

Case Study



Wylfa Newydd bat barns, wildlife towers and owl barns

Horizon built its first bat barn at Wylfa Newydd in 2013 on the edge of woodland to the east of the existing power station to compensate for a number of building demolitions which were required for health and safety reasons.

The structure, known as the Tyn y Maes bat barn, was constructed using stone and slate reclaimed from the demolished buildings. It includes a solar-powered hot box in which bats can raise their pups, a hibernation tunnel, and numerous other features which provide roosting opportunities for crevice and void-dwelling bat species. In addition, the woodland around the bat barn was enhanced by replacing the existing conifer plantation with native broadleaf trees and creating a pond. Bat boxes were also installed on retained tree trunks around the bat barn.

Monitoring visits undertaken each year during the summer and the winter have confirmed usage of the Tyn y Maes bat barn by roosting bats since the year it was built. The peak count since monitoring began on the original barn has seen around 55 bats of five different species, such as brown long-eared bat, Natterer's bat, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle.

In 2017, a second bat barn was constructed by Horizon in a field east of Tregele using a similar design to the successful first bat barn. This building also made use of materials reclaimed from previous demolitions.



Tregele Bat Barn

Along with a third bat barn due to be constructed on the eastern edge of the Wylfa Newydd Development Area in 2018, the Tregele bat barn will compensate for proposed building demolitions associated with the Wylfa Newydd project. These bat barns will eventually be linked by a network of new habitats created as part of the landscaping works for the proposed power station.



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Cafnan Wildlife Tower

In 2013, Horizon built a wildlife tower at Cafnan Farm to further compensate for building demolitions required for health and safety reasons.

The wildlife tower was designed to accommodate a variety of different species, including a barn owl nesting chamber and numerous features suitable for other nesting birds and roosting bats. Like the bat barns, the wildlife tower construction made use of materials reclaimed from the demolitions. Also like the bat barns, the wildlife tower was promptly inhabited, with bar owls successfully rearing a brood of chicks in the structure during the first breeding season after its construction and every year since. In 2017 the barn owls were joined by a pair of kestrels and a colony of honey bees, which made use of other parts of the tower.



Wildlife tower at Cafnan Farm

Caerdegog Isaf Barn Owl Barn

In addition to the wildlife tower, Horizon also converted a barn at Caerdegog Isaf in 2013 to provide another suitable location for nesting and roosting barn owls. Nesting barn owls were recorded for the first time in this barn in 2017.



Owls in barn at Caerdegog Isaf

