



Mammal Hole Monitoring Report

Land at 37 Barfield Park, Lancing

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LIABILITIES:

Whilst every effort has been made to guarantee the accuracy of this report, it should be noted that living animals and plants are capable of migration/establishing and whilst such species may not have been located during the survey duration, their presence may be found on a site at a later date.

This report provides a snap shot of the species that were present at the time of the survey only and does not consider seasonal variation. Furthermore, where access is limited or the site supports habitats which are densely vegetated only dominant species maybe recorded.

The recommendations contained within this document are based on a reasonable timeframe between the completion of the survey and the commencement of any works. If there is any delay between the commencement of works that may conflict with timeframes laid out within this document or have the potential to allow the ingress of protected species, a suitably qualified ecologist should be consulted.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/developer to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to or during works.

1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The Ecology Partnership was commissioned by The Community Stadium Ltd to undertake a mammal hole monitoring survey for the Land at 37 Barfield Park, Lancing, BN15 9DF, hereafter referred to as 'site'.
- 1.2 This follows a preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) carried out on 15th September 2025. One mammal hole was identified during the PEA, this hole was located towards the east of site adjacent to bramble scrub, this was considered likely to be a fox hole, however, it was recommended that monitoring be undertaken to determine any inhabitant and the level, if any, of use. The results are given within this report.
- 1.3 The monitoring survey was required in order to assess whether the mammal hole identified on site and to establish whether it is an active badger sett and if so, classify the type of sett present. Active badger setts affected by development require a sett closure licence from Natural England. This report would hope to inform any licence applications, and the need for extended surveys, should a breeding badger sett be identified. If the mammal hole identified is in use by other species, then suitable mitigation measures will be recommended to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

Site Context

- 1.4 The site is characterised by other neutral grassland, with parcels of bramble scrub, modified grassland, mixed scrub and a hedgerow running along the northern boundary. The site totals c. 0.14ha, situated to the north-east of Lancing (central grid reference: TQ 18859 04938). The immediate surrounding area consists of residential dwellings and the Brighton & Hove Albion training ground complex to the east. The site occupies a corner plot at the north-eastern corner of Barfield Park, whilst the northern boundary runs alongside Mash Barn Lane, a road that provides access to the adjacent training ground from the A2025.
- 1.5 The red line boundary of the site and the immediate surroundings are displayed in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The approximate site red line boundary and immediate surroundings

- 1.6 The current proposals for the site involve the construction of a medical centre, with two flats located above with associated parking spaces and landscaping.
- 1.7 This report and monitoring were required to be undertaken to identify the various course of action with regards to development in the vicinity of the identified mammal holes. The recommended actions included:
- Monitoring of the mammal holes to determine whether they are in use by badgers;
 - If any of the holes are inactive then works in this area may proceed without further constraints by badgers;
 - If any holes are identified as in use by badgers, then further consideration of layout would be required;
 - If any badger setts identified are active the works may require a licence for the removal or disturbance of the sett(s);
 - If an active hole, in use by other species (not badgers) is identified then appropriate mitigation will be advised.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the site was carried out by The Ecology Partnership on 15th September 2025. One mammal hole was identified during the PEA, this hole was located towards the east of site adjacent to bramble scrub, displayed in Figure 2 below.

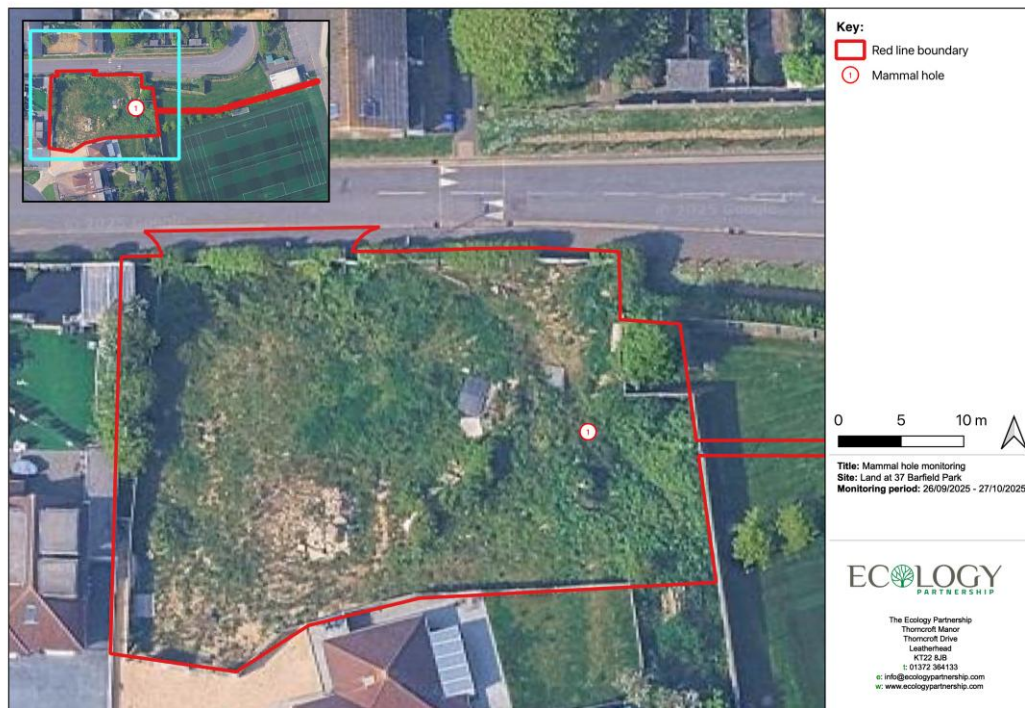


Figure 2: Location of mammal hole subject to further monitoring

- 2.2 Latest guidance from Natural England states a sett is defined as such (and thus is protected) as long as signs indicate “current use”. Additionally, Natural England state that “the maximum lapse of time between last occupation by badgers and the inspection of a sett for it to be considered in “current use” is how long it takes the signs to disappear, or more precisely, to appear so old as to not indicate “current use” (Natural England, June 2009).
- 2.3 Sett monitoring is recommended over an extended period of time, in this case 4 weeks, in order to accurately assess activity levels. The mammal hole entrance was monitored by

- searching for signs of 'current use', which include recent digging, paw prints, latrines, new hairs and bedding material. Additionally, sticks were placed at the entrances to the hole, any moved sticks may indicate whether badgers have exited or entered the feature.
- 2.4 The monitoring survey using Bushnell Trophy cameras was carried out, with a camera set up between the 26th September and 27th October 2025. Adjustments were made at periodic intervals throughout this time (once a week). At each of these site visits the footage was collected and analysed and cameras were moved where necessary. After this time the cameras were collected, and the footage analysed. The surveys were undertaken by Sophie Baker BSc (Hons) MSc.

Limitations

- 2.5 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no single investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.
- 2.6 This assessment is only valid for the time when the survey was carried out. It should be noted that badgers and other burrowing mammals are highly mobile animals and setts and other excavations can become active/inactive in a short space of time and on a regular basis.

3.0 Results

- 3.1 The mammal hole entrance located onsite was monitored from 26th September to 27th October 2025, during this time no badgers or foxes were recorded entering or emerging from the hole. A few instances of foxes investigating the hole entrance and activity near the hole entrance were recorded however, none were observed to be inhabiting the hole. Cats were recorded in and around the hole entrance on a regular basis. The entrance had grown over with vegetation by the monitoring period and the sticks placed over the hole entrance remained in place for the entirety of the survey indicating no use.
- 3.2 The full monitoring results table can be found in Appendix 1.

4.0 Discussion

- 4.1 Mammal hole monitoring was undertaken using a camera trap (motion triggers for one mammal hole located within the site, this was also monitored with the use of sticks placed loosely across the entrance and checked for fresh disturbance during each visit.
- 4.2 During this period, no badgers or foxes were recorded entering or emerging from the hole. This indicates that the hole was not in active use at the time of monitoring. Foxes were recorded passing by the holes and investigating the hole entrance. It is considered likely that the excavation, was likely constructed by a fox historically, although no longer in use. No other evidence of activity such as fresh digging, badger hairs, or footprints, was observed throughout the monitoring period.
- 4.3 Despite the lack of evidence of foxes actively using the holes, their presence on site means that there is a risk they could re-occupy the hole in the future. All burrowing mammals including foxes are protected under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 against activities such as crushing and asphyxiating mammals whilst underground or inflicting any unnecessary suffering.

Recommended schedule of works

Prior to works

- 4.4 It is recommended that ahead of construction a walkover of the site for mammal holes is undertaken. If the previously identified hole is deemed to show signs of activity or new potentially active holes are identified, an additional four-week further monitoring should be undertaken to establish whether the holes are in use. If inactive, the holes can be sensitively dug out and back filled. If the further monitoring finds the hole is active with foxes, rabbits or any other burrowing animal except a badger, then the hole should be sensitively excavated under ecological watching brief. If any hole is in use by badgers and an active sett identified on site, an application to Natural England will be required to close the sett sensitively under a mitigation licence. Advice of the project ecologist will be followed at all times. The following best practice measures are recommended during construction on site to protect against mammals and other wildlife using the site:

During construction

- Any trenches or excavations on site should be either covered over at night or a plank of wood placed in so as to allow any mammals to escape if they were to accidentally fall in.
- Any open pipes or conduits laid should be blocked off each night to prevent mammals from entering them.
- If any additional suspected badger holes are identified during works, then it is recommended that further badger surveys are completed across the site to identify the size and type of sett.

4.5 If these methods are followed, no significant residual impacts are anticipated on badgers or other burrowing mammals on site or within the local area.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Following the PEA conducted which identified a mammal hole towards the east of site, mammal hole monitoring surveys were conducted between 26th September and 27th October 2025.

5.2 During the monitoring period, no badgers or foxes or other mammals were recorded entering or emerging from the holes. Foxes were recorded passing by the hole but not entering or emerging. As such, it is not considered the development is constrained by burrowing mammals in the local area.

5.3 It is recommended that an update walkover survey be conducted prior to any future groundworks. If any new and potentially active holes are identified, then Further monitoring is likely to be required.

6.0 References

Cresswell, P., Harris, S. and Jefferies, D.J. (1990) *The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain*. Nature Conservation Council, Peterborough.

Natural England., (2009)., *Interpretation of 'Disturbance' in relation to badgers occupying a sett*. Guidance notes, June 2009.

Natural England., (2009)., *Guidance on 'Current Use' in the definition of a Badger Sett*. Guidance notes, June 2009.

Neal, E. and Cheeseman, C., (1996)., *Badgers*. T & A D Poyser Ltd. London.

Wilson, G., Harris, S. and McLaren, G., (1997)., *Changes in the British badger population, 1988 to 1997*. PTES, London

Appendix 1: Mammal Hole Monitoring

Date	Time	Activity/Signs (key animals are <u>underlined</u> and in bold)
30/09/2025	00:40	A <u>fox</u> was recorded passing by the hole but not entering.
08/10/2025	23:29	A <u>fox</u> was recorded passing by the hole but not entering.
16/10/2025	04:58	A <u>fox</u> was recorded passing by the hole but not entering.
18/10/2025	21:52	A <u>fox</u> was recorded investigating the hole but does not enter.
21/10/2025	21:42	A <u>fox</u> was recorded investigating the hole but does not enter.
Multiple days throughout survey period		Cats were observed passing by the hole.

Appendix 2: Mammal Hole Monitoring Photographs

Photograph 1: Hole and badger camera	 A photograph showing a black badger camera mounted on a wooden post with a grey strap. The camera is positioned next to a hole in the ground, which is surrounded by green vegetation and dry grass.
Photograph 2: Hole at the end of the monitoring period, the hole entrance had overgrown, and the sticks placed over still in situ.	 A photograph showing a hole entrance that has been overgrown with green vegetation. Several sticks are placed over the hole, and the surrounding area is covered in grass and plants.

Photograph 3:

Fox recorded passing by the hole on 30/09/2025.

**Photograph 4:**

Fox recorded passing by the hole on 12/10/2025

**Photograph 5:**

Fox recorded passing by the hole on 16/10/2025



Photograph 6:

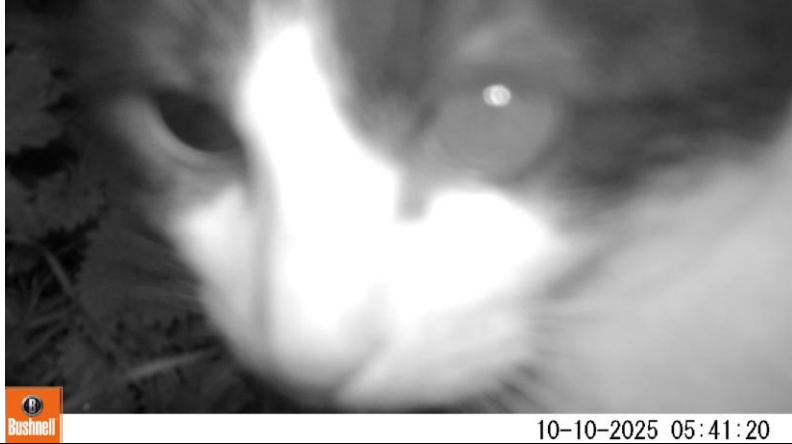
Fox investigating the hole on 18/10/2025, does not enter.

**Photograph 7:**

Fox investigating the hole on 21/10/2025, does not enter.

**Photograph 8:**

Cat passing by the hole on 10/10/2025.



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