

**METHOD STATEMENT
and Reasonable Avoidance Measures**

Barn Owl

**Cuckoo Hall Farm,
Higher Road,
Longridge,
PR3 2YX**

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Executive summary

This Method Statement supports plans for the demolition of buildings at Cuckoo Hall Farm as part of residential development plans. At present a barn on site is used by nesting barn owls.

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that barn owls are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'. The Overriding principles behind this method statement follow the *Three Golden Rules in Barn Owl Mitigation* (continuity, legality, and permanence);

“Maintain continuity of occupation by creating alternative provision at least 30 days before development begins.”

“Maintain the legality of the development by carrying out development works outside of the breeding season. Barn Owls are protected by law against disturbance whilst nesting.”

“Establish permanence by creating a permanent accessible nest/roost site space within (i.e. inside) the finished development.”

This Method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to barn owls. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures that follow the development can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site.

Complying with this method statement may help establish a defence against a prosecution for intentional, deliberate or reckless disturbance of nesting birds. Failure to observe the proposed avoidance measures within this document may result in breaches of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Site Location

Cuckoo Hall Farm, Higher Road, Longridge, PR3 2YX
NGR: SD4199479761



Survey summary and site assessment



The corrugated fibreboard outbuilding to the rear of the main barn has historic and current records of use by barn owls. Breeding has not been confirmed, and birds were not present during the survey visit(30th August 2023).

In order to ensure the continuing ecological functionality of the site for barn owl a method statement and compensatory owl box is considered to be an appropriate approach to development.

Method Statement

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Precautionary Measures

The following steps will ensure that nesting barn owl are not adversely affected by the proposed works:

All site personnel/contractors will receive a tool-box talk during their site induction to include details of the potential presence of barn owls and implications for work to be carried out.

1. All site personnel/contractors will receive a tool-box talk during their site induction to include details of the potential presence of barn owls and implications for work to be carried out.
2. No work should be carried out between February and September inclusive to avoid potentially disturbing nesting birds.
3. A replacement breeding barn owl box (to plan within this report) will be installed on a mature tree to the north of the existing building 30 days prior to any building work beginning. Installation of the box should be above four metres in height.
4. Pellets and nesting debris from the barn should be transferred to the replacement nesting box.
5. A visit by the ecologist immediately prior to sealing of the barn will ensure absence of barn owls prior to works commencing.
6. Gaps and openings suitable for barn owl to access the barn should be sealed with timber and secured to ensure birds cannot access the site during construction or demolition works.
7. It is proposed that monitoring to ensure continuing usage of the site by breeding barn owls should be carried out post works. The monitoring should take place for three years and inform future management measures as needed.

Emergency measures in the unlikely event of disturbance.

Stop work. Call Dave Anderson on 07894 338290 (mobile); a site visit will be arranged to assess the situation and put in place suitable measures.

Proposed replacement barn owl box.

