



ELMAW Consulting

Consultant Ecologists & Wildlife Biologists

Technical Informative – Bats

Site: Marshfield Barn, Marshfield Farm, Ashwell Road, Hinxworth, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5HU

Date: 1st December 2023

Background

In July 2021, ELMAW Consulting undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Bat Roosting Assessment (PBRA) of a small, single-storey, open-fronted barn known as Marshfield Barn, on Marshfield Farm, near Hinxworth, for the then owners, Hertfordshire County Council. The purpose of these surveys was to identify any redevelopment constraints and prescribe mitigation measures, if necessary, to allow the residential conversion of Marshfield Barn to proceed. This Ecological Appraisal identified a single barn on site and a detailed Preliminary Bat Roosting Assessment (PBRA) and building inspection of the structure concluded that it had a negligible potential to support roosting bats.

The resulting report concluded that the residential conversion of Marshfield Barn was unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on important or protected species (including bats) and no further surveys were recommended at that time.

2023 Re-assessment

In 2023, ELMAW Consulting were instructed by MBCM, on behalf of the new owners, to re-assess the barn and confirm its current status with regard to its potential to support roosting bats.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) advises that where mobile species such as bats are concerned, this PBRA is likely to be out of date within 12-18 months of reporting and may need updating with a re-assessment. Since the

original survey and report are dated 2021, the new owners wished to commission an updated PBRA, in line with the recommendations made in the original report and following CIEEM guidelines.

Consequently, on the 6th November 2023, Marshfield Barn was re-assessed by licensed bat ecologist, Keith Seaman. There were no changes to the barn structurally and no bats or evidence of bats was found during the building inspection. No new Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) were found on the interior or exterior of the barn. It was concluded that the barn continued to have a negligible bat roosting potential. No further surveys are deemed necessary at this time.

Should conversion works be delayed for 12 -18 months, a further update may be necessary for the reasons given above.