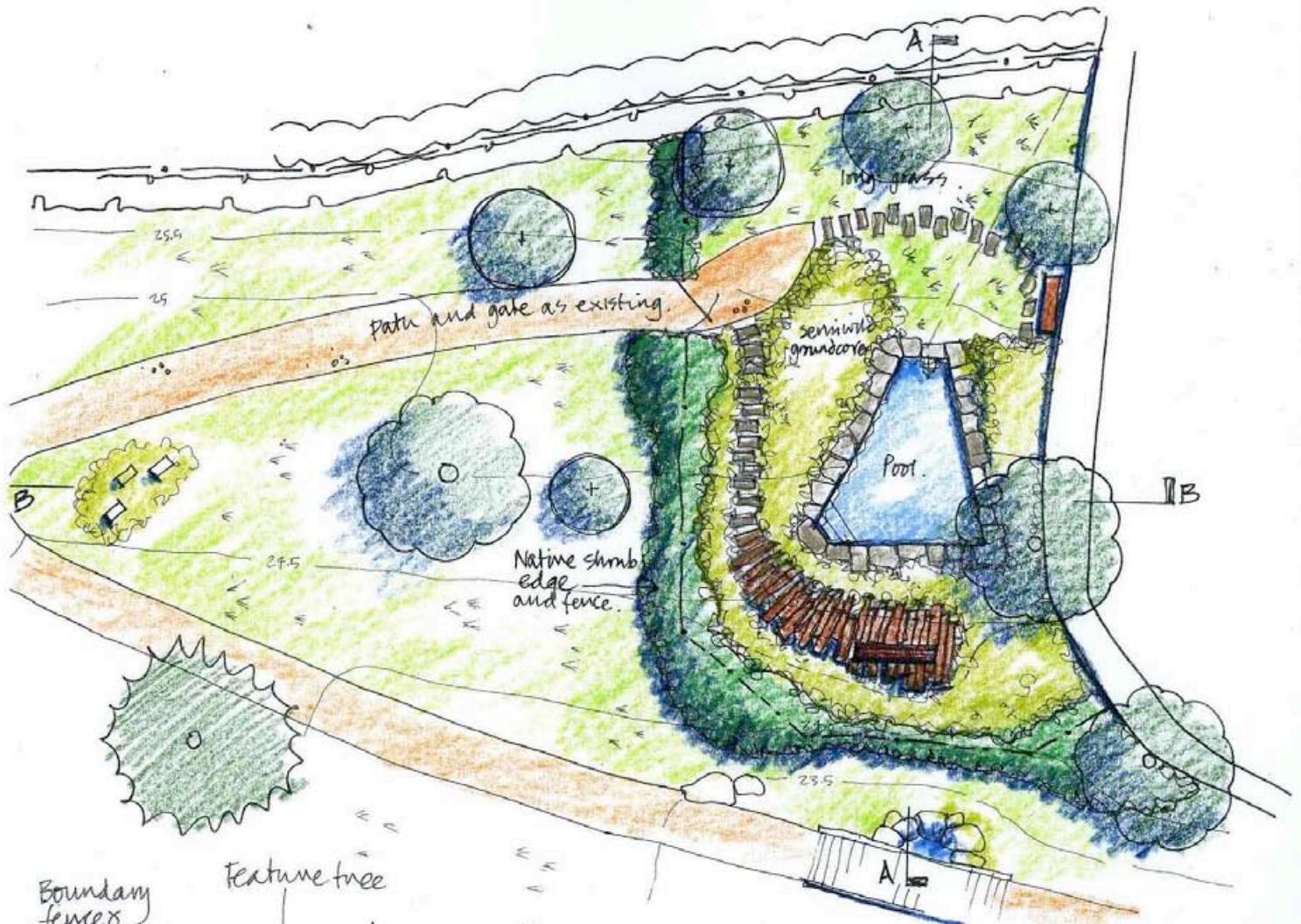
ELEVATIONAL SECTION  
 LOOKING WEST TO TOP END  
 OF POOL. (after John Cipson's  
 scaled drawings)



LEITCHFIELD GARDEN.  
 IMMERSION POOL.  
 SECTION. TOP END.  
 1:10 Scale. April '12.



LEECHWELL GARDEN April'12.  
 IMMERSION POOL.  
 OPTION ①. Plan & Sections  
 A3 @ 1:100 scale Rasthbone Partnership



LEECHWELL GARDEN April '12  
 IMMERSION POOL  
 OPTION 2 Plan & Section  
 A3 @ 1:100 Scale Rasterbone Partnership