



9 February 2024

Pre-Commencement Badger Inspection: D Ward, Manor Farm, Crickheath, Oswestry, Shropshire.

Methodology

The site was visited by Jane Atkinson on 6th February 2024 and a detailed walkover was undertaken of the field. Methodology included looking for evidence of badger activity including setts and other field signs such as footprints, latrines, feeding scrapes and hairs.

A total of 1.5 hours was spent carrying out the field survey, weather conditions were mainly dry with the odd light shower. Approximately 20% of the middle of the site was underwater with shallow flooding which is typical for the field at this time of year.

Results

No definitive evidence of use of the site by badgers was recorded during visits in January and July 2023 when the original ecological assessment was undertaken. The pre commencement inspection found no change. There are a number of well used mammal paths across the site mainly to the north and it is possible these paths are used by badgers as well as rabbits (rabbits are known to be present in fairly large numbers). There were however no sightings of dung pits or latrines across the site.

Foraging Habitat and Connectivity

The field at present is not good foraging habitat as it is so waterlogged. The mitigation provided with the new orchard across the canal and new hedges both across the canal and on site will however improve the quality of badger foraging habitat; the inclusion of fruit and nut shrubs and trees in the species mix will provide excellent foraging opportunities. The varied cutting regime will also be beneficial with an expected increase in the numbers of invertebrates and amphibians.

Jane Atkinson

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