

TECHNICAL NOTE

Project:	Fitzalan Link Road, North Littlehampton	To:	David Lee, Persimmon Homes Thames Valley
Subject:	Badger Survey	From:	Simon Boswell, ECOSA
Date:	23 rd June 2016	cc:	

Background

Ecological Survey and Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been contracted by Persimmon Homes Thames Valley to undertake a badger survey in relation to the proposed Fitzalan Link Road, North Littlehampton, West Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference: TQ 0310 0311.

Previous work undertaken by White Young and Green¹ for bats and reptiles at the site did not cover badgers. This is required as part of Planning Condition 6 (Arun District Council Planning Reference: LU/63/11/) which states:

"No development shall commence until updated ecological surveys in respect of reptiles, badgers and bat roost emergence have been carried out and submitted to the local planning authority with any recommended additional surveys completed and the results submitted together with any mitigation strategy to support the detailed application(s). The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved mitigation scheme."

Therefore, ECOSA were commissioned to undertake a badger survey of the area within the Fitzalan Link Red Line Boundary Plan (Mayer Brown plan reference WYGLITTLEHAMPTON.1/34A dated January 2011, **Appendix 1**). The site consists of an area of well-managed grassland with associated bramble and small sections of tree lines. The surrounding area comprises mainly residential development associated with Littlehampton.

¹ White Young and Green (2015) Toddington Lane, North Littlehampton – Fitzalan Link. Letter Report Reference A086068

Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Phase 1 and 2 Surveys • NVC • EclA • Management Plans • Protected Species Licensing
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

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Badger Survey

A badger survey was undertaken by ECOSA on the 16th June 2016 to provide an assessment of the status of badger on site. The badger survey comprised a detailed investigation of the area of land within the site and adjacent to the site boundaries to record evidence of badger activity such as setts, mammal pathways, latrines and signs of foraging.

During the survey no evidence of badger was recorded, although the site does provide suitable habitat for foraging badger within on-site grassland and bramble scrub. However, given the dominance of sub-optimal badger habitat in the surrounding landscape (playing fields and residential areas) it is unlikely that the species uses the site intensively.

The survey was undertaken at a time of year when evidence of badgers in dense vegetation can be difficult due to leaf cover. However, scrub areas only form a small section of the site and these were investigated thoroughly during the survey. As this is the case the survey results are considered to be robust.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Badger were not recorded from the site during the survey and therefore at this time the species is unlikely to be resident within the development zone. The species is expected to be present at low densities in the wider area. It is recommended that if animal burrows are identified during site clearance these should be inspected by an ecologist prior to removal. No further recommendations in relation to badger are considered necessary.

Appendix 1 Site Boundary

