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 Carol Grant

Your Ref: AVA/2026/0568
Our ref: DWTAVA1753-1

19th October 2026

Dear Carol,

Proposal: Reserved matters application pursuant to Outline planning permission AVA/2023/0059 for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of 75 dwellings with landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure

Location: Birchwood Riding Centre 140 Birchwood Lane Somercotes Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 4NE

Application Ref No.: AVA/2026/0568

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 provided a response to this application on 16th September 2024, and it is understood that outline consent was granted on 26th March 2026. It is understood that this application is for reserved matters approval for details including layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping.

Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, DE4 4LR
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We have reviewed the submitted information with particular reference to the following:

- Landscape and Biodiversity Ecological Management Plan (LBEMP) prepared by Morph Ecological Consultants (June 2026)
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Biodiversity prepared by Morph Ecological Consultants (June 2026)
- Species Enhancement Plan (Morph Ecological Consultants, June 2026)
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (FPCR, December 2022)

The LBEMP aligns with the previously submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Report prepared by FPCR (July 2024).

It is noted that the Arboricultural Assessment recommends the removal of Trees T2, T5 and T12. The BNG assessment states that all trees will be retained but a small section of H3 (central hedgerow) and G3 (Leylandii hedge) will be lost. The extent of the losses should be clarified to ensure that the BNG assessment is accurate and that the development can still achieve a measurable net gain for habitat, hedgerow and watercourse units.

The CEMP should include measures to safeguard badgers on the site. Although the outline permission includes a separate badger condition, the CEMP should still set out required mitigation measures.

We are pleased to see that the species enhancements have been designed in accordance with Condition 9.

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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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Yours sincerely,

Holly Fowler

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