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Our ref: 218/2016

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

Dear Mrs Saunders

**RE: Ecology considerations at Hackness Grange Hotel Island. Planning ref: NYM/2012/0810/LB**

I have been involved in the ecology of this planning application since the initial fears of potential impacts on White Clawed Crayfish and Great Crested Newt (GCN) were first raised. These potential impacts were later negated by moving the footings of the bridge so that they were sited on the land as opposed to within the water.

A further potential impact was raised by the NYMNPA ecologist regarding the vegetation of the island. I visited the site on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016. There is no understorey on the island (except for some Rhododendron regeneration) and ground flora is poor and dominated by ivy and bramble; approximately 4 fly agaric were present.



Photo 1 Ground flora on island



NYMNP  
- 6 DEC 2016



Photo 2 Island vegetation

Bankside vegetation was minimal with occasional drooping sedge and hard rush.



Photo 3 Bankside vegetation

Trees on the island were predominantly conifers. One willow in the middle of the island is scheduled for removal – this has no potential bird or bat habitat.

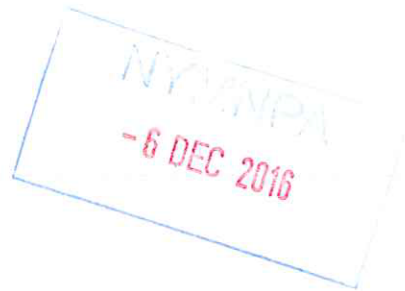


Photo 4 Willow to be removed

On the hotel bank again vegetation was species-poor with a small area of mown lawn which will be lost in the area where the bridge will be. A small birch will be removed, which had no bat potential or bird nests.



Photo 5 Birch to left will be removed



Ecological impacts as a result of the development will therefore be negligible.

To prevent any soil entering the water body while works take place it is recommended that sand bags ( 2or 3 high) are laid along the lake edge. It is also recommended that rhododendron stumps should be treated with glyphosate to prevent regrowth.

Yours sincerely

Ione Bureau MCIEM