

Dear Chris Johnston

SMD/2024/0339

**Change of use from former agricultural shippon to form 1no. dwellinghouse
The Shippon, Apesford Farm, Apesford Lane, Bradnop, Staffordshire, ST13 7EX**

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been asked to review the above application as part of a service level agreement with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to provide ecology advice regarding planning and development management functions.

We have viewed the following documents:

- Plans and Elevations drawing 1571-AL36D, dated January 2022
- Planning Statement, July 2024
- Bat Survey Report - Etive Ecology, November 2023

SUMMARY – Having reviewed the information provided we have a **no objection**.

Secure via condition should approval be granted:

1. Requirement for bat licence to be obtained from Natural England
2. Details/specification for species enhancement measures i.e. bird and bat boxes.
3. Sensitive lighting scheme

BAT LICENCE

We have reviewed the Bat Survey Report (Etive Ecology, November 2023). The bat survey was conducted by suitably experienced ecologists at an appropriate time of year during suitable weather conditions. We agree with the conclusion that the shippon supports a confirmed summer roost for two common pipistrelle bats. Although the survey data is from the 2023 survey season, it is unlikely that update survey in 2024 would substantially alter the findings, and the results are therefore considered sufficiently up to date to support this planning application.

As confirmed in the bat survey report a licence will be required from Natural England. We recommend a planning condition to require evidence that a bat licence has been obtained prior to works commencing.

BIRD AND BAT BOX ENHANCEMENTS

We note and welcome the recommendation in the bat survey report for the installation of four artificial bat roost features and note these will be detailed in the Natural England bat licence. In addition, we note and welcome the recommendation for artificial nest boxes for swift and house sparrow to be installed, although it is not clear from the bat survey report if the intention is to install these within the shippon or across the wider site. We would wish to see a minimum of four of each type of box installed, and this can be across the wider site if necessary.

We recommend a planning condition to secure the location, number and specification of bat roost features and bird boxes.

SENSITIVE LIGHTING SCHEME

We note the site currently provides a dark rural environment after dusk, with no permanent artificial lighting in operation and would therefore support the inclusion of a sensitively designed lighting scheme as detailed in the Bat Survey Report (Etive Ecology 2023) to minimise disturbance to bats and other wildlife including barn owl which is reported to be using the adjoining farmhouse as a roost/feeding perch. This can be secured by planning condition.

Regards,

Dated 8 August 2024.