



Riverdale Ecology Ltd
60 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross
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danny@riverdale-ecology.co.uk

Diane Colover
Old Parsonage, The Street
Mendham
Harleston IP20 0NH

14th September 2021

The Old Parsonage, The Street, Norfolk

Job Number: RE2021-079

Dear Diane,

I am writing this letter for you to forward to Babergh and Mid Suffolk Planning Authority in support of your listed building consent application for the replacement of the roof on The Old Parsonage, The Street, Mendham, Harleston, IP20 0NH.

To date, three roost emergence (dusk) surveys have been undertaken at the property in accordance with current professional survey guidance (Collins, J. (ed.) 2016). Surveys were conducted by Danny Thomas CEcol, MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist at Riverdale Ecology Limited who is a Class 2 license holder for bats (2016-19537-CLS-CLS). The dusk surveys utilised night vision recording equipment and thermal imaging equipment to record any emergences of bats from the property.

The surveys were undertaken on 11th August 2021, 24th August 2021 and 13th September 2021. The three dusk surveys have identified the presence of a summer day roost or potential small maternity roost for common pipistrelle bats. A peak count of 11 bats was recorded on 11th August 2021, with bats emerging shortly after sunset from a horizontal gap under a row of roof tiles near the chimney on the southern elevation of the roof. No other bats were recorded emerging from any other locations on the building.

Due to the presence of roosting bats in the building, the only recourse is for a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) license to be obtained from Natural England prior to the commencement of works to the roof. Although the exact location of the roost in the loft void was not possible to ascertain as the loft is not accessible for inspection, it is considered reasonable that the roof can be stripped carefully and replaced on a like for like basis with no detrimental effect to the suitability of the building for roosting bats. The roost access will be modified but replaced with equivalent features using specially designed roost access tiles to maintain the access points at the same position as the existing roost access.

The EPSM license will require the use of Type 1F bituminous liner only, and appropriate timing for the works will be essential. The timing is likely to be between March and May assuming that spring temperatures have become warm enough for bats to be active but will avoid the summer period when the roost is active. The winter period will also be avoided to minimise any risk to hibernating bats if suitable conditions for hibernation exist.

The EPSM license application can not be submitted to Natural England until the listed building consent has been granted and it is common in cases where bats are present that the LPA will include a planning condition to ensure that the EPSM license is in place prior to the commencement of works.



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When your listed building consent has been granted, we will submit the license application to Natural England which will usually take around 45 working days to process. There will be an administration fee payable to Natural England following the deliberation of the EPSM license application.

To fully satisfy the LPA request for a 'bat and owl' survey, I can confirm that the Old Parsonage has no value as a roosting or nesting site for barn owls. There are no potential access points into the building that would be sufficient in size to permit a barn owl into the structure.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Danny Thomas CEcol MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist