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NYMNP

07/12/2021

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Elspeth,

**Re: NYM/2021/0832/FL and 0835/LB Red Farm Barns, Egton**

I am writing in response to the correspondence regarding comments on the ecology relating to Red Farm Barns. I wanted to clarify some of the dates and impacts that may have not been clear in the MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd report submitted with the planning application.

The site has been surveyed extensively for bats in the past and four of these surveys have been carried out in the optimal emergence survey season. The following surveys have been undertaken:

- 27<sup>th</sup> August ( dawn and dusk surveys ) and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 by Enviroscope
- 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 by Bagshaw Ecology
- 23 September 2021 MAB environment and ecology Ltd

If the buildings were to contain a maternity roost this would have been picked up by the 2019 survey at least and some bats would have remained on site even if the maternity roost had disbanded as might have happened in the later timed surveys. We also would have expected to find a large number of droppings if the barns were being used for maternity roosting.

A small number of droppings were found in Building A / Barn 2 on Figure 1 below characteristic of pipistrelle species; this building was therefore characterised as high potential by Enviroscope. In fact, it is only the droppings that have influenced that decision and it should be categorised as 'Moderate' potential as the other buildings were. In 2021 this building was resurveyed and again a few droppings were found; some of which were typical of brown long-eared (BLE) bats and again some pipistrelle type. Numbers of droppings are consistent with low numbers of day roosting or foraging bats.

The MAB Ecology 23<sup>rd</sup> September survey identified a solitary transient BLE bat roost in Building A / Barn 2. This is typical of autumn where male BLEs are often found singly in barns. It is likely that the pipistrelle droppings were from foraging pipistrelles, as opposed to roosting, as the Building A is open.

We can conclude from so many surveys that there are only day roosts in Building A and that work will be carried out under the Low Impact Class Licence BLICL. A further optimal emergence survey will be

carried out in 2022 to inform the licence. Mitigation of two bat boxes (Schwegler 1 FF or equivalent) mounted on Building 3 (See Figure 1 below) will ensure that mitigation is appropriate for the BLICL.

Another note in the comments is swallow habitat loss. It is proposed that Barn 4 retains an opening to allow ongoing swallow nesting habitat.

The internal barn owl box will be sited to the north of Barn 3 with an opening on the north wall and a small stone ledge below the box.



**Figure 1 Building reference numbers**

I hope that this helps with allowing the planning to be validated on ecology grounds.

Yours sincerely,

Ione Bateau MCIEEM