

Thinking of joining the Barn Owl Group?

Here is an overview of what we do

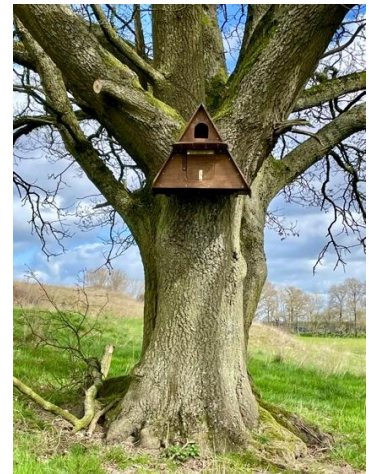
We install, maintain and monitor large boxes for breeding Barn Owls. Our activities are outdoors and very hands on.

Barn Owls are a protected species so all our work is carried out under a BTO licence. Due to this requirement new volunteers will be expected to work towards inclusion on that licence. This means undertaking at least 2 seasons of monitoring visits under supervision and attending a training evening. We can only take out a limited number of new volunteers each season, so in some areas you may have to go onto a waiting list.

Our work requires being able to carry ladders across uneven ground or through knee high vegetation as some boxes are a considerable distance from the nearest vehicle access point. Our boxes are usually sited in trees and our teams need to raise and position ladders as well as climb them to inspect boxes.

To keep our boxes in a suitable condition they need to be cleaned out each year: - removing addled eggs, any dead and decomposing birds, Squirrel Dreys, and Jackdaw nests as well as any build-up of compacted Owl detritus. Many of these items are smelly and can contain insect life!

Our work often brings us into contact with livestock and we regularly encounter Cattle, Sheep and Horses.



We usually work on weekdays as that tends to suit our Landowners. *Some* employers do offer paid volunteer days so you may not have to use up leave to join us.

If you think this is something you are interested in doing, we'd love to hear from you and please do ask for a volunteer form.

If you feel it's not for you and have not already done so, you could also help barn owls by joining the West Berkshire Countryside Society as they provide our insurance cover and a budget for materials and training.