Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats and Investigative Field Survey (Stage 2) for Barn Owl

Meltham Grange Farm,
Deer Hill End Road,
Meltham,
HD9 5PT

April 2025

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A report for

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A report by

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Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

25 YEARS

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

PENNINE Ecological were commissioned by Mr. Philip Whiteman to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats and an Investigative Field Survey (Stage 2) for barn owl of two agricultural buildings within Meltham Grange Farm, Deer Hill End Road, Meltham HD9 5PT (refer to Figure 1.1 for the building's location).

At the time of writing exact proposals for the buildings aren't known, however, the PRA and barn owl survey are required to support a planning application that will likely see both buildings being demolished and the site redeveloped with residential properties.

Figure 1.1 – Two agricultural buildings inspected as part of the survey.

1.2 Report Structure

The study includes the following elements:

- A desk-based search of freely available online ecological information (e.g., Defra's MAGIC mapping tool, Google Earth, Ordnance Survey mapping etc.).
- A Preliminary Roost Assessment survey and evaluation of the building to support roosting bats.
- An Investigative Field Survey (Stage 2) for barn owl.
- A full evaluation of the ecological significance of the desk based and PRA results
- Conclusions and recommendations for further survey or study if required and/or precautions when and where appropriate.

1.3 Site Location

The site is on Deer Hill End Road, approx. 1.8km to the north west of Meltham and 2.6km south of Slaithwaite. Deer Hill Reservoir is 1km west of the site with Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1.5km to the north east.

The surrounding landscape is dominated by a network of pastoral grassland presumed to be used for grazing livestock. To the west of the site, approx. 750m, is upland moorland habitat named on OS maps as Deer Hill Brow/Brown Grain Hill/Shooters Nab.

The central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference[1] for the two buildings is SE 08247 11506.

[1] Ordnance Survey National Grid reference used throughout the report.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BATS AND BARN OWL

2.1 Background Information on Bats

a) Summary of Legislation and Planning Policy

In England, the main pieces of legislation pertaining to the protection of bats are The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015.

For further information and direction to further legislation relevant to bats please refer to Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edn) Bat Conservation Trust and the *UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines* (Reason and Wray, 2023).

When dealing with cases where a European Protected Species (EPS) (all UK bats) may be affected, a planning authority is a competent authority within the meaning of the Regulation 15 of the Regulations, that has a statutory duty as the local authority to have due regard to the provisions of the Regulations in the exercise of its functions.

Paragraph 186 of the National Policy Planning Framework (as revised in December 2023) (NPPF, 2023) states:

186. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and,
d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

b) Use of Buildings, Structures and/or Trees by Bats

Roost selection is often closely correlated to suitable foraging habitat within a reasonable commuting distance from the roost and different sites are used depending upon insect densities and abundance (all British bats are insectivorous). Climatic conditions can also affect their ability to successfully forage.

Definitions of the bat roosts most likely to be encountered during the PRA of buildings, structures and/or trees are summarised below (for further details refer to Collins (2023[2])).

a) Day roost; a place where individual bats, or a small groups, rest or shelter during the summer.
b) Night roost; a place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are not found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.
c) Feeding roost; a place where individual bats, or a few individuals, rest or feed for short periods during the night but are not present during the day.
d) Transitional roost; a place used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.
e) Maternity roost; a place where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence. In some species males my also be present in the maternity roost.
f) Hibernation roost; a place where bats maybe found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity.
g) Satellite roost; An alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individuals to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

The bats of West Yorkshire, as across much of the UK use built structures e.g., residential properties, bridges and culverts etc. as well as features in trees e.g., knot holes, woodpecker holes, peeling bark and torn limbs to roost in and also forage amongst.

The most frequently encountered species are the common and soprano pipistrelle bats; their abundant status in this region is reflected throughout the UK.

2.2 Background Information on Barn Owl

The following text is taken from Barn Owl Tyto alba Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment Developing Best Practice in Survey and Reporting (Shawyer, 2011).

The barn owl is a relatively scarce breeding species for which there is conservation concern in the UK, the population having declined by about 70% between 1932 and 1985, from an estimated 12,000 to 3,800 breeding pairs in England and Wales, 600 in Scotland and 40 in the Channel Isles (Shawyer 1987). The most recent survey of the UK, which was completed

[2] Collins, J. (ed.) 2023. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition) The Bat Conservation Trust, London

in 1997, recorded a similar breeding population of about 4,000 pairs (Toms et al. 2001). Similar levels of decline have occurred across Europe and elsewhere in the world (Colvin 1985, BirdLife International 2004).

The barn owl qualified under international criteria as a Species of European Conservation Concern, SPEC Category 3 (Tucker and Heath 1994, Hagemeijer et al. 1997) because of its 'moderate decline' in Europe. Since 2002, it has been included on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK (BoCC) because of its 'declining breeding range of between 25 and 49%' and it's listing as a species with 'unfavourable conservation status in Europe' (Eaton et al. 2009a).

A UK Species Action Plan (SAP) for the barn owl was first developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the RSPB (Williams and Galbraith 1992). Most of the detail of this action plan is included within the Barn Owl SAPs that have since been produced by Governmental and other national bodies, such as the Highways Agency, Crown Estates and Association of Drainage Authorities (Wynne et al. 1995, Highways Agency 2002, Shawyer 2009). In addition a large number of local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), including those of water companies, such as Anglian Water, internal drainage boards and numerous counties such as, Warwickshire, Sussex, Devon and Norfolk (Shawyer 2011), have been produced to include the barn owl under Agenda 21 of the International Convention on Biodiversity.

The conservation importance of the barn owl can also be judged by its inclusion on the UK Government Farmland Bird Index of Sustainable Development, its Public Service Agreement target to reverse the decline in the index by 2020 and its appearance in the annual publication The State of the UK's Birds (Eaton et al. 2009b).

By 2009, the barn owl population in the UK, with the exception of Northern Ireland, is believed to have increased to over 6,000 pairs, most of the major increases having occurred in those areas where concerted efforts have been made to conserve this bird (Shawyer 2009). A demonstrable increase in population since 1997 is also consistent with the preliminary findings of the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (Dadam et al. 2011).

Aside from concern about its conservation status, the barn owl is specially protected on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from intentional or reckless actions that may cause disturbance in the breeding season. As such the barn owl is one of a number of protected species in the UK and the Republic of Ireland whose presence must be given high nature conservation priority and special legal protection when a potential development is being considered.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodologies relating to desk-based searches, PRA for bats and Investigative Field Survey (Stage 2) for barn owl undertaken in April 2025 are outlined below.

3.1 Desk-Based Study

3.1.1 Local Records Centre Ecological Data

A request for ecological data to the local records centre was not undertaken for this study due to the relatively small-scale of the proposals.

Should the data be requested by the Local Planning Authority, then a retrospective request can be made and the data be included within this report and any necessary ecological evaluations be made.

3.1.2 MAGIC Database

Using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) web site (https://magic.defra.gov.uk/) searches for statutory designated sites within 2km and European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSML) within 1km were undertaken.

Only those statutory protected sites where bats are included as a Reason for Designation, a notable feature or are of particular interest to the site will be included within this report. It is accepted that most statutory sites will comprise habitats that are likely to be support bat roosts, foraging and or commuting habitats etc. however, unless the proposals are such that the statutory is to be detrimentally or adversely impacted on by the proposals (of which an assessment will therefore be undertaken) then further consideration is not deemed necessary within this report.

3.2 Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) Methodology

A daytime Preliminary Roost Assessment survey was conducted on 22nd April 2025. Weather conditions were as follows; 9°C, clear skies, calm with no precipitation.

As per the 4th Edition of the 2023 *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2023) the PRA involved a detailed internal and external inspection of the structure to compile information on potential and actual bat entry/exit points; potential and actual bat roosting locations i.e., Potential Roost Features (PRFs), any evidence of bats found and the number of ecologists that will be required for any subsequent surveys should they be required.

A PRA is designed to answer specific questions as listed below (taken from Collins, 2023). It should be noted that often all of the questions below cannot be fully answered but by attempting to do so it will improve the assessment of the structure's (or tree's) suitability to support a roost.

- Are actual or potential bat roosts present (and if so, where)?
- Which bat species use the site for roosting?
- How many bats do these roosts support?
- Where are the bat roost access points?
- Where are the bat roosts and how do the bats get to them from the access points (although this is not always possible to establish if the roosts are inaccessible for humans)?
- What is the current arrangement of vegetation and lighting in relation access points?
- At what times of the year are bats present? How does use change seasonally?

Evidence searched for during both the internal and external inspection included the following:

- Evidence of live or dead bats.
- Bat droppings.
- Urine splashes.
- Fur-oil staining.
- Squeaking noises (from live bats).

It should be noted that evidence of bats externally is often not detected, particularly bat droppings which are washed or blown away as a result of rain and/or wind. Depending on the building's use, evidence of bats internally may also be absent due to the bats using cracks and crevices not accessible by the ecologist and/or presence of livestock, general upkeep leading to floors being swept regularly and in doing so removing any evidence, etc.

All elevations were visually accessible and was undertaken with the use of 10x42 magnification binoculars, a Clulite CB2 model 1 million candle power torch, Ridgid CA-350 endoscope and ladders where necessary.

3.3 Habitat Assessment for Bats

Bats will forage in a numerous habitats including waterways, woodlands (coniferous and deciduous), along hedgerows, grasslands, pastoral and arable farmland, as well as urban environments and moorlands. A wide variety of habitats is also likely to support an abundance of prey items throughout the year (Collins, 2023).

There are a few key characteristics that make good bat foraging habitats (JNCC, 2001):

- Suitable habitat structure; This varies for different bat species and needs to match the particular flight capabilities and echolocation calls they use;
- High densities of insects; Different groups of insects are important to different types of bats; and
- Habitat corridor; These provide both foraging areas and routes that allow bats to move freely between their roosts and feeding areas.

Given the importance attributed to the types of habitats used by bats, during the survey the surrounding habitat was also evaluated as roost selection is often closely correlated with the surrounding landscape.

3.4 Habitat Assessment for Barn Owl

The following text is taken from Barn Owl Tyto alba Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment Developing Best Practice in Survey and Reporting (Shawyer, 2011).

Barn owls can utilise a variety of different habitat types but the majority of prime foraging habitat in mainland Britain, is provided by fields of rough grassland and young plantations, and in particular by rough grassland corridors along watercourses, roadsides, arable field margins, woodland edge and occasionally along wide woodland rides (Shawyer, 2011).

In Britain, a pair of owls will typically occupy a home range of 3-7 km^2 during the breeding season. Within this they normally require 30-50 ha of rough-grassland when comprised largely of whole fields (Shawyer 1996, Askew 2006). For barn owls which occupy arable areas where grass fields are largely absent, 15-25 18 km of rough-grassland margin (i.e. 7.5-12.5 km of twin margin when associated with watercourses and hedgerow) a minimum of 3 m wide (4.5-7.5 ha) is normally required within the home range, for successful breeding to occur (Shawyer 1987).

During the Stage 2 Investigative Survey, grassland habitats should be systematically identified within the study area in terms of their suitability as a feeding resource. These can be largely defined by their structural composition (Shawyer and Dixon 1999).

3.5 Investigative Field Survey (Stage 2) for Barn Owl

The purpose of the Stage 2 Survey is to carefully inspect and identify those built structures, mature trees or rock fissures, originally recorded in the Stage 1 Scoping Survey (desk study exercise) to determine if they offer a Potential Nest Site (PNS), an Active Roost Site (ARS) or a Temporary Rest Site (TRS) for barn owls.

Habitats in the survey area, which on the basis of their appearance and structure offer Potential Foraging or Commuting Habitat (PFH), must also be identified at this stage and along with PNS, ARS or TRS.

Potential Nest Sites typically include:

- agricultural or old industrial buildings with suitable access and possessing an upper floor, loft, roof void, blocked chimney, wide wall plate, bale-stack, empty water tank, ducting or large nestbox;
- disused or derelict cottages or industrial buildings such as aircraft hangers, which possess an open joist, broken ceiling panel, water tank, disused chimney or large nestbox;
- mature trees, isolated or in clusters in open fields, hedgerow or on the woodland edge, containing a hole >80 mm backed by a large, dark cavity, including those which have rotted-out to ground level but which offer no obvious access to ground predators through an open root structure;
- outdoor nestboxes on poles, trees, buildings or owl towers, which offer a dark chamber;
- outdoor bale-ricks;
- cliffs and quarries with caves or fissures;
- waterway, rail or road bridges containing suitable cavities within their structure; and
- churches, mainly rural, and the chimneys of intermittently-used holiday homes.

An ARS is defined as a place at which breeding does not occur, but where the bird is seen or heard regularly or its current or recent presence (last 12 months) can be recognised by signs of thick, chalky - white, streaky droppings (commonly referred to as ‘splashing’, ‘whitewash’, ‘mutes’ or ‘liming’) which is usually accompanied by regurgitated pellets and moulted feathers. Pellets and feathers are diagnostic and provide evidence that the roost site is that of a barn owl rather than another bird of prey such as a kestrel, little owl or tawny owl which also excrete, projectile chalky-white droppings but whose feathers and pellets differ in appearance.

Temporary Rest Site (TRS) comprise small spots of thick, chalky cream-coloured droppings that can often be seen underneath a tree, in a building or on a fence post and which are sometimes accompanied by an occasional pellet or body feather, can indicate a temporary night-time stopping-off place of a barn owl. Although this level of observation is not an essential requirement of a barn owl survey, when these signs are identified they are best described and recorded as a Temporary Rest Site (TRS) rather than an ARS.

3.6 Surveyor Credentials

The PRA survey was undertaken by Stuart Macpherson, who is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and has over 14 years’ experience in land management, ecological survey and evaluation. Key skills include the following:

- Completing Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey / UKHabs Survey on both small planning applications and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- Licensed bat surveyor (2021-10079-CL18-BAT) and Named Ecologist on bat mitigation licences. Formerly an accredited agent from 2016 and an active bat carer.
- Licensed barn owl surveyor (CL29/0477) and active/committee member of Cheshire Barn Owl Group.
- Licensed great crested newt surveyor (2015-16213-CLS-CLS).
- NPTC qualified tree climber (Units 206 and 306 Tree climbing and Aerial Rescue).
- Proficient field botanist.
- Breeding and wintering bird surveyor on a range of habitats including coastal, farmland and moorland habitats.
- Mammal surveys including badger including being an accredited agent on mitigation licences.
- Riparian corridor and mammal surveys for numerous flood alleviation schemes across north west England.
- Ecological Evaluation and Impact Assessments in association with large scale infrastructure projects.

3.7 Survey Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the inspection of the buildings.

4. RESULTS

The results of the desk-based searches and PRA survey are outlined below.

4.1 Desk-Based Searches

4.1.1 Local Records Centre Ecological Data

A request for ecological data to the local records centre was not made as previously stated within this report.

4.1.2 MAGIC Database

(a) Statutory Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the property whereby bats are a Reason for Designation or a species of note/interest within the site's citation.

(b) Granted European Protected Species Licence Applications

There are no granted EPSML for bats within 1km of the site.

4.2 Building Inspection Results

The two agricultural buildings are of negligible suitability to support a bat roost(s) and is a Temporary Rest Site (pers.comm Maxine Parker of Maxine Parker Planning) for barn owl.

No evidence of bats was recorded but barn owl pellets, splashing and a single feather was recorded. More detail is provided below.

The two buildings measured approximately 19m by 19m (Building 1) and 15m by 15m (Building 2) respectively. Generally, both buildings were in a poor state of repair. It was suspected they were formerly used to house livestock, however they were disused at the time of survey with no recent evidence, circa 5 years, of either being used. Building 1 was empty and Building 2 was used to store old furniture and general farm materials e.g., plastic piping, wood, gates etc.

The lower half of the buildings were constructed of breezeblock with the upper half constructed of corrugated metal sheets. The roofs were single sheets of what was suspected to be asbestos with UPVC skylights throughout. The buildings frame was constructed predominantly of steel girders with wooden beams supporting the asbestos roof.

The main access points for the barns are on the buildings' north eastern aspect however, there was an access point on Building's 1 south western aspect. Building 2's south western aspect was devoid of the corrugated metal sheeting, suspected to be caused by lack of maintenance and/or storm damage.

No evidence of bats were recorded and there were no Potential Roost Features where bats could roost within the building. The single skin corrugated metal sheets and asbestos roof were not conducive to support features that would be favourable to a bat roost(s).

Evidence of barn owl was recorded in the form of splashing, pellets and a single feather in the south eastern corner of Building 1. The splashing, pellets and feather was recorded beneath girders and the top of the breeze block which is a typical resting site for barn owl. Splashing was recorded throughout both buildings however, it is likely some originated from numerous bird species including stock dove which were seen flying in the area of the barns, kestrels, potentially little or tawny owl and hirundine species. The pellets were of a size that were consistent with barn owl but did appear to be much older than a year. Shawyer (2011) states that an Active Roost Site *is where the bird is seen or heard regularly or its current or recent presence (last 12 months).* Email communications between PENNINE ecological and Maxine Parker Planning confirmed that barn owl use the barn *periodically* (pers. comm with Maxine Parker). As such the building is categorised as a Temporary Rest Site for barn owl.

4.3 Habitat Assessment for Bats

The surrounding open grassland habitats are generally unfavourable to foraging/commuting bats. There is very little shelter in the form of tree lines, hedgerows and/or woodland within the area that would support invertebrates that bats would prey upon. The watercourses and reservoirs in relatively close proximity to the buildings will likely support bats, however, the site is located at an altitude of 270m and will experience inclement weather regularly thus is sub-optimal for foraging/commuting bats.

4.4 Habitat Assessment for Barn Owl

In contrast to bats, the open grassland surrounding the site is optimal barn owl habitat. Although historic data, the 1982-1985 Barn Owl Survey found that only 8% of the UK population bred above 150 m above sea level. However, with the onset of milder winters it is very likely this percentage has increased and personal experience of PENNINE ecological know that barn owl are regularly seen and breed above 150m. The grassland habitat is largely uninterrupted on all aspects so there isn't a lack of foraging grounds for barn owl. It is likely given the relatively large number of farms distributed throughout the area that one or two pairs breed within the locality of the two buildings inspected.

5. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Where relevant, this section evaluates the site in relation to statutory sites, and protected habitats/species listed in national and local legislation and policy.

5.1 MAGIC Database

The results taken from the MAGIC database are detailed below.

5.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

(i) Evaluation

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the site where bats are included as a Reason for Designation or a notable species.

(ii) Recommendations

No further recommendations.

5.1.2 Granted European Protected Species Licence Applications

(i) Evaluation

There are no granted EPSL applications within 1km of the site.

(ii) Recommendations

No further recommendations.

5.2 Bats

(i) Evaluation

In England, the main pieces of legislation pertaining to the protection of bats in the UK are The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015. For further information and direction to further legislation relevant to bats please refer to Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn) Bat Conservation Trust.

The building was deemed to be of negligible suitability to support roosting bats.

(ii) Recommendations

There is no requirement for any further surveys or assessments regarding bats. However, there are some recommendations that could provide an uplift for bats in relation to their habitat.

With regards bats the following recommendations are generic and can be finalised once the final plans for the site have been decided on.

External lighting

In all cases illumination of adjacent habitats should be avoided. Where lighting is required, this must be low level, low intensity and directed downwards. The following principles will apply;

- Where and if lighting is required, this will be directed internally within the site avoiding spillage.
- The use of low powered sodium lights or similar will be used and these will be fitted with cowls / covers that prevent lateral light spillage.
- Wherever possible and only if required low level (1-1.5m high) bollard lighting will be used.
- If required lights will be fitted with timer controls that minimise the duration of lighting.

Lighting requirements will follow guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust; links are provided below.

- Bat Conservation Trust's Acritical Lighting Guidance. Webpage link https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting
- Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Webpage link https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2023/08/bats-and-artificial-lighting-at-night-ilp-guidance-note-update-released

Integrated bat box

The Habibat Bat Box (Figure 5.1) is a solid box made of insulating concrete with internal roosting space. The box blends seamlessly into brick-built properties and may be incorporated into the fabric of buildings, being best placed on gable elevations.

Figure 5.1 – Habibat bat box

Ridge access

Where appropriate, ridge tile access should be made with the incorporation of traditional Bitumen 1F underfelt immediately beneath ridge tiles (Figures 5.2 and 5.3). Breathable BRM membrane can cause significant problems where bats are in contact with it, whereby their fine claws become entangled within the fibres of the membrane, entrapping, and killing bats.

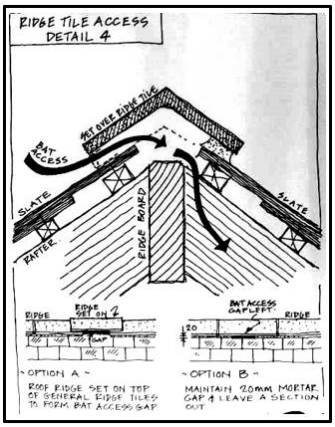

Figure 5.2 – Ridge access

Figure 5.3 – Breathable membrane

Soffit access

Where soffits are instated at gable elevations, roost provision may be instated in the form of a soffit bat box with internal roosting space.

Externally fitted boxes

A large number of externally fitted box models for bats exist for buildings. Suitable models for both buildings and trees may include the Eco Kent Bat Box (Figure 5.4) or a soffit bat box (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.4 – Eco Kent Bat Box

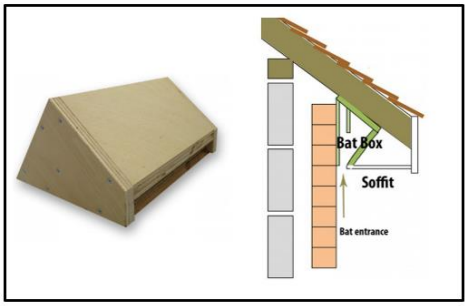

Figure 5.5 – Soffit bat box

5.3 Barn Owl

(i) Evaluation

The barn owl is specially protected on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from intentional or reckless actions that may cause disturbance in the breeding season. As such the barn owl is one of a number of protected species in the UK and the Republic of Ireland whose presence must be given high nature conservation priority and special legal protection when a potential development is being considered.

Building 1 was deemed to be a Temporary Rest Site for barn owl. As stated above, barn owl are only protected when they are breeding and there was no suitable features within either barn that would be used by breeding barn owl. It is likely barn owl only use the buildings for short periods of time throughout an evening when they are foraging/resting within the locality of the farm.

(ii) Recommendations

No further recommendations.

REFERENCES

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Google Earth. Accessed various dates. Latest access April 2025.

Appendix A: Site Photographs 22nd of April 2025

Photograph 1: Overview of the buildings northeastern aspect.

Photograph 2: Building 1.

Photograph 3: Building 1.

Photograph 4: Building 1.

Photograph 5: Building 1.

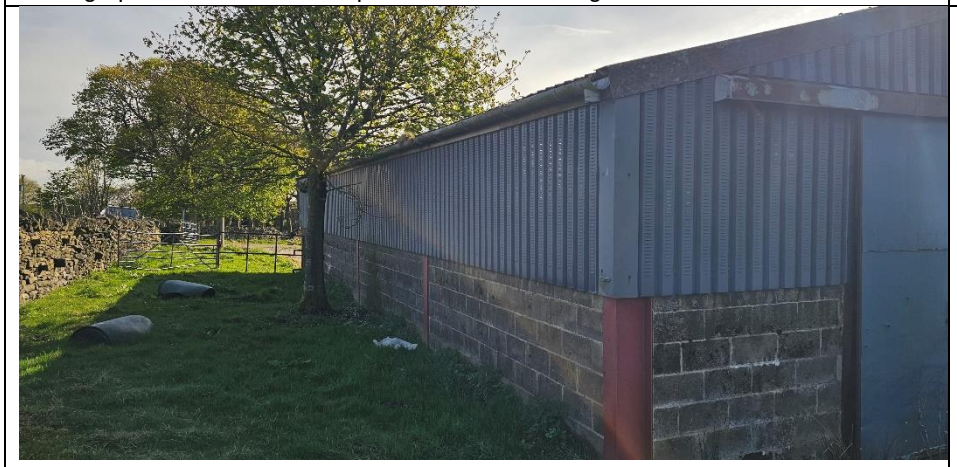
Photograph 6: Barn owl pellet and feather in Building 1.

Photograph 7: Area of barn owl pellets in Building 1.

Photograph 8: Likely rest site for barn owl in Building 1.

Photograph 9: Southwestern aspect of the two buildings.

Photograph 10: Area of grassland between the two barns.



Photograph 11: Northern aspect of Building 1.

Photograph 12: General landscape photograph to the south of the buildings.

Photograph 13: General landscape photograph to the west of the buildings.

Photograph 14: General landscape photograph to the north of the buildings.