



Trent Rivers Trust

Site:
Culloden Farm,
Norton-Juxta-Twycross
Atherstone
CV9 3QF

26th June 2025

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Trent Rivers Trust, Pioneer Environment Group Ltd. undertook a pre-commencement badger (*Meles meles*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*) walkover survey of the land at Culloden Farm, Norton-Juxta-Twycross (centred on Grid Reference: SK 33818 07979).

The purpose of the survey was to identify any evidence of badger and otter activity within the site which could pose a constraint to the proposed development. This survey was conducted to discharge the below planning conditions:

- *"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 likely commencement of works on site. It is to 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."*
- *"No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until an updated otter survey has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This survey is to be carried out before commencement of works on site. It is to include details on mitigation measures for otters if necessary. All works are to proceed strictly in accordance with the approved document."*

This letter outlines the findings of the survey and any recommendations or requirements moving forward. This letter report supplements the CEMP: Biodiversity that has been submitted alongside this report.

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and the wildlife and countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These laws prohibit any action that may harm or interfere with badgers, their setts, or breeding places, including killing, injuring, or capturing them, or destroying or obstructing their homes. In addition, it is an offense to disturb or destroy a badger sett, which is typically referred to as the complex network of tunnels, chambers, entrances, and immediate surroundings that constitute the living habitat of badgers. According to the Protection of Badgers Act, a badger sett is explicitly defined as 'any structure or location that shows signs of current occupation by a badger'.



Otters are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and receive full protection under Section 9. This species is also listed as European Protected Species on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which gives it full protection under Regulation 41. Protection was extended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRow Act).

- Under the above legislation it is an offence to:
- kill, injure, or take an individual of such a species.
- possess any part of such species either alive or dead.
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place or structure used by such species for shelter, rest, protection, or breeding.
- intentionally or recklessly disturb such a species whilst using any place of shelter or protection; or
- sell or attempt to sell any such species.

Otters are also included as Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and also as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under Section 74 of the CRow Act.

The site was attended by Lewis Andrew on Wednesday 11th June 2025. All areas within the site boundary, and the surrounding landscape within 30m of the site, were surveyed for any evidence of badger activity, including:

- Sett entrances
- Latrines
- Signs of scratching or digging,
- Hair
- Snuffle holes and foraging signs
- Footprints
- Day nests

Additionally, all watercourses and immediate surroundings were also surveyed to identify any evidence of use of the site by otters. The survey focused on identifying field signs indicative of otter presence, or activity, including:

- Spraints
- Footprints
- Feeding remains
- Slides/haul-outs
- Couches
- Holts

The Site comprises a single grassland field with two watercourses running along the northern and southern boundaries (**Photographs 1 – 3**). On-site habitats provided suitable areas for foraging badgers, as well as the potential for sett building. One small latrine with old faeces present was identified along the southern site boundary (**Figure 1 – TN1**); badger droppings were also noted in the grass further along the southern boundary, but no latrine was present (**Figure 1 – TN2**).

Both watercourses were deemed to offer some commuting and foraging potential for otters, but lacked suitable bank structure for holts. No evidence of otters was identified during the survey.

Following the results of the survey, both badgers and otters are not considered a constraint to the proposed works and works can commence as planned. If any evidence of either species is identified within the work site prior to or during commencement, works should stop and the advice of Pioneer Environment or another ecologist should be sought. Works must begin within 3 months of the date of this survey, or another check will be required in line with the recommendations provided in the project CEMP (PEG500-18C).

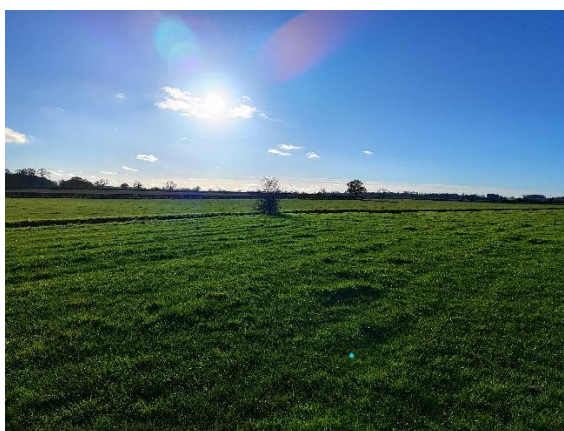
Good Practice Measures (GPM) should be implemented throughout construction in order to mitigate impacts to foraging and commuting wildlife within the site. Recommendations include the following:

- All work should be undertaken during daylight hours and no artificial lighting should be used along the hedgerow boundaries where possible.
- Any excavation should be covered at the end of each working day, and/or include a means of escape for any animal falling in (e.g. sloped side or escape ramp left in place).
- Any stockpiles of earth, spoil, or other loose materials should be removed from site on the same day they are created where feasible. If stockpiles must be left overnight or longer, they should be kept as low and uncompacted as possible to deter badgers from digging setts. Before any stockpile that has been left for more than 48 hours is moved or disturbed, it must first be checked for signs of animal activity by the ECoW.
- Any temporarily exposed open pipe system should be capped in such a way as to prevent badgers gaining access, as may happen when contractors are off site.
- All fuels, oils, and chemicals on site should be stored in a secure, bunded area, located at least 10m away from any watercourse or drain. Spill kits should be readily available and any spills must be cleaned up immediately to prevent pollution.
- Any evidence of badgers or otters within the work site should be reported to the ECoW immediately and all works must cease until further advice is given.

Additional measures have been listed within the CEMP: Biodiversity that has been submitted alongside this report.



Photograph: Site (Orientated W/NW).



Photograph 2: Site (Orientated S).



Photograph 3: Southern Watercourse (Figure 1 – WC2).

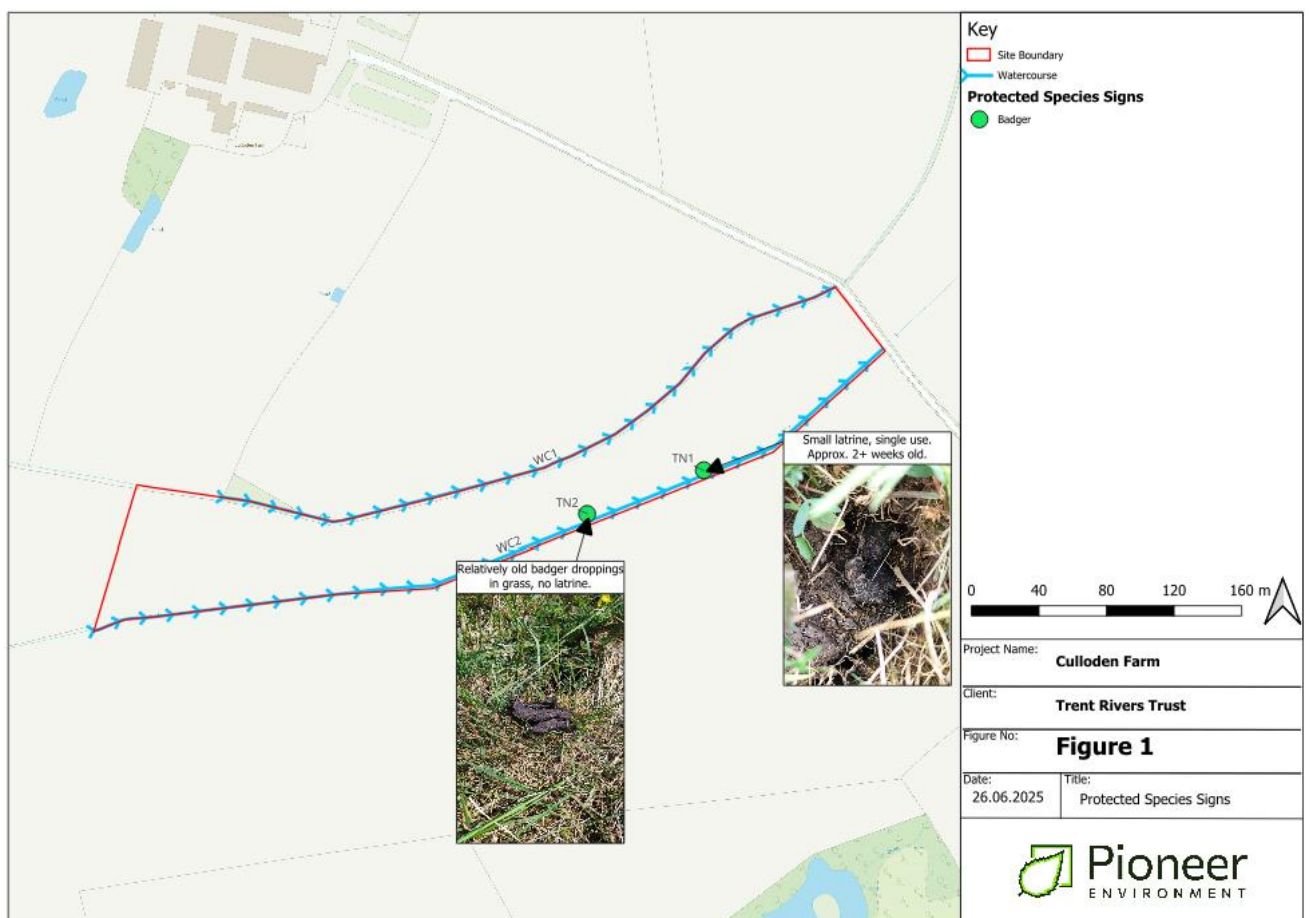


Figure 1: Protected Species Signs

If you have any queries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Pioneer Environment Group Ltd.