



Elite Ecology

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**Todmorden Road,
Littleborough**



Confidential Badger Survey

July 2026

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07/07/2026	V1	Draft	First Draft
08/07/2026	V1	Final Report	Proofread

0. Executive Summary

This report is confidential and should not be put in the public domain. The data recorded is for the use of the local planning authority and its employees only. This is for the preservation of any identified badger (*Meles meles*) populations that the survey effort reveals.

This report has been prepared at the request of Corrosion Resistant Products Ltd. It relates to the potential presence of badgers at the site at Corrosion Resistant Products Ltd, Todmorden Road, Littleborough, Greater Manchester, OL15 9EG (OS Grid Reference: SD 94077 16734). To fulfil this brief, Elite Ecology undertook a trail camera survey.

Under the current proposals, the existing site will be redeveloped in three phases. The first and second phase includes the extension of the manufacturing plant, followed by the extension of storage units in phase 3. Overall, this will result in both the permanent and temporary loss and/or alteration of some of the habitats located on the proposed re-development site.

Due to the confirmed absence of badger sett(s), no recommendations have been made. The re-development is deemed to have a **negligible** impact upon badgers

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1. Introduction

1.1 Report Rationale

This report has been prepared at the request of Corrosion Resistant Products Ltd. It relates to the potential presence of badgers at the site at Corrosion Resistant Products Ltd, Todmorden Road, Littleborough, Greater Manchester, OL15 9EG (OS Grid Reference: SD 94077 16734). To fulfil this brief, Elite Ecology undertook a trail camera survey. This report is confidential and should not be put in the public domain. The data recorded is for the use of the local planning authority and its employees only. This is for the preservation of any potentially identified badger (*Meles meles*) populations that the survey effort may reveal.

1.2 Site Description

The site is located in an urban area within Littleborough, a town in Greater Manchester approximately 5km to the north-east of Rochdale.

The site measures approximately 0.97ha and contains a number of habitats. These include buildings, fence, hard standing, hedgerow, lines of trees, modified grassland, scattered trees, scrub, tall forbs, unsealed surface, and wall. The habitats on site could have the potential to support a number of protected species.

Within the wider landscape further habitats are present. These come in the form of amenity grass, hard standing ground, hedgerows, improved grassland, canal, industrial buildings, residential dwellings (and their associated gardens/yards), scattered trees, stream, and woodland. This shows that the habitats in the area surrounding the site have the potential to support protected species.

Figure 1: An aerial map showing the boundary of the site at Todmorden Road, Littleborough (as shown by the red outline).



Figure 2: An aerial map showing the site at Todmorden Road, Littleborough (as shown by the yellow star) in relation to some of the local landscape.

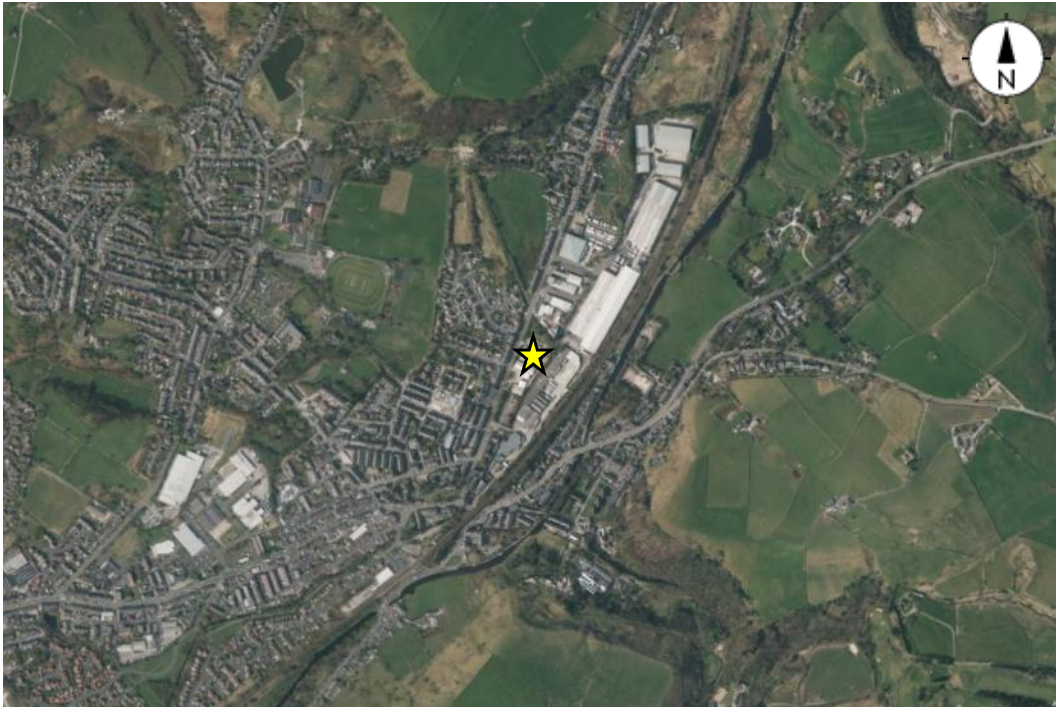


Figure 3: An OS map obtained from Bing showing the location of Todmorden Road, Littleborough (as shown by the yellow star).



1.3 Proposed Works

Under the current proposals, the existing site will be redeveloped in three phases. The first and second phase includes the extension of the manufacturing plant, followed by the extension of storage units in phase 3. Overall, this will result in both the permanent and temporary loss and/or alteration of some of the habitats located on the proposed re-development site.

1.4 Aims of Survey

The aims of the survey are to use motion-sensored cameras to establish whether the sett located underneath a detached garage on the property is an active badger sett or not. The survey will determine whether a Natural England license is needed to close down the sett before the demolition can be undertaken.

2. Survey Methodology

2.1 Field Survey Methodology

Two trail cameras were set in a strategic location on site, where no disturbance to the badger activity will occur by their presence. These were situated in areas with a clear line of sight to the surveyed burrow. Over the period of just over one month (27/04/2026 to 26/05/2026), the device captured photographs of any moving object that passed the field of view.

Figure 4: A photo showing the position of the cameras in relation to the sett (Red circle).



2.2 Surveyor Information

2.2.1 The survey was undertaken by suitably qualified ecologist/s, members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and/or Elite Ecology staff members between the 27th of April and the 26th of May 2026.

- **Mr. Matthew Cotterill:** PGDip, Senior Ecologist.
- **Miss. Alison Burke:** MSc, Assistant Ecologist.

3. Results

3.1 Field Surveys

No badgers (*Meles meles*) were observed by the camera trap over the surveyed period, and therefore no badger setts and/or potential badger setts are present on site or immediately off site at the time of survey.

No other incidental mammals were recorded by the camera trap.

3.2 Summary of Results

Based upon the field data collated the badger sett is not in use.

4. Impact Assessment

4.1 Constraints

Constraints on:	Survey Information	Equipment Used
Constraint (Yes or No):	No	No
Explanation of Constraints:	N/A	N/A

4.2 Potential Impacts of the Re-development

Due to the absence of active badger setts on site or within a 30m radius off site, and the scope of the works not resulting in the significant loss of badger foraging and/or commuting habitat, the re-development is deemed to have a **negligible** impact upon badgers.

5. Recommendations

Due to the confirmed absence of badger sett(s), no recommendations have been made. The re-development is deemed to have a **negligible** impact upon badgers.

6. References

Badger Trust (n.d.). *Badgers in your garden*. Badger Trust: East Grinstead

Clark, M. (2001). *Badgers*.

Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000).

English Nature (2002). *Badgers and Development*. English Nature.

Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

RSPB (2002). *The Population Status of Birds in the UK 2002-2007*.

The European Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. HMSO.

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

7. Appendices

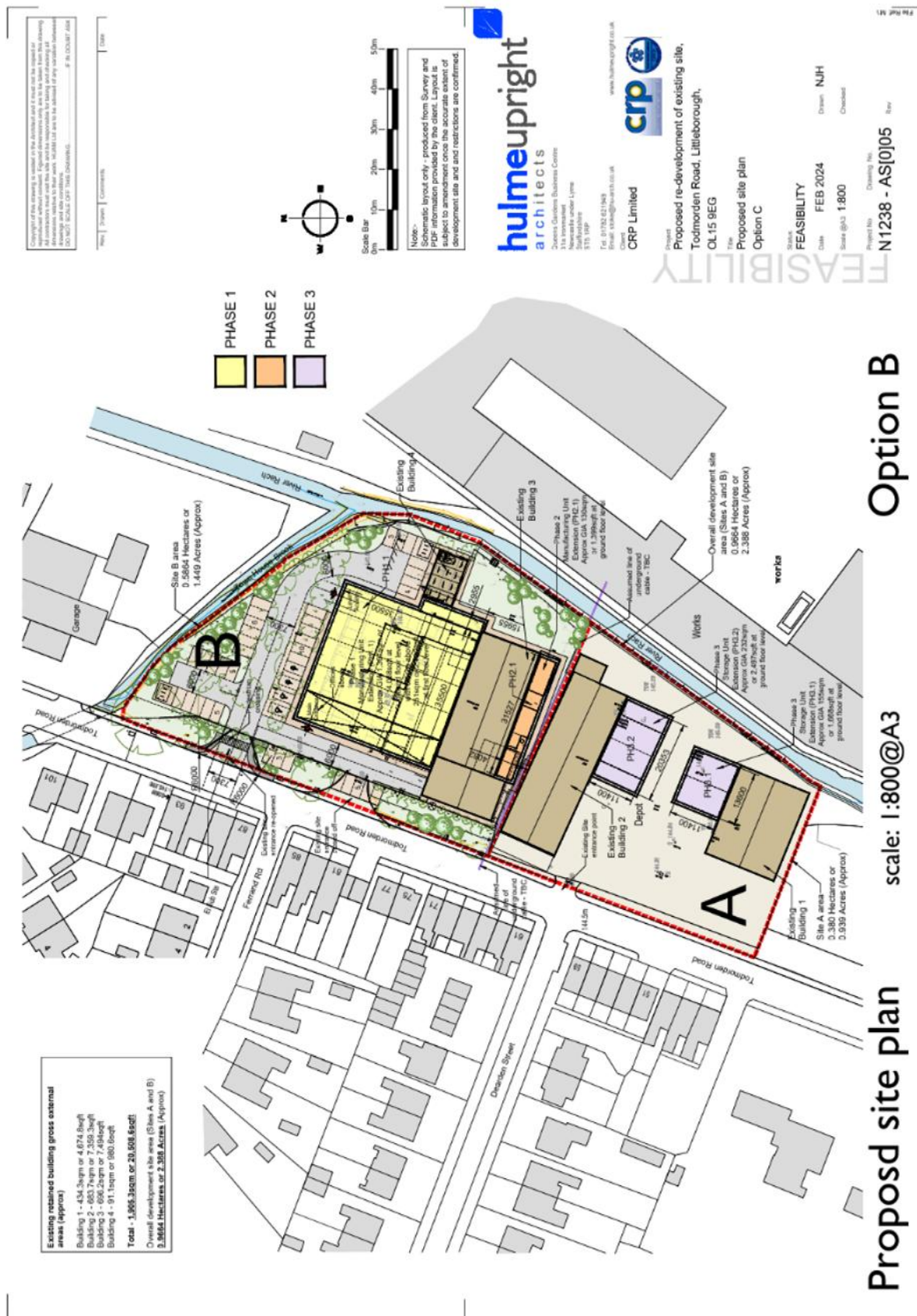
Appendix A: Site Plans

Appendix B: Eco Data Map

Appendix C: Badger Legislation

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

Appendix A: Site Plans



Appendix B: The Ecological Data Search Map

No ecological data search map was provided for this project as these results are confidential.

Appendix C: Badger Legislation

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation, it is illegal to kill, wilfully injure or take a badger. In addition to this, badger setts are also protected against obstruction, destruction, or damage in any way. Finally, any animals within a sett cannot be disturbed in any way.

Natural England (2002) advises that the disturbance of an active sett can include:

- Light work such as hand digging within 10m.
- Use of light machinery (generally wheeled vehicles) within 20m.
- Use of heavy machinery (generally tracked vehicles) within 30m.

The word "disturbance" includes a variety of factors, ranging from 'minimal' to 'severe'. For example, under the 'minimal' category, the badgers in a sett may be startled by extra traffic noise on a nearby road which will disturb these specimens. Conversely, 'severe' disturbance may be caused from a badger sett being destroyed in order to make way for the planned works.

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

- **Active Hole:** These are holes in the ground that have been excavated by the local badger clan and are in use to gain access to the sett. These are clear of debris and vegetation as these are in regular use.
- **Annexe Sett:** This sett will have many used entrances and is connected to the main sett. These are usually 50m to 150m from the main sett and are connected by a well-worn path that is regularly used by the badger clan. These setts are not always used by the local badger populations.
- **Badger Sett:** A 'badger sett' means any structure or place which displays signs of *current* use by a badger (Clark 2001).
- **Disused Hole:** These are holes that have not been in use for a large amount of time. They will be partially or completely blocked, with vegetation beginning to establish around the hole. These are not always easily visible and may only have a slight depression within the topography, with a vegetated spoil heap outside of the entrance.
- **Latrines:** These are small depressions in the ground where badgers excrete faecal matter. These are often, but not limited to, the edge of a badger's territory or adjacent to the badger sett.
- **Main Sett:** This is the most important sett located within a badger territory. This is usually a large feature consisting of five or more entrances, with large spoil heaps evident around these features. These setts are used throughout the year and acts as the main breeding sett within the badger clans territory. Each badger social group has one main sett within its territory.
- **Outlier Sett:** This is a sett that has very few holes, often one or two. There is no pathway linking these features to a main sett. These are sporadically used by badgers throughout the year for varying purposes.
- **Partially Active Hole:** These are holes that are not regularly used by the local badger social group. Leaves, twigs, moss or other vegetation may be present around the entrance due to the less frequent activity by the animals inhabiting the sett.
- **Scratching Tree:** These are trees that have been used by the local clans to sharpen their claws. These trees are identifiable due to the presence of scratch marks on the trunk.
- **Snuffle Holes:** These are areas where badgers have been digging in the ground to forage for invertebrates. These are often only a few centimetres in depth and are situated along badger tracks. These are more noticeable on grassed lawns or golf-courses and are often round or oval in shape.
- **Subsidiary Sett:** These setts are not usually connected to the main sett by a well-worn pathway. Instead, these can be found throughout the landscape with a variable number of entrances.

8. Notice to Readers: Conditions of this Report

This report is confidential and should not be put in the public domain. The data recorded is for the use of the local planning department and its employees only. This is for the preservation of any identified badger populations that the survey effort reveals.

All reports are certified products and cannot be shown, copied, or distributed to third parties without the written permission of Elite Ecology. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s). If any part of this report is altered without the written permission of Elite Ecology, then the whole report becomes invalid.

Elite Ecology agrees to supply ecological consulting services and advice of a preliminary or thorough nature as advised or commissioned. Upon commissioning Elite Ecology to undertake the work, the client(s) grant access to the site upon the agreed date. If no site access is available upon this date, Elite Ecology holds the right to charge the client(s) for lost staffing time and additional travel costs.

Elite Ecology undertake all site surveys with reasonable skill, care, and diligence, within the terms of the contract that has been agreed with the client and abiding by the Elite Ecology Terms and Conditions. The actions of the surveyors on site, and during the production of the report, were undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

The latest good practice guidelines put in place by Natural England or the relevant statutory conservation bodies have been followed by the surveyors on site. If those methodologies fail to identify a protected species during the survey efforts, no responsibility can be attributed to Elite Ecology. If any of these guidelines are adapted between the date(s) of the surveys being undertaken and the submission of this report, then Elite Ecology takes no responsibility for this.

Should any equipment be damaged or lost on site at the fault of the client(s), then Elite Ecology withholds the right to charge 100% above the current market value for that exact product or the nearest similar product.

The survey results purport the current status of the site and its potential for protected species utilisation at the time of surveying. It should not be viewed as a complete list of the possible flora and fauna species that could be using the site at different times of the year.

Elite Ecology has been provided with full payment for this report and thus the product has been released to the client(s) for the purpose of their planning application. If any part of the report is lost or altered without the written permission of Elite Ecology, then the entire report becomes invalid. Due to the potential for continual change within the natural world, this report is valid for **2 years only** from the date of the last survey visit. If this report is submitted after the 2-year deadline, then a further updated inspection will be required to ascertain whether the site remains in the same condition as it was when initially inspected.

No reliance should be made on any such comments in relation to the structural integrity of the features located on the surveyed site. All information within the report is based solely on evidence that has been found on site during the service provided. No individual opinion or inference will be made other than that of the suitably qualified ecologist appointed to the project.