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9th May 2022

Technical Note – Updated Protected Species Surveys – Reading Golf Club, 17 Kidmore End Road, Reading RG4 8SQ

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide methods and results of updated protected species surveys undertaken at the above site between April and May 2022. The results have been used to inform avoidance and mitigation measures within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)¹.

Please note that given the sensitive nature of the species included within the study, this document must not be made available within the public domain.

Methods

Red Kite Nest Monitoring

The monitoring focused upon a red kite *Milvus milvus* nest which was previously identified in 2019. The survey visits were undertaken by an experienced bird surveyor and aimed to confirm the status (active/inactive) of the nest site. The surveyor walked a transect covering the entire site and its immediate surroundings and stopped for at least 30 minutes in view of the previously identified nest site. Any birds seen on nests, or flying to/from nest sites, were recorded and their locations marked on a site plan. Any active nests were viewed from an appropriate distance (at least 30m) to avoid disturbing the bird(s).

Badger Setts Monitoring

An updated walkover survey for badgers *Meles meles* was undertaken by Charlie Gardiner BSc (Hons) (a qualifying member of CIEEM) on 4th May 2022. The survey focused on an area of woodland located at the northern corner of the site within which an animal burrow was previously identified. The walkover

¹ The Ecology Co-op (2022) *Reading Golf Club – Construction Environmental Management Plan*

survey included a comprehensive search for evidence of badger activity, for example setts, footprints, latrines, well-worn paths and foraging marks.

Results

Red Kite Nest Monitoring

No evidence of nesting red kites was recorded within the site during the site visits undertaken in 2022. The nest site which was previously used by red kites in 2019 was confirmed as inactive.

An active nest site was identified within woodland located approximately 130m north of the site boundary; an adult bird was observed sitting on the nest during each of the site visits.



Figure 1. An aerial image showing the location of red kite nest identified within the site at Reading Golf Club and its immediate surroundings during the 2019 & 2022 studies. Image produced courtesy of Google maps (map data ©2022 Google).

Table 1. Metadata including: timings, weather conditions and personnel for the red kite nest monitoring undertaken at Reading Golf Club.

Date	Timings	Weather conditions	Personnel
14/04/22	06:11 – 07:00	7°C, cloud cover 80%, calm (Beaufort Scale 0)	Owen Crawshaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
25/04/22	10:00 –11:15	9°C, cloud cover 80%, calm (Beaufort Scale 0)	Owen Crawshaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
29/04/22	05:55 – 06:30	9°C, cloud cover 100%, calm (Beaufort Scale 0)	Owen Crawshaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

09/05/22	07:00 – 07:40	7°C, cloud cover 0%, calm (Beaufort Scale 0)	Owen Crawshaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
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Badger Sett Monitoring

No evidence of badger activity was recorded within the woodland at the northern corner of the site during the 2022 walkover survey. The two mammal burrow entrances previously identified in 2019 and re-surveyed in 2021 remain, however one of these is largely obscured by ruderal vegetation and the other is considered likely to have been created by rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* given the size and shape of the entrance and the presence of a suspected rabbit hair found around the entrance.



Figure 2. Photographs of the mammal burrows inspected as part of the 2022 badger walkover survey. Neither shown signs of use by badgers.

Given the above information, and the survey data collected in 2019 and 2021², there are not considered to be any active badger setts within the site or the areas immediately beyond the site boundary.

I trust that the above information is sufficient for your records.

Kind regards

Owen Crawshaw

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² The Ecology Co-op (2021) *Reading Golf Club – Ecological Impact Assessment*