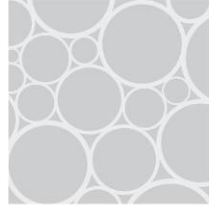




ENVIRONMENTAL



FLOOD RISK



DRAINAGE



ECOLOGY

Badgers and Habitat Creation

Beaumont Park Municipal Sports Complex, Leicester S and P Architects

Project Aims

A centrally located site in Leicester was earmarked for the development of a multi-purpose sports complex. These facilities would see the creation of a range of cycling, motor sport and football amenities that offered alternative leisure activities for the large youth population of the local community.

The footprint of the development was of little ecological value, consisting wholly of amenity grassland. However the site was bordered by



semi-natural woodland corridors that were of high ecological value within their urban context. The aim of this project was to retain, and if possible enhance this ecological value with the creation of new habitat.

Project Summary

The developers agreed to protect the woodland corridor whilst works were carried out, to create a wildlife sensitive design for the working development and to enhance the ecosystem thereafter by diversifying the ecotones with a creation of a complex of wetland habitats.

Our investigations indicated that the woodland corridors were in use by badgers *Meles meles* and several outlying setts were found. These setts are used by subordinate males periodically through-out the year normally whilst

the main setts are being used by the sows to cub. The badger activity at the site was monitored carefully and a suitable



mitigation strategy devised that sought the preservation of all the setts through the careful planning at the design stage of the sports complex. The alterations of the locations of various elements of the sports complex meant that the development could proceed without the closure of setts.

This pragmatic approach where communication with architects, developers and ecologist through-out the design and construction process allows nature and development to co-exists and even become mutually beneficial, without costing the earth.

Clear Ecology has an innovative yet holistic approach to habitat creation. A wide range of experience from a multitude of ecological disciplines ensures that every biological facet is explored and that the decisions made have the best possible ecological interests at heart.

