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Steve Rhodes

Technical Manager

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22nd August 2024

R.E. Former Reading Golf Club – 6-month Walkover Check

Dear Mr Rhodes,

Many thanks for your assistance last week regarding access to the above site. This letter confirms my colleague Holly Waters' attendance on 19th August 2024 to conduct an ecological walkover survey.

Since the previous walkover survey, construction works have continued and the northern half of the site (Bovis Phase 2), which previously remained as grassland, has been cleared/levelled and now consists of bare ground.

Construction of the residential dwellings and garages has continued within the southern half of the site Bovis Phase 1 and Linden Phase 2. One Swift Brick, three Sparrow Terraces and one Bat Tube have been integrated into existing buildings (photos provided in Appendix 1) to date. A total of 20 swift bricks, 10 sparrow terraces and 20 Bat Tubes are prescribed in the approved Habitat Enhancement Plan (HEP)¹, please refer to Appendix 1 of the aforementioned report for elevation plans with mark ups showing the locations of these features.

In addition to the above, the following elements prescribed in the HEP are awaiting completion:

- Installation of 20 bat boxes on trees in accordance with Figure 4 of the HEP;
- Installation of 20 bird boxes on trees in accordance with Figure 8 of the HEP;
- Creation of 5 large log piles in accordance with Figures 11 & 12 of the HEP;
- Installation of 10 hedgehog houses in accordance with Figure 14 of the HEP;
- Creation of hedgehog highways in accordance with Figure 13 and Figures 15 – 19 of the HEP.

No recent evidence of protected/notable species were observed within the construction zone during the walkover survey. A single large nest was observed within a Scot's pine tree which could possibly have been that of a red kite

¹ The Ecology Co-op (2023) Reading Golf Club – Habitat Enhancement Plan (Rev 1.4.2).

Milvus milvus or a corvid species. The nest appeared inactive and was falling apart; furthermore, given the time of year it is highly unlikely that red kites would be actively nesting, as this species breeds much earlier in the year (occupying nests from March with young typically fledging by July).

Site photos from the walkover survey are presented in Appendix 1.

Additional future walkover checks are scheduled for the following dates:

- 13th February 2025
- 15th August 2025
- 16th February 2026

I trust the above information is sufficient for your records.

Kind regards,

Owen Crawshaw

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For further information on The Ecology Co-op, please visit www.ecologyco-op.co.uk

Appendix 1 – Site Photographs



