

Binfield Badger Group

Protecting badgers across Berkshire



c/o Unit 38 Suttons Business Park
Suttons Park Avenue
Reading
RG6 1AZ

09th March 2026

Dear Sir or Madam

Re 260525 Land North Of Sheepbridge Court Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, RG7 1PT
Application for submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 232653 dated 26/03/2025. Condition 8 Construction Environmental Management Plan.

PLEASE DO NOT SCAN THIS ONTO THE PUBLIC ACCESS WEB SITE AS IT DISCUSSES THE LOCATIONS OF BADGER SETTS.

General background

I am writing on behalf of the Binfield Badger Group, which is a registered Charity with approximately 150 members. The Group is also affiliated to the Badger Trust, which promotes badger protection across the UK. The Group works in a voluntary capacity to protect badgers and improve public awareness across the whole of Berkshire.

The Group holds records of setts and road casualties for Berkshire and works with Councils by providing information and comment on the impact of developments.

Badgers and the application site

We have read the CEMP with interest. Our records show that there was an active badger sett very close to the perimeter on the eastern side of the application site as recently as 2024 and an outlier active in 2025.

We note that the CEMP includes appendices relating to Reasonable Avoidance Measures for both ground nesting birds and for reptiles and amphibians, but none specifically relating to badgers. Given the likelihood of badgers present in the area, we would ask therefore that a more comprehensive set of construction mitigations be required, including but not necessarily limited to those recommended by the Badger Trust as detailed below:

- A pre-commencement survey conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure the current badger situation is known.
- **Measures to prevent harm to badgers present on or visiting the site:**
 - Ensure excavations or trenches left overnight are covered or have an escape route such as a shallow gradient at one or both ends.
 - Ensure excavations or trenches are inspected each morning and evening to ensure no badgers have become trapped.
 - Open pipework with a diameter of more than 120mm to be properly covered or capped at the end of the working day to prevent badgers from entering and becoming trapped.



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- The storage of any chemicals to be contained in such a way that they cannot be accessed or knocked over by any roaming badgers.
- Litter, tools and potentially dangerous materials on site to be cleared at the end of the working day. Care to be taken that there are no sharp metal objects or pointed protrusions on the ground which could seriously injure a badger due to their poor eyesight.
- Fires to be lit only in secure compounds away from areas of badger activity and fully extinguished at the end of the working day.
- **Measures to prevent disturbance to badgers or their foraging:**
 - Security lighting to be kept to a minimum.
 - Use of noisy plant or machinery to cease at least two hours before sunset and not commence until an hour after sunrise.
 - Badger paths must not be blocked to ensure access to foraging areas is maintained, eg. raising temporary fencing off the ground.
- **Measures to prevent badgers creating new setts:**
 - Badgers will readily adopt mounds of stored topsoil or other 'soft' building materials and dig setts which would then be afforded the same protection as established setts. To avoid the adoption of such mounds, they must be subject to daily inspections before work commences or alternative measures put in place, such as their being fenced off for higher-risk areas.

All site personnel need to be fully briefed on the presence of badgers, the mitigation measures to be followed, the relevant legislation, the penalties imposed and who to contact should they need to.

Please ensure no dogs are brought to the work site.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully

Karen McCoy
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