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# BADGER SURVEY

SHAW LANE (LAND NORTH OF),  
CARLTON, BARNESLEY

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## CONFIDENTIAL

NOVEMBER 2022

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Site Information

- 1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2022 by Network Space to carry out an assessment of Badger activity on the land north of Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley (O.S. grid reference: SE 37404 10325 – see Figure 1). The proposed development site currently comprises an arable field with a band of tall ruderal herb on the boundaries.



Figure 1 showing the location of the site

### Summary of Previous Work

- 1.2 The site was the subject of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey in March 2019 which was updated in July 2021. No Badger sett was located on the site during either survey. Rabbit warrens were located on the site during both surveys, the most recent update survey some of the holes were larger in size and more typically Badger shaped however there were no field signs associated with these holes that would indicate Badger occupancy.

### Description of Development

The site is the subject of an outline planning application with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) for the construction of up to 215 dwellings with associated car parking/garages, landscaping, public open space including both equipped and non-equipped areas of play, SUDS and drainage, with details of a new vehicular access onto Shaw Lane (planning reference: 2022/0115).

### Badger protection

- 1.3 Badgers *Meles meles* are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These Acts, for example, make it illegal to disturb a Badger whilst it is in a sett, to kill, injure or take a badger and to obstruct the entrance to a Badger sett.
- 1.4 **This report contains sensitive information regarding the location of a Badger sett, and as such, should not be placed on public record**

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The site was searched for evidence of Badger activity. This included looking for setts, old bedding, latrines, stray hairs attached to fences or hairs within bedding, scratch marks on posts/tree trunks, tracks and paw prints, snuffle holes and other foraging remains.
- 2.2 If any setts were located, the number of entrances was counted and if possible, the results of this could be then classified according to usage (Harries *et al*, 1989):
- Main Sett: 5–20 entrances (used for breeding).
  - Annexe Setts – usually within 150 metres of the main sett connected by Badger paths.
  - Subsidiary Sett – 1–3 entrances usually within 50 metres of the main sett.
  - Outlier Sett – 1-2 entrances up to 500 metres from the main sett and not used for breeding.

### Personnel and Seasonal Timing

- 2.1 Kate Reed (Senior Ecologist) carried out the survey on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. Kate is an experienced and fully trained in protected species assessments. Badger surveys can be conducted at any time of year.

### Survey Constraints

- 2.2 The site was fully accessible and the land 30m surrounding the site was mostly fully accessible except for the railway embankment to the East of the site, this was not accessible at the time of the survey and therefore only viewed through the chain link fence on the site boundary allowing an assessment to be made.

## 3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1 A group of holes is located on the western boundary of the site within the base of the hedgerow (approximate OS grid reference: SE 37226 10284). The holes are small in size and appear to be the right size and shape to be used by Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. Rabbit droppings within the spoil of some of the holes and Rabbit was observed on the site during the survey confirm use by Rabbit. Twelve holes within the group appear to be active, with the entrance free off or with only small amounts of debris within the entrance such as leaf litter (see Photograph 1). Some of the holes are slightly larger and more typically 'Badger-shaped' but are still relatively small and do not support any field signs that would indicate use by Badger (see Photograph 2). Four of the holes in this group appeared disused, partially collapsed and/or filled with leaf litter (see Photograph 3).



Photograph 1 showing one of the holes clear of leaf litter



*Photograph 2 showing one of the larger holes within group*



*Photograph 3 showing one of the disused holes*

- 3.2 A single Rabbit hole was also identified along the northern boundary of the site (see Photograph 4). This hole is small and has rabbit droppings outside.



*Photograph 4 showing the single Rabbit hole on the northern boundary*

- 3.3 Two mammal holes with spoil heaps are located approximately 7m from the site in the railway embankment that lies adjacent to the eastern boundary (approximate OS grid reference: SE 37511 10343) (see Photograph 5). As they lie on the railway embankment, there was no access at the time of the survey to make a full assessment of the holes. The topography of the railway embankment means the holes and any underground features of the holes such as chambers and tunnels are dug away from the site and only two holes could be seen. The spoil heaps are trampled with no evidence of recent digging at the holes, or other field signs of Badger activity such as mammal tracks leading to and from the holes or snuffle holes in the land around the sett and it is likely they are not currently occupied.



*Photograph 5 showing one of the spoil heaps on the railway embankment*

- 3.4 No field signs such as feeding remains, latrines or snuffle holes were located on the site or within 30m of the site (where accessible/visible) during this survey or any of the previous surveys that would suggest the site is an important foraging resource for any Badger in the locality. The only mammal feeding remains found on the site included a Fox kill on the northern boundary (see Photograph 6) and a small number of berries found in association with the rabbit warren in the west of the site (see Photograph 7). Mammal tracks are located within the grassland on the site boundary and small number of push throughs are located under the fence between the site and the railway line, but these are small and more likely used by Rabbit than Badger.



*Photograph 6 showing the remains of a Fox kill to the north of the site.*



*Photograph 7 showing the remains of some berries*



## 4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 No Badger sett is located on the site. Two holes were located to the east of the site that possible could be an outlier Badger sett but there were no signs of recent digging and due to the topography of the land any underground features will be dug away from the site. A band of orchard trees and the gardens of the properties are proposed along the western boundary of the site which will provide a buffer area therefore, disturbance of these holes due to development on the site is unlikely. The group of holes on the site is considered to be a Rabbit warren, which is consistent with the findings of the previous site visits, should these holes need to be destroyed as part of the proposed scheme it should be done by hand to allow the animals to escape.
- 4.2 No badger field signs were located on the site during the survey or during the previous survey of the site. This would suggest Badgers are not regularly using the site to forage or commute across and that site does not form an important foraging area for Badgers in the locality. Evidence of other mammal, Fox and Rabbit foraging activity was located on the site during the survey.

If the holes to the east of the site start to display signs of occupation (such as fresh digging) or any new mammal holes are found during the site clearance, or during the development of the site, work must temporarily stop, and a suitably experienced ecologist be contacted for advice.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

Harries, S., Cresswell, P. & Jefferies, D. (1989). Surveying Badgers. The Mammal Society

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