

Forest Garden Planning Checklist

- 1. Survey
- 2. Features
- 3. Plants
- 4. Pictures
- 5. Map

1. Survey

1.1 Position

- Compass orientation:
- [Elevation](#):
- Slope

1.2 Elements

- Water
- [Earth](#)
- [Wind, prevailing](#)
- [Sun](#)
- [Climate](#)

1.3 Features

- Existing plants
- Utilities
- Structures
- Access

1.4 Situation

- Privacy
- Noise
- Smell
- Pollution

1.5 You

- Household setup (family members, pets, ages, activities)
- Energy
- Knowledge
- Time
- Resources

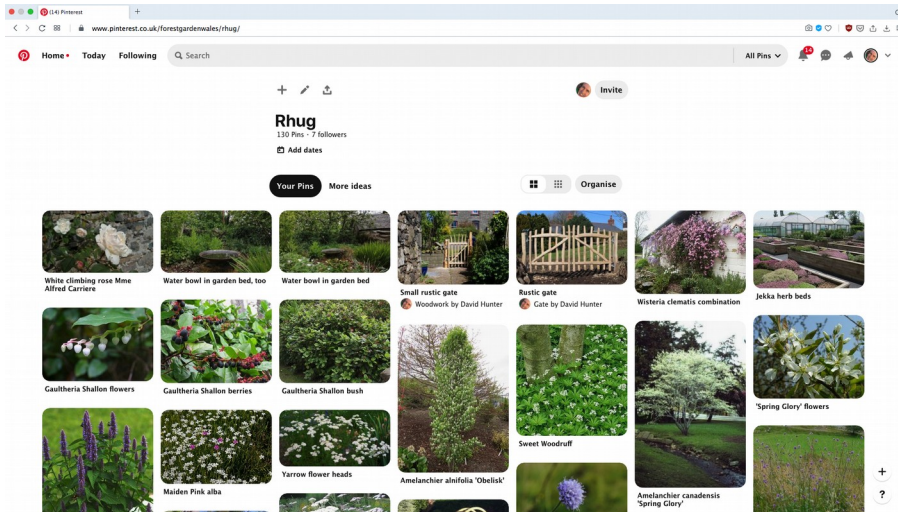
2. Features

What features do you want in the garden? Essential: [wildlife features](#) eg pond, water conservation, [nutrient budget](#). Also, seating, polytunnel/greenhouse, annual veg beds, ball games area, bird feeding, bee hotel, wildflower meadow. Write them all down!

3. Plants

List all the plants you want! Write them all down and *then* figure out if you can grow them. Consider growing native plants where possible, as they have co-evolved with wildlife and so provide better food and habitat resources. A couple of great websites are [Plants For A Future](#) and [RHS Plant Finder](#) (which has a [UK native plant filter](#)).

4. Pictures



Gather as many inspirational photos as you can, of anything and everything. Print them out and stick them on your walls. A fantastic tool to collect and share your images is [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com).

5. Map

Make a map of the land. It can be very simple.

- For paper plans, I like using 5mm square paper, preferably A3.
- For larger areas, print out a screenshot from [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/) or [Bing Maps](https://www.bing.com/maps/)
- There are lots of online tools, eg [Scribble Maps](https://www.scribblemaps.com/)
- If you are computer savvy, consider using CAD with a satellite map. I use [QCAD](https://www.qcad.org/), which is very powerful. Another free program is [LibreCAD](https://www.librecad.org/)

The main purposes of the map are:

- Mark important features
- Try out different tree positions

Other tools

- [Simplenote](https://www.simplenote.com/) is my favourite note taking tool, for computer & phone
- [Cloudinary](https://cloudinary.com/) is the best image hosting service