

RETENTION OF SHEPHERD'S HUT AND ASSOCIATED (POROUS) HARDSTANDING AT RHYDYGARTH, LLANDEFALLE, BERCON LD3 0NR

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Introduction

This scheme is prepared and submitted in support of an application for consent to retain a shepherd's hut and porous hardstanding used as an occasional holiday let at Rhydygarth.

Rhydygarth sits in an isolated plot and one-third of an acre. Much of the plot, which is bounded on two sides by small brooks, by unimproved grassland and the sole access track, is left to run wild to encourage wildlife.

The wider setting in which the application site sits is diverse, encompassing still and running water, by robust woodland and open grassland and is already well suited to attract a variety of wildlife. Nonetheless, the owner/applicant is committed to nature conservation and enhancements are proposed, albeit relatively modest given the massive encouragement already offered to wildlife at and around Rhydygarth.

Proposals

The applicant is committed to wildlife preservation and will introduce the 'aids' to biodiversity set out below.

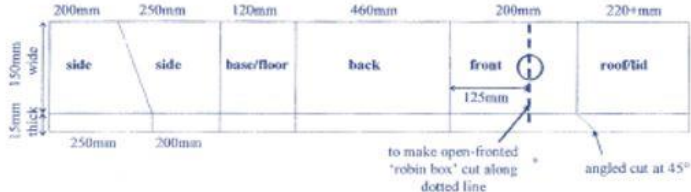
1. BIRDS

Two boxes for tits, sparrows and robins will be built by the applicant and attached to trees within the property boundary. The design will be that adopted by The Wildlife Trusts and is shown below:

Box building instructions:

You will need:


- Rough cut, unplanned, untreated softwood timber, 150mm wide x 1500mm long x 15 mm thick
- Scrap rubber, such as an old inner tube from a tyre
- Galvanised 20mm (3/4") nails
- And the following tools: carpentry saw, hammer, hand brace or drill (with 25mm, 28 mm, or 38 mm diameter cutting bits), pencil and ruler, scissors for cutting rubber.




1. Marking out

Mark out the panels of the future nest box with pencil and a ruler to the dimensions shown above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood (believe me, this will save confusion later.) Where possible, try to ensure that the grain will run vertically in the finished box - this will help drainage.

There are two sorts of basic nestbox - the open-fronted robin box ...



... and the hole-fronted tit box



The diameter of the entrance hole determines which birds will use the nest box

- blue tit (25mm)
- great tit (28mm)
- sparrow (38mm)

now turn over ...

2. INSECTS

An 'insect hotel' along the lines of the one promoted by The Woodland Trust (see below) will be built and placed in the land in which the shepherd's hut is sited, already a haven for wildlife, flora and fauna.

In addition, the applicant is committed to collecting fallen timber and building a log pile aimed at offering a haven for beetles, woodlice and centipedes, all attractive to visiting birds, frogs and hedgehogs.



Insect Hotel to be installed at Rhydygarth

External Lighting

There is no external lighting associated with the shepherd's hut, building upon the objective of offering peace and seclusion, together with an untrammelled view of the dark skies enjoyed in this part of Wales. Torches are provided to offer visitors safe passage.

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