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/2025/0555
Our ref: DWTAVA2171b

3rd June 2026

Dear Rebecca,

Proposal: Proposed bungalow

Location: 130 Nottingham Road Ripley Derbyshire DE5 3AX

Application Ref No.: AVA/2025/0555

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

Further to our response dated 1st April 2026, we have been made aware of a submitted Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared by Eco360 (May 2026). Please find our updated comments below:

It is understood that a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken at the site on 12th May 2026, to identify the habitats present, assess the potential for

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protected species, and evaluate any ecological constraints as a result of the proposed development.

A full desk study has not been conducted; however, we do not consider this to be a major constraint to the assessment, given the small scale of development and low value habitat impacted.

The site comprises vegetated garden, bare ground, introduced shrubs, developed land sealed surface and individual trees, considered to be of low ecological value.

Two detached brick outbuildings are present within the redline boundary and were subject to a roost assessment comprising an external inspection, to determine the potential for roosting bats. The buildings were assessed to hold 'negligible' bat roosting potential due to the lack of roosting features and access points recorded. However, the main building to the north of the site, outside of the redline boundary, supports multiple potential roosting features. It is understood that the main building will not be impacted by the development and therefore no further surveys are required in relation to roosting bats.

As stated previously, we are aware of anecdotal records of amphibians using the habitats within the site. However, it is noted that no waterbodies were recorded within the site and the habitats present provide limited terrestrial value. We have reviewed recent aerial imagery. The nearest pond is located ~155m north-east, beyond significant barriers to terrestrial species dispersal such as main roads and residential development. Adjacent garden ponds may be present that are not clearly visible, however most of the site is sub-optimal for amphibians. As a precautionary measure, reasonable avoidance measures should be adopted during site clearance and construction works.

As a self-build application, the development is exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.

Conditions

Herptiles

Vegetation clearance should be reduced to an approximately height of 150 mm via a hand strimmer prior to ground works commencing to encourage individuals to move away from the construction areas. All excavations shall be covered overnight or else have an escape ramp to prevent entrapment of herptiles. All pipework greater than 150 mm shall be blanked off at the end of the day and chemicals shall be stored securely. Any excavated material stored overnight should be searched prior to being used as infill. All other materials should be kept on raised areas, namely pallets, to avoid creating refugia.

Should great crested newt be found at any point during clearance or construction works, works must cease immediately, and an ecologist will be sought.

Nesting Birds

No tree, scrub or hedgerow clearance shall take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive, unless preceded by a nesting bird survey undertaken by a competent ecologist no more than 48 hours prior to clearance. If nesting birds are present, an appropriate exclusion zone will be implemented and monitored until the chicks have fledged. No works shall be undertaken within exclusion zones whilst nesting birds are present.

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. 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.

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:

- 1 x integral universal nest box / swift brick in new dwelling, erected at eaves level, avoiding southern elevations
- 1 x integral bat box in new dwelling, erected at eaves level, favouring southern elevations
- 1 x insect brick in new dwelling
- fencing gaps 130 mm x 130 mm to maintain connectivity for hedgehogs
- summary of ecologically beneficial landscaping (full details to be provided in Landscape Plans).

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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