

HOGWOOD FARM, FINCHAMPSTEAD

2024 BADGER SURVEY REPORT AND BADGER PROTECTION PLAN

Prepared for CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd

by

Hankinson Duckett Associates

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hankinson duckett associates

† 01491 838175 † 01491 838997 e consult@hda-enviro.co.uk w www.hda-enviro.co.uk

The Stables, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BA

Hankinson Duckett Associates Limited Registered in England & Wales 3462810 Registered Office: The Stables, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, OX10 8BA

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location and summary description

1.1.1 This report describes a updated Badger survey of the proposed Phase 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, Neighbourhood Centre and Sports Pitches/Allotment Parcels located within 110ha of land at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The site centre is located by National Grid Reference SU 76969 64399. The study was commissioned by CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd in May 2023.

1.1.2 The site is located to the north-west of the village of Finchampstead, Berkshire. In general terms, the western area of the site is comprised of three fields of disturbed ground dominated by short ruderal vegetation with scattered areas of tall ruderal vegetation and large spoil heaps bordered by mature trees and woodland with scrub field margins. The central and eastern areas of the site are comprised of areas of hardstanding and construction/disturbed ground bordered by mature treelines and woodland. The south-eastern areas of the site comprise two fields of semi-improved grassland fields intersected by a ditch with associated scrub and scattered trees. A species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane is present along the southern boundary. Woodland shaws and copses are located in the northern, western and central areas of the site, including mixed, broadleaved and broadleaved plantation woodland types, some of which are included on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland. Wetland habitats within the site include drainage ditches and small streams associated with the field boundaries and several ponds in poor condition are located across the site. Further information on the extent and composition of habitats across the site is provided in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Target Notes (HDA, 2024).

1.1.3 The site is part of a larger area covering a total of 110ha, hereinafter referred to as the 'wider site'. The wider site comprises residential dwellings associated with Parcels 1 and 2 in the north-west, construction sites associated with Parcels 14 and 15 in the east and the Nine Mile Ride Extension (NMRE) and the SANG which comprises a mix of wetland, species-rich grassland, scrub and woodland habitats which is located in the south of the wider site.

1.1.4 The site and wider site are bordered to the north by residential dwellings, the Bohunt School and the Hogwood Industrial Estate; to the east by Park Lane beyond which lie residential dwellings and park homes; to the south by Park Lane and farmland; and to the west by A327 Reading Road and Sheerlands Road beyond which lie farmland and woodland. The wider area is dominated by agricultural land interspersed with woodland and residential properties. The location and boundary of the site are shown in *Appendix A*.

1.2 Legislative context

1.2.1 Unless permitted under a licence issued by Natural England, Badgers and their setts are protected under the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act (HMSO, 1992). This makes it an offence to:

- Kill, injure or capture a Badger;
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a Badger sett; and/or
- Disturb Badgers while they are occupying a sett.

1.3 Development proposals

1.3.1 Planning permission (O/2014/2179 and 140764) was granted in January 2017 for a hybrid application. This comprises:

- Outline permission for demolition of all existing buildings on site; up to 1,500 new dwellings; employment floor space; a Neighbourhood Centre; a primary school; sports pitches and associated pavilion building; highways infrastructure; associated landscaping, public realm, open/green space and sustainable urban drainage systems; and
- Full permission for a 29.7ha Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in the south of the site.

The hybrid planning permission was subsequently amended by a Section 73 application (181194) which was approved in November 2018.

1.4 Scope and purpose of the report

1.4.1 Badger surveys of the site and wider site have historically been undertaken in 2008 by Entec, 2014 by Royal Haskoning (Royal Haskoning, 2014), 2017 (HDA, 2018b), 2019 and 2020 (HDA, 2020a) by HDA, May 2020 by Stantec (Stantec, 2020) and May-June 2021 by HDA (HDA, 2022) and August 2022 of the Parcels 14 and 15 area of the site by HDA (HDA, 2023). In total, 15 setts were recorded within or adjacent to the site during the 2021 Badger site wide survey carried out by HDA.

1.4.2 This report describes further survey work carried out in 2024 by HDA to update the previous Badger surveys to allow a robust assessment of the likely importance of the site for Badgers and inform measures for their protection.

1.4.3 In addition, this document has been prepared in response to Condition 29 of planning consent, which states that:

“No works which include the creation of trenches or culverts or the presence of pipes shall commence until measures to protect badgers from being trapped in open excavations and / or pipe and culverts are submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The measures may include; a) creation of sloping escape ramps for badgers, which may be achieved by edge profiling of trenches / excavations or by using planks

placed into them at the end of each working day and b) open pipework greater than 150mm outside diameter being blanked off at the end of each working day."

- 1.4.4 Specifically, the aims of this study are to:
- i) Establish the presence/probable absence of active Badger setts within or adjacent to the site;
 - ii) Assess the relative importance of different parts of the site for Badgers;
 - iii) Predict likely impacts potentially arising from development of the site;
 - iv) Identify measures to be implemented in order to protect Badgers during construction as required under Condition 29; and
 - v) Provide further recommendations for Badger impact avoidance, minimisation and mitigation.

- 1.4.5 The area surveyed included the site and accessible areas within 30m of the site boundary thought likely to provide suitable habitat for Badgers.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A detailed walkover survey of the site and, where possible, adjacent land was undertaken on 9th, 16th and 22nd January 2024 by Bob Goldsmith of HDA in order to provide an update of the previous Badger surveys. The survey involved walking around the site looking for evidence of Badger activity including setts and other field signs such as footprints, latrines, feeding scrapes and hairs. The survey route incorporated all habitats present and followed all boundaries. All holes and scrapes were examined to assess what species was using or had dug them. For each confirmed Badger sett a recording card was completed detailing the type of sett, number of entrances and level of activity (from disused to well-used). Completed recording cards are given in *Appendix B* and descriptions of the sett type classifications used are given in *Appendix C*.

- 2.2 A subjective assessment of the foraging potential of the habitats within the site was also made, based on the availability of potential food sources.

- Good foraging habitat: provides Badgers with a variety of foraging opportunities through the year (e.g. agriculturally improved pasture, hedgerows and gardens).
- Moderate foraging habitat: foraging opportunities can be limited by season and management regime (e.g. rough grassland, woodland and scrub).
- Poor foraging habitat: areas that provide few foraging opportunities for Badgers (e.g. cereal crops, heathland, moorland and wetlands).

- 2.3 A total of 15 hours over 3 days were spent carrying out the field survey. Weather conditions were calm and dry on all occasions.

2.4 Limitations

2.4.1 As is often the case with Badger surveys, the density of some areas of scrub within and adjacent to the survey area was such that it was not possible to survey them exhaustively. These areas were circumnavigated and examined for evidence of paths leading into them and other evidence of recent use by Badgers.

2.4.2 There were no significant limitations to the survey. The site is dominated by fields of disturbed ground with hedgerows and small woodland copses which were easily accessible making it likely that all active Badger setts present within the site were identified during the survey.

2.4.3 In summary, no significant limitations were encountered during the survey that might otherwise affect the assessment of the importance of the site for Badgers and the recommendations provided in *Section 4* of this report.

3 RESULTS

3.1 History of works carried out to Badger setts on site

3.1.1 To date, works have been carried out to several Badger setts within the site to facilitate construction of the NMRE and the Phase 2 development area and demolition of buildings within the former Hogwood Farm Industrial Estate. Works carried out to date include:

1. Closure and hard stopping of a disused Badger sett (Sett N) in June 2020 due to the sett entrance leading under a building proposed for demolition (as part of the demolition of the Hogwood Farm Industrial Estate buildings) (HDA, 2020b);
2. Following approval of a Natural England licence application to temporarily close four setts (main sett (Sett C), annex sett (Sett K) and outlying setts (Setts J and T3)) in the north-east of the wider site due to their proximity to the NMRE works, Stantec carried out temporary sett closures in 2020. Following which a subterranean barrier was installed between the setts and the NMRE to avoid any potential subsidence implications for the proposed road. As part of these works two replacement setts were constructed, one within the Green Corridor in the centre of the site (Sett P) and one within the SANG in the wider site (Sett U) (Stantec, 2020); and
3. Following approval of a Natural England licence application to close an outlying sett (Sett L) in the centre of the site due to its proximity to the Phase 2 development area, HDA carried out a closure of Sett L in September/October 2021.

3.2 Setts

3.2.1 9 setts were recorded during the 2024 Badger survey, including 1 artificial sett constructed for Badger mitigation associated with the construction of the NMRE (Sett P). All Badger setts recorded within the site in 2021 were found in 2024. The locations of the setts

recorded are shown on the plan in *Appendix A* and the 2024 Settle Recording Cards are given in *Appendix B*. Natural England's 2009 guidance was used to determine whether setts should be regarded as being in 'Current Use'. A brief description of each sett encountered is given below.

Sett M (Sett J7 in Stantec Report)

During the 2024 survey, Sett M was recorded as an outlying sett not in current use comprising one partially used entrance. In addition, further Rabbit-sized entrances were also recorded. The sett is located within a ditch system at the base of a hedgerow along the northern boundary of the Phase 6 development area. The land to the north is under development (associated with Phase 2) and the field to the south is comprised of disturbed ground with short ruderal vegetation. At the time of survey, there were signs of Rabbit occupation but no evidence of recent Badger activity was recorded.

The sett was first recorded in 2020 by HDA and Stantec, at which time it was recorded as an outlier sett with one well-used entrance in current use by Badgers. The sett was subsequently recorded in 2021 as an outlying sett, not in current use comprising one disused and one partially used entrance.

Sett P

During the 2024 survey, Sett P was recorded as an artificial sett not in current use comprising four disused entrances. The sett is located on the grounds of a former residential property, within the Green Corridor in the centre of the site. At the time of the survey there was no evidence that the sett was in use by Badgers.

The sett was constructed in late 2020 as part of mitigation for the temporary closure of setts in the vicinity of the NMRE area of the site. The sett was therefore first recorded during the 2021 survey and was observed to be unoccupied by Badgers at that time.

Sett Q

During the 2024 survey, Sett Q was recorded as an outlying sett in current use comprising one partially used entrance. The sett was clear of leaf litter with a path leading to the entrance however no direct evidence of Badgers was observed. The sett is located along a woodland belt between Parcels 5 and 6 of the site development areas.

The sett was first recorded in 2021 as an outlying sett in current use comprising one well used entrance that appeared to have been recently dug.

Sett R (Sett J4 in Stantec Report)

During the 2024 survey, Sett R was recorded as a main sett in current use comprising two well used and two partially used entrances. The sett is located in a belt of scrubby ancient woodland along the western site boundary, situated between the A327 road to the west (off-site) and the Parcel 5 development area to the east. Evidence of Badger activity at the time of the survey included expelled bedding, Badger hairs, tracks, and nearby latrines.

The sett was first recorded in May 2020 by Stantec and subsequently recorded in 2021 by HDA as a main sett in current use by Badger.

Sett AA

During the 2024 survey, Sett AA was recorded as an outlying sett not in current use comprising one partially used entrance. The sett is located in a belt of scrubby trees and ditch along the southern site boundary, situated immediately north of Park Lane (off-site). The sett had not been previously recorded.

Sett BB

During the 2024 survey, Sett BB was recorded as an outlying sett not in current use comprising one partially used entrance. The sett is located in a belt of scrubby trees and ditch along the southern site boundary, situated immediately north of Park Lane (off-site) and located approximately 8m north-east of Sett AA. The sett had not been previously recorded and was located in close proximity to a Rabbit warren.

Sett CC

During the 2024 survey, Sett CC was recorded as an outlying sett in current use comprising one partially used entrance. The sett is located in a belt of scrubby trees and ditch along the southern site boundary, situated immediately north of Park Lane (off-site). The sett had not been previously recorded. Evidence of Badger activity at the time of the survey included fresh spoil heap with tracks.

Sett DD

During the 2024 survey, Sett DD was recorded as an outlying sett in current use comprising one partially used entrance. Evidence of Badger activity included old scratch marks on roots by the entrance which was free of debris. The sett is located approximately 50m south-west of Sett P in a belt of scrubby woodland in the centre of the site along the eastern boundary of Parcel 6 of the development area. The sett had not been previously recorded.

Sett EE

During the 2024 survey, Sett EE was recorded as an outlying sett not in current use comprising two disused entrances. The sett is located in a belt of scrubby woodland along

the western site boundary, situated between the Sheerlands Road to the west (off-site) and the north-western corner of the Parcel 4 development area. The sett had not been previously recorded and was located in close proximity to a Rabbit warren.

Other setts recorded in 2021/2022

Two outlying setts (Setts W and V) were previously recorded in 2022 in association with Parcels 14 and 15 area of the site (HDA, 2022), neither could be found during the 2024 survey despite a specific investigation of the locations of the setts. Both were previously recorded as each comprising one disused entrance and historically had not been recorded as active setts.

3.3 Other signs

3.3.1 Latrines were recorded around Sett R in the woodland on the western boundary of the site and within the woodland around Sett Q. The low density of latrines recorded indicates limited territorial behaviour by Badgers within the site.

3.3.2 Several mammal paths were recorded passing through woodland and hedgerows within the site and it is likely that these paths are used by Badgers, as well as Rabbits and deer which were also recorded at the site.

3.4 Foraging habitat

3.4.1 The disturbed ground and ruderal vegetation dominating the site generally provide poor quality foraging habitat, however moderate and good foraging habitat is found within the hedgerows and field margins across the site and within the grassland fields in the south-east of the site. Further foraging opportunities are provided by fallen deadwood found throughout the woodland areas in the northern, western and central parts of the site. The hedgerows, treelines and woodland areas also provide suitable sett-building habitat.

4 BADGER PROTECTION PLAN

4.1 Setts

4.1.1 Five Badger setts (Sett Q, R, CC, DD and EE) in 'current use' were recorded within the site during the 2024 survey. The majority of these are located within the western section of the site with the expectation of Sett CC located in the south-east of the site.

4.1.2 Four Badger setts not showing any signs of current use were also recorded within or adjacent to the site comprising three outlying setts (Setts M, AA and BB) and one artificial sett (Sett P).

4.1.3 Signs of Badger activity including paths, latrines and foraging signs were recorded across the majority of the site.

4.1.4 The 1992 Protection of Badgers Act protects Badgers and their setts. Any works involving the disturbance of a Badger occupying a sett, or damage to a sett displaying signs indicating current use by a Badger (Natural England, 2009^a), will require a licence from Natural England.

4.1.5 Where possible, the active setts recorded during the survey (Sett Q, R, CC, DD and EE) should be retained within the development proposals, with connections maintained to foraging habitat from these setts.

Setts Q, R, DD and EE

4.1.5 Setts Q, R, DD and EE are located within scrubby woodland belts that border and intersect the western area of the site. The development proposals as shown on *Landscape and Open Space Parameter Plan* (Cooper Baillie Dwg. CB_12_103_S73_004) and *Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead: Overarching Landscape Strategy* (RPS) indicate the possible retention of Setts Q, R, DD and EE due to their association with areas of retained woodland, with connections maintained to foraging habitat in public open space, the SANG and adjacent areas.

4.1.6 In order to protect the integrity of the active Badger setts, a minimum stand-off of 20m should be maintained between active entrances and any proposed excavation works, storage of materials or movement of vehicles. The stand-off zones should be demarcated using suitable fencing/notices throughout construction works and site staff made aware of their presence. In order to minimise disturbance during the operational phase consideration should be given to use of fencing and dense scrub planting to limit access to retained setts.

4.1.7 Where this stand-off is not possible, in order to prevent any physical damage or disturbance to the sett(s) during the construction phase, works encroaching into the standoff zone from an active hole should be subject to the approval of a suitably qualified ecologist¹. Where appropriate, approved work within this area should be carried out under an Ecological Watching Brief and restrictions placed on night-time working/lighting in the vicinity of the retained setts. In addition, if any works are required in the vicinity of Sett R (main sett), it is recommended that works should be carried out when Badgers are least likely to be breeding (i.e. between July and November inclusive).

4.1.8 In the event that it is not possible to retain an active Badger sett or works have potential to damage these setts or disturb Badgers present, it would be necessary to apply for a Natural England licence to close and/or damage/destroy the sett(s) prior to works commencing.

¹ In the event that the suitably qualified ecologist considers there to be a risk of works within the stand-off zone which could result in damage to the sett or disturbance to occupying Badgers that cannot be avoided, a licence will be required.

The recommended method for sett closure involves the affected entrances being “soft stopped” initially to confirm current use, followed by the installation of one-way gates at the sett entrances. The entrance(s) are then monitored until use by Badgers has ceased, after which the sett is destroyed under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. Closure of setts usually takes in the region of three to six weeks and licences are usually only granted for works affecting setts between July and November outside of the Badger breeding season. In the unlikely event that there is a substantial impact on a main sett (e.g. Sett R), then it may be necessary to construct a replacement sett close to the affected sett but away from the area of works in order to provide suitable replacement habitat for any Badgers displaced during sett closure. Where only part of a Badger sett is to be affected by the works, exclusion by use of one-way gates may not be effective due to the presence of interlying tunnels, in which case it may be necessary to proceed to supervised destruction of the affected part of the sett under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist even if the entrance remains active. All procedures relating to the closure or damage to a sett or disturbance of occupying Badgers would need to be subject of a detailed method statement and monitored by the licensee and/or accredited agents. The requirement for this would be assessed on finalisation of the scheme design and, if necessary, the detail of any replacement sett provision would be provided in the detailed method statement to be prepared in support of the licence application.

Setts CC, BB and CC

- 4.1.9 Sett CC comprising an active outlying sett and Setts BB and CC comprising disused outlying setts are located in the south-eastern area of the site adjacent to Park Lane and are likely to be lost due to the proposed development of a bridleway. Outlying setts may not be permanently occupied and may be used on a seasonal or irregular basis. Prior to any works impacting these setts, a 3-week period of monitoring should be carried out to confirm the status of the setts. If any of the setts are confirmed to be in current use by Badgers, works have potential to damage these setts or disturb Badgers present and it would be necessary to apply for a Natural England licence to close and/or damage/destroy the active sett prior to works commencing. The methodology is detailed in *Section 4.1.8* above.

Setts M and P

- 4.1.10 Current knowledge suggests that Setts M and P are not in ‘current use’ in the context of the 1992 Badgers Act (Natural England, 2009) and therefore a Badger licence would not currently be required for works affecting these setts. It should be noted however that outlying setts may not be permanently occupied and may be used on a seasonal or irregular basis and it is possible that these setts could be reoccupied prior to development commencing. It is therefore recommended that, where possible, Setts M and P are also

retained within the development scheme for the site, maintaining a suitable standoff and ensuring that areas of foraging habitat remain readily accessible.

4.1.11 The development proposals as shown on the *Landscape and Open Space Parameter Plan* (Cooper Baillie Dwg. CB_12_103_S73_004), *Phase 2 Landscape Strategy: Residential Areas* (RPS, 2020) and *Phase 2 Landscape Proposals: Green Corridor* (RPS, 2021) indicate that both setts can be retained within areas of public open space.

4.1.12 Outlying setts are low-status non-breeding setts that may be occupied on only a temporary basis and therefore alternative setts are expected to be present in the wider area. Loss of these setts is therefore unlikely to have any long-term impact on the local Badger population.

Further survey

4.1.13 Badgers are very mobile animals and setts may be abandoned, new setts dug and old setts reclaimed within short periods of time. It would therefore be prudent to resurvey the site in advance of each design stage and prior to works commencing within any development phase in order to confirm the status of Badgers across the site and inform any need for avoidance, mitigation and licensing measures.

4.2 Foraging and Connectivity

4.2.1 The disturbed ground that dominates the site provides poor quality foraging habitat. However, the woodland habitats that intersect these areas provide good sett-building habitat for Badgers. The grassland habitats of the highest value for Badgers located in the south of the wider site will be retained and enhanced within the SANG and all woodland is also proposed to be retained as part of the SANG or within other areas of public open space. Although the proposed development will result in a loss of foraging habitat where built development takes the place of disturbed ground and semi-improved grassland, due to the abundance of suitable foraging opportunities in the wider area this loss is unlikely to be significant in a local context, and would be partly off-set by habitat enhancement and creation works associated with the areas of public open space and the SANG. The SANG and other areas of public open space will include areas of high-quality Badger foraging habitats including meadow grassland, scrub and woodland.

4.2.2 Development proposals for the site will also maintain habitat corridors for the movement of Badgers and other wildlife around the site through the retention of undisturbed semi-natural habitats including hedgerows and woodland bands around the developed parts of the site. The lighting strategy for the proposed development will also be designed to minimise effects on habitats likely to be used by Badgers and other nocturnal wildlife following development. These measures are detailed further within the *Outline Site-wide Ecological Permeability*

Scheme (HDA, 2018c). Planting schemes will also give consideration to foraging Badgers through the provision of meadow grassland and use of fruit and nut providing shrubs and trees. It is likely that in time, as the gardens of the proposed houses mature, these too could provide some replacement Badger foraging habitat.

4.3 Construction works

4.3.1 In addition to the design measures identified above to allow for the retention of Badger setts and maintenance of foraging habitat within the scheme, unless otherwise agreed with the local planning authority the following measures will be implemented to protect active Badger setts and foraging Badgers during the construction works in any given development phase:

- Any steep-sided holes left open overnight will be equipped with a mammal ladder (a reinforced plywood board >60cm wide set at an angle of no greater than 30° to the base of the pit);
- Temporarily open pipes with a diameter of >150mm will be plugged to prevent entrapment;
- Exclusion zones around retained setts will be clearly marked using appropriate fencing, and site workers made aware of their presence; and
- Compound areas will be located away (>20m) from active Badger setts. Lighting will be of the minimum required for public safety and directed away from Badger setts and foraging habitat.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Nine setts were recorded within or adjacent to the site during the 2024 Badger survey, of which five were found to be in “current use” and four were recorded as “inactive”. The current development proposals indicate that active setts Q, R, DD and EE and inactive setts P and M can be retained within the development scheme due to their association with areas of retained woodland and public open space. It is however likely that outlying Setts AA, BB and CC will be lost to the proposed development. Measures to maintain the integrity of the retained Badger setts are provided in *Section 4* above, together with measures to maintain opportunities for foraging and movement of Badgers throughout the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

5.2 Subject to the implementation of the measures identified above to avoid impacts on Badgers during the development of the site, and to maintain the long-term presence of suitable Badger foraging habitat and corridors for movement within and around the site, it is unlikely that the proposed development would have a significant adverse impact on the local Badger population.

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	Personnel	Position
Author	Bob Goldsmith	Assistant Ecologist
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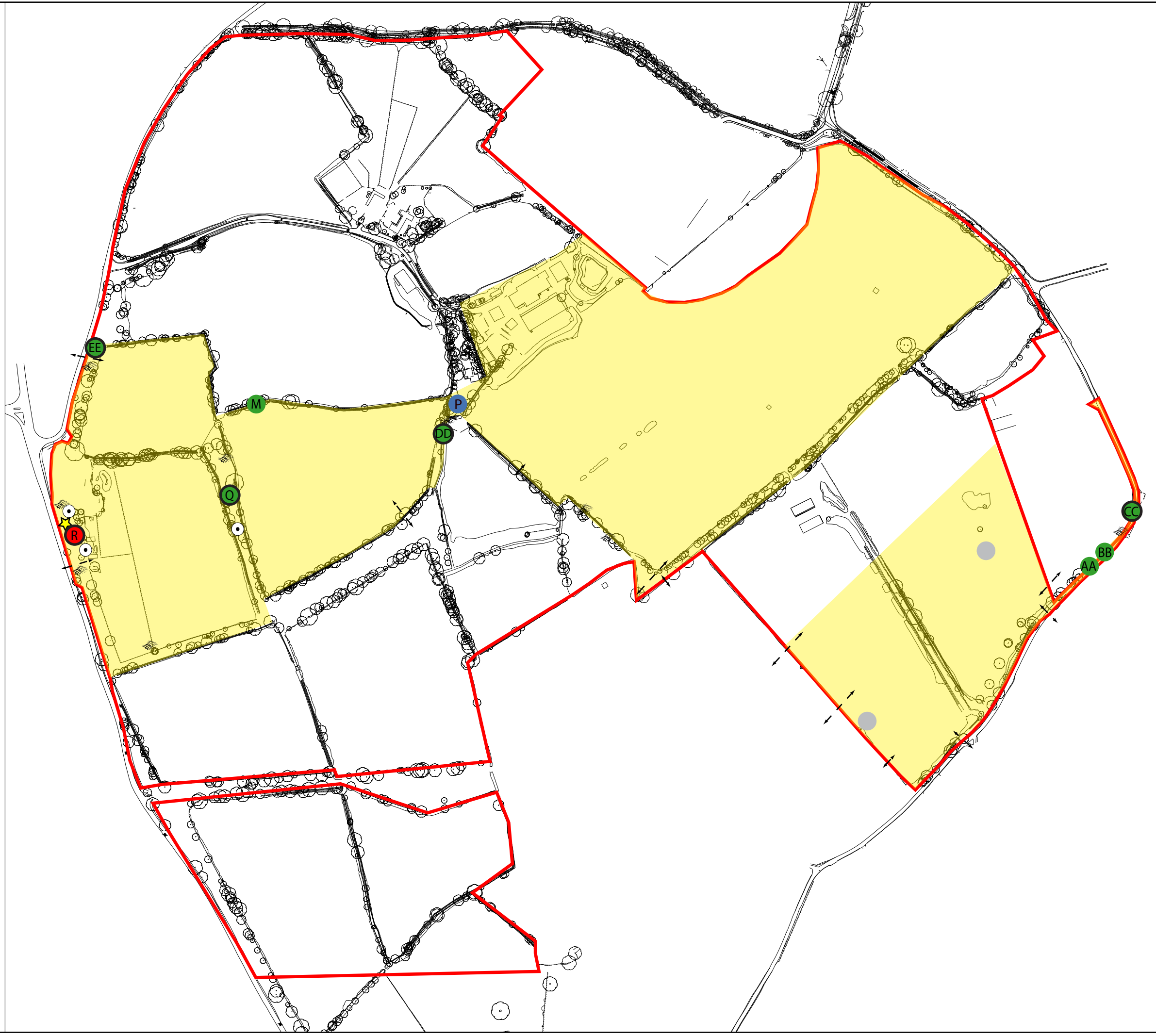
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APPENDIX A

Badger Survey Results Plan



- KEY**
- Wider site boundary
 - 2024 Badger survey area
 - Main Badger sett
 - Outlying Badger sett
 - Artificial sett
 - Badger sett recorded in 2023 not recorded in 2024
 - Active Badger sett

- Field signs**
- Badger latrine
 - Badger print
 - Foraging signs
 - Mammal corridor

CLIENT:
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PROJECT:
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TITLE:
2024 Badger Survey Summary Plan
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Landscape Architecture
Masterplanning
Ecology



APPENDIX B

2024 Field Recording Cards

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: M

Grid Reference: posts. originate. again

Date: 16/1/24

Surveyor: BG

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: within hedge with trees north boundary of parcel 6.

Number of Entrances Well used Partially used 1 Disused

Notes: One entrance clear of debris with root at entrance. Rabbit sized entrances in close proximity.

Sett in Current Use Yes No ☒

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

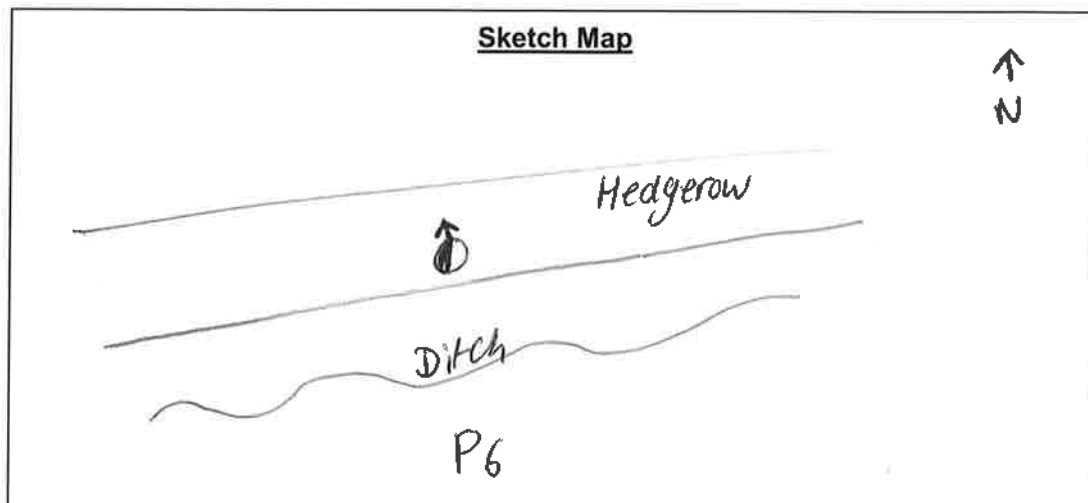
Notes:

Signs of Occupation Bedding Hairs Tracks Dung Pits Scratching

Notes: Old scratching marks on root at entrance

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: P- Artificial Sett

Date: 16/1/24

Grid Reference: decades. awesome. funny

Surveyor BR

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: Rough grassland clearing between trees

Number of Entrances Well used _____ Partially used _____ Disused 4

Notes: All entrances overgrown with vegetation

Sett in Current Use Yes _____ No (circled)

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

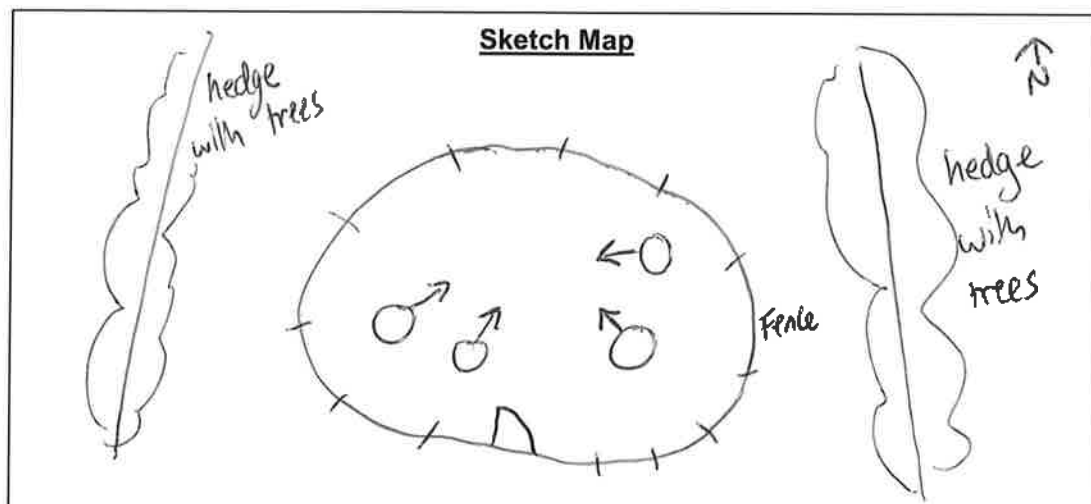
Notes: Artificial sett

Signs of Occupation Bedding _____ Hairs _____ Tracks _____ Dung Pits _____ Scratching _____

Notes: None

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes: _____



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arbor field

Sett ref: Q

Date: 16/1/24

Grid Reference: remark. worms. punchy

Surveyor BG

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

~~Ditch~~

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: Woodland Strip between P5 and P6

Number of Entrances Well used Partially used 1 Disused

Notes: One entrance - Clear of leaf litter
Slight wall collapse within entrance with uncompacted soil

Sett in Current Use

Yes ~~No~~

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

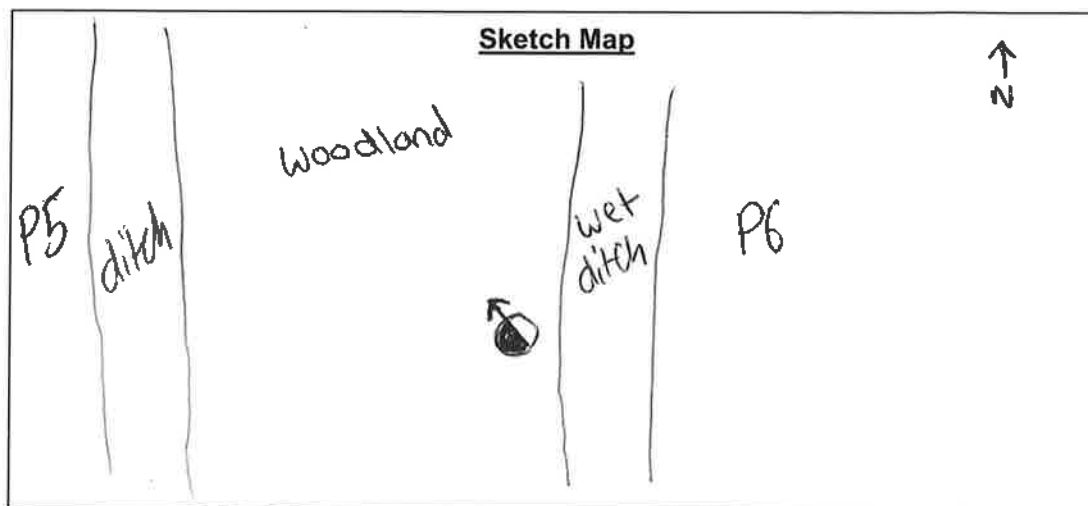
Notes: Path leading to entrance, not well used by
evidence

Signs of Occupation Bedding Hairs Tracks Dung Pits Scratching

Notes:

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: R

Date: 16/01/24

Grid Reference: foggy. slams. alarm

Surveyor BG

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: wooded strip between site (PS) and A327
on a bank above ditch/depression in woodland

Number of Entrances Well used 2 Partially used 2 Disused

Notes:

Sett in Current Use Yes No

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

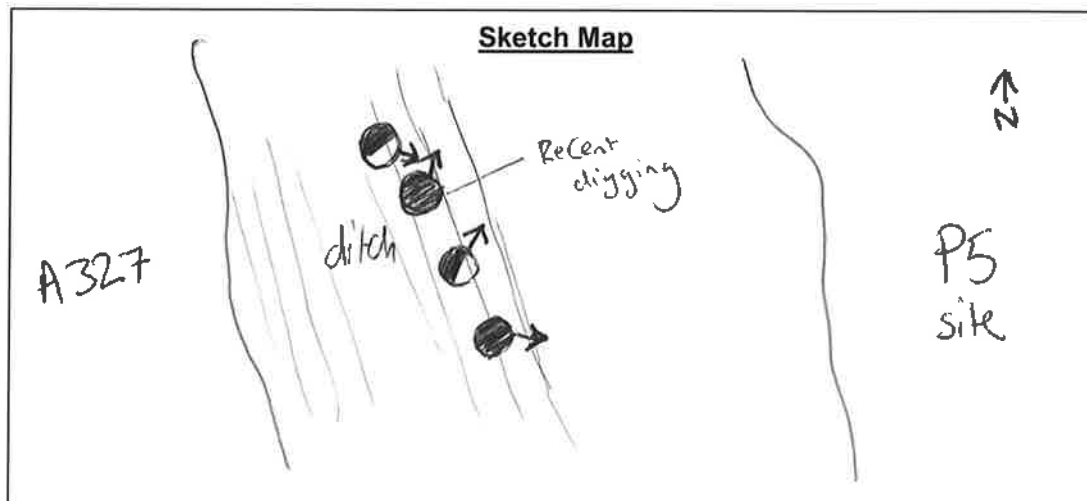
Notes: 3 entrances with large spoil heaps

Signs of Occupation Bedding Hairs Tracks Dung Pits Scratching

Notes: well used path to entrances with tracks present
Recent bedding outside one entrance, older bedding
outside another

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborthfield

Sett ref: AA

Date: 9/1/24

Grid Reference: Intruders . Shook . hangs

Surveyor BB

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: on top of wooded embankment approx 5m from roadside

Number of Entrances Well used Partially used 1 Disused

Notes: Leaf litter in entrance

Sett in Current Use Yes No ☒

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

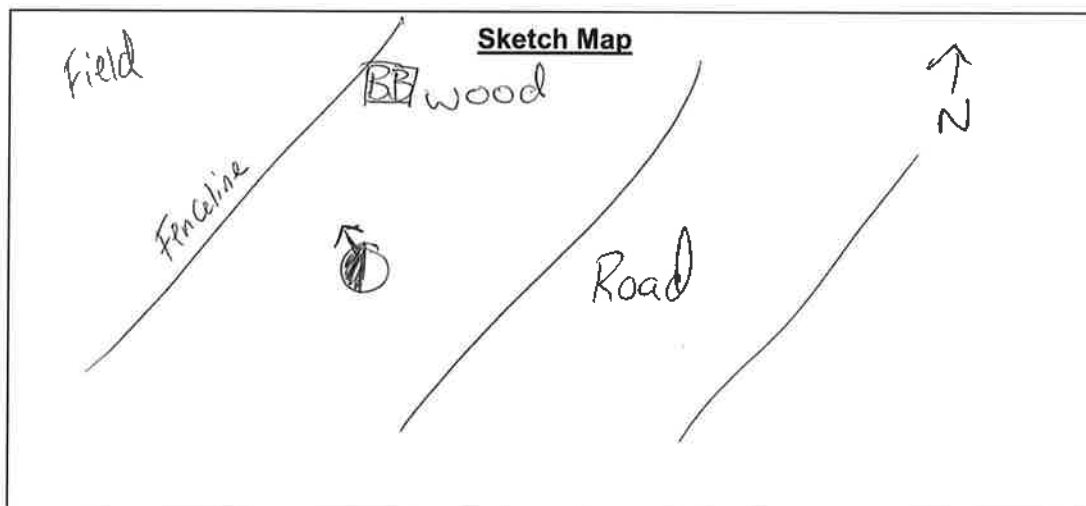
Notes:

Signs of Occupation Bedding Hairs Tracks Dung Pits Scratching

Notes: N/A

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: BB

Date: 9/1/24

Grid Reference: Trifle - diverged. whips

Surveyor Bt

Habitat

☒ Woodland

☐ Scrub

☐ Hedge

☐ Ditch

☐ Field

☐ Garden

☐ Quarry

☐ Embankment / Cutting

☐ Conifer plantation

☐ Other

Notes: Approximately 8m from sett entrance AA

Number of Entrances Well used Partially used 1 Disused

Notes: Entrance approx 1m from fescue boundary
full of leaf litter

Sett in Current Use Yes No ☒

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

☒ Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

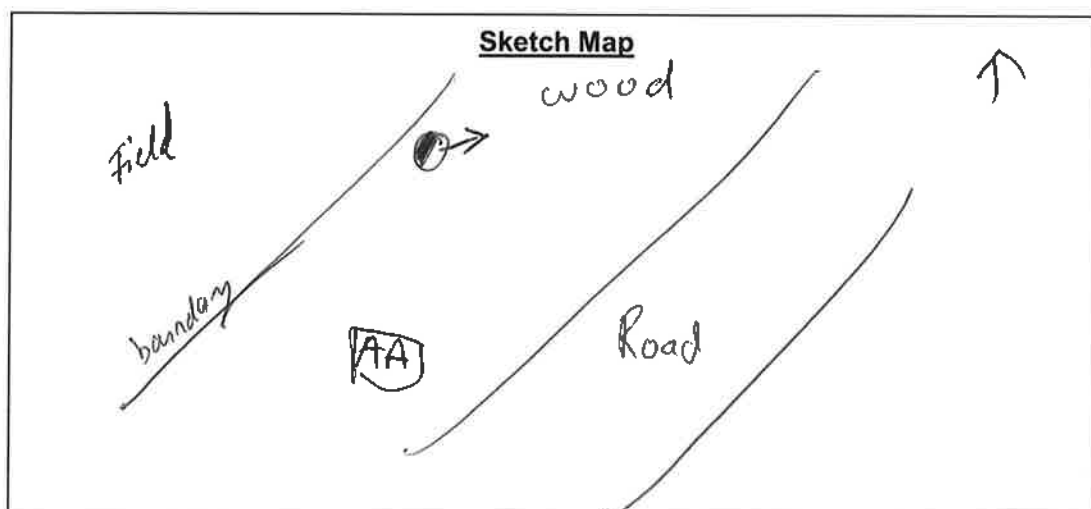
Notes:

Signs of Occupation Bedding ☐ Hairs ☐ Tracks ☐ Dung Pits ☐ Scratching ☐

Notes: N/A

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: CC

Date: 9/1/24

Grid Reference: Fills. Waltzes. frame

Surveyor BG

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes.....

Number of Entrances

Well used

Partially used 1

Disused

Notes..... Small amount of leaf litter approx
1.5m from fence line boundary

Sett in Current Use

Yes

No

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

Notes.....

Signs of Occupation

Bedding

Hairs

Tracks

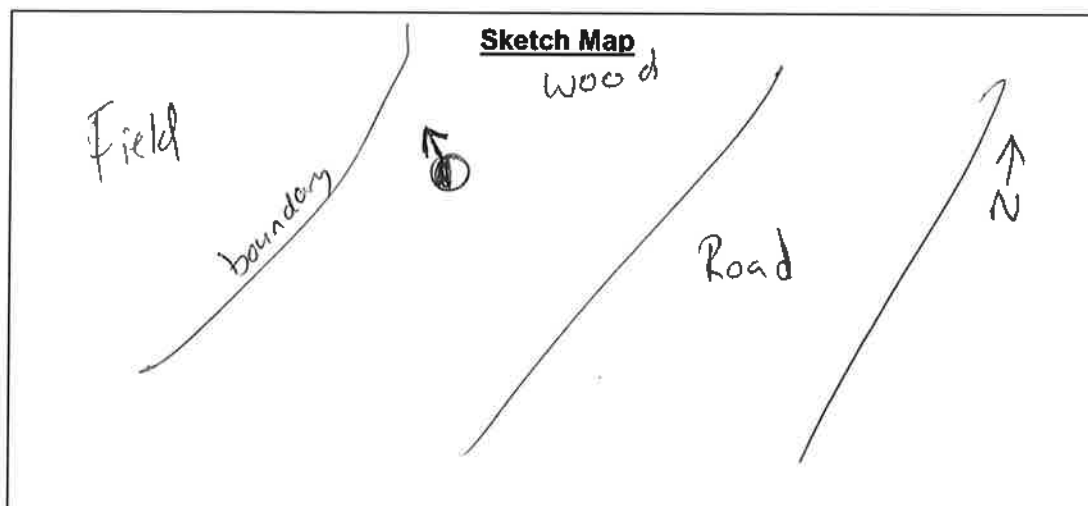
Dung Pits

Scratching

Notes..... Large fresh spoil heap out from with
single track in spoil

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes.....



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: DD

Date: 16/01/24

Grid Reference: hillsides. belt. coherent

Surveyor BG

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: Wooded strip between PG and SANG

entrance approximately 1.5m from PG fence boundary

Number of Entrances Well used Partially used 1 Disused

Notes:

Sett in Current Use

Yes

No

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

Notes:

Signs of Occupation Bedding Hairs Tracks Dung Pits Scratching

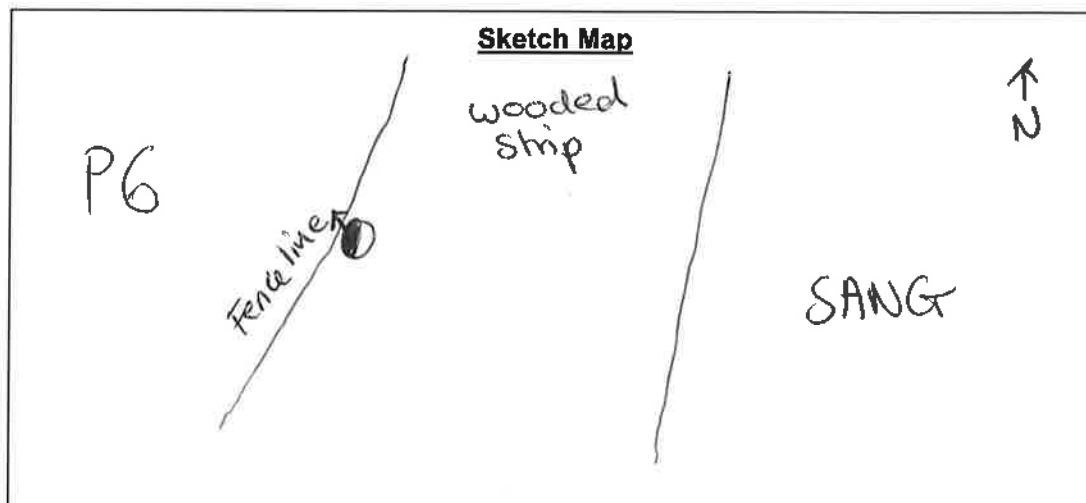
Notes: Entrance free of debris, old scratch marks on root

by entrance

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:

Sketch Map



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

BADGER SETT RECORDING CARD

Site: Arborfield

Sett ref: EE

Date: 22/01/24

Grid Reference: Splashes. doors.

Surveyor BGR

Habitat

Woodland

Scrub

Hedge

Ditch

Field

Garden

Quarry

Embankment / Cutting

Conifer plantation

Other

Notes: woodland strip between P4 and Sheerland Road

Number of Entrances

Well used

Partially used

Disused 2

Notes: Two entrances possibly of badger origin disused with leaf litter in entrance and partial collapse of Southern entrance. 3 rabbit warren entrances in close proximity

Sett in Current Use

Yes

No

Category of Sett

Main (many holes with conspicuous spoil heaps, looks active. Well worn paths. Can be disused)

Annexe (close to main (<150m) usually connected to it by well-worn paths)

Subsidiary (few holes (3-5). At least 50m from main with no obvious paths)

Outlying (one or two holes, used sporadically, no obvious paths)

Notes:

Signs of Occupation

Bedding

Hairs

Tracks

Dung Pits

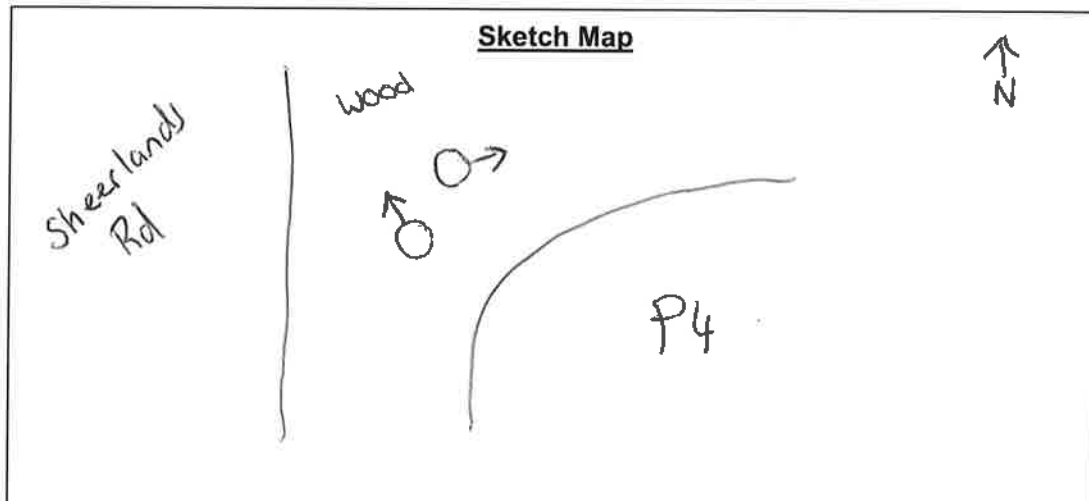
Scratching

Notes: None

Vulnerability (i.e. ease of public access; obviousness; nearby development)

Notes:

Sketch Map



Well used entrance



Disused entrance



Partially used entrance

APPENDIX C

Badger Sett Type Definitions

Badger Settle Type Definitions

*From: Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jefferies, D. (1981) *Surveying Badgers*. The Mammal Society, Bristol.*

In most cases each social group of Badgers has more than one sett in its territory, and these vary in status and level of use. Whenever there is a Badger problem in an area, it is essential to undertake a thorough survey to establish (i) how many social groups may be involved and (ii) the distribution and status of any setts being threatened. The extent of any problem depends on the type of sett under threat, and so the different types of Badger sett occupied by a single group of Badgers are described below.

Main setts: Normally each group of Badgers has only one main sett, and so by counting all the main setts in an area you can find out how many social groups of Badgers are present. Main setts usually have several holes with large spoil heaps, and the sett generally looks well used. There will be obvious paths to and from the sett and between sett entrances. In the British national Badger survey the average number of holes for a main sett was twelve, although main setts may be much smaller, even a single hole in exceptional circumstances. Although normally the breeding sett, and in continuous use, it is possible to find a main sett that has become disused due to excessive interference, illegal digging, tree felling or some other reason.

Annexe setts: These are often close to a main sett, normally less than 150m away, and are connected to the main sett by one or more obvious well-worn paths. Usually they have several holes but may not be in use all the time, even if the main sett is very active. The average number of holes per annexe sett in the British survey was eight.

Subsidiary setts: These are usually at least 50m from a main sett, and do not have an obvious path connecting with another sett. They are not continuously active. The average number of holes per subsidiary sett in the British survey was four.

Outlying setts: These often have little spoil outside the holes, have no obvious path connecting them with another sett, and are only used sporadically. When not in use by Badgers, they are often taken over by foxes or even rabbits. However, they can still be recognised as Badger setts by the shape of the tunnel (not the actual entrance hole), which is at least 25cm in diameter and rounded or a flattened oval shape (i.e. broader than high). Fox and Rabbit tunnels are smaller and often taller than broad. The average number of holes per outlying sett in the British survey was two.

Note: These sett definitions form part of a continuum, and setts do not always fit neatly into these categories.