

# Log Pile

A log pile is invaluable for over 1000 British species of invertebrates that depend on dead wood for survival and about a dozen species of our birds use log piles for nesting, as well as bats for roosting. It is a favourite place for the wren and robin who soon find a log pile and visit it regularly looking for food. Many fungi also need dead wood to grow.

Small mammals and amphibians such as toads, frogs and newts may take shelter and use the log pile as a source of food as a large variety of bugs and minibeasts make their home there. The Stag beetle lay their eggs near to rotting wood so that when the eggs hatch the larvae have a food supply nearby. The larvae can stay for several years chewing the wood in the dark.

## KEY

- 1 Honey Fungus
- 2 Coral Spot Fungus
- 3 Birds Nest Fungus
- 4 House Spider
- 5 Millipede
- 6 Common Earwig
- 7 Garden Snail
- 8 Black Slug
- 9 Violet Ground Beetle
- 10 Wasp Beetle
- 11 Sac Spider
- 12 Centipede
- 13 Stag Beetle Larva
- 14 Common Woodlice
- 15 Devils Coach Horse
- 16 Black Ant



All these creatures have a part to play in the breakdown of dead wood. Lichens provide food for the caterpillars of moths which lay their eggs. The marbled green moth relies entirely on lichen in the early part of its lifecycle. Its mottled wing pattern provides perfect camouflage while it is laying its eggs.

A rotting log is a mini habitat in its own right! Eventually the rotted wood will make wonderfully rich compost.

**Try creating your own log pile and see what wildlife and insects you can attract!**