



**Wrexham Technology Park
Wrexham
Badger Survey
(TEP Ref: 4571.004)
August 2014
Version 1.0**

Genesis Centre
Birchwood Science Park
Warrington
WA3 7BH

T: 01925 844004
F: 01925 844002
E: tep@tep.uk.com
W: www.tep.uk.com



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BADGER SURVEY**

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Prepared by:

Ian Holland

On behalf of

**TEP
Genesis Centre
Birchwood Science Park
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 7BH**

For:

**Ramboll UK Limited
2nd Floor
The Exchange
St. John Street
Chester
CH1 1DA**

Written:	Checked:	Approved:
IH	ACP	ACP

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Project Brief

- 1.1 TEP was commissioned by Ramboll UK Limited in January 2014 to undertake a badger survey of land off Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham. The badger survey was required to provide an update in terms of badger activity on site.
- 1.2 A badger survey was conducted by ecological consultants Marches Ecology in September 2012 and a report produced (Ref: C076/J2EcIA/Badger/Final).
- 1.3 A survey of the site was undertaken on the 24th June 2014 by TEP ecologist John Crowder. No evidence of badger activity was found across the site. Three holes the shape and size for badger were found. One of the three holes had a small amount of badger hair located outside it during the initial survey. Four surveys over the period of a month were then undertaken (one each week) to determine presence or absence of badger on site.

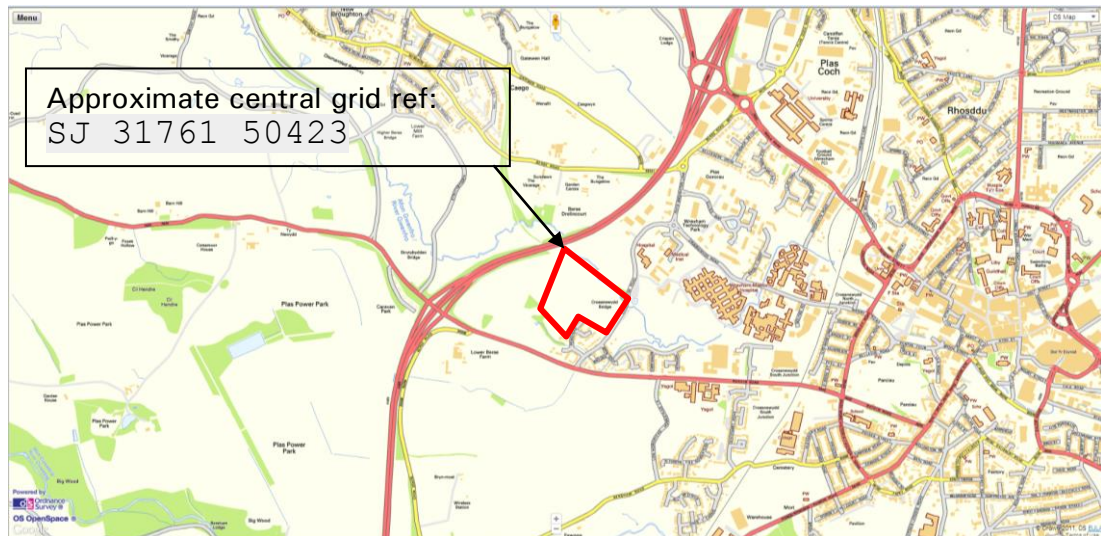
Legislation

- 1.4 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett. The 1992 Act specifically defines a sett as “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”. Interference with a sett includes blocking tunnels or damaging the sett in any way.
- 1.5 Activities affecting badgers or their setts which would otherwise be illegal can be carried out under licence where there is suitable justification and the problem cannot be resolved by alternative means.

Site Location

- 1.6 The development site is located off Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham. The survey area is shown in Figure 1 overleaf. Residential development borders the site to the south, with open green space and arable fields on all other sides. There are some habitat links to the wider countryside.

Figure 1: Map of the site and surrounding environment



2.0 SURVEY METHODS

- 2.1 A walkover survey was carried out looking for any field signs of badger on site. All areas were searched where possible and signs were recorded.
- 2.2 Any mammal holes identified as being of a size and shape suitable for use by badgers were monitored on a weekly basis for a period of four weeks between June and July, a total of four survey visits were undertaken. TEP Senior Ecologist John Crowder and Ecologist Ian Holland undertook the surveys.
- 2.3 Two sticks with duct tape attached were placed across the entrance of each hole and a small amount of sand was scattered across the entrance.
- 2.4 During each visit, the holes were checked to see if the sticks had moved or if any badger hair had stuck to the duct tape. Any badger evidence in and around the holes such as paw prints, hair, latrines and snuffle holes was also recorded.

Limitations

- 2.5 During the site survey the vegetation on site was extremely dense and had grown to head height in places. There were dense areas of bramble and nettle which were inaccessible and large parts of the site were covered in Himalayan balsam which could have hidden badger holes/features even with thorough hand searching.

3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

- 3.1 The previous survey undertaken by Marches Ecology identified evidence of foraging and latrines on site (Ref: C076/J2EcIA/Badger/Final). Three setts were identified in the wider area, but none within a 30m influencing distance.
- 3.2 Three mammal holes of a size and shape suitable to support badger were identified on site. During the initial survey by TEP in 2014 badger hair was discovered at one of the badger hole locations. The location of each badger hole is shown in drawing G4571.004.
- 3.3 The three mammal holes did not show any evidence of badger activity during the four site visits.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 No badger activity was found on site during the initial survey or monitoring visits. During the initial badger survey large areas of the site were inaccessible or hidden by dense vegetation including areas of bramble and nettle.
- 4.2 In line with best practice measures and due to the historic evidence of badger on site the three mammal holes on site will be broken out and carefully excavated under the

supervision of an ecologist. Once they have been fully broken out then the areas associated with the holes can be backfilled.

- 4.3 Immediately prior to works commencing the vegetation on the remainder of the site must be strimmed to a height of 150mm under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure no badger signs were hidden or inaccessible during the original survey. If any evidence of badger is identified during the site strimming, works must cease immediately and the ecologist on site will provide detailed instructions on how works can proceed. If badger are identified on site it is possible a licence will be required from Natural England.

5.0 REFERENCES

ENGLISH NATURE. (2009) *'Badgers and development'* English Nature, Peterborough

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DRAWINGS

