



Ecological Surveys Ltd

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Badger Presence / Absence Survey Report – Dwyer Road, Reading

This is an update report following a further visit on 14/07/2025.

Ecological Surveys Ltd were initially instructed to conduct a walkover of the site at Dwyer Road, Reading, 28 days prior to the start of works. This was carried out on 25th June 2025.

A previous assessment of the Site submitted when applying for planning permission (Preliminary Ecological Survey) evidenced field signs of badger comprising:

- Latrines/Faeces: badgers usually deposit faeces in characteristic excavated pits, concentrations of which (latrine sites) are typically found at home-range boundaries;
- Setts: comprising either single isolated holes or a series of holes likely to be interconnected underground;
- Paths between setts or leading to feeding areas;

The walkover carried out by Ecological Surveys Ltd. found approximately 12 sett entrances and seemingly well used pathways between them. Nonetheless, it appeared that only two were actively in use at the time. All other entrances were covered by vegetation, dead leaves and/or cobwebs. Although activity at the entrances was not considered likely to be badger, it was not possible to ascertain which species were utilising these holes, and owing to past identification of badger on site, this could not be ruled out. Consequently, two trail cameras were installed, one each on the active holes, as well as sticks placed in entrances.

These cameras were left for 19 days to identify activity levels and species present with the camera being finally checked on 14th July 2025. Over the 19 days, several rats were recorded entering and leaving the holes. Two videos also showed a fox expressing interest in one of the holes, entering and then shortly emerging on one night.

The presence of rats entering the holes, combined with the sticks still being in place would strongly suggest that no badgers have been using these entrances recently. Regarding the paths, it is possible that this was not badger, but rather other mammals such as foxes or muntjac, which have both been recorded on site. Consequently, it is considered unlikely that badgers would be injured / killed as a result in works due to begin on 11th August. It should be noted that this result is only considered valid for 28 days. If works have therefore not begun by 11th August 2025, it may be necessary to carry out an update walkover survey to assess activity levels.

Regardless of survey findings, it is the responsibility of all those involved with the proposed development works at this site to ensure that wildlife protection and nature conservation legislation is complied with throughout the lifespan of the development, at every stage. Although no current evidence of protected species was found on site, it cannot be assumed

that they are not present when the development work commences. Care should therefore be taken during all stages of the development and if any protected are discovered they must not be handled; works must stop immediately, and advice sought from a licensed ecologist.

Finally, due to the presence of other mammals (rats and potentially foxes) using the holes, in order to avoid inhumane suffering to anything present within at the time of works, mitigation should be put in place. Specifically, a digger using a toothed bucket should gently and progressively dig from the entrance of the holes, allowing any animals present to escape.

Appendix A. Screenshots of Footage





Ecological Surveys Ltd

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