



**SITE OFF OAK DRIVE
COLWYN BAY
CONWY
LL29 7YP**

Badger Survey Results

- The Cofnod (Local Ecological Records Centre) website was accessed (www.cofnod.org.uk) and a Cofnod Data Request [E07584] was made for a data search for Priority Species and designated wildlife sites within a 1km radius of the site. There are records of badgers within 1km radius of the survey site according to the data search.
- Evidence of badger activity was observed on site, in the form of two tunnel entrances in the woodland copse area (no fresh soil excavation or bedding material observed on initial survey) and a latrine in the woodland copse area. Recent snuffle holes were observed in the grass strip between the tennis courts and the woodland, indicated grubbing/digging for worms etc. Tracks were observed across the grass areas either side of the tennis courts, leading to the woodland copse area.
- Three trail cameras were set up and left for a three week period between 2/10/19 and 23/10/19. All three cameras recorded badger activity, in the grass strip, by the latrine in the woodland and near one of the tunnel entrances in the woodland. A fox was also photographed in the woodland copse area and in the grass strip. Upon retrieving the cameras, fresh soil excavation was observed outside one of the tunnels, but no bedding material was observed. Two sticks were inserted into the soil in the tunnel entrance on 23/10/19 and when checked on 29/10/19, one of the sticks had been pushed over, indicating a badger had likely entered the tunnel during the previous week.
- As only two tunnels were observed, the conclusion is it is an outlier sett, most likely linked to a large main sett (30 holes) located within the Welsh Mountain Zoo, located within 250m to the West of the site. There is an Apple tree near the Northwest corner of the woodland, adjacent to the grass strip and brambles in the woodland area, which are providing a seasonal source of food, which may have attracted the badgers.
- When the site was re-inspected 19/01/2022, the two tunnel entrances were partially blocked with fallen leaves, indicating no recent activity. Fresh snuffle holes were observed in the grass strip between the tennis courts and the woodland.



PRO3755



UK/I 0343A

- The photos from the cameras indicate the badgers are travelling to the site from the West, which suggests that they are commuting down from the main sett located in the Welsh Mountain Zoo. It is possible that the fox photographed in the woodland is also using the tunnel entrance.
- Some low quality trees require felling to facilitate the proposed development, which will result in some limited habitat loss on site. New tree and hedge planting and grassed areas will be provided along the North, South and West boundaries and elsewhere on site, to create wildlife corridors and provide foraging areas, to mitigate for any loss of habitat. There will be no loss of connectivity in the local landscape.
- By using mitigation and Reasonable Avoidance Methods, the proposed development should have no detrimental effect on the favourable conservation status of locally recorded badgers.
- Timing of operation (July-November) will minimise disturbance.
- As the development is within approx. 10m from the sett, an NRW licence may be required.

Reasonable Avoidance Measures

Site Induction

- As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site will be made aware of the potential presence of badgers within the immediate landscape, and their status as a UK Protected Species. Badgers are protected in the UK under the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992.
- The toolbox talk will set out what measures are being implemented to avoid affecting badgers.
- Contractors will be instructed to cease work in the unlikely event that they discover a badger within the site, and contact a licenced ecologist. Contact details will be displayed within the site cabin.

Site clearance

- Prior to the site clearance and commencement of development activity, the site should be re-inspected to check for any evidence of badger activity.
- Any vegetation clearance within the woodland area will need to be carried out between July - November, to minimise any disturbance to badgers. Trees within 20m radius from the outlier sett should be felled away from the sett (to avoid collapsing tunnels) and any debris blocking tracks must be cleared. If trunks need to be removed from within the 20m zone, they should be carefully skidded out using a tractor and winch, or by means of a Hiab arm to lift them clear (NB plant machinery must remain outside the 20m zone).

Construction work

- Where possible, any trenches that need to be excavated should be backfilled on the same day.
- Where trenches have to remain open overnight, they should be covered with plyboard sheets and a sloping access maintained at the ends, to provide a means of escape for any animals that may fall in.



Construction work

- In the event that evidence of badger activity is found during development activity, then all works must cease immediately and advice sought from an ecologist.
- All work must be carried out as quickly and quietly as possible and no night-time working should be carried out.
- No heavy plant machinery to encroach within 20m of the outlier sett.
- No fires or chemicals to be used within 20m of the sett.
- If a contractor brings a dog on site, it must be kept out of the woodland area and kept on a lease at all times.

Lighting

- Badgers can be disturbed by bright, artificial lighting. Where lighting is essential in the vicinity of the proposed development, subdued lighting should be used and the illumination should be directed downwards. The use of sensor-triggered lighting is preferable to permanent lighting. It is important that badger tracks and foraging areas are not directly illuminated.

