

# **THE LOG PILE**

**A log pile is a mini nature reserve and a habitat for a range of creatures. An abundance of wildlife makes its home in dead wood and many animals use a log pile as a source of food and shelter.**



**Fallen wood occurs naturally in woodlands, and many species have adapted to use this habitat.**

**Frogs & newts will shelter and over winter in a wood pile and toads will hibernate where if it is cool and damp.**

**Centipedes and a variety of beetles will visit damp shady areas to forage for slugs and slug-eggs. If we are lucky the pile may attract the stag beetle which lay their eggs underground near dead wood or logs. The larvae can live in this wood for several years until they reach maturity.**

**Several types of Fungi will grow naturally amongst the logs including orange spot and the oddly-named candle snuff which will help recycle rotting wood, breaking it down for other small invertebrates. Rotting wood is a natural source of food for slugs, snails and wood lice which will in turn attract hedgehogs and birds, the log pile can provide a refuge for small mammals such as shrews, voles and field mice whilst they shelter from hawks and owls.**

## **MAKE A LOG PILE IN YOUR OWN GARDEN**

**Use a mixture of different sized logs, such as beech, oak, ash and elm; leave the bark on and let the wood rot naturally in a damp, shady corner to encourage the most wildlife. Include a pile of leaf litter to attract even more creatures, such as hibernating toads or hedgehogs and add new logs as the old ones decay over the years.**