

NPI Name: Barn owl box

NPI Code: BOB

NPI Payment: Year 1: £15.00 per box

NPI Aim(s): To facilitate remedial management of EFS(H) sites and provide breeding opportunities for the declining barn owl population.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Barn owl boxes' are eligible where they will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and are included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Barn owl boxes' will provide nesting sites for the barn owl population and facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.

Area Permitted: Minimum 1 Maximum Not Applicable*

* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BOB1C	All 'Barn owl boxes' must be erected by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
BOB2C	New materials must be used for 'Barn owl boxes'.	✓		✓
BOB3C	The claimed number of 'Barn owl boxes' must be erected in the location where they have been approved.	✓		✓
BOB4C	The claimed number of 'Barn owl boxes' must be erected to the Specification outlined below.			✓
BOB5C	Field records must be kept detailing number, location and date erected for each 'Barn owl box'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

The 'Barn owl box' must:

- be constructed according to the dimensions in the diagram below;
- have an entrance hole at least 130 mm square;
- the bottom of the entrance hole must be at least 460 mm above the floor;
- have a lipped tray (approx 500 x 250 mm) at the front of the 'Barn owl box' to let young owls walk out of the box and exercise their wings;
- have permanent access, if the 'Barn owl box' is placed in a building;
- have a removal lid for ease of cleaning out after nesting must be present; and
- be erected and maintained as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.

Further Advice:

The 'Barn owl box' should measure at least 400 mm x 500 mm x 600 mm.

Do not attach 'Barn owl boxes' to electricity poles.

The floor should be lined with two - three centimetres of woodchip or similar material.

The 'Barn owl box' should be securely fixed at a height between 2.40 - 4.50 metres above the ground.

'Barn owl boxes' should be regularly maintained.

Diagram of a Barn owl box – Barn Owl Trust Design

Lift-off lid fitted loosely with
battens on underside.

