



Badger Mitigation Strategy
36 Main Street
Stoke Golding
Leicestershire
NGR SP 39531 97273

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1. Introduction and Background

The property located at 36 Main Street, Stoke Golding, Hinckley and Bosworth centred at NGR SP39531 97273 has planning permission issued by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (permission reference 23/00807/HOUS) for an extension to the existing residential house. The location of the property is shown in **Figure 1** below.



Figure 1 – Site Location

The existing permission 23/00807/HOUS contains the following planning condition:

Condition 5: Prior to commencement of the hereby approved development, a walkover survey of the site shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consideration of neighbouring wildlife. This includes the badger sett on the North East boundary of the property (which is approximately 40 metres away from the furthest point where development will take place). The survey shall involve walking the site, inspecting for evidence of badger activity including setts and other field signs such as footprints, latrines, feeding scrapes and hairs. Details of the findings of the walkover survey should include any predicted impacts potentially arising from development of the site and recommendations given for impact avoidance, minimisation and mitigation.

The site has been the subject of an Ecological Appraisal completed by CBE Consulting in 2023 (report reference P2761 /0723 /03 dated 04 June 2023). Within the Ecological Appraisal the following information has been provided in regard to the existing badger sett:

“Approximately 40m to the north in the north eastern corner of the property there is an active badger sett located on the garden boundary immediately adjacent to open agricultural grazing land. This sett is separated from the house and parking areas by an existing garage and outbuildings. There is no evidence of any badger activity in the area surveyed where

development is being proposed but given the activity in the area by badger identified in the northern part of the property, occasional foraging by badger across the specific area surveyed is assumed to be likely and measures will be required to protect this species.”



Figure 2 Aerial Photograph

2. Aims of the Mitigation Strategy

The aim of this mitigation strategy is to:

- Ensure that no badgers are harmed or disturbed during construction works to extend the property in accordance with the permission obtained.
- Maintain the value of the garden and immediately adjacent land for badgers, for sett creation, foraging and commuting.
- Provide site specific recommendations to prevent harm to badgers during construction works and enhance the site for badgers post development, so that the local conservation status of this species is maintained.
- Provide up to date information based on a new inspection completed ahead of groundworks scheduled to start later this spring (2024).

3. Rationale for the Mitigation Strategy

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), which makes it unlawful to injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett. Proposals include residential housing with associated infrastructure, landscaping and public open space.

The Ecological Appraisal completed for the property identified long term use of the site by badgers including a main sett with at least 5 entrances and a number of outlier holes and foraging / commuting trails in the north eastern corner of the Garden and immediately adjacent land to the east. The locations of setts entrances in the corner of the garden with good established access into adjacent farmland will enable this area to be excluded from the proposed works and disturbance to the sett can be avoided. However, mitigation measures to ensure foraging and commuting badgers

are not harmed during the construction works are required. It is important that any proposed mitigation works enable badgers to continue to use the existing main and outlier setts and forage / commute in this location effectively and safely.

4. Pre-works Inspection

A new inspection of the badger sett and surrounding garden was completed on 21 February 2024 by C Barker CEnv ACIEEM. Photographs of the garden and sett along with a plan marking the location of the sett entrances and significant access tracks / foraging trails have been provided within Appendix 1.

Date	Time	Location	Weather
21 February 2024	12.30 – 13.30	36 Main Street, Stoke Golding, Hinckley CV13 6EX	Overcast with clear spells. Wind 14mph from the west. Temperature 13°C humidity 81% at 997hPa.

The inspection completed in February 2024 in accordance with the requirements of planning condition 5 has identified the following:

- Main Sett with 5 main entrances visible (3 within the garden, 2 close to the boundary within land to the east), Based on the trails and soil disturbance there are other sett entrances located in the overgrown land to the east of the garden area where the majority of the main sett may be located.
- The nearest sett entrance is 38m from the house hidden in a corner area of the garden between tree trunks.
- There are access trails leading to the northern boundary hedge and north east into the adjacent land
- No tracks, trails or snuffle holes were identified near to the area around the house where extension works are proposed.
- It is clear from the evidence of disturbed soil and footprint evidence that the main sett is occupied with 4 of the 5 entrances showing recent activity
- A previously unidentified hole likely to be an outlier sett entrance has been identified on the western boundary of the garden on the west side of a tree root bole. This is 48m from the existing house where work is proposed and the trail leading to this come from the open farmland to the west.
- No latrines or other significant evidence of badger activity was found within the garden or within the proposed construction area close to the house.
- No evidence of other protected species was identified within the garden during the inspection carried out. Since the working area comprises tarmacadam, concrete flags and hardstanding, the potential for other protected species to be present is considered to be negligible as this area close to the house will be sub-optimal habitat.

From the inspection carried out it is concluded that the proposed works to extend the house can still be completed without the need to disturb any of the existing sett entrances, including the new outlier on the western boundary, and that exclusion fencing can be effectively positioned between the badger sett area and the construction area. The fencing position is shown within the plan at Appendix 1 and this will not interrupt or sever any of the established access trails leading to or between the sett entrances.

5. Mitigation Method Statement

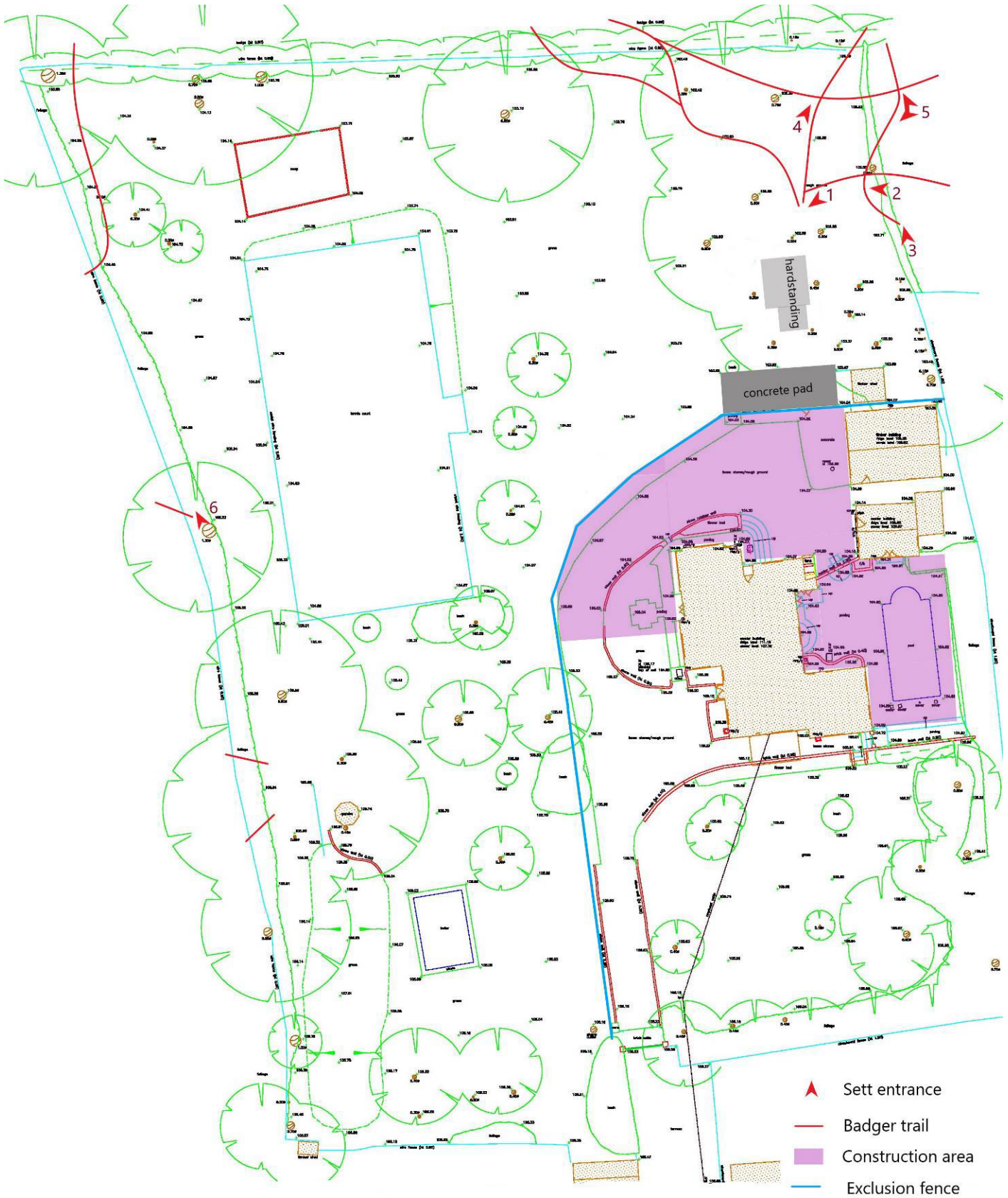
The proposed works and mitigation strategy will not require any of the existing sett entrances to be closed and therefore a license will not need to be obtained from Natural England.

The following strategy will be employed from the outset of works:

- Immediately prior to work commencing, the working area will be inspected by the Contractor to search for any new sett entrances or evidence of badger activity. Provided no new evidence is found, the exclusion fencing shown in blue within Appendix 1 should be erected around the working area shown in purple within Appendix 1.
- As the working area comprises existing hardstanding and flags, the likelihood of a new badger sett entrance being present within the working area is extremely low. However, if any evidence is found the Ecologist should be contacted immediately to attend the site and inspect this. If any amendment to the working strategy is required, this will be provided to the Planning Authority in writing for approval prior to any work commences.
- During construction no groundworks, heavy machinery use or vehicle movement will take place outside of the exclusion fencing or within 20m of any retained badger setts. This will ensure that badgers are not disturbed or harmed during the construction phase.
- The garden surrounding the construction zone provides suitable foraging habitat, and evidence has been recorded of badgers utilising the garden area as a whole, particularly the northern and western boundary areas. Therefore, it is recommended that the following measures are implemented during construction works (these will also safeguard the welfare of other mammals, and are standard good practice):
 - a) The covering of excavations overnight to prevent animals falling in, or the provision of an escape ramp (e.g. secured scaffold boards) allowing animals to climb out.
 - b) Secure storage of all materials, fuels, wire fencing etc, that may harm badgers and other animals.
 - c) Restricting access by site personnel to any adjoining garden area, particularly the area in the north eastern corner of the garden where the badger sett entrances are located.
 - d) The construction working area as shown within Appendix 1 is to be fenced with heras fencing to discourage badgers from entering the construction area and provide a clear and substantial barrier to contain the working area. This will enable badgers to continue to use the remainder of the garden area for foraging and commuting.
 - e) Keeping works at night time to a minimum will minimise disturbance to commuting and foraging badgers at the site. Where works after dark are necessary, lighting should be as low as possible and directed away from boundary features such as hedgerows and trees.
- A toolbox talk from a suitably experienced ecologist to all site workers will be given prior to construction works detailing the procedures to be followed if a badger is found within the construction zone during works.
- If a badger is found within the construction zone during works, all works must stop immediately and a suitably experienced ecologist be contacted immediately. Their advice should be followed precisely.

Christopher Barker CEnv ACIEEM

Appendix 1 Sett Plan and Proposed Position of Exclusion Fence



Sett Entrances, trails and proposed fencing location.



Working area: west corner and side of house



Working area: north side of house



North east corner of garden (badger area)



Sett entrance 1



Sett entrance 2



Entrance 3 (in adjacent land)



Sett entrance 4



Entrance 5 (off site)



Land east of the garden



Land east of the garden



Outlier sett on west boundary of garden



Badger trail through west boundary hedge