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**Memo**

**Regional Sports Centre, Blackhall  
Place, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath –  
Rapid Ecological Site Investigation**

ENGINEERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Ref:** 231188 – Regional Sports Centre, Blackhall Place, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath – Rapid Ecological Site Investigation.

Eibhlin Clifford  
Henry J Lyons  
One Albert Quay  
Cork  
Ireland T12 X8N6  
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Dear Eibhlin,

Site investigations carried out on 10/12/2024 revealed signs of protected species present at both sites earmarked for the proposed Regional Sports Centre at Robinstown and Blackhall Place in Mullingar.

**Mammal signs:**

- Badgers (*Meles meles*), Abandoned badgers set. Location: Blackhall Place site.



**Blackhall Place:**

- Badger survey was carried out after initial investigation which revealed three badger hole entrances on the railway embankment beyond the boundary. The survey showed that there were no signs of badger activity such as scat, badger runs, snuffle holes, resting places or dropped hair. The badger sett holes appeared to be abandoned due to their unkempt nature. Peanut and honey badger bait with red badger pellets were laid at the entrances to the abandoned sett with infrared camera traps covering the area. The camera trap data revealed that there were no badgers in the area.
- There is also a significant amount of the invasive species Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) which will require specialist removal and consultation, so a separate report dealing with invasive species will be required to prevent the spread of the species.

Currently most of the advice is to leave it alone as it proliferates quickly after cutting or removal. An alternative solution may be found regarding this site.

- A preliminary bat roost potential survey was carried out. There was no evidence of bat presence and full investigation revealed no man-made structures that would support roosting bats, no trees with suitable roosting potential and no visible features. The bat survey was carried out in the winter where full visibility of potential tree roosts can be identified. The trees on site are not fully mature and the only large trees on site are unsuitable for bats. There were no signs of bats such as droppings, urine stains or dead bats on or near any of the trees.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Manning'.

Larry Manning  
Senior Ecologist  
[l.manning@ors.ie](mailto:l.manning@ors.ie)



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