

Are you thinking about buying a Barn Owl Box?

Unlike boxes for Robins or Blue Tits, most urban and suburban gardens are not suitable for Barn Owl Boxes.

Barn Owl boxes are large and heavy so a substantial tree or other structure capable of taking the weight is required to mount them on.

Boxes also need to be positioned where the birds have ready access to a reasonably large area of rough tussocky grassland which supports a breeding population of short-tailed voles. This requires boxes to be sited within or overlooking open fields, preferably rough grassland, or fields with wide rough margins, in order for it to support breeding Barn Owls. Ideally the land also needs to be clear of overhead cables and away from busy roads.



Barn Owls are a protected species and boxes can only be monitored by someone who holds the correct licence to do so.

Our boxes are hand built to a high standard by our volunteer carpenters from Marine Grade plywood and cost £140. We take a small profit on each box which is ploughed back into materials for new boxes. Most boxes will last for around 10 years.

If you do think your land might be suitable for a Barn Owl Box, please email your full address and postcode along with a digital map showing your boundaries to...

enquiries@westberkscountryside.org.uk

We will do a desktop suitability assessment. If we think your land might be suitable, we will arrange a site visit at a mutually convenient time before we make a final decision. This means we don't waste our resources and importantly you don't waste your money.

If we are able to install a box it will be allocated to one of our teams of volunteers to monitor and maintain. We try and have a member of the team assist with the installation to give you a chance to meet however this isn't always possible. Please be aware we are a small team and you may be placed on a waiting list if demand for boxes is high.

If you already have a box and would like it monitored, please follow the procedure for a new box and include a photo of the box in situ. We will use the same assessment criteria to decide if we can take it on.

If your land isn't suitable but you would still like to support Barn Owls, you can help by joining West Berkshire Countryside Society who provide the Barn Owl Group with insurance cover and a budget for materials and training.