



Date: 20th October 2025
Reference: 6939/Badger L02

Tom Wilson
Technical Coordinator
Lovell North East
Alexander House,
1 Mandarin Road,
Houghton Le Spring, DH4 5RA.

Dear Tom,

BADGER CHECKING SURVEY OF: WHITBURN LODGE

Further to a site visit completed on the 20th October 2025 to survey for badger field signs and to confirm the absence of badger setts at the site, please find below the details of the survey.

Under the Badger Act 1992, it is an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger
- Attempts to kill, injure or take a badger.
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger,
- Dig for badgers
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy a badger sett or obstruct access to it
- Cause a dog to enter a sett,
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett

The survey was undertaken by a surveyor with suitable experience of badger surveys including sett identification and classification.

TABLE 1: LEAD SURVEYORS			
Name	Position	Professional Qualifications	Natural England Survey Licence Numbers
Sam Gate	Senior Ecologist	BSc ACIEEM Field Identification Skills Certificate Level 3 (certified)	2024-12449-CL18-BAT 2022- 10573-CL08-GCN

The site is covered in dense bramble thickets which prevented full survey of the site, though this was anticipated and the assessment was designed to reduce this constraint. Close inspection of scrub edges was undertaken to search for mammal paths entering/exiting these habitats. Assessment of areas of the site that were surveyable found no badger field signs. The site represents little value to badger due to limited foraging opportunities, particularly since some vegetation has been cleared at the site since previous visits. Although the scrub areas and adjacent woodland could provide suitable cover, these are very dense and would be difficult for badgers to commute through. No obvious mammal paths were recorded within or entering these areas that would indicate badger use or sett presence. Careful inspection of these areas recorded no badger prints in the fresh mud (which would be expected if badgers were entering the scrub).

The areas surveyed are considered free from badger setts and site clearance (with the implementation of the Ecological Method Statement) may continue without constraint in

relation to badger. If works are delayed beyond 3 months of this assessment, an updating badger walkover will be required.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Gate BSc, ACIEEM
Senior Ecologist
E³ Ecology Ltd.