

Make a log shelter

Log piles are perfect hiding places for insects, providing a convenient buffet for frogs, birds and hedgehogs too.

Putting together a log pile will create a village for all things creepy and crawly. In turn, this busy community will attract birds, hedgehogs and frogs looking to snack on a tasty morsel.

You will need

- Logs! You can get them from tree surgeons or firewood dealers. If you're lucky, some pieces may already contain beetle grubs which could hatch and populate your garden. Native wood is best, but anything will do.

Building your log shelter:

You can build up the logs to form your 'minibeast village' in a variety of ways:

- Scattered: Scatter your logs in a flower border or under a hedge. Like this, they are handy for keeping plants apart and mulching the soil, but you'll get more wildlife if you do create a concentrated stack.
- Neat and tidy pile: Tidy stacks are often seen in coppiced woodlands. Logs are carefully piled on top of each other, often forming a pyramid.
- Higgleddy piggleddy: The 'natural' way to do it, and great for architectural impact. But it doesn't create much shade.
- Organ pipes: Sunken wood creates the most micro-climate possibilities. Especially recommended in the Thames Valley for stag beetles. If you can't bury your logs, heaped wood chippings are another way to help stag beetles.
- Giant cheese: If you can get a real 'wagon wheel' log, it will create the most stable environment of all underneath. Superb for amphibian hibernation.