



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP

LDP-EBD-STR3B.4.I



WARREN HALL BROUGHTON, FLINTSHIRE BADGER SURVEY 2018

TEP Ref 7016.008

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Drawings

G7016.011 Badger Survey Plan

1.0 General Details

Site Name	Warren Hall, Broughton, Flintshire		
Job Number	7016	Doc. Ref	7016.008
Site Location	Broughton	Central NGR	SJ 32408 62514
Survey Location	The site is bordered to the north by the A5104, to the east by Lesters Lane, and the west and south by Kinnerton Lane. The latter two are relatively small country lanes. The habitats surrounding the site are arable and grazed fields. The warren hall estate lays encompassed in the central northern boundary of the site.		
Date(s)	11th May 2018		
Seasonal Constraints	No seasonal constraints encountered.		
Drawing Ref:	G7016.011 Badger Survey Plan.		

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 TEP was commissioned by Welsh Assembly Government in April 2018, to carry out badger surveys.
- 2.2 The badger survey forms part of a wider ecological appraisal part of a series of phase 1 and phase 2 ecological surveys at Warren Hall, Broughton, Wales, hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- 2.3 The site is not currently part of a planning proposal and these surveys are to inform the local plan in terms of future development of the site.

Site Description

- 2.4 The site is located east of Penymynydd, south of the A55 and Broughton. The central grid reference is SJ 32408 62514. The site is immediately bounded by the A5104 to the north, Kinnerton Lane to the west and south, and Lesters Lane to the east. The site border dips around the grounds of Warren Hall to the north. Farmland surrounds the site.
- 2.5 The site consists of a series of poor semi-improved grassland fields, with an area of plantation mixed woodland in the north of the site and an area of plantation broad-leaved woodland in the south of the site. The plantation broad-leaved woodland has numerous patches of bluebells, an ancient woodland indicator species in the west with a body of running water running west to east through this. A body of standing water lies within the site south of Warren Hall. This standing water surrounded by plantation broad-leaved woodland and is connected to the mixed plantation woodland by an area of marsh/marshy grassland. Most of the fields are bordered by species-poor intact hedgerows, with some fencing and the site perimeter bordered mostly by native species-rich intact hedgerow. There are scattered trees across the site, mostly along the field boundaries.
- 2.6 The surrounding landscape is farmland with some small developments with Broughton town over the A55.

Legislation

- 2.7 Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This act is based on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. The act makes it an offence to:
- Willfully kill, injure, take possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so;
 - To intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett. Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access routes.
- 2.8 A sett is defined as: “Any structure or place that displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.
- 2.9 Work that disturbs badgers whilst occupying a sett is illegal without a licence; badgers may be disturbed by work near the sett even if there is no direct interference or damage to the sett.
- 2.10 Generally the types of activity requiring a licence include:
- Using heavy machinery (generally tracked vehicles) within 30m of any entrance to an active sett;
 - Using lighter machinery (generally wheeled vehicles), particularly for any digging operation, within 20m;
 - Light work such as scrub clearance or hand digging within 10m.
- 2.11 Licences only allow works to be carried out between July and November inclusive.

3.0 Methods

Desktop Study

- 3.1 Desktop records of protected or notable species recorded within a 1km radius of the site were gathered from the Cofnod North Wales Environmental Information Services in June 2018.

Field Survey

- 3.1 A badger survey was undertaken by TEP ecologist Clare Gower on the 11th May 2018. The survey included land within the site and land within 30m, where access was permitted. All suitable habitats including woodland/scrub and hedgerow bases were checked for badger signs.
- 3.2 The standard methodology as recommended by Harris, Creswell and Jefferies (1989) was followed to complete a thorough search for evidence which would indicate the presence of badgers both on the site and locally. Evidence of badger occupation and activity sought included:
- Setts: including earth mounds, evidence of bedding and runways between setts;
 - Latrines: often located close to setts, at territory boundaries or adjacent to favoured feeding areas;
 - Prints and paths or trackways;
 - Hairs caught on rough wood or fencing;
 - Other evidence: including snuffle holes, feeding and playing areas and scratching posts.

Survey Constraints

- 3.3 There were no survey constraints during the badger surveys.

4.0 Results

Desktop Study

- 4.1 Desktop records from the Cofnod North Wales Environmental Information Services in June 2018 returned records of badger, both field records and setts within 1km of the site. Due to the confidential nature of badgers, no specific site details are given.

Field Survey

- 4.2 A main badger sett comprising of six holes was found within the woodland block in the north of the site. A single hole, outlier badger sett was found within the area of woodland in the south of the site. A number of badger paths and badger hairs were also within this woodland. The locations of the setts and badger field sounds are set out at drawing G7016.011.

5.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

- 5.1 A main badger sett that has six holes is within a block of woodland in the north of the site. A single badger hole outlier sett is within the woodland in the south of the site. A number of badger tracks were also noted in the woodland in the south of the site.
- 5.2 Prior to works commencing on site a further badger survey will be required to ascertain the current status of badgers on site.
- 5.3 Ideally the areas of woodland where the badger setts are located should be retained within any future development. Habitat corridors should be retained across the site to allow badgers routes to commute across the site and connecting the location of badger setts to the wider locality.
- 5.4 Depending on the type of works that are within 30m of an active badger sett a licence from Natural Resources Wales may be required. Badger licences are only implementable between July and November.
- 5.5 During future construction works any trenches will not be left open over night or ramps will be put in to allow badgers to exit trenches to prevent them becoming trapped.
- 5.6 Any chemicals will be stored on pallets above ground. Any spoil mounds will be compacted to prevent badger using them for sett construction. Fencing will be placed at the edge of areas of woodland where the badger setts are to prevent encroach during construction activities.



DRAWINGS


G7016.011 Badger Survey



- KEY**
- Survey Boundary
 - Badger - Sett
 - Mammal Tracks

- Badger Sett Buffer Distance**
- 10m
 - 20m
 - 30m

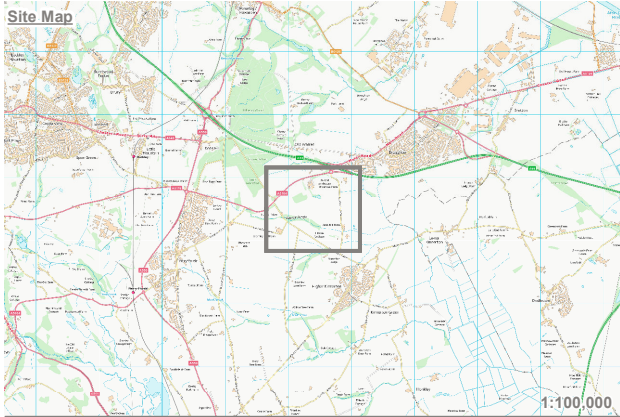
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Site Map



1:100,000

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Warren Hall

Title
Badger Survey

Drawing Number
G7016.011

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
RE	JS	JC	1:5,000 @ A3	24/01/2019



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