

# Homemade Habitats



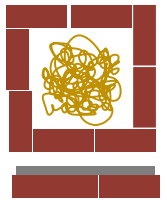
At Northcroft Meadows Nature Reserve we are reusing rubbish to make small homemade habitats for a variety of different creatures. These low cost easy to make habitats can easily be copied in your own garden or local greenspace. Some provide protection to hibernate over winter, some provide a safe nest to rear young, others are just generally nice places that the creatures like to live in, providing safety, warmth and food.

*“Cheap and easy little projects that immediately help some of our most endangered species”*



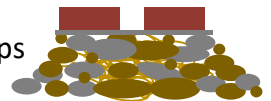
## Bumblebee Nest

- Choose a warm sunny spot, ideally near to early flowering plants such as fruit trees.
- Place 6 to 8 bricks in a square, loosely fill with straw, wool or dry moss
- Leave a gap of between 10 and 15mm or ½” gap between two of the bricks as an entrance way
- Cover with a paving slab



## Reptile/Amphibian Den

- Choose a warm sunny spot for reptiles or cool shady spot for amphibians, ideally near dense vegetation such as hedgerows and long grass or other plants
- Cover an area with a flat layer of rubble, sticks/logs, straw, stones, moss leaving lots of gaps
- Place a sheet of corrugated tin sheeting or similar on top and secure down with bricks or heavy rubble. If near where kids or dogs play then push sharp edges into the ground or cover them



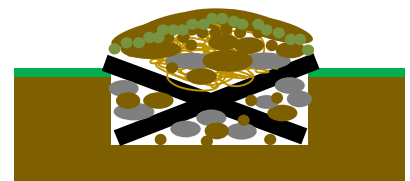
## Hedgehog Hotel

- Very similar to the Bumblebee nest but put in a secluded quiet spot amongst thick plants
- Extend to two stories tall of bricks with a larger entrance way a brick wide and two bricks tall



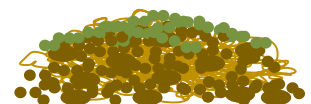
## Hibernaculum

- Choose a sheltered area with a little bit of sunlight, ideally near to a pond and dense vegetation such as hedgerows and long grass or other plants
- Dig a whole about 60cm or 2' deep, as large as you can be bothered digging
- Put pipes such as drainpipe in at shallow angles from the top edges to the bottom, then fill the gaps with logs, bricks, rubble, moss but leave large gaps
- User smaller sticks and garden waste like moss or leaf litter to make a roof then cover with soil leaving the entrances to the pipes clear
- Scatter some wildflower seeds on top of all the freshly disturbed soil



## Dead Wood Hedge

- Take tree debris, sticks and logs and cut into pieces a couple of feet long
- Place in a densely packed pile in a row no less than 1m or 3' wide
- Push it down or stand on it to compress the pile
- Cover in moss, leaf litter and other garden waste, keep adding to this like a compost heap
- One of the simplest and most beneficial habitats that also compliments all of the others



Try some of these yourself or join one of our volunteer days to build one at Northcroft Meadows.

There are many other things you can do like nest boxes for different insects, birds and bats, an amphibian pond, wildflower planting, lay a hedge, plant a fruit tree, bug hotels and bee bricks, compost heap, bird feeders and baths, hedgehog holes in fences. Have a look on YouTube for ideas of fun little habitat projects you can do.