

12. wildlife and protected species



Barn Owl, once widespread in the Peak District but now only small numbers remain. It typically nests in sheltered locations within farm buildings, away from human disturbance and close to the rough grassland on which they hunt.



Leisler's Bat

12.1 We are one of over 50,000 species sharing living space in this country. Wildlife conservation is important to us in providing life support services (clean air; water and soil formation), providing pleasure, contributing to economic prosperity, affording scientific understanding of our environment, controlling pest species and reducing climate change. Many habitats and species in the Peak District are under pressure from land-use changes and development, and agreed conservation priorities are set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁹



House Martin

12.2 Wildlife conservation is part of the first purpose of National Parks. All proposals are therefore expected to conserve existing wildlife interest as far as possible and to show that consideration has been given to enhancing/creating new opportunities for wildlife. In particular, planning applications will only be validated if applicants have completed the Protected Species Form and taken due account of the presence of any protected species such as bats. A full copy of the Protected Species Practice Note²⁰ is available on line.

12.3 Wherever possible, opportunities need to be taken for enhancement must be considered, for example the provision of roosting/nesting spaces for bats/birds, use of sustainable drainage systems or landscaping to create new habitat (especially those identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan) or managing an area for wildlife purposes. Further information is available in the Wildlife and Buildings⁸ leaflet.

Where do they live...?

