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## POLLINATORS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

# Bug hotels and nest boxes for solitary bees



Install artificial bee nesting boxes and habitats for wildlife to shelter (bug hotels) in suitable locations around the site. These can be bought or home-made using natural materials. Making sure they are secure and well positioned is vital.

<b>Suitability</b>	Low, medium and high density housing.
<b>Management type</b>	Wildlife 'housing'.
<b>Supplier information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. If purchasing a bug hotel/bee nests, make sure to choose a responsible design. Badly designed artificial nesting sites could negatively impact solitary bee numbers due to parasitism.</li> <li>Easy to make these by drilling into logs etc. Instructions on how to make a bee hotel:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RSPB: <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/buildabeebandb">http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/buildabeebandb</a>.</li> <li>Wildlife Trust: <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bee-hotel">http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bee-hotel</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement?</b>	Yes - scope for involving residents in building bug hotels and nest boxes, as well as helping to install such features in suitable locations around the site.
<b>Benefits</b>	Increases nesting sites, refuges from predators and overwintering sites for a wide range of invertebrates.
<b>Costs/Disbenefit</b>	Financial cost: Low
<b>Level of ongoing maintenance</b>	Medium.



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		Notes
<b>How achieved</b>	<p>Purchase and/or build your own bee nesting boxes and bug hotels. Install nest or habitat homes in suitable locations around the site. Make sure they are secure and well positioned (for example avoid south facing where they receive too much direct sunlight).</p> <p>Avoid where possible using single large hotels. Instead use lots of smaller ones spaced around the site.</p>	
<b>Timing of activity</b>	<p>Any time.</p>	
<b>Long-term management</b>	<p>To avoid unnaturally high aggregations of nesting bees we recommend using lots of smaller nest boxes spaced around the site. Nesting boxes, especially larger ones, should include a range of materials with different sized entrance holes to provide suitable nesting sites for a wide range of different sized solitary bee and wasp species.</p> <p>Inspect bee hotels and remove old debris from previously used and unoccupied structures such as hollow tubes (reeds, bamboo etc).</p> <p>Change the nesting blocks or parts every two years. This will help reduce the build up of diseases and parasites. Be careful not to disturb any occupied tubes.</p>	
<b>Monitoring success</b>	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>Watching bug and bee houses for activity.</p> <p>Submit records with photos to an online recording platform e.g. iNaturalist <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org">https://www.inaturalist.org</a>.</p>	