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Mr Tim Palmer  
Manor farmhouse  
Hanging Langford  
Wiltshire  
SP3 4NW

22nd Feb 2026

Dear Mr Palmer,

I have looked back to the date i originally quoted to completely thatch Manor farmhouse barn & was surprised to realise it was as far back as late 2021.

The plan was to start the rethatching early 2023.

As we have discussed on many occasions, the quantity of wheat straw required to complete the work is a substantial amount.

The Thatching industry is struggling year on year to keep up with the amount of workload versus straw supplies needed for thatchers. The weather has played a huge part in causing smaller than average yields at harvest along with many farmers that can no longer sustain or feel it too risky to grow thatching varieties any longer. The labour costs involved along with fertiliser prices rising has been a stepping stone too far for many.

With your barn now getting to the point where it can't wait much longer to be thatched & with the recent bad weather, i dont hold up much hope for a good straw supply this year (yet again). It is also becoming more difficult to acquire such a quantity needed as all the farmers & straw dealers are dividing supplies they do have between thatchers in smaller amounts. I can't guarantee that we can secure the supply needed anytime soon!

I did infact re thatch two non listed properties last year in water reed.

This i believe to be a good feasible option for Manor Farmhouse Barn. I am aware that English Heritage know the problem thatchers are experiencing with the low straw supplies & in certain circumstances are permitting water reed to be used. This obviously would need planning consent. The water reed could be applied in a wheat straw style as to not differ visually to what exists.

In my opinion, the roof has gone long enough & if it is not thatched soon could start to cause problem leaks resulting issues being timber or even internal damage.

I would at this point advise to consider an application for change of materials if you want to keep any hope of the barn being re-thatched.

Kind regards

Brad