

Why do we want: a Log pile?

What grows in the churchyard stays in the churchyard! Recently, a couple of trees were felled due to their proximity to the church building. Much of the logged wood was used to create log piles for wildlife.



Wood, as with all organic waste, is gradually broken down by decomposer organisms.



Many types of fungi will begin this process. Invertebrates soon move in. These will include woodlice, beetles, wood wasps and wood-boring insects.



Woodlice



Beetle grub

As a healthy population develops, predators begin taking advantage of the bounty. Spiders, centipedes and beetles feed on the smaller offerings.



Toads love the cool damp conditions at the bottom of the wood pile and may well hibernate here. They find safe shelter and, of course, a mass of tasty grubs!

The bottom of the wood pile has access to a larger cavity which may well be used by hibernating and breeding hedgehogs.



Tiny wrens will flitter through the wood pile feeding as they go. Robins may well find a nest space here and blackbirds and thrushes will scratch around the base for worms slugs and other morsels.



We have slow worms in the churchyard. These are harmless reptiles feeding mostly on invertebrates, so the woodpile is a good hunting ground.

Having a wood pile, however big or small, is a brilliant addition to any garden. It will help to build a thriving natural community and help your garden to become a flourishing habitat for wildlife.