

WHAT IS A HIBERNACULUM?

It's an underground home that amphibians and reptiles use throughout winter to protect themselves from the cold.

There are lots of frogs, toads and newts in or near our ponds. They love the boggy ground and sunny spots. By creating a hibernaculum we have provided a safe space for them to hibernate over winter.



It was inspired and built by Oscar McCarthy, in May 2022. He has been working here helping with land management since 2021.

OUR HIBERNACULUM



HOW WE CREATED THE HIBERNACULUM

We lifted an area of turf about 1 by 2 metres and dug out the soil at a depth of 50cm

We then filled the hole with rocks & logs to create crawl spaces

We used old tiles to create entrance tunnels into the centre

We covered this with loose soil and the original turf was laid on top

We made sure the entrance tunnels were accessible



As the logs decompose they release heat warming the hibernaculum and making it an ideal hibernation habitat for amphibians & reptiles

