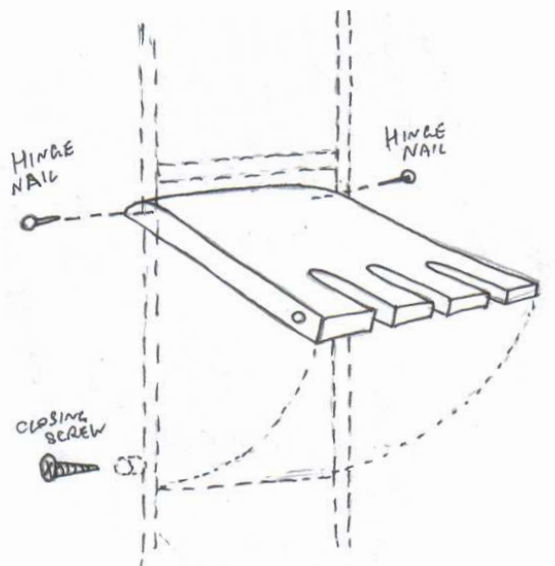
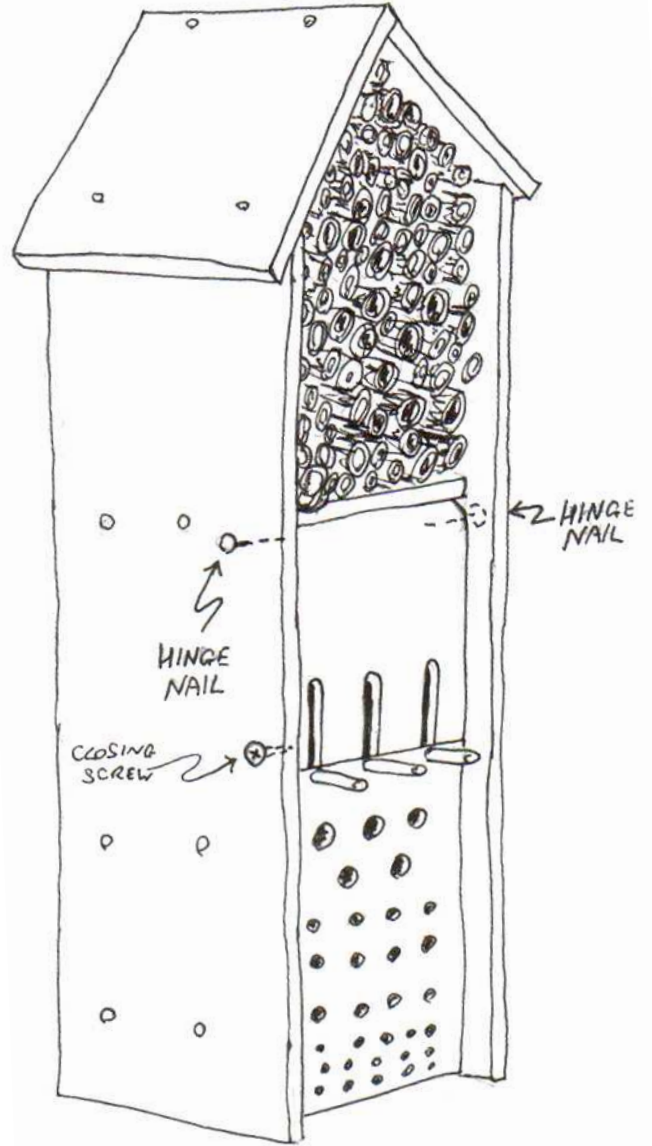
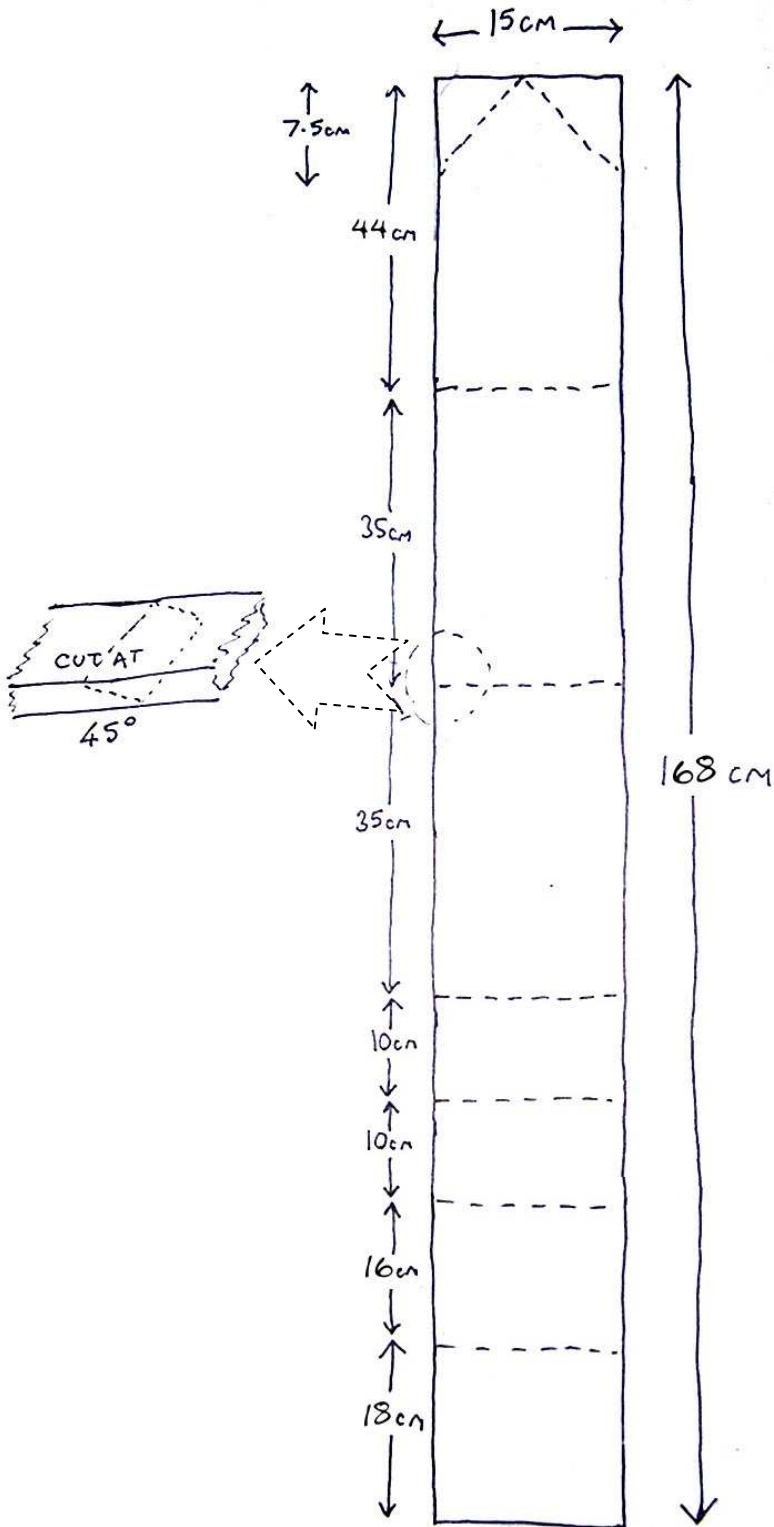
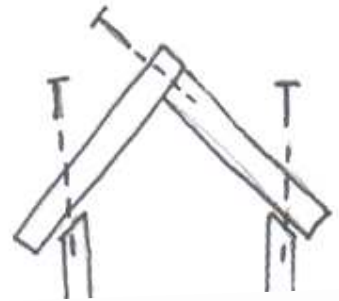


GREENWAYS INSECT TOWER



GREENWAYS
countryside project



This box is designed to provide shelter over the winter for a range of insects. Particularly, solitary bees, butterflies, ladybirds and lacewings should find suitable crevices in which to hibernate: an army of beneficial insects - pollinators and aphid predators - ready to emerge in spring.

Materials

- Timber – untreated 168cm x 15cm x 20mm. Oak or Larch are ideal for this, and will last well.
- Timber – untreated 15cm x 15cm x 10cm (3 x 15cm offcuts of 10cm x 5cm timber nailed together would be quite suitable).
- Dowling rod (or twigs) – 6mm dia. 15cm
- Approx 30 x 50mm nails
- 1 x 40mm rustproof screw
- Thick, hollow plant stems, dead and dry (approx 6 large cow parsley plants or similar would do, but these should not be taken from areas where they would otherwise provide overwintering shelter for insects anyway, grow a few of your own, or take stems that have already been cut down).

Method

Note: since many of the nails are to be put into the thin edges of the timber, you may find it easier to drill guide holes for them, before nailing.

1. Drill a number of holes in one 15cm wide face of the 15cm x 15cm x 10cm block of timber: they should be of various diameters from 8mm to 2mm. They can be in any pattern, but drill three 15mm deep holes of the same (or fractionally smaller) diameter as the dowling rod or twigs evenly along the top edge. Make all the other holes as deep as possible.
2. Mark out the long piece of timber according to the plan, and cut it into sections. Note that the cut between the two 35cm sections is at 45 degrees through the timber.
3. Nail the rear section to the block as shown – with the holes visible at the front.. Nail the two side pieces to the block and rear section.
4. Leaving a **10cm gap above the block** for the butterfly door, nail a 10cm long section horizontally between the rear and sides.
5. Nail the 16cm section to the back and rear section to form half of the roof. Nail the 18cm section in place to complete the roof.
6. Drill three 6mm dia. holes 35mm from the bottom edge of the remaining 10cm section – the butterfly door – spaced to match the holes made for the dowling rods earlier. Saw from the bottom edge of the door to meet the edges of the holes, and create butterfly slots as shown.
7. Round off the front top edge of the door, above the slots, with a surform, rasp, plane or chisel, and nail the door between the sides of the box, near this edge, as shown, forming a hinge. To allow the door to open easily, it may be necessary to remove a little material from one side of the door before nailing it in place.
8. Drill a guide hole and place the screw through one side of the box, near the base of the door, so that it screws into the side of the door and keeps the door closed.
9. Cut the dowling rod or twigs into three 5cm sections and push into the holes just below the slots in the door.
10. Cut the hollow stems into approx 12cm sections and pack tightly into the upper section of the box.
11. The box should be placed in a sheltered position, where it will not experience extremes of temperature throughout the winter. A North facing position would be best.