

13 Appendix 4: Confidential badger report

Results and Interpretation

Badger

There were 34 records of badger *Meles meles* noted within 2 km of the Site, the closest being less than 18 m from the Site.

The extended Phase 1 habitat survey found a badger sett ca. 120m north of the Site, consisting of two active, two partially used, and two disused holes at SO 86617 59697.

Badgers are common and widespread across England, with the animals and their setts protected under the Protection of badgers Act 1992.

Impacts and recommendations

Badger

The active badger sett found to the north of the Site is approximately 120 m from the nearest proposed works therefore will not be directly impacted by the works.

The following mitigation for birds is recommended:

- A pre-construction badger survey is to be completed by a professional ecologist to check there has been no expansion or relocation of the sett closer to works area. If setts are present within 30 m of proposed works, then the ecologist should advise on any appropriate mitigation and and/or licensing measures that may be necessary during construction, and this advice is to be followed.
- Given the presence of badger in the vicinity of the Site, measures should be taken during construction of avoid accidental entrapment or harm to badgers, such as covering (or providing escape ramps from) trenches or pits overnight and sealing any exposed pipework overnight. These measures will also provide protection for hedgehog.