

## Best Commercial Project



### **WINNER** Hasmead — The Plough, Wavendon, Milton Keynes

The Plough is situated in a small village almost 5km from the Hasmead head office. Originally a village pub, it had declined over the past decade. The current leaseholders took it over with a view to turning it into a fine restaurant with gardens to match. Philip Cave Associates was appointed to draw up the landscape plans, to which the installation bears close resemblance. Plants were sourced from Hasmead's nurseries, Premier Trees and the Walled Garden Nursery in Bedfordshire.

At the start of the project, the external areas surrounding the pub were in poor condition. At the front was an unsurfaced car park and to the rear were some picnic tables on a lawn surrounded with over-mature trees and bushes.

The brief was to make the frontage of the restaurant appealing when viewed from the road, to create a sense of arrival, to create a more formal outdoor eating area at the rear and an informal drinking area at the front, to

screen-off eating areas and the car park from neighbouring properties and to create a dramatic night effect.

The car park entrance was narrowed with beds and planted with ball-headed Portuguese laurel trees and clipped hedges to create a sense of arrival and give some mystery to the frontage. The entrance to the restaurant through the front eating/drinking garden is framed by two bay trees. The garden has table-top plane trees to create intimacy and a clipped yew hedge divides diners from the car park. Beds to the sides have feature plants of Japanese maple and colourful ground cover. Fan trained hornbeams clothe the east wall.

The rear garden centres on a mop-headed bay tree with colourful ground cover underneath. It is surrounded by dramatic, semi-mature pleached lime aerial hedges that screen-off neighboring properties.

At night, subtle lighting creates an appealing scene through up-lights into trees and hedges and LEDs draped over tree canopies. Paving is mainly sawn granite, with a gravel chip finish in the car park.

Judges said it was "a good design with an engaging outdoor space".

#### **Highly Commended**

**Elite Landscapes — Cherkley Court**

#### **Finalists**

**Liz Lake — Balkerne Star Pocket Park**  
**Blakedown Landscapes (SE) — Guys Park, Guys Hospital**

**"The Plough is an example of good design with an engaging outdoor space"**



Folia (Europe) offers a plant supply service specialising in trees, hedging, topiary, shrubs and other landscape associated products, with expertise in sourcing unusual plants and extensive grower contacts throughout Europe. It has recently opened a new plant showroom and wholesale outlet in London.