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Lindridge Lane, Desford – Badger Survey Letter Report

Introduction

Alca Ecology have prepared this letter report on behalf of Adam Page, the applicant for the approved development located at Lindridge Lane, Desford (central grid ref SK 47696 03818). Planning was granted in April 2026 for the erection of four detached residential dwellings with associated garaging (Hinckley and Bosworth planning ref: 25/01125/FUL). One of the conditions of planning was to conduct a pre-commencement badger *Meles meles* survey 3 months prior to the commencement of works. Condition 5 of this planning permission states:

No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until an updated badger survey has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This survey is to be carried out within 3 months of the commencement of works on site, unless otherwise agreed. The survey shall include details on mitigation measures for badgers if necessary (such as badger gates). All works are to proceed strictly in accordance with the approved document.

Reason: To ensure that the development is in accordance with Policy DM6 of the adopted Site

Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016).

This letter report provides evidence that a pre-commencement badger survey was undertaken in the 3-month period preceding initial groundworks at the site.

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992¹, which makes it an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take possession, cruelly ill-treat or sell a badger, or attempt to do so;
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.

Methods

A full badger survey was undertaken on the 19th June 2026 by experienced ecologist Bill Jeffreys ACIEEM MSc BSc (Hons).

This included a full walkover of the site itself as well as 30m beyond the site boundary. Where necessary, vegetation was moved in order to fully inspect all areas where badgers may have left evidence. Evidence sought included but was not limited to:

- Setts – entrances holes to burrows dug by badgers. Fresh / recently used setts may show spoil at the entrance;
- Latrines – Small, conspicuous holes containing badger droppings, used for territory marking;
- Footprints – Distinctive prints left by badgers in soft / recently excavated soil;
- Tracks / trails – well-worn paths through vegetation / undergrowth, usually at least 20cm wide;
- Snuffle holes – small areas of digging where badgers have been foraging;
- Bedding – badgers regularly change bedding (e.g. long grass) within their setts, the evidence of which can be found near setts;
- Hair – distinctive hairs that can be left behind when badgers move under fences or branches;
- Other evidence – such as scratch marks, squeezes (where badgers have manoeuvred under fences) or dead badgers.

The survey was carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance, including but not limited to:

- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992¹;
- Surveying Badgers²; and

¹ *The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)*. [Online]. London: HMSO Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>

² Harris, S., Cresswell, P., & Jefferies, D. (1989) *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society Occasional Publication No.9. Mammal Society, London.

- Badgers and Development³.

Results

During the survey undertaken on the 19th June 2026, no evidence of badger was recorded.

One mammal track was observed along the site's northern boundary. While this could have been created by badger, it was considered slightly too narrow (10-15cm). Furthermore, no further evidence of badger was recorded anywhere within the site.

Conclusion / Recommendations

As no evidence of badger has been recorded, works are safe to continue without further mitigation. However, in line with the recommendations given within the Ecological Appraisal (Alca Ecology, 2025), the following precautionary working methods must be adhered to during the construction phase:

- To prevent badgers being trapped, all pipes that have the potential to allow badger / mammal ingress (i.e. 15cm or greater in diameter) shall be capped when not in use;
- Hazardous chemicals such as diesel / oil to be stored in a fenced / locked COSHH store;
- Any excavations / pits will be covered overnight, and a plank or board ramp be left within the hole to allow the escape of any badger (or other animal);
- The site shall not be lit overnight; and
- Any piles of soil shall either be covered or compacted to prevent badgers from digging in and creating setts.

If any badger activity is recorded, an ecologist must be contacted for an update survey.

If works cease for a period longer than 3 months, and updated badger survey must be undertaken.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Bill Jeffreys



Director

³ Natural England (2007) Badgers and Development. Natural England, Peterborough