



Make a Log Pile



Do you have a log pile or any dead wood in your garden? Did you know that making a simple log or stick pile in your back garden or local woodland is a very easy and effective way for you to provide food and shelter for a wide range of local wildlife? Depending on what you use and where you place your pile, you can attract and encourage a variety of different creatures to set up a home. Species might include: amphibians; hedgehogs; birds; mice/ voles; birds, and loads of different mini-beasts.



There is no right or wrong way to create a log pile habitat in your outdoor space – they can be in the sun or in the shade and made from big logs, little twigs, leaves, dead tree stumps or a mixture of them all.

The PTES (People’s Trust for Endangered Species) is currently running a survey in the UK for people to map their log pile. They are very keen to gather information about the amazing and rare Stag beetle that lives in the South. We unfortunately don’t have these in Scotland (yet!), but the PTES is very keen to find out as much as possible about log piles around the UK.... for more information and to map your log pile -

<https://stagbeetles.ptes.org/>



A sunny spot – solitary bees



A damp shady spot for amphibians, fungi etc.



A quiet secret spot for mice and voles



A large pile with logs, twigs & leaves – hedgehogs



A violet ground beetle living in a log pile



An old tree stump

Who likes what?

- Solitary bees like a pile of chunky logs in a sunny spot.
- Mice and voles like a stack of smaller sticks in a quiet and secretive place
- Frogs, toads, mosses and fungi like larger logs in a shady and damp place
- Mini-beasts will move in to pretty much any pile of wood (and be very happy)
- Hedgehogs prefer a large dense pile of sticks, leaves and logs to nest and hibernate in.
- Birds such as robins and wrens might also nest in larger piles. NB: lots of birds will visit their local log pile to look for food (mini-beasts)