

Mr W. Cheuk
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By Email
1st April 2021

Job Ref: J21048_ Badger Walkover

Dear Mr Cheuk,

Site Reference – Inglenook Hotel, 253-255 Pagham Road, Pagham, PO21 3QB

Introduction

A badger walkover survey was undertaken on 30th March 2021 by suitably experienced ecologist, Tanya Rowlinson of Greenspace Ecological Solutions, of land at Inglenook Hotel, Pagham ('the Site'). The findings of this survey serve to determine if the Site has evidence/potential to support protected habitats/species, particularly badgers.

Site Description

The Site is located within the village of Pagham, West Sussex and approximately 6km south of Chichester, West Sussex at Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference: SZ 89065 98734. The Site is approximately 0.9 hectares (ha) in area and comprises semi-improved grassland, an earth bund along the western boundary of the Site and buildings and hardstanding. There was some hard standing present along the southern boundary which is currently storing garden rubble/waste.

Legislation

Badgers are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is illegal to intentionally kill, capture, ill-treat or injure any badger. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 also makes it an offence to obstruct, destroy or damage a badger sett or to disturb a badger whilst within its sett. For development purposes 'Disturbance' is defined as an activity that could damage a sett or be a level of disturbance greater than what the badgers commonly tolerate. Badgers are considered to be tolerant of "Low – Moderate" levels of disturbance (Natural England, 2009)

Methodology

The Site was subject to a walkover survey and evidence of badger activity was assessed by searching for:

- The presence of setts, indicated by suitably sized holes or burrows;
- Evidence of badger hair and/or footprints;
- Evidence of well-used runs supported by secondary evidence such as pushes;
- Foraging signs and
- Presence of badger latrines

Results

No evidence of badger activity or badger setts was recorded on-site during the survey. However, field signs indicative of the Site's use by rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* were recorded along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the Site in the form of paths, mammal holes, rabbit hair and snuffle holes.

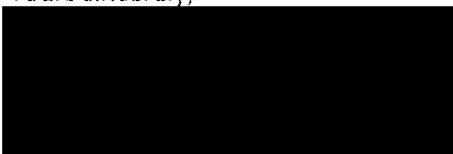
Conclusions and Recommendations

The results of the walkover survey identified mammal activity on Site in the form of mammal holes and mammal paths, however these were indicative of rabbits and no badger activity was present on Site. However, badgers are a highly mobile species and readily occupy new territory, it has also been identified that badgers are likely to forage within and commute across the Site. Therefore, any excavations exceeding 1m in depth should be covered over at night and/or should have a graded edge so as to avoid any badgers or other mammals becoming trapped. Should for any reason works not commence within 12 months of the completion of the above surveys, an update badger survey of the Site should be carried out prior to any works commencing in order to identify whether badgers have moved into the Site during the interim.

The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 protects all wild mammal species from certain cruel acts, including kicking, beating, nailing or otherwise impaling, stabbing, burning, stoning, crushing, drowning, dragging or asphyxiation of any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering. Crushing and asphyxiation are most likely to occur as a result of site works, through the collapse and/or excavation of mammal burrows or resting places. It is therefore recommended that if any rabbit burrows need to be destroyed during the course of construction activities (which should be avoided if possible), excavation must be undertaken by hand tools only, so as to allow the rabbits to escape and not become trapped/crushed/asphyxiated inside. If at any point during the works you are unsure of anything you find onsite or you come across any protected species, stop works and contact an ecologist for advice on how best to proceed.

I trust that you find the above information of use but if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Bell MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist

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APPENDIX A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1. Semi-improved grassland within the Site



Plate 2. Mammal path present along the northern boundary.



Plate 3. Rabbit warren present along the western boundary of the Site.



Plate 4. Rabbit hole within the earth bund.