R. V. MILLER LTD *Thatcher & Reed Dealer*

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Ref: Horton Farm Barn

We have been asked to carry out the re thatching of Horton Farm Barn by Savilles estate agents on behalf of The Crown Estate.
The thatch of the barn is thought to be long straw although is covered by tarpaulins.
The thatch and roof structure appear in poor condition and considerable damage has been caused by water ingress.
The roof is situated beneath several evergreen oak trees and Yew trees, which will have affected the life span of the thatch, due to the concentration of rain dripping from the overhanging leaves and branches onto the roof below. The trees will also cause a consistently damp environment, allowing little, to no sunlight through, to dry, or air the thatch.
This environment will cause moss, algae and fungi to colonize the thatch, which can lead to premature decay.
The thatch will need to be completely stripped and the roof structure repaired as per the structural engineers' report.
As there will be no historic thatch remaining, this could be a good opportunity to preserve the building by re thatching with a more hard wearing material such as water reed or combed wheat reed. This would provide much better longevity given the situation of the roof. The cost of the re-roofing is considerable and therefore the most cost-effective material should be used to ensure the conservation of the building.
I would also recommend a fireproof boarding which could be fitted between the thatch and timbers which would also provide extra protection from vermin damage and provide a clean safe and usable internal space.

Yours Faithfully

[redacted]

John Tozer
R V Miller Ltd