

Ecosupport Ltd
Offices A1 & A2
Knowle Village Business Park
Mayles Lane
Knowle
PO17 5DY

15th March 2019

Hampshire Homes Group
8 Chatmohr Estate
Crawley Hill
Nr. Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 6AP

Dear Lauren,

Re: Land off Stanhorn Grove, Felpham

As per your request, I undertook an updating check of the above site on 15th March 2019 to determine the presence/likely absence of active Badger *Meles meles* setts prior to the commencement of construction activities. The requirement for such a check was detailed in full in the 'Ecological Assessment' report submitted with the planning application, produced by Ecosupport Ltd (4th September 2018).

During the 2018 ecological assessments of the site, no direct evidence of Badger presence was recorded on site, although a low number of mammal trails were noted through the vegetation. The recommendation for an updating Badger check relates to the potential for new setts to have been constructed on site prior to construction commencing.

During the updating check a visual assessment of all land both on site and (where possible) adjacent to the site was made to determine the presence of commuting, foraging or sett-building Badgers. Where any mammal holes were identified, a high powered torch was utilised to assess the structure of the entrance and associated tunnel. Field signs searched for comprised:

- Potential sett entrances;
- Spoil heaps outside potential sett entrances;
- Bedding outside potential sett entrances;
- Badger footprints;
- Badger commuting paths;
- Latrines;
- Scratching posts;
- Foraging scrapes;
- Hair on fences, bushes etc.

The site survey followed best practice guidelines published by the Highways Agency (2001) and Natural England (2015).

No Badger setts were identified during the updating survey. A number of mammal holes were recorded within the ditch along the site's western boundary with the golf course. These comprised two holes of a size and shape indicative of Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* and approximately 20 rabbit burrows. The fox holes appeared inactive; both entrances were lightly overgrown with nettles and bramble, and leaf litter was recorded within. One entrance was directed towards the golf course, and the other along the line of the ditch. The rabbit burrows were noted along the full extent of the ditch, facing all directions. Some appeared in occasional use and others appeared inactive. A single, fresh Badger dung pit was recorded within this ditch, at its northernmost end. Please see the end of this letter for photographs.

It is therefore considered highly unlikely that Badgers are currently utilising the site to construct setts, however they do have a presence in the local area. To ensure their protection during construction, all excavations on site must be covered nightly and/or include a suitable escape ramp (a wooden plank placed at a 45 degree angle, or a sloping end wall to the excavation itself). All temporarily exposed pipe systems must be checked and then suitably capped when not in use. The provision of the agreed Ecology Buffer Strips along the site's norther, southern and western boundaries will provide long term opportunities for Badgers on site.

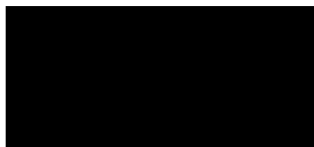
It is considered highly unlikely that excavations on site during the construction phase will result in impacts upon the mammals currently utilising the western ditch, due to

the directions of the two fox entrances and the presence of a 5m Ecology Buffer Strip along this boundary, which will be protected during construction. Please see the Ecological Assessment report, Section 6.6, for full details of the agreed strategy – this must be implemented in full. Section 6.7 details the requirement for an ecological toolbox talk to be delivered to all contractors prior to construction commencing, and Section 6.9 details the implementation of a dark corridor along the western site boundary.

Please note, should construction works not have commenced within one month of the date of this survey, the survey should be repeated. Should any signs of Badger presence (or other mammals) be identified on site at any time during construction, all works must cease immediately and the advice of an Ecologist sought to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation.

Please do not hesitate to ask should you have any queries or concerns.

Best wishes,



Sophie Hughes
Senior Ecologist



Highways Agency (2001). *Design manual for roads and bridges, Vol. 10, section 4, Part 2*. Department for Transport, UK. Available from:
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol10/section4.htm>

Natural England (2015). *Badgers: surveys and mitigation for development projects*. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>

Badger dung pit



Overgrown fox den



Overgrown fox den



Example of rabbit burrow in occasional use

