



Badger Survey **of** **Land at Water Lane,** **Angmering, West Sussex**

on behalf of
Barratt Homes Southern Counties

CONFIDENTIAL

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Disclaimer

James Blake Associates Ltd. have made every effort to meet the client's brief. However, no survey ensures complete and absolute assessment of the changeable natural environment. The findings in this report were based on evidence from thorough survey: It is important to remember that evidence can be limited, hard to detect or concealed by site use and disturbance. When it is stated that no evidence was found or was evident at that point in time, it does not mean that species are not present or could not be present at a later date: The survey was required because habitats are suitable for a given protected species, and such species could colonise areas following completion of the survey.

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Executive Summary

A badger survey was undertaken at land at Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex on the 11th February 2020 to determine the extent and nature of badger activity on the site, including the location of badger setts and the use of the site for foraging and commuting.

Badgers are fully protected in the UK by the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992, and by Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Badgers are also listed under Appendix III of the Bern Convention.

The proposed development site currently shows no evidence of badger activity at this time. Holes were found at numerous sections of the site but these are all most likely to be rabbit activity.

The retention of boundary vegetation and precautionary measures during construction are recommended to minimize the risk of disturbance to commuting and foraging badgers, particularly on the north-eastern and north-western boundaries.

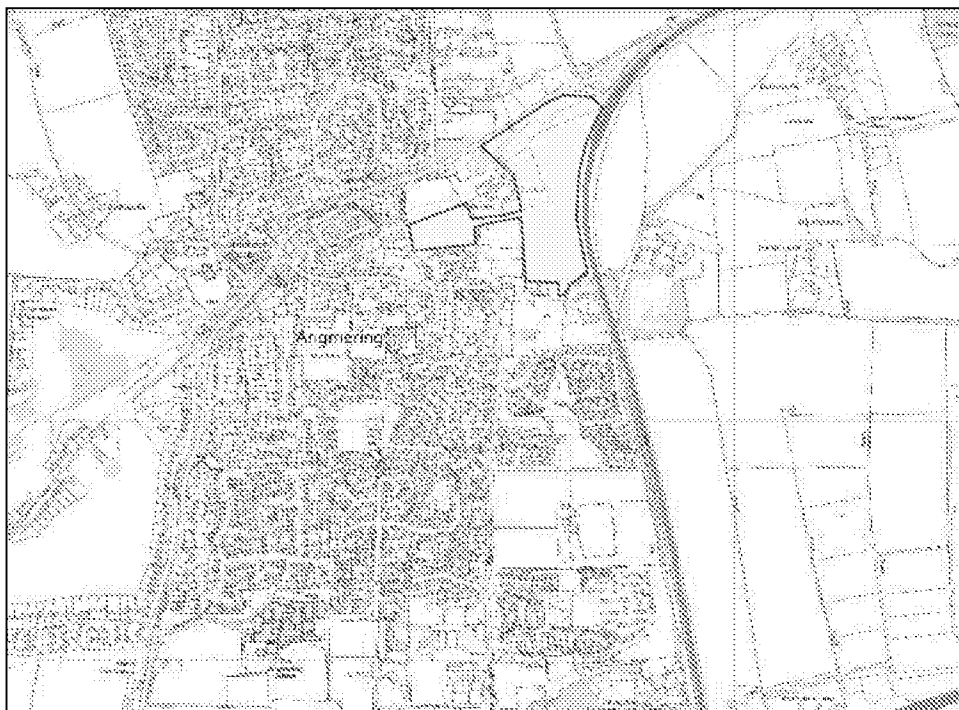
The badger survey should be updated, if there is a delay of over six months from the date of this survey, before clearance of the site begins.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 James Blake Associates Ltd. was commissioned by Barratt Homes Southern Counties to undertake a badger survey of land at Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 07480 04510, taken from the centre of the site).
- 1.2 The assessment was required to inform the design of plans to develop the site for residential use with associated infrastructure and public open space.
- 1.3 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act (1996) and under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992). It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:
- Damage a badger sett or any part of it
 - Destroy a badger sett
 - Obstruct access to, or any entrance of a badger sett
 - Disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a badger sett
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 **Please note that this report contains sensitive information which should not be released into the public domain.**

Site Description

- 1.6 The site is approximately 9.3 hectares in size. It is located to the east of Weavers Hill and south of Water Lane in the town of Angmering, West Sussex. The wider landscape includes the town of Angmering, residential and arable land. The A280 is runs east of the site (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Site location

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2 Methods

- 2.1 The badger survey was undertaken by by Sam Rigg BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and Rachel Hall BSc (Hons) on the 11th February 2020.
- 2.2 The survey was undertaken during the optimal time for badger. The site was surveyed for any signs of badger activity, such as setts, track-ways, latrines, snuffle holes and footprints. Dense vegetation was surveyed for evidence of runs that may have led to concealed setts. Habitats on site and within 30m of the site boundary were surveyed.
- 2.3 Setts were classified into four types as shown in Table 1, in accordance with methods employed in Wilson, Harris and McClaren, 1997. Setts were examined closely to determine whether they were active, or had no evidence of recent use.

Table 1: Categories of badger sett

Type of sett	Description
Main	Several holes with large spoil heaps. The sett looks well used and there are obvious paths to and from the main sett and between sett entrances.
Annexe	Several holes usually less than 150m from the main sett and linked to it by obvious well-worn paths. May not be in use all the time even when the main sett is very active.
Subsidiary	Usually at least 50m from main sett with no obvious paths connecting to other setts. May only be used intermittently.
Outlier	Usually one or two holes with little spoil outside. No obvious paths connecting to other setts and used only sporadically. May be used by rabbits or foxes at other times.

3 Results

- 3.1 The site provides moderate quality foraging habitat and sheltering opportunities for badgers, with fair connectivity to the wider landscape providing further access to larger areas of suitable habitat.
- 3.2 Some mammal push-throughs were present during the survey, particularly to the southern boundary of the site, although these were deemed to be rabbit due to the size and shape observed.
- 3.3 No setts or evidence of badger activity with regard to hair, latrines or snuffle holes were recorded on the site itself during the survey. However, badgers can move into an area relatively rapidly, especially if there is pressure on the habitat they are currently using or if foraging opportunities increase.

4 Discussion and Recommendations

- 4.1 The site showed no evidence of badger activity at the time of survey.
- 4.2 The site provided potential foraging habitat and it is possible that commuting and foraging badgers might utilise the site. Therefore, it is recommended that the following measures are implemented during the construction works (these will also safeguard the welfare of other mammals, and are standard good practice):

- 1) The covering of excavations overnight to prevent animals falling in, or the provision of an escape ramp (e.g. secured scaffold boards) allowing animals to climb out.

- 2) Secure storage of all materials, fuels, wire fencing etc that may harm badgers and other animals.

4.3 The badger survey should be updated if there is a delay of over six months from the date of this survey before clearance of the site begins. Badgers can start utilising an area relatively rapidly, especially if there is pressure on the habitat that they are currently utilising or if foraging opportunities increase.

5 Potential Impacts and Mitigation

5.1 The proposed development site provided suitable foraging habitat and it is possible that commuting and foraging badgers may use the site. Therefore, it is recommended that the following measures are implemented during construction works (these will also safeguard the welfare of other mammals, and are standard good practice):

- 1) The covering of excavations overnight to prevent animals falling in, or the provision of an escape ramp (e.g. secured scaffold boards) allowing animals to climb out.
- 2) Secure storage of all materials, fuels, wire fencing etc, that may harm badgers and other animals.
- 3) Restricting access by site personnel to any adjoining buffer zones of trees and scrub.
- 4) All boundary hedges to be fenced with heras fencing on the side of the construction zone to enable badgers to continue using these for commuting

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 A badger survey was undertaken by James Blake Associates on the 11th of February 2020 to assess the likely presence or absence of badgers on site.
- 6.2 No badger activity or signs were identified on site or within 30m of the site boundary.
- 6.3 The badger survey should be updated if there is a delay of over six months from the date of this survey before clearance of the site begins.

7 References

JBA Consultancy Services Ltd (2020), Land at Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex.
On behalf of Barratt Homes Southern Counties.

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