

Note; The following information should be submitted to bona fide organisations only.

**FURTHER INFORMATION TO
THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**APPENDIX 7-ECOLOGICAL
RESOURCES –BADGER SURVEYS**

College Fields, Banbury

**Hallam Land Management Ltd
J.J. Gallagher Ltd**

October 2005

ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES- BADGER SURVEYS- COLLEGE FIELDS, BANBURY

- 1.1 During the two Badger surveys undertaken in 2002 and 2004, three badger setts were observed in or on the site boundary with a further single sett observed some 80m outside of the site boundary to the east
- 1.2 Sett S1 lies within hedgerow H6 (refer to Figure 1, Appendix 6, Environmental Statement Volume 2), where dense bramble *Rubus fruticosus* growth occurs in association with some off-site roadside planting. Two active holes were present and appeared to be well used. Additional associated field signs indicating frequent use included well-worn pathways, dislodged guard hairs, pad prints, a latrine and bedding material in the large spoil mounds suggesting that it is of at least subsidiary sett status. Paths leading from this sett appeared to follow the hedgerow to both the east and west and also to the north into dense bramble growth.
- 1.3 Sett S2 lies approximately 300m southeast of S2, within H5 and was active, with signs of fresh digging and a latrine present, during the 2002 survey. However, no evidence of current badger occupation was observed during 2004 and it is likely that it is currently used by rabbits, due to the high density within this area, and should be considered as an abandoned outlier.
- 1.4 A third sett S3 lies some 200m southeast again, (H13) where an enlarged hole was observed in a rabbit warren. A badger hair was recovered from the spoil heap. No other field signs were observed in association with either the warren or associated hedgerow and it is considered that this sett is of outlier status and used sporadically at most.
- 1.5 A further fourth sett S4, as noted during 2002, remained disused, and is located outside the site boundary near Canal Lane bridleway. Although three individual dung pits were observed close to this sett in 2002, none were observed during 2004.
- 1.6 Further evidence of badgers observed within the site included a number of latrines/dungpits scattered mainly through the south of the site during both the 2002 and 2004 surveys.
- 1.7 The potential for long term impacts on the local badger social group is limited by their location outside of the built development areas, and within the land dedicated for Community Park use. The potential for impacts on foraging habitat availability is also

reduced due to the retention of the majority of hedgerows and creation of the country park habitats which, are likely to be of greater value to foraging badgers than those currently located within the site.

- 1.8 Disturbance of badgers, both during the creation of the country park and during its operation, may occur and could lead to an offence being inadvertently committed under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- 1.9 English Nature, the statutory body for nature conservation, in interpreting the protective legislation has produced guidelines for the advice of development organisations particularly when disturbance of a sett may occur even if not directly affected by proposals. This advice broadly requires that no major works should occur within 30m of active setts and that such setts and associated badgers should not be isolated from principle badger feeding grounds. Where works are to proceed within 30m of an active sett a licence may be required depending on the nature of works.
- 1.10 To ensure that badgers are not inadvertently disturbed during construction activities 30m exclusion areas will be maintained around badgers sett during all works.
- 1.11 To ensure that badgers are not disturbed during the operation of the site thorny shrub planting will occur around badger setts under licence. Furthermore, additional scrub/woodland planting within the country park will ensure that substantial cover is available for this species.