COLLECTING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION

SURVEY TOOLS

Mapping: Measurements of locations of physical features, slopes, contours, buildings etc.

Questionnaire: Those requesting the design, local residents, land owners, public bodies, businesses.

Diary of observations: Record observations across the year to build a picture of **seasonal changes** and **patterns**.

Talk to local people: Find out the oral **history.**

Public records: Find out the recorded history, previous land use etc. there has been more than one building built then subsequently closed when it was discovered the land was contaminated from previous use.

PPASTE sheets can also be used at this stage along with any other relevant recording models.

ANALYSIS TOOLS

Mind mapping: (See example over the page) Good way of setting out information and making links.

PPASTE sheets: People, Plants, Animals, Structures, Tools, Events, list these elements before assessing how they might function in your design.

PMI: Positive, Minus, Interesting, this can help sort the features that are to be accepted, or rejected in a design and help prioritise.

Input, Output: Particularly when looking at energy, waste and subsequent pollution, helps turn problems into solutions. Try adding **intrinsic characteristics** as this helps to focus on what is common to all forms of that element. Try to link what outputs could become inputs to that element and to other elements in your design.

Flow charts: To identify movement within the system, e.g. people, water, energy this can help minimise input and maximise gain. This could be represented as a diagram or a drawing.

Models: 3D models are ideal both to plan designs and also to explain them to others, and can be great fun.

Random assembly: Sometimes we can get over focused when designing, random assembly can throw up some unexpected and surprising outcomes. Take several elements then place them to each other with the following prefixes; inside, outside, above, below, next to, around, attached, containing.

Data overlay: With changing seasons, contrasting elements, or designs showing a series of transitions it may be helpful to have a base design with a series of overlays.

These are just some methods commonly taught on Permaculture Design courses, however find ones that work for you, add to them and share your experiences.