

## Helping Nature at Home

**Making a hibernaculum** – a raised mound used by reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and minibeasts to hibernate



### What you will need:

- Logs and sticks
- Stones, pebbles and bricks
- Grass seed or wildflower seeds
- Spade

### Instructions:

1. First choose an area in your garden which receives midday or full sun. This will provide warmth for the animals hibernating inside the hibernaculum such as amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and insects.
2. Next dig out an area approximately 1m in length by 50cm in width and 30-50cm in depth. The size can be altered to fit into your garden, but it is the depth of the hole that is important. Set aside the soil from this as you will need it later.
3. Depending on what you have been able to collect, fill the hole with a mix of logs, sticks, stones, pebbles, and bricks. It is important to make sure there are plenty of gaps in between the materials to allow wildlife to use the hibernaculum. Continue to build up the materials until you form a small mound above the surface.
4. Take your soil from earlier and now cover the surface of the mound to form a 5-10cm layer. Try to avoid filling in too many gaps inside the mound with the soil as you do this. Using the back of the spade or your hands you can press down the soil.
5. Once you have the soil in place, you can then sow grass or wildflower seeds over the top and back of the mound. It is important to leave the front side (the side that will receive the most sunshine and warmth) free of any grass or plants as this will enable wildlife to be able to access and use the hibernaculum.

Alternatively, if you are unable to make a hibernaculum in your garden you could instead create a log pile by gathering various sized logs and sticks. This will provide a great habitat for wildlife.