WONDERBANK, BRYMBO

BADGER SURVEY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Enfys Ecology were commissioned by Stori Brymbo to undertake a badger survey of the land on and adjacent to a proposed solar farm at the Wonderbank, Brymbo. The purpose of the survey was to determine if badgers were active within the survey area, and inform any necessary mitigation. The survey was undertaken on 12th December 2025 by Ash Payne, a suitably experienced ecologist.

2. SITE DETAILS

The development area is shown by the red boundary in Figure 2.1. The proposed grid connection to Brymbo Heritage Site forms an eastward extension along a grass track and then along the trackway within the heritage site. It is positioned in the centre of the Wonderbank, and consists of a relatively open area of scrub and grassland surrounded by taller scrub and trees, enclosed by a boundary fence. Further details of the habitats present in these areas can be found in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisals of the Wonderbank (Dulas, 2024; Enfys Ecology, 2025).

FIGURE 2.1: SITE LAYOUT



BACKGROUND IMAGE © GOOGLE MAPS 2025

3. SURVEY RESULTS

All areas were searched within the survey area, which included steep wooded banks and scrub. [redacted]. There had been recent persistent rain for a number of days in the area though it was dry on the day of the survey. The survey area was searched for signs of badgers including setts, latrines, snuffle holes, trails and signs of digging. Badgers are less active at this time of year and with the preceding wet weather

recent signs of activity could be more difficult to find; nonetheless there would still be signs if badgers had been recently present, so this is not considered a significant limitation to the survey.

At the eastern end of the survey area (within the heritage area) there was a recent latrine and a clear trail where badgers had been transiting and foraging (see Figures 3.1 to 3.3). This trail led out of the survey area and although a sett was not found within the survey area, one is likely to be not far outside it.

A potential old single entrance sett (possible satellite sett) was found within the survey area to the south of the Wonderbank (see Figure 3.1). However, it does not appear to have been used in a long time; it was full of dead leaves and partially blocked, and there were no trails, latrines or other signs of recent use. There were no further clear signs of badgers in the survey area.

FIGURE 3.1: SITE LAYOUT



BACKGROUND IMAGE © GOOGLE MAPS 2025

FIGURE 3.2: LATRINE AT THE EASTERN END OF THE SURVEY AREA



FIGURE 3.3: TRAIL LEADING OUT OF THE SURVEY AREA



4. CONCLUSIONS

Suitable habitat for badgers was present within and adjacent to the proposed development area, but no active setts were found within the survey area and signs of recent activity were only found at the eastern end of the survey area. A badger population (and sett) is likely to be present within the heritage area to the east/north-east of the development area but badgers do not appear to be living or regularly foraging within the Wonderbank, or in close proximity to any of the working areas.

As there are no active setts in close proximity to the working areas, a licence will not be required for these works. However, mitigation measures should be adopted during the construction phase in order to minimise any potential impacts on badgers that may be using the site or its immediate surroundings:

- Working areas should be kept to the minimum required.
- Works should be avoided within 1 hour of dawn and dusk where possible, in order to avoid disturbance to badgers and other nocturnal animals. If works during this time are needed, all lighting should be directional and directed away from boundary edges and any surrounding habitat.
- Working areas and adjacent areas should be regularly checked for signs of badger activity; if signs of activity are found, works in the vicinity must cease until an ecologist can assess and provide further advice.
- Any badgers seen must be allowed to leave the area on their own. If this is not possible e.g. the animal is injured or trapped then an ecologist must be called.

5. References

Cutts, R. (2025). *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Wonderbank, Brymbo*. v2. Enfys Ecology. Report reference EE.672.25.RC.

Dulas Ltd. (2024). *Brymbo Community Solar Park: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. v11. Dulas Ltd. Report reference E05445.

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