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 Rebecca Godson

Your Ref: AVA/2026/0217
Our ref: DWTAVA2345

6th May 2026

Dear Rebecca,

Proposal: The replacement of one existing tennis court with two padel courts, including associated lightweight glazed enclosures and ancillary works

Location: Duffield Lawn Tennis Club Duffield Lawn Tennis Club 23 Town Street Duffield Belper Derbyshire DE56 4EH

Application Ref No.: AVA/2026/0217

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, and it is understood that the application pertains to the replacement of an existing tennis court with two padel courts.

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

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The application site comprises existing tennis courts. The River Ecclesbourne is located adjacent to the northern and eastern boundaries.

Given that the proposals will not result in the loss of any semi-natural habitat, mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) does not apply under the 'de minimis' exemption. We acknowledge that lighting will be restricted inside of the proposed canopy structures, however, we advise that due to the proximity of the River Ecclesbourne, that a sensitive lighting scheme should be secured via condition in order to safeguard bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Conditions

Lighting

Prior to the installation of lighting fixtures, a detailed lighting strategy shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA to safeguard bats and other nocturnal wildlife. This should provide details of the chosen luminaires, their locations and any mitigating features such as dimmers, PIR sensors and timers. Dependent on the scale of proposed lighting, a lux contour plan may be required to demonstrate acceptable levels of lightspill to any sensitive ecological zones/features. The Strategy should refer to Guidance Note 08/23 - Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night (BCT and ILP, 2023) and explain how proposals have been designed in compliance with this document. Such approved measures will be implemented in full.

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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Yours sincerely,

Holly Fowler

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Biodiversity Planning Lead (South)
planning@derbyshirewt.co.uk

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