Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Sarah Brooks
Head of Planning
Amber Valley Borough Council
PO Box 18
Town Hall
Ripley, Derbyshire
DE5 3SZ

For the attention of Laura Anthony

Your Ref: AVA/2026/0018
Our ref: DWTAVA2205

23rd February 2026

Dear Laura,

Proposal: Construction of agricultural access track

Location: Willow Cottage Coach Road Golden Valley Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 4ES

Application Ref No.: AVA/2026/0018

With reference to the above application, I am responding as the Biodiversity Planning Officer responsible for work relating to the Service Level Agreement, which the Amber Valley Borough Council and the Trust have signed. The following comments are aimed at providing accurate and up to date information on the nature conservation issues associated with the proposed development.

Response

We have reviewed the submitted information, inclusive of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech, September 2025). We have also reviewed our Biological Records Database.

Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, DE4 4LR
01773 881188 · enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

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There are no records of protected species, notable habitats and statutory or non-statutory designated sites associated with the site or immediately adjacent to. Cromford Canal Local Wildlife Site (LWS) lies ~23m north of the site boundary.

Based on the information submitted, we advise that the proposal is unlikely to have had a significant impact on biodiversity. Furthermore, the development is exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain under retrospective permission. We advise that additional tree planting, wildflower grassland creation and species enhancements can be secured via condition.

Conditions

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Prior to building works commencing above foundation level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Approved measures shall be implemented in full and maintained thereafter. The Plan shall clearly show positions, specifications and numbers of features, which will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Wildflower grassland creation
- Native tree planting
- Tree mounted bat and bird boxes

A statement of good practice including photographs shall be submitted to the local planning authority to fully discharge this condition, demonstrating that the enhancements have been selected and installed in accordance with the approved Plan.

It is hoped that the information provided is helpful to the Council. If you require any further information or wish to discuss any of the comments made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Wilder by nature

Yours sincerely,

Holly Fowler

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Biodiversity Planning Lead (South)
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