



## **Support our owls with owl boxes**

*Help us acquire the materials to create five high quality barn owl boxes so that our existing nascent population of barn owls can expand*

We are thrilled to see barn owls beginning to visit the Heal Somerset site, an early indication that they are finding food here. However, they are unlikely to find places to breed on the site, as initial assessments of the habitat suggest there are a limited number of large old trees present with breeding holes. Human action on the land has removed the ancient woodland with suitable holes that would have been present and so our aim is restore this natural process through the provision of barn owl boxes.

We would like to construct and install five barn owl boxes across Heal Somerset to support on-site breeding. Rather than buy pre-made boxes, we want to build our boxes using high quality materials to a specification that has been proven to have a higher fledgling success rate than conventional boxes. They will be well insulated, waterproof and will be 1.5m deep to ensure that owlets are fully developed before they leave the nest. Plus, our staff will construct these boxes with volunteers in practical workshops, meaning this funding will provide a rewarding and valuable learning experience too.

The boxes will be monitored for signs of activity and breeding (including barn owls and any other species that may use them) and owlets may be ringed for longer-term monitoring.

### **Impact**

Building five barn owl boxes will provide a place for our visiting barn owls to nest.

### **Legacy**

Our staff and volunteers will regularly check the barn owl boxes and there will be allocated funds for maintenance costs.