

## Wildlife Pond and Landscaping

Orchard Cottage, Newton Lane, Newton Valence,  
Alton, GU34 3RE



### Aim:

To increase biodiversity and create a landscape beneficial for people and wildlife. The wildlife pond will introduce an aquatic habitat on a site where there is currently none with the surrounding landscaping complementing this and offering further potential for wildlife.

### Pond Design:

The pond is to be lined with a 1.00mm EPDM flexible liner and clay planting substrate.

Shelving sides and a marginal edge provide different zones for native aquatic plants to increase habitat and biodiversity.

Decking is constructed from sustainably sourced untreated UK softwood to blend with the landscape. No lighting is to be included.

### Wildlife and Biodiversity in the Pond:

The introduction of the wildlife pond will increase opportunities for wildlife within the land of Orchard Cottage and within the wider area.

It can provide a feeding area for birds such as swallows *Hirundo rustica* whilst it will also offer opportunities for bathing and drinking for resident bird species.

We expect the pond to benefit bats as a foraging space, with the addition of bat boxes in the trees to increase habitat.

The pond will support diverse invertebrate life which can include daphne, damselflies and dragonflies, diving beetles, water boatmen, back striders, whirly gigs and other pond invertebrates, which in turn support amphibians such as toads, frogs, newts which we expect to spawn and live in and around the water.

Native planting in the pond's marginal edges will support both pollinators and invertebrates, with areas to the water's edge left open for dragon fly egg laying habitat. The planting will also offer opportunities for amphibians to lay eggs whilst open water provides foraging for grass snake *Natrix helvetica*.

The shallow, gradually sloping pond edges provide a safe drinking station for hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*. The use of gravel and cobbles around the edges and within the marginal planting can also benefit birds and insects who can perch and take a drink.

### Surrounding Landscaping:

The landscape around the wildlife pond will be seeded as wildflower meadows, with species suitable for the local soil conditions. Grass will be left to grow long around stands of hazel, to enrich the habitat for voles, amphibians, birds, and insects.

Uncut grass over winter will provide shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife and the installation. Of hibernacula and log piles further increase habitat for amphibians, and hedgehogs.

The wildflower meadow provides seedheads for birds and foraging for local invertebrates.

**Pond Maintenance:**

Annual maintenance will take place in autumn where fallen leaves and excess duckweed growth will be removed carefully with a net. It will be left on the side of the pond for at least 24 hours to allow any creature present to return to the pond before being cleared.

Annual weed growth amongst the marginals will be removed via cutting with no use of chemicals, after the first year cutting will be completed around the pond on a 2-3 year rotation so there is always at least 50% plant coverage.