

Orchard @ Nevill Hall

Nevill Hall Nature Spaces

Jan 2026



Overview

The orchard has a long history on the site but was re-invigorated in 2000 with the planting of 30 native apple, pear and damson trees.

It is located adjacent to the eastern bank of the pond behind the old mansion house.

Its trees produce a mass of fruit each autumn, and though the fruit is available for picking, most rots on the ground and feeds birds and other wildlife.

History

The original orchard at Nevill Hall was probably planted around the time of the building of the mansion in the 19th century. The farm buildings on the site were demolished when the hospital was built in the 1960s.

Likely evidence of apple use for juicing in times gone by remains on the site as an old stone trough along which a stone was rolled to squash fruit.

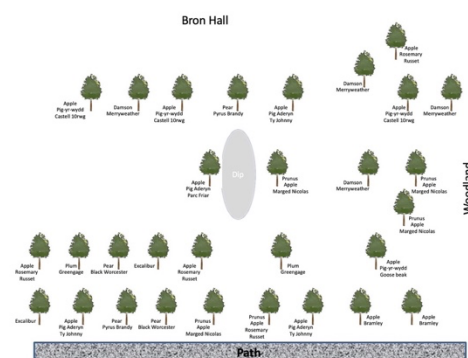
The orchard has been maintained intermittently ever since, most recently restocked with the Millenium Project in 2000.



At that time existing trees were identified and new apples and pears planted, mostly with native species to Wales.

Costs were then covered by the Branching Out Appeal, and volunteer work.

The Millenium Orchard



The species of every tree are recorded.



There are thirty trees, which every year produce wonderful blossom in the late spring and bountiful fruit for the autumn. Most goes back to nature, but enterprising visitors enjoy many, and in 2025, of a bumper crop, some were taken for juicing.

It is an orchard recognised as a Traditional Orchard, and obviously a haven for biodiversity, long to be treasured.

Opportunity and Potential

Orchards need some regular seasonal attention from knowing orchardists.

Shade from neighbouring larger trees should be removed where possible, and a young oak tree planted in one situation, overlooking two Bramley apple trees should be removed.

Tree identification tags and an information board about the apple and pear varieties could be provided.



Future Plans and Ongoing Maintenance

Tree work: limited pruning has been undertaken in recent years, so some work may be required.

Tree tags and information boards.

Funding is available through a successful Local Places for Nature bid, during Spring 2026 to Spring 2027.

Fruit can be freely picked by visitors, and perhaps some used in the hospital kitchens, but additionally larger crops taken for juicing.

Seasonal pruning is needed and could be provided in partnership with Abergavenny (Laurie Jones) Community Orchard Group.

Membership of Social Farms and Gardens will be sought for further advice and support

<https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/news/orchards-wales-project-success>

Views of the orchard October 2025

