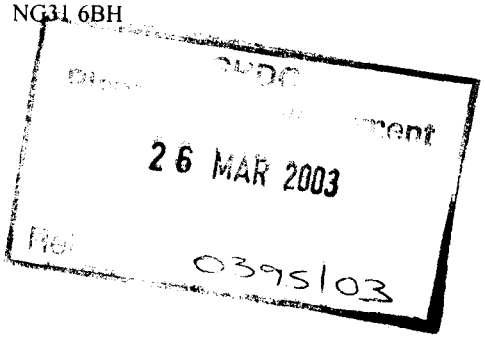
ENGLISH NATURE

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Mr H Baker
Ayton House
Uffington
Stamford
Lincs PE9 4SN

Our ref: SS/02/334

14 March 2003

Dear Mr Baker

RE: PROPOSED DEMOLITION AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF POPLAR HOUSE, HOGS GATE, MOULTON, SPALDING, LINCS - BATS. Advice under Regulation 40(4) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and Section 10(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Thank you for notifying us of the intended work and for allowing our Volunteer Bat Wardens, Mr and Mrs Faulkner to carry out a bat survey of the property. Their report is now to hand.

Although no bats were seen during the survey, which is normal for this time of the year, evidence seen suggests pipistrelle bats may be utilising the house, probably roosting in the soffit or flat roof.

Care must be exercised when undertaking operations which can potentially disturb or harm bats, because all bat species and their roosts are protected under the above legislation, making it an offence to kill, disturb or destroy a breeding or resting place of a bat (except within the living area of a dwelling). The legislation requires relevant parties to notify English Nature of any operations which are likely to affect bats and their roosts (as you have done), so we can advise on how best to avoid harming bats.

Under the circumstances, English Nature advises:

1. A licensed bat worker needs to be present while the flat roof and soffits are removed, to check for the presence of bats. They will be able to recommend how best to proceed should bats be found.

2. If a bat roost is found, access will need to be made in the roof of the new house. We understand this will not be difficult. Further information on designs can be obtained by contacting ourselves * or Mr and Mrs Faulkner.

3. All those employed to work on the property must be made aware of bats and their legal status.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation and concern for the bats.

The Robert Stebbings Consultancy Limited (*see below for contact address) is contracted by English Nature to act as their agent within the county of Lincolnshire, to respond to enquiries from anyone proposing to undertake an operation that will harm or disturb a bat or its roost. We are authorised to provide formal advice on behalf of English Nature on matters relating to bats and their roosts under Statutory Regulations.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) SHEILA STEBBINGS. ENGLISH NATURE
c/o
**The* Robert Stebbings Consultancy Limited, 74 Alexandra Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 3DG
Tel: 01733 340318 Fax: 01733 897018

cc: Mr & Mrs Faulkner VBW