Sector Analysis

Directional Sector The Sun

I used suncalc.org to create these overlays.

They indicate the sun's path for the summer and winter equinoxes. Each image shows the sun's position at midday.



Directional Sector Prevailing wind

Using a screenshot of Google Earth, I mapped the prevailing winds, indicated by blue arrows. In the UK, the prevailing winds are westerly.



The site has a windbreak in the form of mature trees to the north, east and west.

The hall and other buildings to the south also provide a windbreak.

The site is surrounded by a brick wall, which also acts as a windbreak

Other information

The detailed assessment of other sectors has not been possible to do, due to limited time on the site. It has not been possible to observe any micro-climates

Flooding The site manager told me that as far as he knows, the area doesn't flood. There is some flooding caused by a broken pipe, as marked on the base map.

Frost The whole site is likely to be a frost pocket as it is at the level of the river, at the bottom of a valley.

Soil Time constraints did not allow for soil testing, but these are not necessary as we are putting in raised beds and will be importing soil.

There are large quantities of wood chip on the ground, in the places where the conifers were cut and shredded in situ. This may have made the soil acidic, but this is not in the area where the kitchen garden is going.

Erosion There are no signs of erosion or compaction. Given that the land has been relatively unused for a very long time, it is reasonable to assume that compaction will not be an issue. Springs/ponds - not on the site

Sources of pollution/contamination Glyphosate may be used on site. Of particular concern is the car park next to the site, which is very weedy. Hopefully the contractors will only use strimmers for this, but I need to find out for certain.

Slope I have not been able to calculate this as yet, but it seems to be fairly level. The ground is very uneven where raised beds used to be. The wood from the old raised beds has been removed but the soil is still in place.

Shade In some of the Google images I have used in this presentation there are many conifer trees around the site. These have been removed. Because of this the area does not get much shade. There is a fairly young Horse Chestnut tree that will cast some shade on the greenhouse and the beds beneath it.