

Net Biodiversity Benefit

**Menage at Tan House Farm Station Road, Overton-on-Dee,
Wrexham, LL13 0LJ.**

Introduction

The applicant is very conscious of the need to increase biodiversity and works to do so around the property. An Orchard has already been created in a paddock to the North of the property – this includes apple, pear, plum, medlar and quince trees. They also keep honey bees and are aware of the need to provide quality food source for pollinating insects. They already encourage wild flower growth and nectar rich plants and shrubs are grown all around the property.

Development of menage

- Improved biodiversity of heavy grazed fields

The creation of a menage at Tan House Farm will enable the applicant to keep her horses at her home location as it will provide a safe area for her to ride her horses. The 2 fields that will be used for the horses are currently a mono-culture rye grass used for grazing dairy cattle. These fields will be managed using the Equicentral System (<http://equiculture.net>). The aim is to increase the variety of grasses and wild flowers in the 2 fields being used for the horses. The Equicentral system is a sustainable horse management system that improves the quality of the land and soils. The Equicentral system incorporates rotational grazing which encourages healthy pasture growth and increases biodiversity. The rotational grazing is used in conjunction with a 'loafing' area. It removes the pressure that grazing horses can put upon the land. The point of using the ES is to gradually increase the biodiversity of the fields being used by encouraging more variety of grasses and wild flowers. It also removes the need for artificial fertilizer and spraying for weeds which affects the insect population. In order to encourage the growth of different grasses and wild flowers the fields will be over-sown with beneficial native seeds.

- Hedgerow

Sheep will still be grazed on the land in the winter so the menage will be surrounded by a horse netting fence. This fence will be bounded by native hedgerow (hawthorn, hazel and maple) which will provide additional shelter and food for wildlife.