

## Key for Appendix 1 & Badger Activity Examples – GA2 Report by HMBG

- Outlier setts of 1-2 holes
- Satellite/subsidiary setts of 4-6 holes
- Main/annexe setts of 9-18 holes
- Territory latrines
- Latrines
- Foraging areas located during surveys

Our surveys over the years suggest that the badgers move between established setts of Nine Acre Wood depending on the time of year. This is also the situation in regards to used/unused holes.

### Example of badger activity 12 March 2020 – Clan 1:

52 holes in Nine Acre Wood of which 22 were active

9 holes Cleveland Way area of which 8 were active

6 holes in southern hedge line, travelling east from Nine Acre Wood of which 5 were active

7 holes in northern bank/hedge-line, in between Nine Acre and Newberry Grove of which 3 were active

14 holes in Newberry Grove of which 11 were active

1 hole in Longdell Wood not active

### Example of badger activity 12 March 2020 – Clan 2:

17 holes in New Spring Wood/pylon area of which 13 holes were active

There are 106 sett holes in total within the GA2 proposed site area and on the immediate edge of the site of which 62 were active on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (some of the holes in Nine Acre Wood collapsed during 2020).

The badgers' setts and foraging areas cover 60% of the proposed site – both the expanse of ground they cover and the density of badgers is high. When the site was originally proposed in 2015 but on a much smaller scale, we raised a partial objection suggesting the triangle of land in-between the pylons, Nine Acre Wood and Brooches Wood was removed for foraging/protection and the access road was re-routed so that even though the site was designated green belt, it could be considered in line with the protected species. The site was increased in size, then incorporating further land inhabited by a large clan of badgers resulting in HMBG fully objecting to the site.

Although we have been aware of the situation with badgers in the area for many years; we have closely monitored the badger activity on this site since 2015 and this has been carried out by:

Keith Higby, previous Chair of HMBG

Chris Wood, current Chair of HMBG

Frank Wood, Licensing & Mitigation Co-Ordinator of HMBG

Richard Hargrove, Area Co-Ordinator of HMBG

Mick McCarrick, Bedfordshire Badger Group, Mammal Recorder, member of HMBG

Nikki Hamilton, Development Co-Ordinator of HMBG

Dr Jenny Jones (MCIEEM)

All of whom have raised concerns in regards to GA2 and have had considerable experience in regards to badgers, persecution, mitigation & development, artificial setts etcetera.