

# **Badger Survey Inspection report and outline Method Statement**

All Saints' Roman Catholic High School  
Prepared for: Tilbury Douglas

# **CONFIDENTIAL- REPORT NOT TO BE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE ON ACCOUNT OF BADGER WELFARE ISSUES**

## **Badger Surveys report**

### **1. Introduction**

A planning condition applies to the sites re development for the site to be walkover relevant to determine if any badger activity has occurred that may affect development.

Simon Brain (Managing Director) has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended FSC Field Courses for Land mammals, Songbird identification and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques and holds a NE bat license (class two). He has experience in badger surveys and mitigation methods. He has undertaken the survey for the planning condition and is the author of this report.

#### **1.1 Background to the project**

The client proposes the re development of the land located above and as such the planning application has been conditioned to safeguard Badger species which are a protected species, and their sets are protected habitat.

#### **1.2 Report purpose**

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. The purpose of the report is to establish the nature, extent and use of the site by Badger species in order to discharge the planning condition and inform the construction phases of further measures that are required (Method Statement).

Within its publication "*Badgers and Development, A guide to best practice and development*" Natural England (2009) describes activities which may require site licensing which include disturbance by excavations within 20m of a badger sett.

### **1.3 Desk top survey**

A desk top data search has been made using <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and no further records are available.

### **1.4 Field Survey methods**

A standard badger walkover survey was undertaken on the during 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023, making checks on site and in the immediate site margins (up to 20m+), were checked for signs for field signs of Badger. Such field signs included large mammal runs (distinct or indistinct), prints, hairs, latrines or setts. The activity levels of setts are recorded classifying each excavation as active or inactive in accordance with the definition of current use provided by Natural England in 2009.

### **1.5 Field survey results**

No activity recorded.

### **1.6 Conclusions and recommendations**

There is no evidence of badger or hedgehog crossing onto the site during this walkover.

It is recommended that the status of the badger activity on this site shall be checked immediately before any development commences on site and throughout the development construction phase using an appropriately experienced ecologist. During the development phase the appointed ecologist shall check the Outline Method Statement is being followed on site. Should badgers be found on the site further mitigation measures will require confirmation and if necessary, a Natural England site license for badger mitigation.

## 1.8 Outline Method Statement

1. A further badger and hedgehog walkover survey of the entire site would be carried two weeks prior to the start of works to ensure that there are no new badger setts.
2. If new setts are found a revised method statement will need to be produced and works may need to be carried out under license from Natural England.

### Measures to Limit Disturbance for badger and hedgehog

1. A suitably qualified badger ecologist would be appointed to oversee the compliance of development with this report recommendation.
2. A copy of the Method Statement will be kept at the site office and will be attached to the site notice board. The developer shall appoint an ecologist who will fully instruct operatives on the requirements of this Method Statement.
3. During the development, there should be no need to disturb the areas where field signs have been found. Therefore, no machinery would be permitted in this area. No excavations would be permitted in this area unless under supervision. Workers would be permitted to use hand tools in this area for example to erect the boundary fencing.
4. If it became apparent that works would result in damage to any badger tunnels then works would immediately stop and a badger disturbance licence would be sort from Natural England
5. As badger are nocturnal, no works would be carried out at the site between sunrise and sunset.
6. No works would be carried out within 30m of the badger sett (if found).
7. No overnight lighting to be used.
8. Noise and vehicle movements at the site will always be kept to a minimum and a clean site policy will be monitored by the ecologist.

## **Measures to Avoid Injury to Badgers and hedgehog**

1. Where any trenches or other excavations are to be left open overnight these would be fitted with mammal ramps or would have the sides battered to form a slope to allow badgers to escape.
2. A tidy works area would be maintained during construction and any hazardous substances would be fenced off to remove any badger hazards from the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the case of further query

Yours sincerely



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**Managing Director**