PROPOSED AMPHIBIAN HIBERNACULA

BOX & BREW, BRIDGE ROAD, WREXHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

PLANNING APPLICATION P/2025/0608

Key objectives:

- stable temperatures below frost depth
- permanent moisture without flooding
- multiple void spaces for overwintering
- protected entrances that resist predators and runoff

The proposal includes:

- a rubble core using mixed angular stone
- embedded logs and coarse woody debris
- perforated and flexible ribbed pipes at entrance for grip
- angled entrances set below frost level
- topsoil and native planting for insulation

Proposed dimensions

- Length: 3m
- Width: 2m
- Depth: minimum 600-800mm below frost level
- Pipe diameter: 150–200 mm

Construction sequence

1. Excavate below frost depth.
2. Place coarse stone drainage layer.
3. Install angled pipe entrances (20–30° downward).
4. Fill with large rubble and void-forming stone.
5. Add logs/branches through the matrix.
6. Cap with smaller stone and subsoil.
7. Finish with topsoil and native vegetation.

Good practice notes followed in proposed scheme

- Use angular stone rather than rounded gravel to maintain voids.
- Avoid connecting directly to standing water.
- Face entrances away from prevailing winter winds at rear of building.
- Include at least two entrances for airflow and escape routes.
- Maintains partial shade and surrounding rough grassland if possible.
- Away from disturbance and public areas

Suitable for:

- frogs
- toads
- newts

SEE ATTACHED ILLUSTRATIVE DIAGRAM