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# PICKERINGS FARM PENWORTHAM BADGER SURVEY REPORT

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 TEP was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey North West and Homes England in March 2018, to determine the presence or likely absence of badger *Meles meles* on the site known as Pickerings Farm in Penwortham.
- 1.2 Taylor Wimpey and Homes England are proposing a joint venture for the construction of a large-scale housing development with associated infrastructure and community facilities at the site.

### Description of Survey Area

- 1.3 The central grid reference of the survey area is SD 53329 25884 and the location of the survey area is shown in Figure 1 below. Hatched areas within the red line in Figure 1 represent land owned by third parties and these were not subject to surveys.
- 1.4 The survey area comprises pasture and arable fields bounded by hedgerows with residential housing and farm buildings and fragments of other habitats including woodland, scrub, grassland and water bodies. Existing residential development within Penwortham bounds the survey area to the north with Penwortham Way to the west, railway to the east and residential development along Chain House Lane to the south.

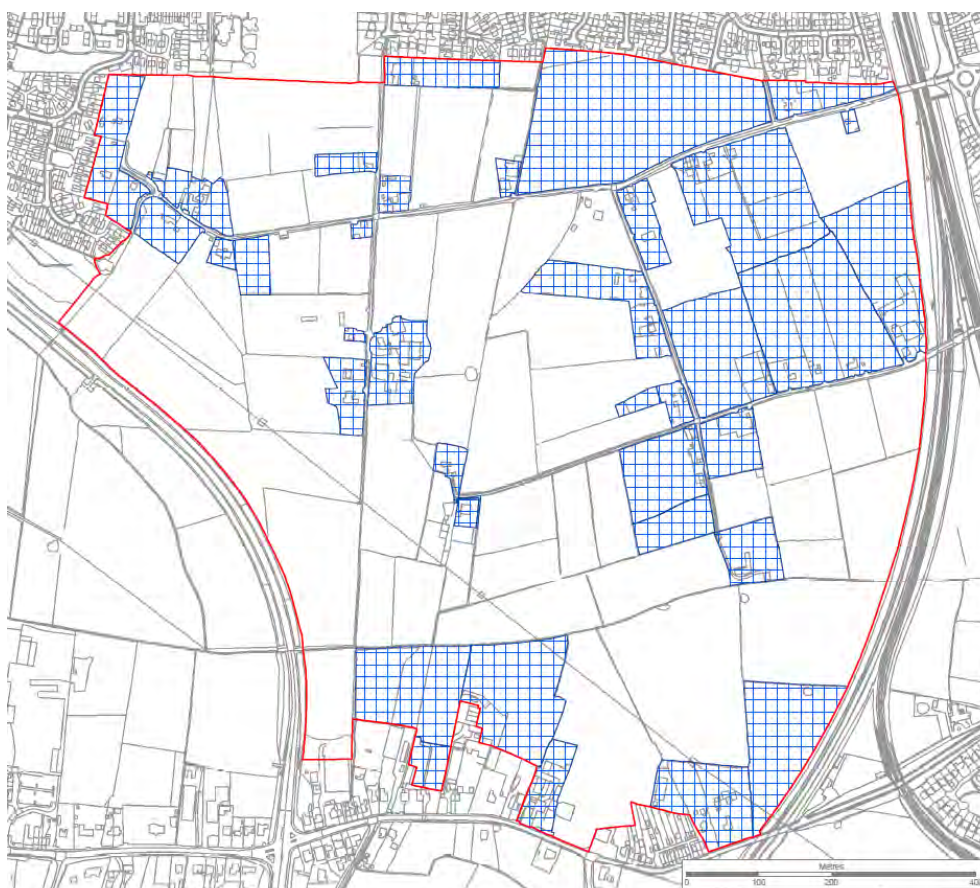


Figure 1: Survey Area Plan. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018.

### Suitability for Badgers

- 1.5 A report produced by Jacobs in September 2016 in relation to the proposed Penwortham bypass (Report Ref: B2237809) found no evidence of badgers within the survey area and no records of this species occurring in the locality within the last 10 years.
- 1.6 The field boundary hedgerows and woodland areas on and adjacent to the survey area could provide sett excavation opportunities for badgers. The arable and grassland areas also provide suitable foraging habitat for this species.

## 2.0 Methods

- 2.1 A badger survey of the survey area, and surrounding 30m buffer where accessible, was undertaken by TEP Ecologist Lizi Langston between the 26th and 28th March 2018. This survey was undertaken in line with the standard approach detailed in Surveying Badgers (Harris et al., 1989) and used during the National Badger Survey (Cresswell et al., 1990).
- 2.2 The survey involved surveying potentially suitable habitat and looking for evidence of badger activity such as setts, badger trails/pathways, snuffle holes (or foraging pits), latrines and badger hairs. Any badger setts and associated entrance holes were recorded and assigned a category of badger sett type.

### *Limitations*

- 2.3 Some land parcels were not accessible during the survey. However due to the lack of badger activity elsewhere within the survey area in habitats similar to those which could not be accessed, it is not anticipated that badgers would be present in these areas and therefore this is not a significant limitation to the survey.

## 3.0 Results

- 3.1 No records of badgers were returned within the desk based assessment completed by TEP in June 2018 (Report Ref: 6900.007).
- 3.2 No setts or conclusive evidence of badger activity was found within the survey area.
- 3.3 Mammal paths were noted in some of the grassland areas to the south of Bee Lane, but no badger paw prints were found in areas of fresh mud along these paths.
- 3.4 The paths are likely to have been made by fox as fox scats were found in the area and a fox earth is present the centre of the survey area.

## 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 No records of badgers were returned in the desk based assessment and no evidence of badger was identified during the surveys.
- 4.2 Therefore it is considered likely that badgers are absent from the survey area.
- 4.3 However a number of habitats on the survey area are suitable for badgers. Badgers are highly mobile throughout their range and therefore there is a small possibility that badgers could utilise the survey area, in its current state, in the future.
- 4.4 Vegetation clearance and excavation works could result in the destruction of badger setts and badger injury/fatality, if present within the survey area.
- 4.5 Badgers and their setts are protected from disturbance under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.



## 5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 An updated badger survey should be undertaken prior to commencement of site clearance. There are no seasonal constraints to this type of survey.
- 5.2 If an active badger sett is identified within 30m of the working area a Natural England licence may be required to disturb or destroy the sett.



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