



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

Appendix 7.1 – Badger Survey

Proposed Residential Development  
in the townlands of Shanganagh, Cork Little and Shankill, Co. Dublin.

On behalf of  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, in partnership with the Land Development  
Agency

January 2020



**HRA | PLANNING**  
chartered town planning consultants

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## Badger Survey

### 1.0 Introduction

This confidential appendix includes sensitive information of the location of badger setts. As a species which is vulnerable to persecution, this information should not be made available for public circulation with the EIAR.

### 2.0 Badger Survey Results

One disused, single entrance badger sett was identified under a large ash tree south-east of Shanganagh Castle, approximately 90 m from the boundary of the Proposed Development. A second single entrance sett which was active at the time of survey (26 June 2019) was located on the Pond island, within the boundary of the Proposed Development.

No other signs of badger evidence (e.g. latrines, footprints, hair) were recorded.

### 3.0 Construction Impacts

#### Obstruction / Disturbance of Badger Setts

One active, single entrance badger sett is located on the island within the Pond. A disused badger sett was recorded approximately 90 m east from the Proposed Development.

The Pond and island will be retained and therefore the badger sett on the island will physically remain during construction (it is unlikely that the sett complex extends outwith the immediate island area into areas which may be affected as tunnels would have to be beneath the Pond). However, the sett may be disturbed (if active at the time of works) by construction impacts such as noise, vibration and lighting, to the extent that it may be effectively obstructed. As badgers will remain within / retreat to their sett for refuge, any badgers using the sett at commencement of works may become trapped, should suitable mitigation not be in place to allow their escape. Entrapment and possible death of even a single or small number of badgers could impact upon the local population, particularly if a breeding female is involved. Recruitment in badger populations is low as only one female per family group will typically breed, and litters generally consist of only two or three cubs, once per year. The Pond island sett is likely to be of low value to the local badger population as it consists of only a single entrance and no other badger evidence was recorded on Site or in the surrounding area. Alternative suitable refuges are known to exist nearby should badgers be displaced from the island sett. Disturbance / obstruction of the island sett will be permanent, as it will also be effectively obstructed during operation of the Proposed Development (see below).

The single entrance sett and the low number of individual badgers which are likely to use it, is considered only to be of Local Importance (Higher Value).

Given the above, it is most likely that badgers will be permanently displaced from a low value sett, resulting in a permanent slight impact at the Local scale and **no significant effect**. However, based on a worst-case scenario that the sett is active at the time of works and a small number of badgers may

become trapped, the Proposed Development could result in **a significant negative effect on a Locally Important ecological feature.**

#### Disturbance / Injury to Foraging Badger and Loss of Foraging Habitat

Active badgers may become trapped / injured by falling into open excavations associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Direct injury of badgers may also occur from construction traffic within the Site / on the access route into the Site, and the likelihood of this will increase as construction activity increases the volume of traffic using the route.

The large area of neutral grassland within the Site has been identified as being suitable for foraging badger. The majority of this habitat will be lost to construction. A significantly greater area of suitable habitat is present in the wider area (Shanganagh Park, Woodbrook Golf Course and the gardens of Rosedale House). A net loss of grassland foraging habitat will therefore be a permanent impact of the Proposed Development, but is unlikely to be of consequence given the alternative resource.

Increased likelihood of injury to badgers would be temporary. Should badgers be killed / permanently displaced, this would represent a longer-term, but temporary, impact at the Local scale (given the justifications regarding badger ecology provided above). Therefore, impacts associated with disturbance / loss of foraging habitat are not considered significant, but injury to foraging badgers represent **a significant negative effect on a Locally Important ecological feature.**

## **4.0 Operational Impacts**

### Disturbance to Badger Sett

The badger sett on the Pond island will remain post-construction and therefore it may be disturbed during operation by human activity / artificial lighting (if it remains active, which is considered unlikely). Such disturbance may represent effective obstruction of the sett.

As discussed above, this sett is likely to be of low value to the local badger population and alternative suitable refuges are known to exist in Shanganagh Park, to the south. Such effective obstruction would be permanent. The disturbance of badgers using this sett is therefore considered to result in **no significant effect** on this species at any geographic scale.