

06 March 2013

Our ref: BEc6066/CWE/4252/1

Mr James O'Shea,
Banner Homes Midlands Ltd.,
5 Brooklands, Moons Moat Drive,
Redditch,
Worcestershire,
B98 9DW.

Dear Mr O'Shea,

Proposed development of Moor Pool Pocket Park, Harborne, Birmingham.

Further to your kind instruction to undertake an inspection and assessment of the above site for the presence of badgers, an experienced and qualified ecological scientist from Betts Ecology made a visit to the site on 27 February 2013 (please see appended photographs).

A thorough inspection was undertaken for any field signs of badger activity or evidence of badger setts such as badger entrance holes, faeces, latrines, footprints, trails, snuffle holes, *etc.*

All badger setts, whether occupied or not, are strictly protected by British law. In this case, the site was found to contain four badger entrance holes that showed evidence of being used intermittently, probably as an out-lying sett, by badgers (please see appended map of the site). There were also regularly used badger trails throughout the site, although no fresh badger latrines or snuffle holes were observed. In view of the findings overall it will be necessary to conduct further badger activity surveys of the site and adjacent land to inform an application for a Natural England licence.

As the development of the site is likely to reduce the amount of available foraging territory for the badgers on the adjacent land, mitigation to improve the value of the remaining habitat will also be required. This could be done by the planting of fruit trees within an area accessible to the badgers.

As a matter of general good practice, consideration should be given to any opportunities that may be available on site or within the scope of works to provide biodiversity enhancement. This may be as simple as planting native shrubs or climbers, creating a log pile or erecting bat, bird or invertebrate boxes. Further advice can be given on these if required.

Yours faithfully
BETTS ECOLOGY LIMITED

Handwritten signature of Craig Emms in black ink.

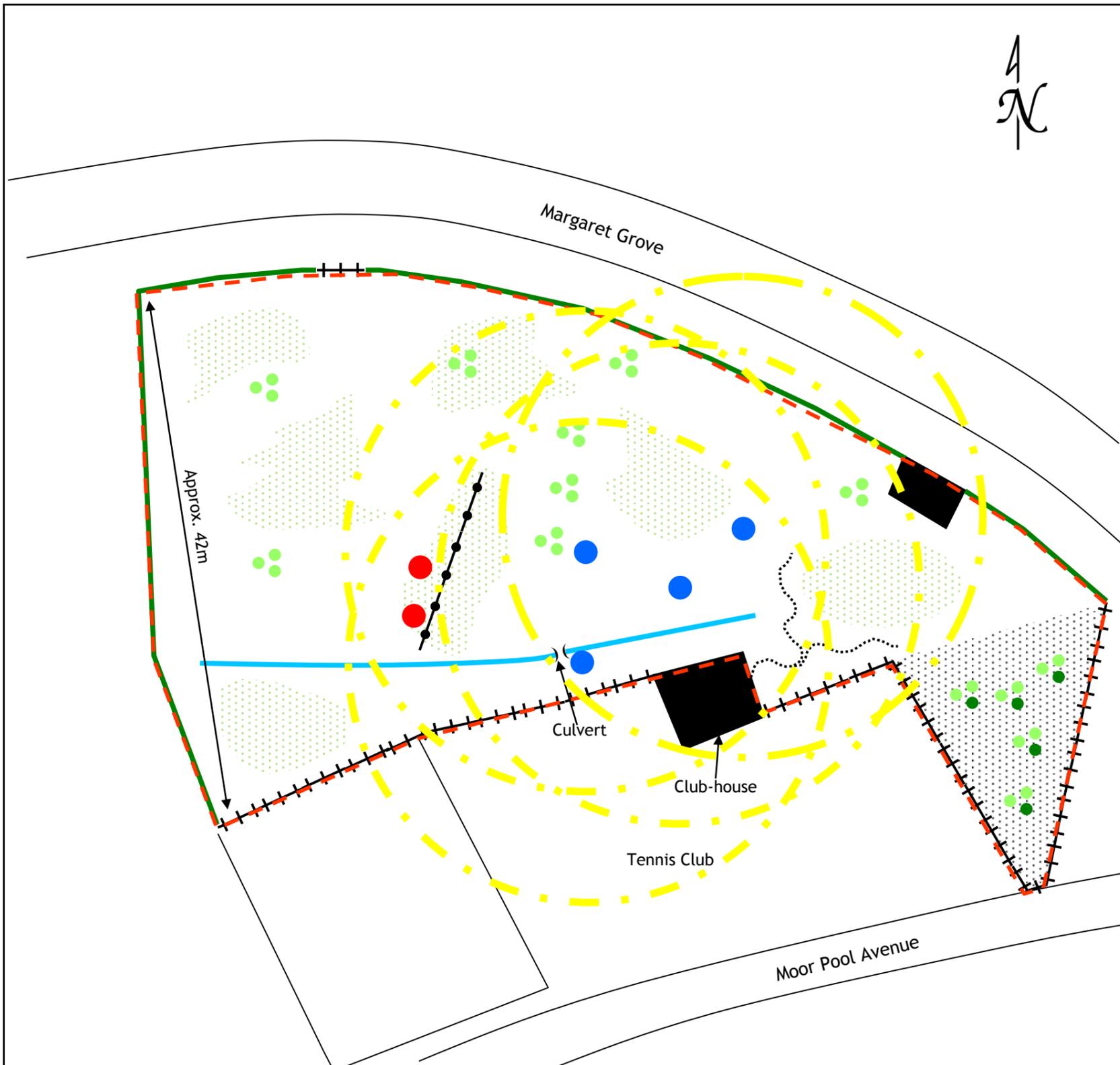
Craig Emms MSc MIEEM
Senior Ecologist

NOTES

Please be aware that, because the natural environment is dynamic, ecological reports generally have a limited period of currency. Many statutory authorities now regard one year as the maximum time that should elapse before a report will need to be updated, occasionally it may be longer but it may also be less. Where a European Protected Species licence is to be applied for once planning permission has been granted, a walk-over of the site should be carried out **within three months** of an application being submitted to check that the habitats have not changed significantly since the survey was carried out.

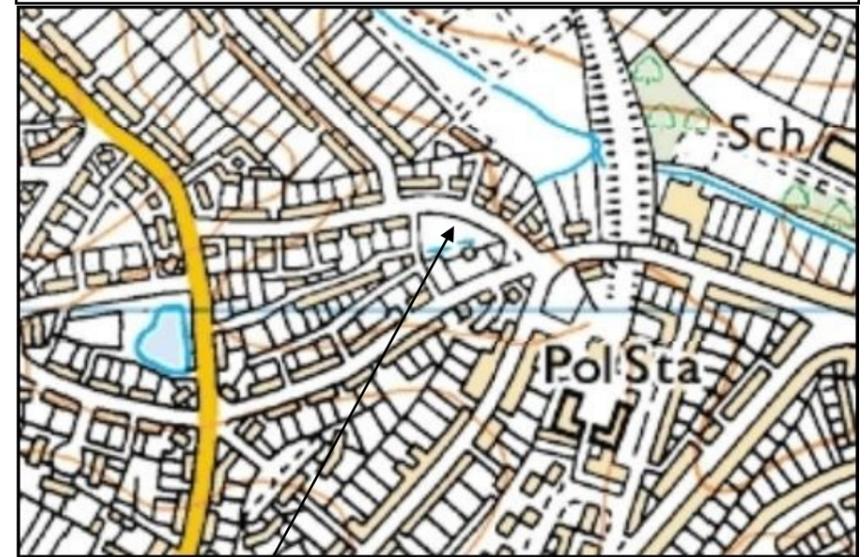
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Site plan



Key:

-  Survey boundary
-  Scattered scrub A2.2
-  Broadleaf scattered trees A3.1
-  Mixed Scattered trees A3.3
-  Running water (drainage channel) G2
-  Hedge (intact, species-poor) J2.1.2
-  Fence J2.4
-  Earth mound J2.7
-  Bare ground J4
-  Approx. location of active badger entrance hole
-  Approx. location of disused badger entrance hole
-  Badger trails
-  Approx. sett exclusion zone



Location of site

Client: Banner Homes (Midlands) Ltd.
 Site: Moor Pool, Harborne, Birmingham
 Title: Baseline Ecological Site Audit
 Ref: 6066
 Date: February 2013

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 Please note: this plan is intended only to indicate the approximate location of features and should therefore, not be treated as an accurate scale plan.

Photographs



Plate 1: An intermittently used badger entrance hole with associated spoil mound on the site.



Plate 2: A well-worn badger trail on the edge of the site.



Plate 3: Evidence of badger activity (including footprints) was observed underneath the tennis clubhouse on the edge of the site.



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