

Mike Burgess

From: Kathleen Rivett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 12 November 2017 15:37
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Northampton Local Plan Part 2 - Sites consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Northampton Local Plan Part 2 - Sites Consultation
Representation on behalf of the North Northants Badger Group

Kathleen Rivett

Unfortunately the North Northants Badger Group has only limited records of the location of badger setts within the Northampton urban area although records are more comprehensive for the northern section of the town. This is because the area is outside the Group's core area and we are currently building up a data base for the Northampton and Daventry areas.

The Group is concerned that some of the sites identified are large enough to support a badger population or are joined to a wider area which may support a badger population. Badgers do live in urban areas when suitable habitat and foraging sites are available. It is noted that the sites have not been surveyed for the presence of badgers nor other protected species as part of the site assessment process. The presence of protected species on such sites can considerably hinder deliverability as mitigation measures are not always feasible or difficult to achieve. This is especially the case with badgers where large areas of foraging land must be retained or access corridors to such foraging land. Developers may not appreciate that such obstacles may inhibit the development footprint if the issue is not identified in advance.

The Group therefore consider that all relevant constraints should be identified as part of the plan process particularly with regard to protected species.

On a purely desktop basis the Group would identify the following sites a worthy of further investigation being of a size and location that may host a protected species:

LA0508
LAA1134
LAA0672
LAA1100
LAA1009
LAA1102
LAA0204
LAA1104
LAA1024
LAA1098
LAA1027
LAA1025
LAA1112

It is noted that these sites have, in general, performed less well in terms of Sustainability Objective 9 (relating to biodiversity).

The Group would always wish to assist the Borough Council with regard to protecting badgers and other biodiversity.

Kathleen Rivett on behalf of the North Northants Badger Group.