

# Biodiversity Report

## The Existing Site

The site at present comprises a large sloping field of mainly grass with boundaries to the road and NW side of shrubs of various types. There is a hardstanding at the present entrance to the site which extends partly to serve parking for cars and a pedestrian path extending via a series of steps to the cottage, no 170 lower down.

The footprint of the existing cottage with the approved extension is about 91m<sup>2</sup>

There is presently several large and some small conifers inside and along the road side wall at the top of the site and some down the boundary. There are also some shrubs within the site and these will be retained.

## The Proposed Site

The footprint of the original new house was 129 m<sup>2</sup> and with the front entrance removed and the eastern side reduced is about 110m<sup>2</sup> a little larger than the old cottage but mainly due to the garage the actual house being a bit smaller.

The proposed new house will take up the top of the existing grassed area. The smaller driveway reduces the amount of the present driveway and with the garage in a new position the amount of hard surface is considerably reduced.

To improve biodiversity it is proposed to increase the amount of hedgerow boundary planting to encourage wildlife generally. This will provide further screening planting to the road side and considerably more down the western boundary.

Rainwater will be collected in water butts and there will be a wild flower area lower down the site to encourage insects and in particular bee habitat in the gabion wall baskets (Bee tubes) used to retain the banking.

Birdboxes will be fitted to gable ends and any suitable trees on the site.

Typical planting may include Berberis plants, Buddleia plants, Hawthorne shrubs, Camelia, Ceanothus, Choisya, Forsythia and Clematis.

This will be used on either side of the site and down the present path to the cottage and the southern boundary.

With the reduced hardstanding and repositioned garage there will be no excavation adjacent to the roadside boundary wall and this will remain as it is now with some new planting.

These measures should generally increase the net biodiversity of the site.