

Erwallo Uchaf
Orchard Store
Enhancement Plan

BIODIVERSITY Policy PS11 Encouragement will be given to proposals which improve the biodiversity value of sites and to the establishment of local nature reserves where the nature conservation and landscape interest of the land will be protected and enhanced.

We have levelled a small area of a field formerly used for grazing sheep, one face of which has been planted up as an orchard and the rest is being rewilded.

We also already have a well established orchard producing lots of fruit and nuts and many other nut trees spread across the field.

Around half of our fruit and nut trees are in the lower orchard, the rest are spread across the field and in the upper orchard.

In our 4 acre field so far we have 152 Fruit and nut trees, a few are mature trees 50/100 yrs old,

most others were large pot grown trees planted 5 years ago, the remaining few have been planted within the last two and a half years.

We are continuing to plant trees and if a tree does die in our orchard, a replacement is replanted (although this has been extremely rare)

In the rest of the field we have planted hundreds of native broadleaf trees as part of our rewilding and biodiversity project, such as Beech, Rowan, Copper Beech, Oak, Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, Hazel and many more.

We have also reinstated over 150M of hedgerow which had previously been scrubbed when the road was widened (I think this happened in the 70s).

We also have a Wollemi Pine, which is a critically endangered tree, with fewer than 100 remaining in the wild. When mature, cuttings from this tree will be propagated to help the survival of the species.

https://www.wollemipine.com/watch/Recovery_Plan.pdf

Planting the field with trees is excellent for biodiversity and also forms carbon capture. Planting fruit and nut trees attracts even more wildlife and also provides a sustainable and environmental beneficial food supply.

Allowing the grass to grow long and wildflowers to return has shown an enormous effect on biodiversity with tremendous amounts of wildlife returning.

We now have large amounts of bees (Many different species), grasshoppers, field mice and other small mammals. This has in turn attracted birds of prey including Red Kites.

The Orchard store itself has been built from timber and is clad in the most locally sourced Douglas fir possible from only a few miles down the road.

This will blend in discretely and traditionally with the landscape.

We have also planted a row of evergreen bushes to obscure any view of the shed from across the valley.

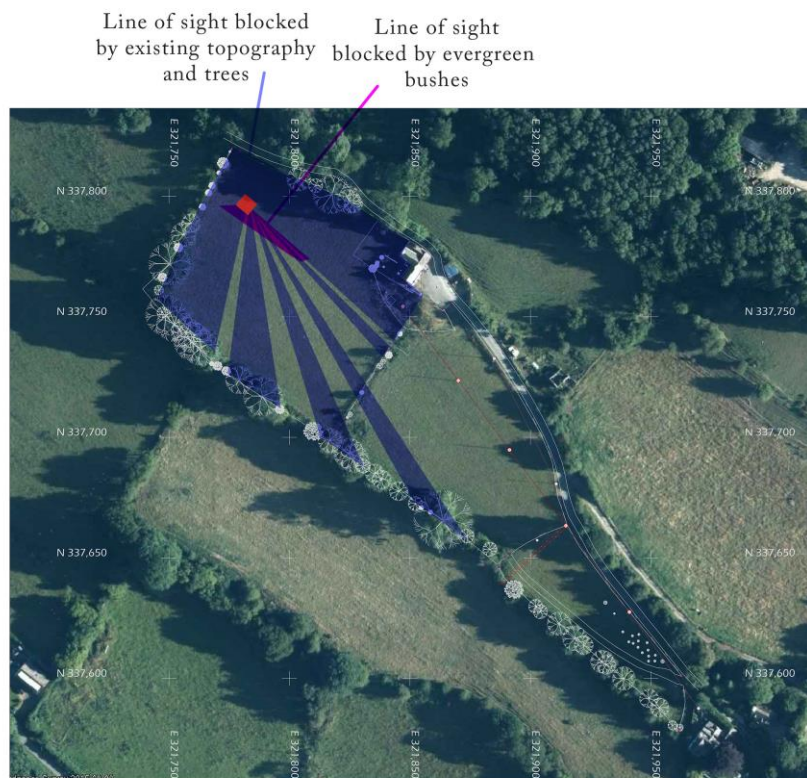
It can only be seen from a small angle as the North is obscured by the natural topography and the west is completely blocked by hedgerow.

It is extremely difficult to see from the valley floor and hard to make out from across the valley

In front of that are many blackthorn bushes that have grown from shooters in the hedgerow.

These both produce large quantities of Sloes and will also further obscure the store

Once the fast growing, evergreen bushes reach height the store will not be visible from any angle.

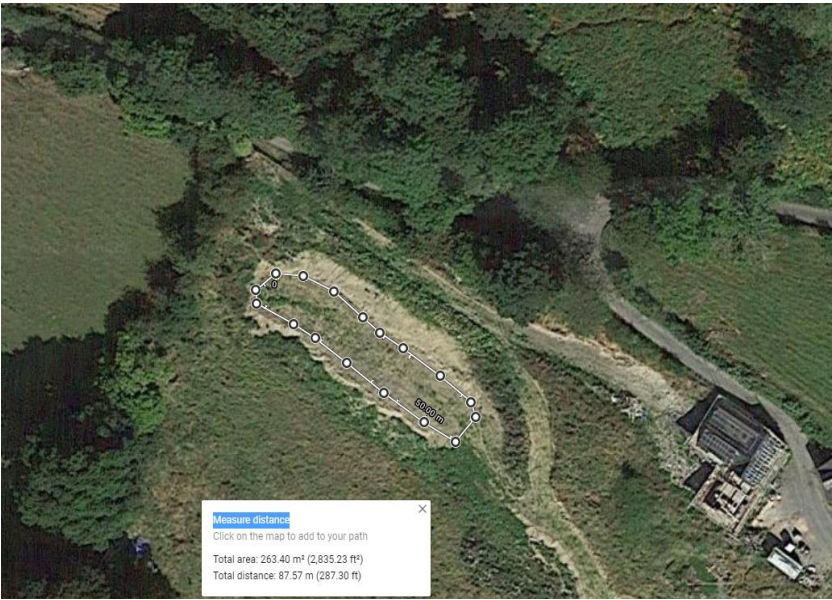


The evergreen bushes are very fast growing and will reach a height of around 20 to 30 feet

The shaded blue area shows that the store is already completely obscured from most angles

The narrow slices where it is partially visible will be quickly blocked

This is the current view of the store from across the valley, but even this will soon be obscured.

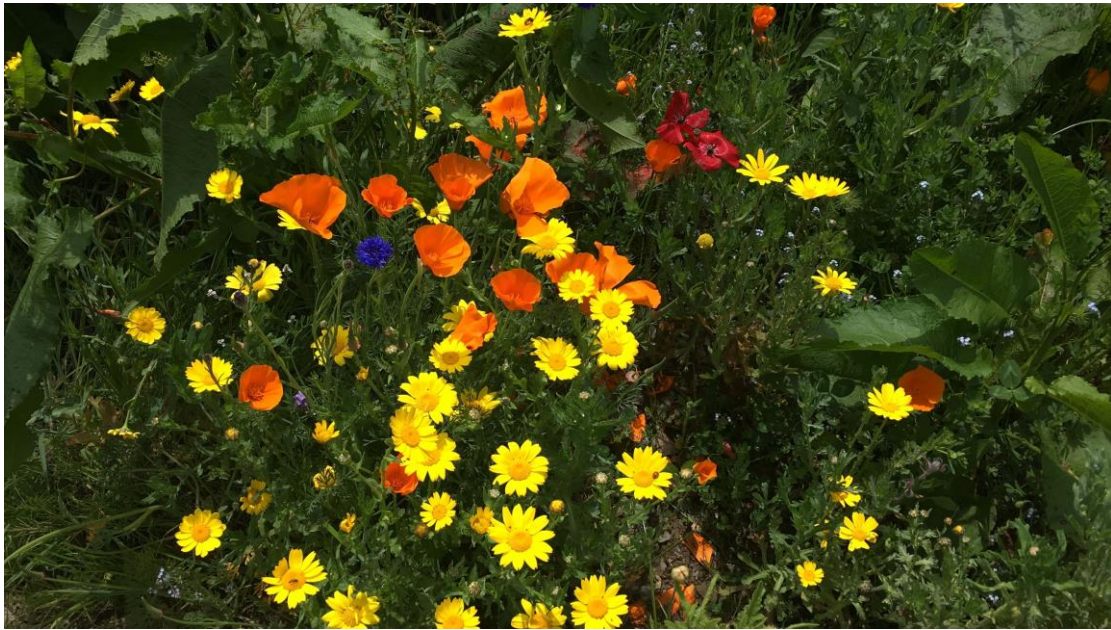


The area is approx 8M x 30M at it's widest points

The wild flowers that we have sown are

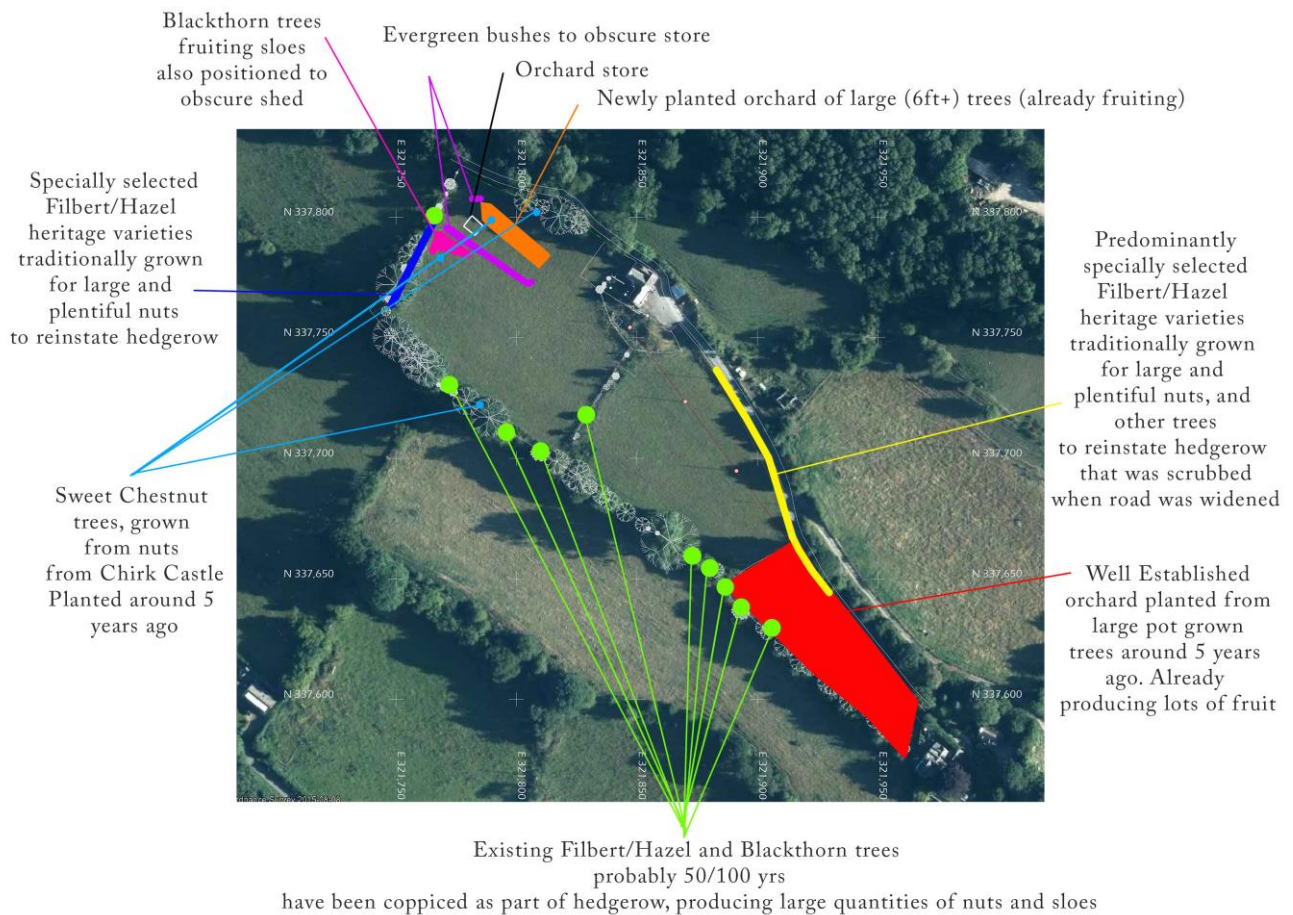
Paper Daisy, Pheasant Eye, Pot Marigold (Orange), Pot Marigold (Red), Cornflower, Painted Daisy, Elegant Clarkia, Dwarf Morning Glory, Forget-Me-Not, Fineflower, Baby's Breath, Candyturf (White), Candyturf (Blue), Corn Poppy.

Red campion, birdsfoot trefoil, oxeye daisy, common knapweed, field poppy, shirley poppy, meadow buttercup, cornflower, red/white clover, wild carrot, ribwort plantain, sainfoin, gypsophila, nigella, borage, corncockle, purple tansy, bitter blue lupin, victoria cross, in addition to these there are lots of wild foxgloves doing very well as the field is no longer grazed









This is an image of all the fruit and nut trees that we have so far, It does not include the rest of the trees that we have planted (155 other non fruit and nut trees so far) which spread across the rest of the field.

It would be far more efficient for us, financially to plant a grid of monocrop fruit trees but that is not our goal. We want to maximise biodiversity whilst creating an amount of beneficial, sustainable produce.

Areas in blue indicate non fruit and nut trees planted



We would be very keen to hear any advice from Emma Broad or anyone else with professional information on ecology or rewilding. We have been rewilding fields for many decades but there is always room for us to learn.