

Creature Features

for overwintering wildlife in your garden



When winter arrives nature shuts down. All sorts of garden animals, such as hedgehogs, newts, frogs and butterflies, as well as some really useful creatures like

hoverflies, lacewings, ladybirds and other predatory beetles, spiders and solitary wasps need to find places as their winter retreat. Fortunately it is easy to

make artificial lodgings for all these sorts of wildlife. Furthermore, most of these special features can be made from household odds and ends. This factsheet shows you how.

Creature Feature

Creature

You will need

How?

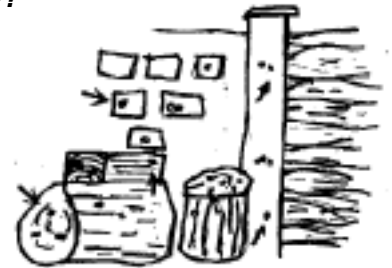
Block of wood



Various minibeasts, solitary bee, mason bee, solitary wasp, beetles, spiders, ladybirds.

Block of wood, log, fencepost, brick, wall, drill and bit 5-10mm diameter.

Drill holes 90mm deep into logs and/or wood blocks, fence posts, walls, bricks



Stick case

as above

180mm long cylindrical container with top taken off (eg drainpipe, cleaned paint can, catering tin), straws or bamboo canes 5-8mm diameter, polystyrene or other material to seal one end of straw/cane, sticky tape.

Seal one end with bung (polystyrene blobs are excellent); tape sticks into place.

Hang in sunny position; attach to trunks and fences at various heights.



Lacewing chamber

Green lacewing (*Chrysoperla carnea*)
Tip: lacewings are attracted to house lights - so install bottle chamber near house.

Plastic bottle (1 or 2 litre size is perfect) with top. Roll of corrugated cardboard 80-100cm long. Wire, scissors

Cut bottom off bottle; roll card and insert; fix with wire so bottle covers card with 5cm overhang. Hang in dense foliage, preferably by mid - Aug.



Bumble bee hibernation chamber

Queen bumble bees (various species)

Earthenware flowerpot (9-10cm depth), short length (2-3cm) of old hosepipe 25mm wide, loose earth, trowel

Queen bees hibernate in chambers dug in loose soil; fill pot with loose earth and bury so that hole shows; attach hose if you want to bury it completely (cool north facing bank).

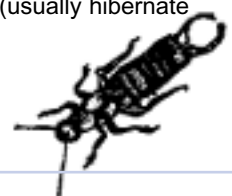
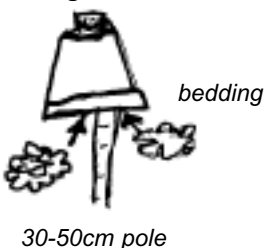


Earwig chamber

Earwig

Earthenware pot (9-10cm depth) Straw, Pets' bedding Bamboo pole Cork or bung.

Fill pot with straw/bedding, put bung in drainage hole; put inverted pot on pole. Used in summer; not known if used in winter (usually hibernate underground).



Creature Feature

Ladybird and Lepidoptera lodges



Creature

Ladybirds (7, 10, 11, 14, spot)
Butterfly pupae (esp. browns)

You will need

Hollow stems (esp. of Thistle, Teasel, Fennel, Angelica,) leaf litter, grassy tussock, loose bark, plant debris, dead dry foliage, standing dead grass, general 'wild corner' in garden.

How?

Cut stalks at different levels from ground - 2m: leave wild corner especially tall grass for butterflies.



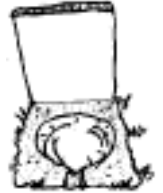
insect habitat

Frog lodge

Frogs
Newts
Other amphibians

Paving stone in grassy area such as lawn, trowel.

Dig chamber 3-4cm deep and sloping entrance trench under paving stone.
Tip: more successful in grassy areas i.e.lawn.



Logpile



Frogs
Newts
Hedgehogs
Butterflies
Common Lizards
Slow worms
Beetles

Old logs, various sizes from various species; also stones, old bricks; gloves.

In shady corner, pile up higgledy-piggledy.
Tip: try different sizes and species of wood; leave bark on if possible.

Toad pot

Toads
Frogs
Newts

Earthenware flowerpot (9-10cm depth) or half brick with gutter

Place in shady undisturbed area (below hedge, behind compost heap.)
Optional: cover with leaves.



Hedgehog hibernaculum

Hedgehog

Wooden box, leaves, straw or other pets' bedding, logs and stones, garden debris.

Place in a quiet corner
Cover with a pile of logs, and stones, twigs, leaves and debris



Hedgehog hibernaculum

Council tax band D

Hedgehog

Wooden board at least 75 x 75cm, leaves, straw, or other pets' bedding.
Tip: Hedgehogs need leaves to make up winter nests.

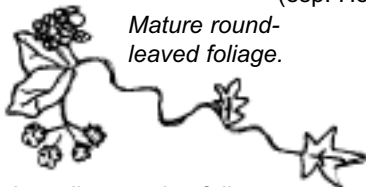
Lean board against shed wall, leave bedding and leaves underneath.



see our factsheet "Furry Furniture" for details about building a deluxe wooden hedgehog box

Ivy cutting

Butterflies (esp. Holly Blue)



Mature round-leaved foliage.

Juvenile creeping foliage

Mature ivy (with round-lobed leaves, flowers and berries), secateurs, potting medium, flowerpot trellis, tree, fence, hedge to climb

Take cutting from mature foliage (this will grow more bushy and will not spread so much).
Tip: Try training up trellis 10cm from wall/fence; remember that ivy prefers shade.



Your contact details here

A Living Landscape

Our gardens represent a vast living landscape; and with an estimated 16 million gardens in the UK, the way they are managed can make a big difference to wildlife.

Across gardens and beyond, The Wildlife Trusts' vision to create A Living Landscape involves enlarging, improving and joining-up areas of wildlife-rich land in all parts of the UK. There are now over 100 inspirational Living Landscape schemes around the UK, rich in opportunities for sustainability, learning, better health and wellbeing. What is good for wildlife is good for people too.

For more information go to www.wildlifetrusts.org