

WORDS NICOLA FOLEY

Garden makeover

Ben Tookey from landscaping company Brownie Points takes us through his transformation of a local garden

THE BRIEF FROM the customer was to have a relatively low maintenance garden, but with points of interest. As well as a design that incorporated a vegetable garden in which to grow her own produce, the client was interested in the idea of 'going on a journey' through the garden, with areas where she could relax, reflect and read. Finally, the garden had to fit in with the country cottage feel of the house and surrounding area, but with a slightly modern twist.



The makeover

- 1) We started by clearing the garden and removing the turf and top layer using a digger and dumper.
- 2) Once the site was cleared, the paths and footings were excavated, concrete poured for the footings and limestone compacted for the paths and patio areas.
- 3) At this point drainage had to be considered as the entire garden sloped toward the house (which is a fairly old cottage).
- 4) Path edgings, paving and brick walls were all constructed to create the body of the garden
- 5) Next came all the timber work: pergolas, vegetable beds and fencing.
- 6) Once the construction work was complete we went back to the ground works and prepared the beds for planting and the lawn areas ready for the turf.
- 7) The final stage was to put the plants in, bark the vegetable area and put the gravel in the paths.
- 8) Last but by no means least, we had to clean up, remove our rubbish (and of course, make sure the client was happy!)

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

In this instance we had been given the design by a garden designer that we use and have a good relationship with. It is a good idea to seek the advice from a designer at the planning stages, even if they just produce a sketch for you. We believe that by working to plans and a designer's specification, there

is little room for error by the construction team since all the detail is on paper and has been carefully thought out in advance. In most cases, the cost of the designer can be saved on the construction by quantifying materials and wastage correctly and by saving the construction team's time. The planning and building of a garden is a long process, which must take into account the seasons and the best timing for planting and turfing. Most people tend to think about their gardens around Easter and would like them built for the summer, and whilst this isn't impossible, it is the busiest time of year for the landscapers so you ought to bear that in mind. Always allow plenty of time and consider the option of having the work done in the winter – landscapers work in all weather, and you will find that the prices will be cheaper at this time of year.



Contact

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