

**Job Name:** Littlehampton Allotments  
**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
**Subject:** Technical Note – Fox Den Monitoring

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This technical note has been produced in relation to the proposed development of Littlehampton Allotments, Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex (central grid reference TQ 03135 03698) hereafter referred to as the 'site'. The location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below.



*Figure 1: Approximate red line boundary*

An Ecological Impact Assessment was conducted by ECOSA Ltd in 2022, during the field survey, communication with residents indicated that a fox *Vulpes vulpes* den had been active within the south-eastern corner. Foxes are protected under the Wild Mammals Act of 1996, in which it is an offence to crush or asphyxiate the species. Therefore, monitoring was recommended prior to any works.

The Ecology Partnership carried out an initial survey on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to locate the fox den and identify evidence of fox usage of the site. Although a few shallow holes were identified, displayed in Figure 1, due to the bramble and vegetation located to the south of site access was limited. Additionally,

the south-east of the site appeared to have been used by residents to store garden waste noted with piles of cut branches, felled trees, and turf. The wider site was also surveyed however, mammal tracks were primarily located alongside the south-east of the site.



*Figure 1: Shallow holes identified during the site visits*

The site was once again attended on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 alongside landscapers to sensitively clear the bramble and vegetation to the south of the site to create access for further surveying (Figure 2). Vegetation was cut with a strimmer, garden waste piles were moved by hand, and discarded turf was moved with a shovel. One mammal hole was identified to the south of the site, location displayed in Figure 3. The mammal hole was examined, and depth was gauged using a wooden stake, this indicated that the hole was not deep (less than 1m) and unlikely to be a fox den, and considered likely to be an old excavation. To confirm this, the hole was sensitively cleared at its entrance, and it was confirmed the hole did not progress further inwards, with the back of the hole visible. No evidence of recent use by foxes was recorded. Therefore, the hole was soft filled with dirt. The identified mammal hole is displayed in Figure 4 below.



*Figure 2: Sensitive clearance conducted on 26/02/2025*

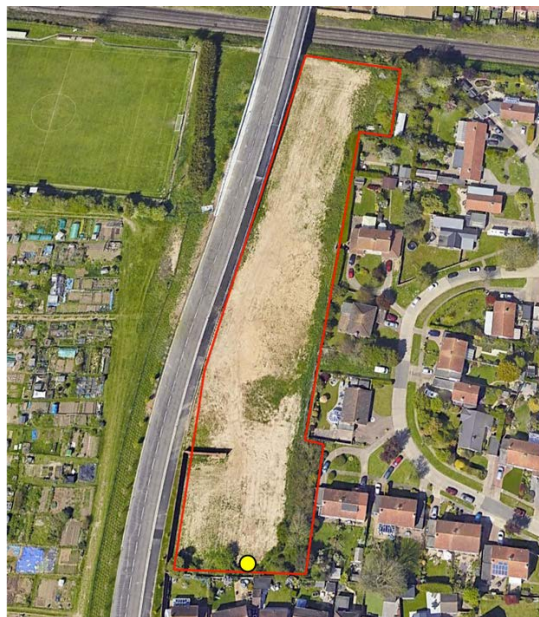


*Figure 3: Location of mammal hole*



**Figure 4: Mammal hole identified to the south of site (a – c), after sensitive dig and soft fill (d)**

No active fox dens were identified during the site visits conducted by The Ecology Partnership on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025, it is considered that foxes that may have inhabited the area prior have likely been pushed out since the surveys conducted by ECOSA Ltd in 2022. No other mammal holes were identified during the surveys; as such, it is considered the species will not provide a constraint to the works. However, as a precautionary measure, it is recommended the area be checked once prior to any works.