

Ashley Bamford  
Bamford Architectural

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Mr Bamford,

**Subject: Land to Rear of 1 West View, Denby Dale – Ecological Walkover Survey - Letter Report**

Introduction

Middleton Bell Ecology were contracted to undertake an ecological walkover survey in connection with construction of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 1 West View in Denby Dale (Central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: SE 23034 08718; Figure 1). The commission was from Ashley Bamford of Bamford Architectural on behalf of the client Gary Wagstaff, on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The purpose of the walkover survey and this report are to inform discharge of Condition 9 of the planning permission (Application Reference Number: 2023/62/91929/E) which states:

*9. No works shall commence including site clearance until the LPA has been provided with either: The Mitigation Method Statement and licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 53 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 authorising the specified activity to go ahead; or a statement in writing from an appropriately qualified ecologist to the effect that it does not consider that the specified activity will require a licence.*

*Reason: To safeguard a protected species (Bats) in accordance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and BS 42020:2013.*

**Figure 1. 2021 aerial image of site**



### Methodology

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 Robert Bell (MCIEEM; Bat Survey Class license WML-A34-Level 4, 2016-25236-CLS-CLS) carried out a walkover survey of the site. Notable, rare or scarce plant species were noted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey. Species recorded are included within the report as appropriate.

### Findings

Historical aerial imagery (Google earth) suggests the site formerly comprised a garden, which was cleared c.2016 (Figure 2), with the foundations of a new dwelling appearing to have been excavated on the site at this time.

**Figure 2. 2016 aerial image of the site**



At the time of survey, the main section of the site comprised a stony area of ground intersected by several c.0.5 m deep trenches and covered by dense scrub. Scrub species presented included abundant bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, frequently occurring buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, occasional cherry *Prunus* spp., goat willow *Salix caprea*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, broom *Cytisus scoparius* and rarely occurring wych elm *Ulmus glabra*. The grass species Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* was also present together with the climbing plant ivy *Hedera helix*. No buildings were present on the site and none of the vegetation present within the site displayed any bat roost potential.

The site was bordered on all sides by domestic dwellings, access drives and/or gardens. A semi-mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior* tree was present leaning towards the site's northeast boundary. No potential bat roost features were recorded from the ash tree, which was considered to display a negligible level of bat roost potential.

**Plate 1. Southeast end of dense scrub on site**



**Plate 2. Looking northeast from centre of site**



**Plate 3. Semi-mature ash tree on northeast boundary**



## Assessment

No further survey is required in relation to bats and no bat licence is required.

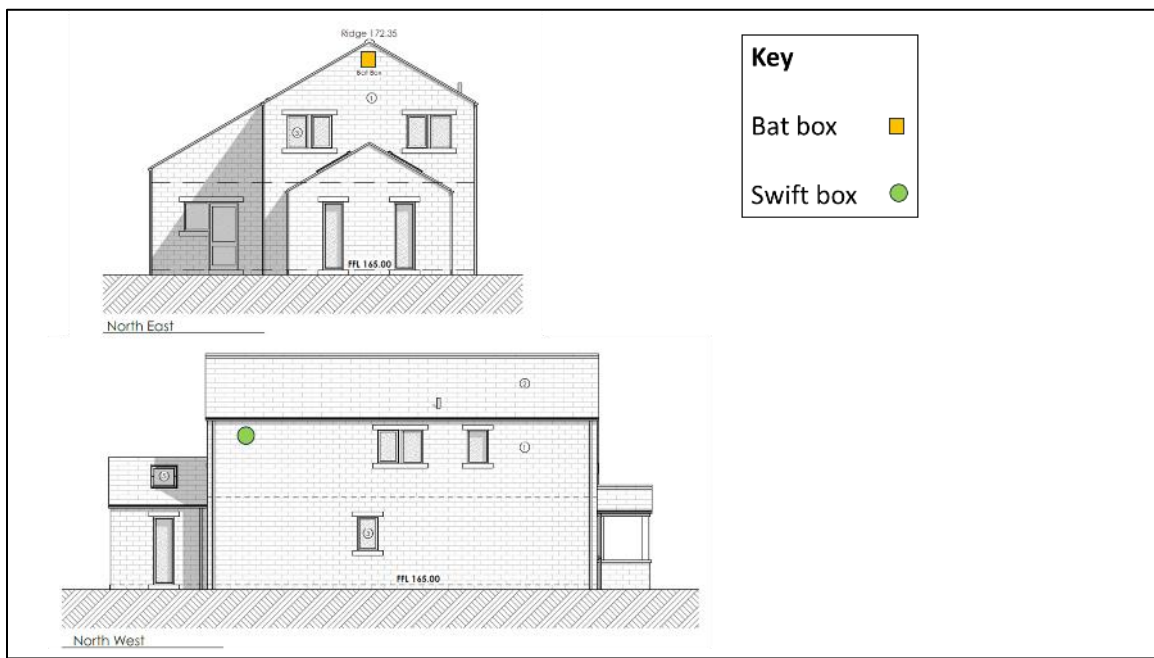
The site has potential to support nesting birds but appears to lack potential to support any other protected species.

In order to enhance the ecological value of the site and in accordance with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021), one new bat roosting feature should be incorporated within the new dwelling. It is advised that an enclosed and integrated bat box, of a design such as the Build-in WoodStone Bat Box (Plates 4-5) be installed, at wall top height on the northeast elevation (Figure 3). The box should be sited away from areas of light spill.

### **Plates 4-5. Build-in WoodStone Bat Box**



**Figure 3. Proposed bat and swift box locations**



## Birds

Vegetation clearance work should either outside take place outside the bird nesting period (March to August inclusive), or the works should be preceded by a nesting bird check.

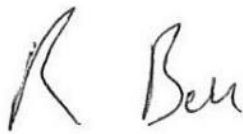
It is also recommended that one integrated swift *Apus apus* box (i.e. S Brick (Plate 6)) be installed within the new dwelling. This box should be fitted at wall top height and may be installed across any elevation. Studies have shown that swift boxes are used by other bird species that utilise buildings and consequently this measure will provide potential nesting space for house sparrows *Passer domesticus* and starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, in addition to potentially providing future nest space for swift.

### **Plate 6. S Brick**



Should you have any queries in relation to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Bell MCIEEM  
Principal Ecologist