

## Brockenhurst, Hampshire, UK

*completed September 2006*

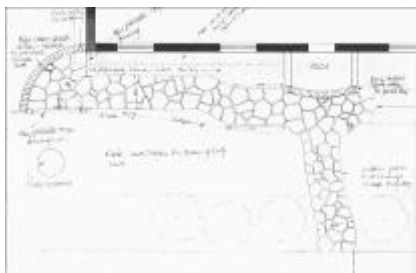
A small step forward was all that was needed here to smarten up this forest-edge garden. Attractive Purbeck limestone crazy paving was entirely in keeping with local building styles but it felt tired and untidy and a little encroached by the lawn and mature planting. I had an urge to push back the garden a little from the paths and patio areas!



My clients also wanted to iron out some of the steps and to overcome the threadbare grass, competing unsuccessfully with the shallow-rooted large pine trees nearby.



The design challenge was to retain all the features and materials that gave the house a great deal of charm but to modernise it just a little to make it feel crisper and tidier. I also realigned paths slightly and widened them where I felt it necessary. A second 'bump' in the path along the front of the house was created to balance the first 'bump' which was kept. This gave a nice sense of rhythm in the path (you can see this effect in the right hand photograph below).



In the patio area, I made the patio slightly deeper by extending the leading edge to the outside wall of the extension. A brick soldier course gives a neat edge to the relaid limestone crazy paving. As I also levelled out the patio surface a little (and hid the manhole covers), this gave me an opportunity to add a lower step aligned with the kitchen door, echoing the new circular / rounded edges I had created.

