



Appendix 7.5
Badger Survey Report - 2021 Update

July 2021



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



THE LANES PENWORTHAM BADGER SURVEY REPORT - 2021 UPDATE

TEP
Genesis Centre
Birchwood Science Park
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
Email: tep@tep.uk.com
www.tep.uk.com

Offices in Warrington, Market Harborough, Gateshead, London and Cornwall

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Taylor Wimpey and Homes England are seeking to obtain planning permission for residential-led mixed-use development on land to the east of Penwortham Way known as 'The Lanes, Penwortham' (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). Within this report "the site" refers to land that falls within the application boundaries A and B as illustrated in Figure 1 below.
- 1.2 TEP was commissioned in March 2018, to determine the presence or likely absence of badger *Meles meles* on the site. Updated surveys were undertaken in July 2019 and April 2021.

Description of Site

- 1.3 The central grid reference of the site is SD 53329 25884 and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below.
- 1.4 The site is irregular in shape and occupies approximately 51.86ha on land to the east of Penwortham Way to the south of the settlement of Penwortham.
- 1.5 The site is bound by Penwortham Way to the west, existing residential development south of Kingsfold Drive to the north, the West Coast mainline railway to the east and agricultural fields to the south.
- 1.6 The site comprises a mix of land uses including:
- Agricultural land separated into a number of fields by fences, hedgerows and trees;
 - Pylon accommodation land;
 - Pylon corridor; and
 - Roads.
- 1.7 The site surrounds a number of residential dwellings and light industrial buildings which do not lie within the application boundary.

Suitability for Badgers

- 1.8 A report produced by Jacobs in September 2016 in relation to the proposed Penwortham bypass (Report Ref: B2237809) found no evidence of badgers within the site and no records of this species occurring in the locality within the last 10 years.
- 1.9 The field boundary hedgerows and woodland areas on and adjacent to the site could provide sett excavation opportunities for badgers. The arable and grassland areas also provide suitable foraging habitat for this species.

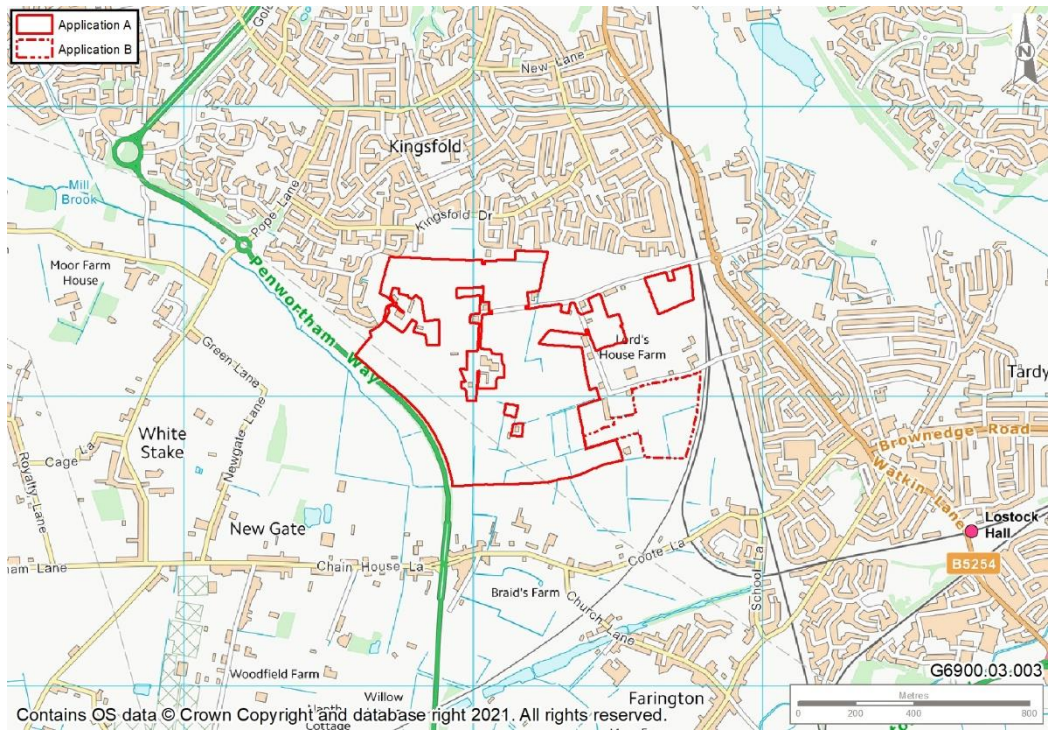


Figure 1: Site Plan

2.0 Methods

- 2.1 A badger survey of the site, and surrounding 30m buffer where accessible, was undertaken by TEP Senior Ecologist Lizi Pimlott between the 26th and 28th March 2018. An updated survey was undertaken by TEP Ecologist Damian Young on 29th July 2019 and again on 13th and 14th April 2021. These surveys were undertaken in line with the standard approach detailed in *Surveying Badgers* (Harris et al., 1989) and used during the National Badger Survey (Cresswell et al., 1990).
- 2.2 The survey involved surveying potentially suitable habitat and looking for evidence of badger activity such as setts, badger trails/pathways, snuffle holes (or foraging pits), latrines and badger hairs. Any badger setts and associated entrance holes were recorded and assigned a category of badger sett type.

Limitations

- 2.3 While access to some third party land was possible during the 2021 surveys, some areas of the 30m buffer were still not accessible during the survey. However due to the lack of badger activity elsewhere within the site in habitats similar to those which could not be accessed, it is not anticipated that badgers would be present in these areas and therefore this is not a significant limitation to the survey.

3.0 Results

- 3.1 No records of badgers were returned within the desk based assessment completed by TEP in June 2018 (Report Ref: 6900.007).
- 3.2 No setts or conclusive evidence of badger activity was found within the site during any of the surveys.
- 3.3 Mammal paths and evidence of the presence of fox *Vulpes vulpes*, were noted in some of the grassland areas to the south of Bee Lane during previous surveys however none were recorded in 2021.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 No records of badgers were returned in the desk based assessment and no evidence of badger was identified during the surveys.
- 4.2 Therefore it is considered likely that badgers are absent from the site.
- 4.3 However a number of habitats on the site are suitable for badgers. Badgers are highly mobile throughout their range and therefore there is a small possibility that badgers could utilise the site, in its current state, in the future.
- 4.4 Vegetation clearance and excavation works could result in the destruction of badger setts and badger injury/fatality, if present within the site.
- 4.5 Badgers and their setts are protected from disturbance under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 An updated badger survey should be undertaken prior to commencement of site clearance. There are no seasonal constraints to this type of survey.
- 5.2 If an active badger sett is identified within 30m of the working area a Natural England licence may be required to disturb or destroy the sett.