



Tree-mounting Barn Owl Nest Box from

Cheep Nestboxes

Guidelines



Thank you for choosing a Cheep Nestboxes Tree-mounting Barn Owl Nest Box. These guidelines will help you position your nest box in the best possible location for maximum usage potential and ensure the safety and security of any occupants.

Locating Your Box

Ideal Barn Owl habitat is one of open farmland with rough, thick, tussocky grass with a deep litter-layer, which will hold a substantial population of prey species.

An old, large, isolated (ideally deciduous) tree should be located within such habitat where the box can be sited at a height of AT LEAST 4.5 meters, with the entrance hole visible below the crown and access is not obstructed by overhanging branches.

The box should be positioned so that any passing owls can see the entrance hole, but ideally in a south-easterly direction, in order to avoid the worst of the prevailing weather.

AVOID ANY LOCATION WITHIN 1km OF MOTORWAYS, DUAL-CARRIAGEWAYS OR MAJOR TRUNK ROADS!

Erecting Your Box

The fixing batten should be attached to the trunk of the tree making sure it is level and VERY secure (150mm galvanised nails work well), and that the 'hooks' on the ends face away from the tree and will hold the box in place whilst fastening takes place (these are NOT designed to hold the box in place on a long-term basis as the only means of support, but to aid attachment).

The nest box should be lifted over the 'hooks' and the fixing batten on the box rested on the fixing batten attached to the tree. The two battens can then be secured together by screws (holes for which should have previously been drilled) or by ratchet straps (easier for future removal if required).

The nest box should be angled slightly forward to help prevent rain water splashing in through the entrance hole.

Cleaning Your Box

The internal depth of your nest box is important to stop Barn Owl nestlings falling out and dying as a result of neglect or predation. For this reason, your box should be cleaned out once 80mm of nest debris has built up on the bottom. This would normally be after two or three years of occupation by Barn Owls. If, however, Jackdaws have used the box, it should be cleaned out at the end of that breeding season.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an OFFENCE to disturb breeding Barn Owls, so the inspection hatch should ONLY be used for the purpose of cleaning and NOT for observing nests/nestlings during the breeding season!

Cleaning should take place between November and January.

Your Safety

Please work safely and if possible not alone whilst erecting your nest box, and carry out a reconnaissance visit to assess any potential hazards before undertaking the work.

When cleaning out your nest box, it is advised that gloves and a mask are worn at all times.

We hope your Cheep Nestboxes Tree-mounting Barn Owl Nest Box brings you pleasure and is used successfully for many years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any comments or questions about our product and please do let us know if it is successfully used.

Thank you again for your purchase from Cheep Nestboxes and we look forward to seeing you again.

Kindest regards,

Cheep Nestboxes

It's not just the birds that are going 'cheep'

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