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Richard Anderson-Dungar

Blacksmiths Cottage
Colby Road
Banningham
Norfolk, NR11 7DY

30th July 2021

Reference: Union Farm Barns, Smallburgh, Norfolk

Planning Ref: RE2021-022

Dear Richard,

The main barn at Union Farm Barns has suffered a significant collapse of a large section of the southern wall and it is my understanding that the client would like to proceed with the repair of this wall as emergency works to ensure no further structural depreciation of the barn.

With respect to bats, there are several small roosts located within the various barns and the main barn does appear to have some functionality to the existence of at least some of these roosts, in particular a small summer roost of brown long-eared bats within the small storeroom above the workshop, with the bats crawling through the connecting wall into the main barn when emerging or returning to the roost site.

However, at the time of the original surveys in 2018 this wall was still standing, and the status of roosting bats has not changed since the collapse of the wall. Furthermore, it is my professional opinion that the repair of the wall is unlikely to have any detrimental impact on the various roosts that have been identified to date and will not affect the accessibility of the interior of the barn for bats as there are a multitude of other access locations which are used by bats. In fact, the repair of the wall would seal the barn again and reducing the ambient light levels, arguably increasing its value for bats and would also secure the structure for the continued use until the EPSM licence can be secured. As such, I would fully support the reinstatement of the southern wall at the earliest convenience.

It is worth noting however that the repair works should be strictly limited to the reconstruction of the wall itself and must not extend beyond the repair of this wall. Other areas of the barn where there is obvious damage such as cracks in the brickwork and gaps in mortar around the bricks have potential to support roosting bats and therefore must remain until the EPSM license can be obtained from Natural England.

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

Yours sincerely,

Danny Thomas CECol MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist