

RELOCATION AT BADGER SETT 55, HOCHTIEF TAYLOR WOODROW JOINT VENTURE



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

Badger Sett 55 was located within the footprint of the new link road on a section of the scheme due to be used as a temporary diversion route in 2014. The badgers had to be relocated under a badger licence to a safe location but traditional methods were unsuccessful at encouraging the badgers to leave on their own. This would potentially cause a 6 month delay with costs of £2.5 million.

Daily inspections of the sett and the surrounding areas were carried out by Ecologists and Hochtief Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture operatives, in addition to the use of a remote infra-red trail camera. As a result of these high quality inspection regimes, we were able to identify that the badgers were able to open the industry accepted one-way badger gates and re-enter the sett. A trapping and 'live dig' exercise was planned to remove the badgers quickly, safely, with as little disturbance as possible and avoiding delays to the construction programme. A key requirement to deliver this unusual method of badger mitigation was the good relationships the project had established with Natural England and their granting of a licence to undertake the project.

The live-dig lasted a period of four days, but required four months planning to ensure the operation was successful. The new approach developed at this site prevented significant delays, which could have resulted in badger stress and disturbance being unnecessarily prolonged. During the four days, six badgers were trapped and a further nine were dug out of the sett without any harm coming to any of them. Following the safe and humane relocation of these badgers, all parties were extremely pleased with the teamwork shown between Taylor Woodrow, project partners, and statutory bodies. Natural England have shared the 'Closure of Badger Sett 55 at BHLR' throughout their organization, to demonstrate how a live dig can be successful should the standard means of closure not prevent badgers entering a sett.

Fact box

Company name:
Hochtief Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture

Project name:
Relocation at badger Sett 55

Location:
Bexhill to Hastings Link Road,
East Sussex

Biodiversity enhancement:
Badgers relocation

Size:
N/A

Cost:
N/A

Tips:

- Planning is key to ensure work is carried out smoothly and on time
- Standard Mitigation may not always work
- Don't be afraid to consider a new approach

Year completed:
2014

Categories

- Small scale permanent
- Most innovative