

Cumbria Barn Owl inspection - 5th June 2026

Lead Surveyor: Dan Rouse

Safety Second: Sam Viles

Weather:

Temperature 17 degrees. Clear Skies and no rain. Slight wind (Beaufort scale 2)

Access arrangement: Landowner met us on the road before showing us around the barns. Owner had instructed us not to access the roof spaces on two barns as concerns on beams strength - instead used ladders to monitor without entering, inspection camera and thermals were also used to confirm activity.

Survey Efforts:



Image: Overview of survey barns (Left to right: Barn 1, Stone Build, Barn 2)

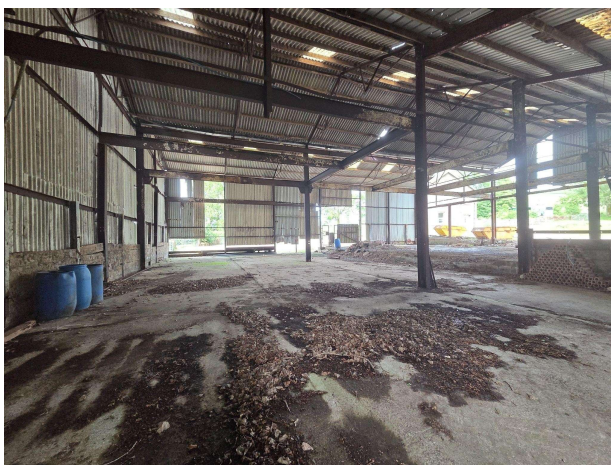


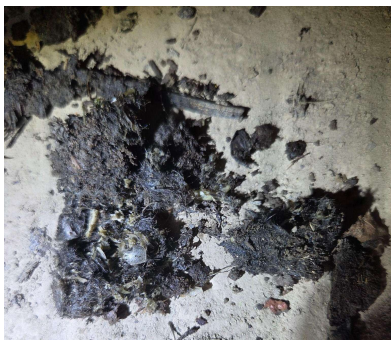
Photo above: Internal view of barns 1 and 2 on site. Both of the barns did not have sides nor did they have any cavities for inspecting.



Photo above: External view of stone barn that is not due to be removed from the site. Building has two stories with the upper story being unstable for access.

Survey Effort:

Barn 1:



Inspection of the first barn was fairly straightforward with an open view of the barn. The barn was previously used for cattle housing. Roof space of the barn was open with little space for any roosting species to be able to settle.

No location suitable for nesting in the barn was found. Only piece of Barn Owl activity found within Barn 1 were two pellets located at the bottom left corner next to the previous barn doors (since removed).

Pellet was dry with evidence of rat and mouse bones within, likely that a bird had sheltered within the barn on occasion.

Barn 2:

Similar to barn 1, the second metal barn was previously used for cattle with no pens or rafters remaining. Evidence found within this barn consisted of a dried pellet with evidence of rat and mouse again, older than the aforementioned pellet.

Some chalking marks were located on some pipes near the pellet likely the owl had roosted on an evening - not recent activity.



Stone Building:

This building is not scheduled to be demolished and is being left by the landowner.

The downstairs has a cattle crush, and storage room, the upper level on both section was noted to be unstable for us to physically enter and inspect.

Instead we used mirrors to check crevices from a ladder, and inspection cameras to be able to explore the area thoroughly.

Both loft spaces have a roof which has fallen through in places.



Evidence of Stock Doves breeding in these areas were found, including a bird on a nest. Other evidence includes droppings and feathers across the flooring.

On the upper flooring of the first section of the roof had a beam which had droppings below which could be from a Barn Owl roosting, but no pellets or extensive chalking was found so possibly just an occasional roosting space.

Tree Inspections;

Requested by client, tree marking and inspecting was carried out in the vicinity of the barns. There were little suitable breeding trees for Barn Owls, but the pines were possible for Tawny Owl - neither owls or any evidence of breeding was noted.



Trees were a mixture of fir trees, conifers, sycamore and some smaller shrub species, none of these had any cavities suitable for nesting owls and no evidence of breeding was found.



Survey Outcome:

After inspecting both barns and trees which were scheduled for development, there is no evidence of recent breeding or roosting of Barn Owls.

Only evidence was historic or occasional use - landowner has been recommended to install mitigation boxes by planning.

Dan Rouse
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Barefoot Eco Surveys
8th June 2026