



BADGER LICENCE METHOD STATEMENT

**BRYN Y GROES
WREXHAM**

Prepared for SG ESTATES
& Messrs Jones

May 2015

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Status	Final

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Commission

Protected Species Ecology Ltd was commissioned by SG Estates and Messers Jones to undertake the necessary works to compile an Method Statement to enable issue of a badger sett interference licence for the purpose of development at a site at Bryn y Groes, Chester Road, Gresford Wrexham LL12 8TN.

1.2 The purpose and scope of the document

This Method Statement (MS) has been produced to control the environmental mitigation measures that are to be employed during the development of a site at Bryn y Groes, Chester Road, Gresford Wrexham LL12 8TN, with particular regard to badgers (*Meles meles*). An Environmental Mitigation Plan has been submitted to Wrexham District Council to enable consideration of proposed changes to the layout the development to be agreed.

The EMP addresses all the measures required to maintain the main badger sett in situ, both during and beyond development, and to avoid conflict between badgers and residents in future.

1.3 Site details and background to the development

The site at Bryn y Groes (hereafter referred to as “the site”) is located at SJ347543. It is proposed to development an area of land comprising an existing house, outbuildings (hereafter referred to as “the buildings”) and grounds. The buildings have been unoccupied for many years and are derelict and dangerous. The grounds have been unmanaged for many years, and include bare ground, areas of ground dominated by ruderal plant species and dumped materials (bricks, rubble, machinery) with individual mature and semi-mature mixed (coniferous & broad-leaved) trees.

The site is bounded by roads to the north-west and east, with existing residential development (to the north and west), a mobile home park (to the east), and arable fields (to the south).

The site has planning permission (GRE P/2005/0613) to demolish a derelict house and outbuilding and develop the grounds and create 60 new dwellings. The proposed changes will reduce the number of houses 54 new houses, to be built in two phases (Phase 1= Units 1 to 12A & 44 to 54 inclusive; the remainder to be Phase 2). The proposed layout for the site include an access road, an attenuation pond and pumping station, and retains many of the existing mature trees (and the badger setts) within areas of public open space.

2.0 Maps

Figure 2.1 Site location 1:25,000



Figure 2.2 Aerial photograph



Public Open Space

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

BADGER AREA

MINIMUM DRIVEWAY LENGTHS

Drive Length	Triple Tandem	3.2 x 15.2	(15.2)
Drive Length	Double Tandem	3.2 x 10.2	(10.3)

SCHEDULE Phase 1-12A, 44-54inc

J1 4 BED DETACHED	2178 SQ FT	3
J2 4 BED DETACHED	2002 SQ FT	2
J3 4 BED DETACHED	2000 SQ FT	6
CONWAY 4 BED DET.	2096 SQ FT	8
ALVANLEY 4 BED DET.	2139 SQ FT	5
TOTAL		24

Revision

- Rev A Minor amendmets prior to application.
- Rev B Access to front of site corrected.
- Rev C Planning boundaries added
- Rev D Amendments as requested by e-mail from Engineers 25 Nov 2014 rec 8th Jan 15
- Rev E Amendments to footpath
- Rev F Badger Sett widened with relocated plot 45. Entrance detail indicated. Fecing to badger sett. Feb 2015

CLIENT
M & M Jones Developments Ltd

CONTRACT
Bryn Y Groes,
Chester Road, Gresford
Wrexham LL12 8UA

DWG TITLE:
Planning Layout

SCALE: 1:500

DATE: August 2014

DWG No.
PL1 F

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3.0 Badger

3.1 Previous badger surveys and mitigation strategy

Young Associates undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site in August 2004 and further assessment of the sett in April 2005. Following surveys by EVR in 2012 a strategy was agreed with Wrexham Borough Council to close relocate the badgers to an artificial sett on land to the south-west of the site.

3.2 Badger survey 2013 and strategy revision

Penny Lewns of Protected Species Ecology (formerly The Badger Consultancy) carried out a survey of the site in June 2013, to assess the badger activity in preparation for a badger licence application and artificial sett construction.

At that time, there were two badger setts present within the site: a large, well established main sett (A) and a single entrance annexe sett (B) 20 m to the east. It was concluded that with a minor adjustment to the road alignment, and closure of a redundant section of Sett A and closure of Sett B, the majority of the main sett could remain in the short term. It was agreed to review the need for an artificial sett, depending on whether the layout could be adjusted further.

3.3 Badger licensable works 2013/4

A licence was issued to Penny Lewns by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in 2013, to allow the partial-closure and removal of part of the main sett A (Licence 49198:OTH:BD:2013), following the partial closure, and under supervision/direction of the licensee, the disused northern section of the sett was excavated back to the edge of the proposed access road and footpath. A 1 m deep trench separating the edge of the path from the sett was dug and the exposed face lined with chain-link mesh to prevent the badgers extending their sett back into the development site.

In 2014, NRW issued a second licence to Penny Lewns, to allow the closure of sett B (Licence 58867:OTH:BD:2014). This was completed by the licensee's agent David Lewns on 4/11/14.

3.4 Badger surveys results 2015

A further site survey was completed by Penny Lewns on 18/2/2015. At this time, the main sett - Sett A - comprised 15 well used entrances and 3 partially used entrances; there were numerous signs of badger activity associated with the sett, including well worn paths, scratched trees, bedding material and hairs. The sett had remained in the same location, with just two new entrances at the north-eastern end of the sett, approx 4 m from the end of the trench dug in 2013.

3.5 Impact assessment for badgers

As a result of the reduction in the number of units, and with further adjustment to the layout - moving units 45 to 48 further east, it will be possible to retain the main sett A in situ. It will necessitate the closure of the two newer entrances at the north-east corner of the sett, but this will have no material effect on the sett capacity or the badgers' ability to access the sett.

The badgers would have unchanged access to foraging areas to the south of the sett (via the arable field), and continued access east via the boundary of the site/arable field. They will be able access areas to the north and west of the site via Public Open Space (POS) and the roads within the site, and so there would be no loss of access/fragmentation as a result of the development.

There will be an increased in traffic close to the sett – although speeds within the site will be slow, and so unlikely to pose a significant risk of collision to badgers.

The badgers in Sett A will be subject to disturbance during the construction work; although this is unlikely to have a negative impact, as the badgers are remaining

in their main sett¹. Following occupation of the houses, badgers would quickly adjust to the new residents, and begin to exploit the new foraging opportunities within the POS.

3.5 Mitigation strategy for badgers

1. In order to minimise the risk of accidental damage, a temporary Heras Fence will be erected around the perimeter of the open space between Units 48 & 49, hereafter referred to as the “Badger Protection Area” or BPA, until a permanent fence is installed.
2. To ensure that the sett does not breach the perimeter of the BPA, the two sett entrances at the extreme north-east will be closed under licence from NRW, between 1st July and 30th November, and the tunnel system dug back to within the BPA.
3. In order to prevent the sett expanding into gardens or under the new road in future, an underground 3mm gauge chain-link fence will be installed around the perimeter of the BPA (see **Fig 3.1**). The fence will be inserted to a depth of at least 1.5 m, but may be deeper, if the tunnels are, or could be, deeper than 1.5 m. The underground fence will be inserted under licence from NRW, between 1st July and 30th November.
4. In order to limit human intrusion, the BPA will have an above ground fence to the west, north and east. It will incorporate two formal exit points for badgers at the north-western and north-eastern corners and a human access point via a locked gate, to allow monitoring of the sett and occasional management of the trees within the BPA.
5. There will be no formal management of the BPA, and no public access. Existing scrub will be encouraged to spread and, where necessary, additional native shrubs will be planted, to ensure that headlights from the road do not illuminate the sett.

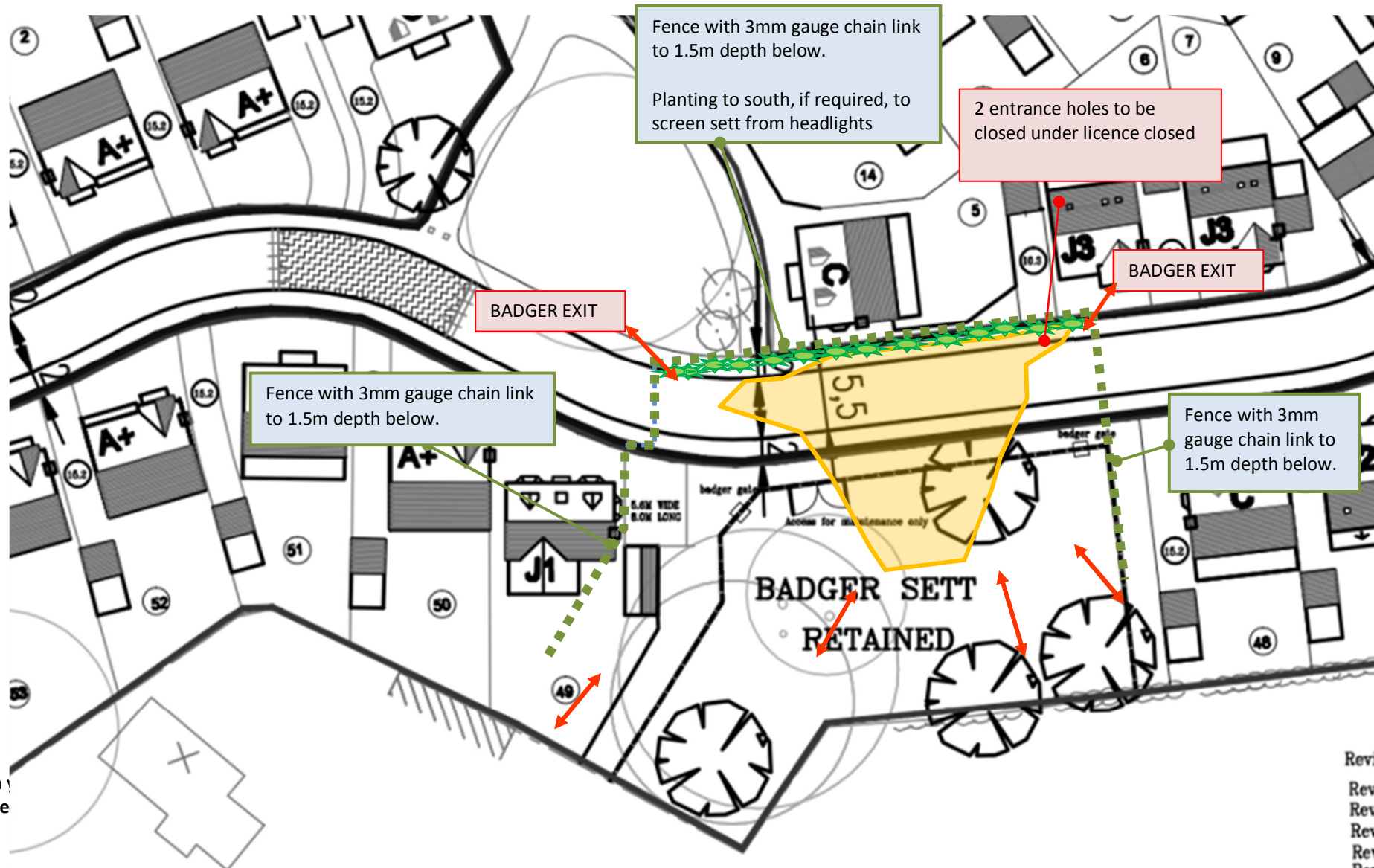
¹ The main sett is a key resource for the badger social group, and they will usually remain there, throughout development work, despite considerable changes and high levels of disturbance.

6. Street lighting and external security lighting will be positioned so as to avoid illuminating the BPA.

3.6 Success criteria for badger mitigation strategy

- a. The badger social group remains in their existing territory
- b. The sett within the BPA continues to be occupied by badgers, and
- c. The sett within the BPA continues to function as a main sett

Figure 3.1 Badger mitigation measures



4.0 Timetable of works (2015)

2015	Month											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Erection of Heras Fence around Badger Area							TO REMAIN UNTIL PERMANENT FENCE IS INSTALLED					
Licence application to NRW for badger sett work												
Licence issued by NRW to allow works to badger sett												
Installation of underground fence around Badger Area												