Approx. location of 2no. pole mounted barn owl nesting boxes. Poles to be approx. 3.000-4.000 high. See separate details regarding nesting boxes.

Post and rail fence

Vehicle turning area.

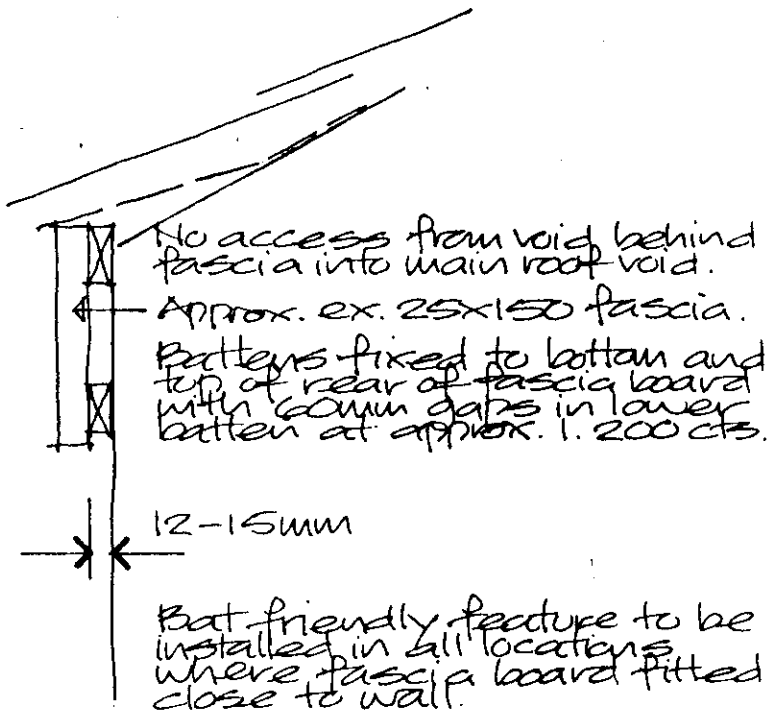
Existing hedge which is mainly elder to be retained but with some elder removed and new inter planting added to consist of mainly Hawthorn but with some other native planting such as Holly, Blackthorn, Alder etc.

Install timber post and rail fence adjacent to hedge for full length of this boundary. Fence to be approx. 1.000 high and to consist of two rails.

Extend mixed native hedge planting to infill existing gap (field access).

Private roadway

Queens bank.



DETERMINED PLAN

SHDC Planning & Development

Ref C.S.26/03

PROPOSED CONVERSION OF EXISTING FARM BUILDINGS QUEENS BANK FARM, POSTLAND.
GENERAL DETAILS RELATING TO PLANNING CONDITIONS

Alan Hornsby

Architectural Services

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Drg. no. 96/05/20 May 03

DETAILS OF POLE MOUNTED BARN OWL NESTING BOXES

Details taken from BTO Guide 23
(Nestboxes) as published by the
British Trust for Ornithology

SHDC
Planning & Development
- 7 MAY 2003
Ref

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Hole Entrance — At least 450mm wide, 450mm high and 750mm deep. Entrance at least 150mm wide by 200mm high.

There is no limit to the size of box which will suit Barn Owls: the bigger the better. The entrance should be half way up the front end. If possible make an extended floor in front of the box for young owls to exercise on.

Boxes may be sited inside buildings, in trees, on poles or in straw stacks. Barn Owls need nesting and roosting sites so two boxes in one territory will be helpful.

In buildings. Any large box - tea chest or packing case perhaps - will do. The box should be fixed to a wall or beam by strong brackets. If the box is on a beam ensure cats cannot get to it. Thorny twigs tied to the beam can help keep them off. Alternatively a whole section of the gable end of a floored loft can be blocked off from the main building leaving an 'owl loft'. If the box is in a building used for storing foodstuffs ensure the birds cannot contaminate the foods. This can be done by fixing the box with its entrance butting up to the entrance hole in the wall of the building.

In trees. Owls will nest in large tree holes. Isolated tall broken stumps are very suitable sites for boxes. These boxes must have a landing platform or have the entrance opening on to a broad branch. Boxes in trees must be thoroughly weather proofed and face south-east away from prevailing winds. Exterior boxes should have an interior baffle running ½ to ¾ of the distance from front to back and reaching ¾ of the way to the roof (page 22 ii). This gives extra seclusion and shelter to the birds whilst still allowing adequate ventilation in the nesting chamber. The cutting diagram in the appendix gives a design for a tree mounted box which can be made from an 8' x 4' sheet of exterior plywood.

On poles. These are identical to tree boxes sited as for the pole-mounted Kestrel box. Clearly the pole must be very strong and secure to support the weight of the box, birds and accumulating layer of pellets. Poles may be sited on treeless farmland at intersections of ditches and drains. These boxes are very obvious and their installation requires heavy equipment. It is of little use trying this design unless it is as part of an overall habitat management programme. The Hawk and Owl Trust are happy to offer advice on such projects.

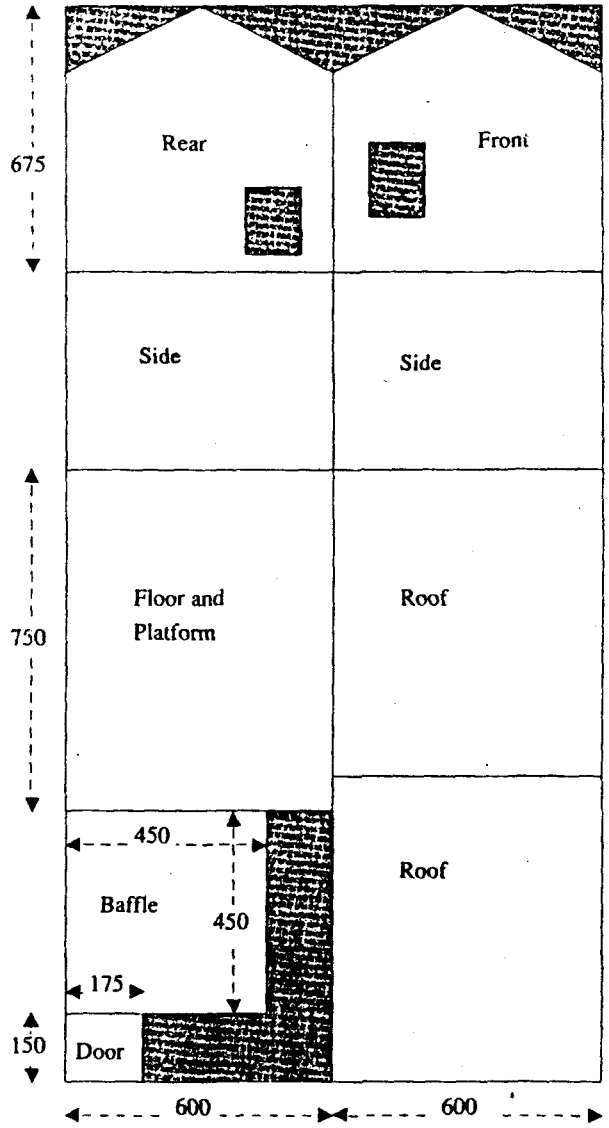
In stacks. A box may be constructed the size and shape of a standard bale - 900mm long, 450mm high and 350mm wide. The box should be sited in a stack as it is being built. Two of these boxes may be placed at opposite ends of one stack allowing both Kestrel and Barn Owl to nest.

Barn Owls are sensitive to disturbance at all times so boxes should be sited in places with the minimum possible disturbance. The owls must have constant access to the box. A hole in a wall is better than leaving a window or door open. Boxes should be sited in locations away from busy roads. Barn Owls which hunt along roads are very vulnerable to collision with traffic. Boxes are best put up on the edge of existing Barn Owl strongholds - local knowledge is useful here. The height of boxes is of little importance to the owls themselves. The main consideration is interference by humans and predation. Typical minimum workable heights are about 5m in trees or 3.5m on poles. Boxes should be cleaned every year or two leaving just a thin layer of pellets over the floor. New boxes should be lined with bark chippings.

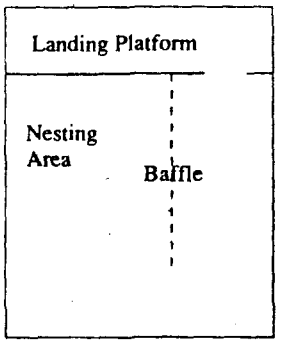
Nest: none or a hollow in the floor of the cavity. Eggs: 4-7, white. Eggs hatch sequentially, younger and smaller nestlings may be eaten by the older ones in years of poor food supply.

Plan for a pole-mounted Barn Owl box

Cutting Diagram



Internal Plan



This box needs one 8'x4' sheet of ¾" exterior ply. The rear panel has a 125mm by 150mm inspection hatch near the bottom corner with a door cut slightly larger. The interior baffle screening the nest chamber does not reach up to the roof - the space above it aids ventilation.

The landing area and exercise platform in front of the entrance is vital for boxes situated in exposed or treeless areas.

This is a large and heavy box. Erecting it requires care and planning in order to ensure the box will withstand winter gales.