



Kingdom Ecology

6 Warwick Road • Chorlton
Manchester • M21 0AU



077 998 44249

enquiries@kingdomecology.com

www.kingdomecology.com

Company No 07524016

18th November 2020

To whom it may concern,

Results of Badger Survey at Area of Land at Clywedog Road North, Wrexham Industrial Estate, LL13 9XE

Introduction

Kingdom Ecology have carried out an update badger survey of an approximate 1.1ha area of land located at the corner of Clywedog Road East and Clywedog Road North at Wrexham Industrial Estate, LL13 9XE (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SJ 374 493). The badger survey was undertaken on the 10th November 2020.

Survey was completed by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MIEEM, CEnv). Richard has extensive experience of undertaking badger surveys as a professional ecological consultant with over nineteen years' experience and has held several badger development licences.

Survey examined the proposed development site and adjacent habitats.

Legislation

Badgers are afforded protection under the Protection of Badgers Act (PBA) 1992; this act was introduced on welfare grounds. The Act is based primarily on the need to protect badgers from baiting and deliberate harm or injury. Badgers are not considered to be a species of any conservation concern. However the Act contains restrictions that apply more widely and can have implications were badgers and development come into conflict. All the following are considered criminal offences:

- to willfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- to attempt to do so; or
- to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.

Sett interference includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett, and disturbing a badger whilst it is occupying a sett. It is not illegal, and therefore a licence is not required, to carry out disturbing activities in the vicinity of a sett if no badger is disturbed and the sett is not damaged or obstructed.

The legislation recognises the need for a range of legitimate activities to be carried out and allows licences to be granted for certain purposes permitting work that would otherwise be illegal, including development. Badger licences are project specific and cannot be issued until full planning permission has been granted. The authority responsible for the issuing of licenses is Natural Resources Wales.

Methods

The badger survey examined all semi-natural habitats within the study area. Survey followed methodologies given in Harris *et al.* (1989¹). All linear features such as hedgerows, fence lines and drainage ditches were walked and searched for evidence of badgers. Suitable sett habitat such as scrub and woodland were also actively searched for badger field signs, where accessible. Badger field signs include prints, latrines, foraging signs, snagged hair or badger setts. Surveys were undertaken on 10th November 2020.

Results

Description

The site comprises of an area of grassland habitat that has previously undergone limited management. However, the grassland has been cut earlier this year and patches of bramble and blackthorn scrub have been cleared. The site currently supports a range of successional habitats including areas of coarse, semi-improved grassland with areas of tall herb community and bramble scrub.

There is a band of broadleaved woodland and a watercourse which runs along the south-eastern boundary of the study site. The woodland would not be affected by development proposals.

The woodland and watercourse form part of a more-or-less unbroken corridor of semi-natural vegetation which runs from the southwestern edge of the Industrial Estate, through the estate itself, before joining Redwither Brook approximately 500m to the east of the site. The woodland and its associated watercourse is likely to function as a wildlife corridor through the industrial estate.

Photographs of habitats recorded at the site is shown on the Appendix. The site layout and survey results are shown on Figure 1 in the Appendix.

¹ Harris, S., Cresswell, P. & Jefferies, D. (1989). *Surveying for badgers*. Occasional Publication of the Mammal Society No. 9. Bristol, UK: Mammal Society.

Survey Results

A single entrance, inactive badger sett has been identified within the woodland block approximately 10m to the southeast of the proposed development area (sett located at grid reference SJ 3752 4938). The badger sett was initially identified during surveys completed in 2017 and has subsequently been re-appraised in 2018 and 2020. The sett has been found to be inactive during all previous assessments, with the entrance blocked with leaf litter. The sett is therefore considered to be abandoned. No other badger setts were identified at the site or within adjacent habitats.

No field signs indicative of recent badger activity were found within the grassland/scrub habitats of the proposed development area during either the 2020 survey or previous assessments. However, it is likely that badgers occasionally forage within these habitats.

It is considered unlikely that the proposed development site is used frequently by badger and is likely to be of low importance.

Potential Impacts and Recommendations

No active badger setts were identified during surveys within 30m of the proposed development site therefore the proposed development will not have any direct effect on badger resting places.

However, an abandoned badger sett is present in proximity to the site and therefore badgers are likely to be present within the wider landscape. Consequently, badgers could be harmed during construction if works are carried out in an insensitive manner. It is therefore recommended that during construction:

1. Where any trenches or other excavations are to be left open overnight these would be fitted with mammal ramps or would have the sides battered to form a slope to allow badgers to escape.
2. A tidy works area should be maintained during construction and any hazardous substances would be fenced off to remove any badger hazards from the site.

Following the implementation of these measures, it is considered to be unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant negative impact upon the local badger population.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Roe
Principal Ecologist

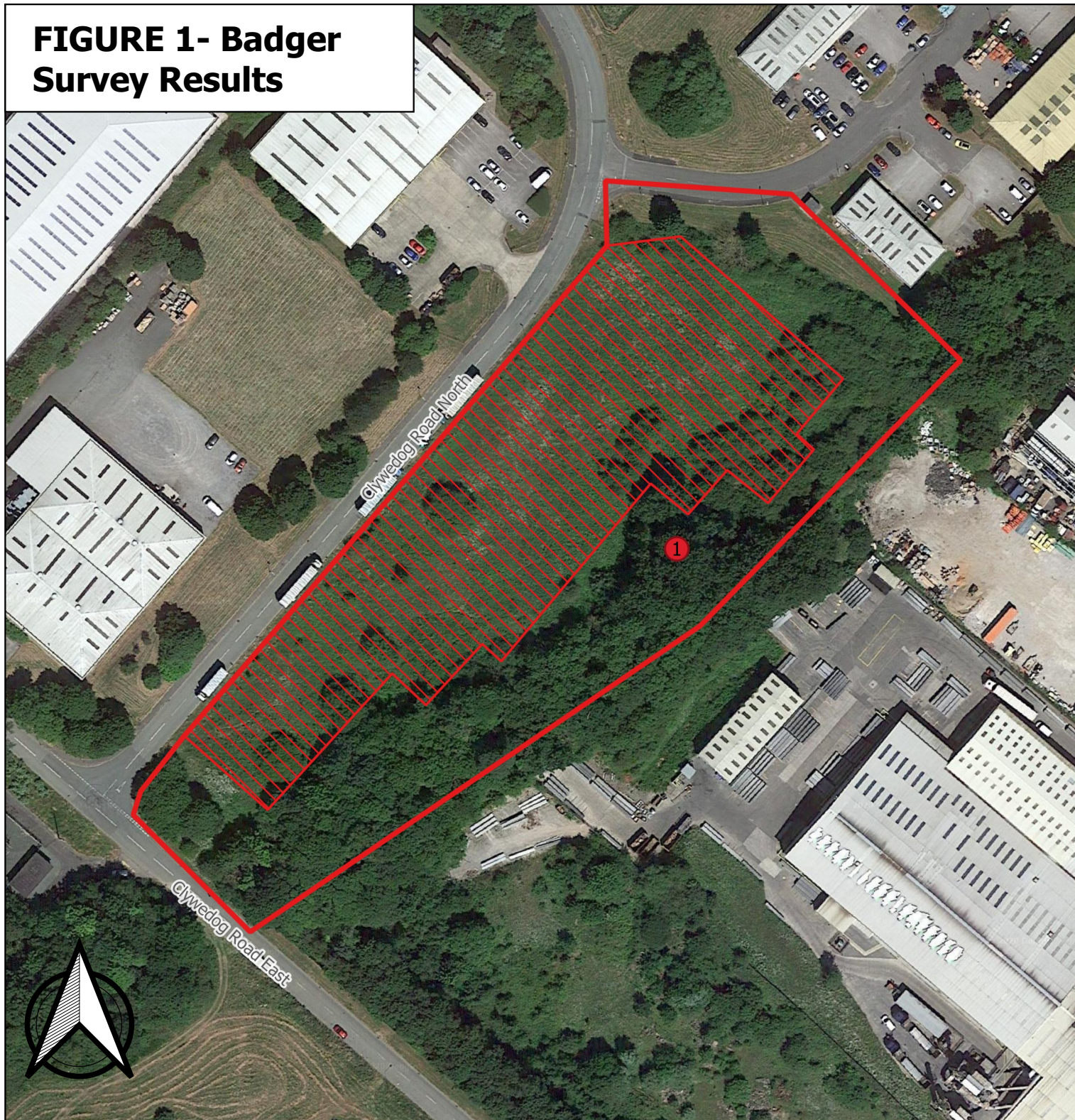
Photograph 1- Abandoned badger sett entrance



Photograph 2- Habitats at Proposed Development Site



**FIGURE 1- Badger
Survey Results**



KEY

-  Study Site
-  Development extent
-  Defunct badger sett

0 20 40 60 80 m

