



## Wirral Barn Owl Trust

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### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

#### **Wirral Barn Owl Trust - Barn Owl Nest Box Camera Project.**

##### **Background to Wirral Barn Owl Trust**

The aim of the trust is to increase and protect the wild barn owl population across the Wirral & Cheshire West by providing suitable nesting and roosting sites. The project aims to improve monitoring by fitting cameras to 24 new boxes constructed by volunteers.

Wirral Barn Owl Trust was established in 1999 with advice from Cheshire Wildlife after the RSPB reported the drastic decline in the wild barn owl population across the Wirral with only 2 known breeding pairs. Over the last 11 years we have constructed and fitted over 200 barn owl boxes and have on average nearly 30 pairs each year in our boxes.

##### **Details of the Barn Owl Nest Box Camera Project.**

Over the last 3 years Wirral Barn Owl Trust volunteers have developed the skills to fit monitoring cameras into new and existing boxes. Using mainly donations and subscriptions from members we have already fitted 76 cameras in new boxes over this period. The grant of £840.00 from Naturesave will enable us to purchase a further 24 cameras plus associated materials and over the next 2 years fit them into 24 new boxes constructed by volunteers.

Monitoring boxes without cameras is very time consuming for volunteers and you can accurately monitor several boxes in an evening if cameras have been fitted. This also avoids having to make several visits to the same box over several nights to try and guess if the box is occupied. Our aim is to have cameras in all our boxes.

Members can also record activity in the box and this is used in talks to members, schools and the general public.

In 2010 we successfully carried out a project to fit 12 cameras into new barn owl boxes. The work included fitting a camera inside the apex of the roof of the box and taking a 20 metre cable to the base of the tree or pole terminating at a junction box some distance from the box.

The Trust aims to avoid any disturbance to the bird. The project enables the group to see inside the box to monitor breeding & if ringing of the birds is to take place to determine the correct time to ring the young.

We will also evidence, evaluate and record our success through the breeding and ringing data from all our boxes. This will be made available to RECORD, Wildlife Trust, Local Authorities, County Recorder and CAWOS. The data will also be sent to Natural England via licence returns and also to the BTO.

For further details of our work and this project visit our website: [www.wirralbarnowltrust.org/](http://www.wirralbarnowltrust.org/)