
11 February 2016

Land at Higgins
Brook, East of
Chipping Lane,
Longridge – Phase 1

Badger Survey
Report for Discharge
of Condition 18

Report Number: 2001_R15_PM_LP

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Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1 Tyler Grange LLP (TG) has been commissioned to prepare a badger survey for a proposed residential development at land to the immediate north of the settlement of Longridge (hereafter referred to as the 'site'). The site is centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SD 60377 38045 and extends to a total area of 24.8 hectares (61.3 acres).
- 1.2 An Ecological Assessment (Document 2001/R08b) was originally prepared by TG in March 2015 to accompany the outline planning application (Reference 3/2014/0764) for up to 363 dwellings including affordable housing and housing for the elderly, relocation of Longridge Cricket Club to provide a new cricket ground, pavilion, car park and associated facilities, new primary school, vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and public open space, with all matters reserved except for access.
- 1.3 The original ecological assessment found no evidence of badger within the site but recommended an updated badger survey prior to works, as suitable badger habitat was present within the site.
- 1.4 Outline planning consent was granted on 29th October 2015. Condition 18 of the outline consent states that:

'Prior to the commencement of each phase of the development (approved pursuant to condition 4), the land within that phase shall be subject to a further survey to confirm the continued absence of badgers and badger setts and the results shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval in writing together with proposals for mitigation if required. The development shall be carried out in complete accordance with the approved survey(s)'

- 1.5 This report has been prepared in order to discharge this condition by assessing the site for the presence of badger or badger setts.



Section 2: Methodology

- 2.1 The survey comprised a search for setts and field signs indicating use by badger within the site. Field signs indicating the presence of badger may include setts, pathways/runs, latrines/dung pits, prints and guard hairs caught on fences/vegetation.
- 2.2 Any sett found was examined and assigned to one of four categories as defined by Harris *et al.* (1989) and used in various National Badger Surveys (Wilson *et al.*, 1997). The number of holes comprising each sett was recorded and setts classified as disused, partially-used or well-used. Sett descriptions and categories of use are set out in **Tables 2.1** and **2.2** below.

Type of Badger Sett	Description
Main Setts	These usually have a large number of holes with large spoil heaps, and the setts generally look well used. There will be well-used paths to and from the sett and between sett entrances. Although normally the breeding sett is in continuous use, it is possible to find a main sett that has become disused due to excessive digging or some other reason; it should be recorded as a disused main sett.
Annex Setts	These are often close to a main sett, usually less than 150m away, and are usually connected to the main sett by one or more obvious well-worn paths. They usually have several holes, but may not be in use all the time even if the main sett is very active.
Subsidiary Setts	These often only have a few holes. They are usually at least 50m from a main sett, and do not have an obvious path connecting with another sett. They are not continuously active.
Outlier Setts	These usually have only one or two holes, often have little spoil outside the hole, with no obvious path connecting with another sett and are only used sporadically. When not in use by badgers, they are often taken over by foxes or even rabbits. However, they can still be recognised as badger setts by the shape of the tunnel (not the actual entrance hole), which is usually at least 250mm in diameter, and is rounded or a flattened oval shape. Fox and rabbit tunnels are smaller and often taller than broad.

Table 2.1: Classification of badger setts

Classification of Use	Description
Well-Used	Clear of debris and vegetation, obviously in regular use.
Partially-Used	Not in regular use, with leaves or twigs in entrance or moss and other plants growing around the entrance.
Disused	Partially or completely blocked entrances, unable to be used without a considerable amount of clearance.

Table 2.2: Indicators of use of badger setts

Survey Limitations

- 2.1. The whole of the site was accessed during the survey and no significant limitations were encountered.



Quality Control

- 2.2. All ecologists at Tyler Grange LLP are members of CIEEM and abide by the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct.



Section 3: Survey Results

- 3.1 No evidence of badger or badger setts was recorded during the survey, either within 30m of the site boundary. Also no signs of badger activity such as snuffle holes, latrines or pathways were found during the survey.



Section 4: Conclusion

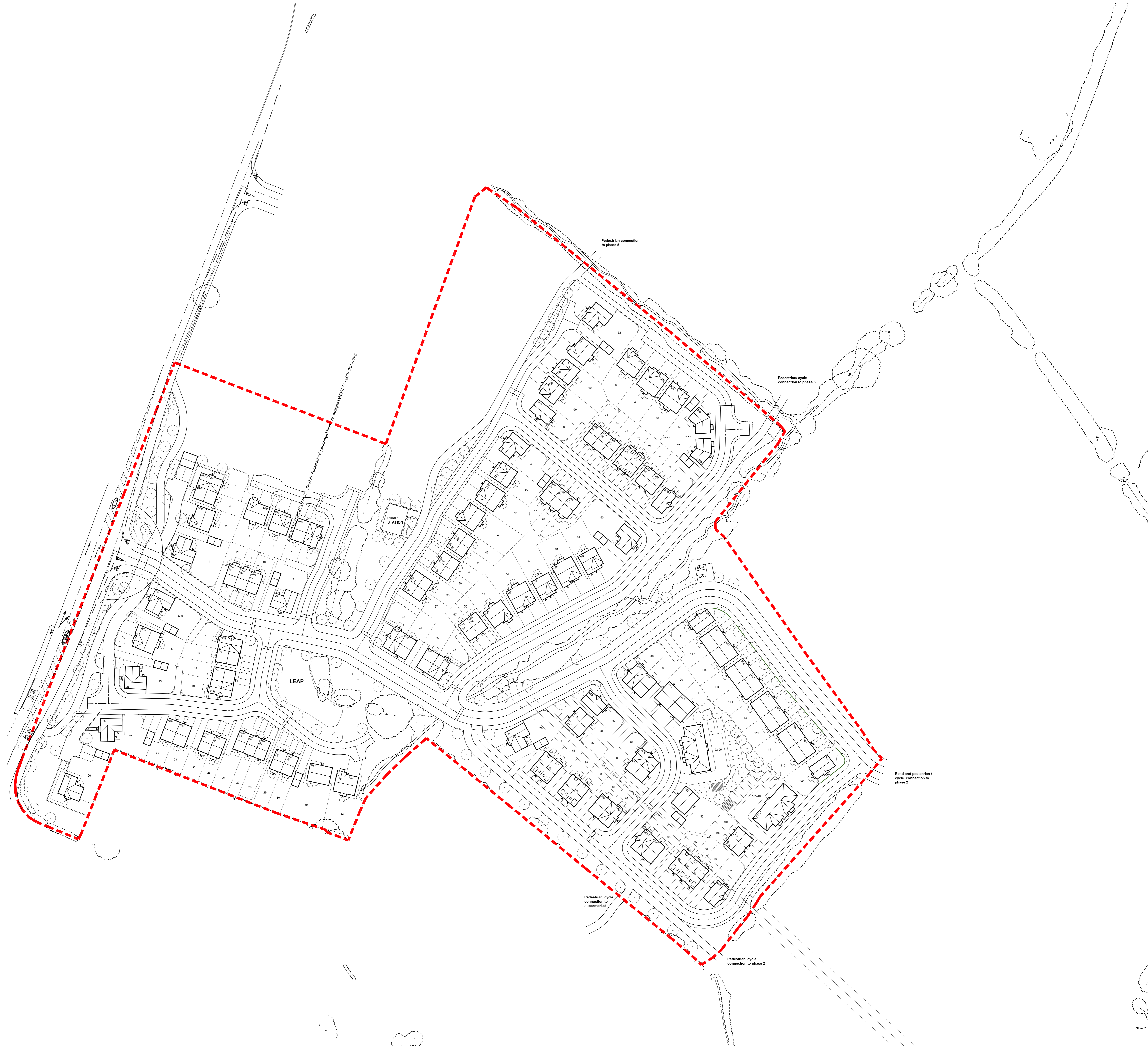
- 4.1 No evidence of badger or badger setts was recorded during any of the surveys undertaken.
- 4.2 It is considered that this assessment is adequate to discharge Condition 18 and no further work should be required prior to the commencement of works.



Appendix 1: Proposed Site Layout



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 PHASE 1 PLANNING LAYOUT

Design By	Site	Drawing Number	Rev
AA	25/11/15	459-PL01	01
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