



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 5E: Access Road Badger Survey
Report





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WSP

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

Phone: +44 2920 769 200

WSP.com



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Prepared by	Elliot Gray	Elliot Gray		
Signature				
Checked by	Marianne Curtis	Connor England		
Signature				
Authorised by	Gary Lindsay	Gary Lindsay		
Signature				
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ANNEX 5E.1

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. WSP UK Ltd (WSP) was commissioned by Wind2 Ltd to provide ecological support services including a badger survey to support the construction of an access road which would facilitate the construction of the Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt, Powys, mid-Wales (approximate central grid reference: SO 001 983) (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. The Calon Y Gwynt Main Site is located on the hills to the north of the A470 trunk road, approximately 3.5 km east of the village of Carno, 3.5 km north of the village of Pontdolgoch and 12 km north-west of Newtown. To facilitate the construction of the Energy Park on the Main Site, an access road is required to be constructed (hereafter referred to as the 'Combined Site'). The access road is planned to extend for approximately 4.6km from the southern grid reference SO 01372 93553 to the northern grid reference SO 01139 97325, at which point the access road joins with the Main Site. The route will bisect farmland, hedgerows, woodland and scrub and will connect the A470 to the Energy Park. It comprises 3.1 km of newly constructed access road, and 1.5 km of upgraded existing access road. The route is presented within **Figure 5E.1**, which consists of a central line and a 30m buffer each side of the indicative line.

1.2 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs) of the Combined Site were produced separately by WSP in April and May 2024 respectively^{1,2}. The PEAs identified a single record of badger as part of the desk study within the 1km Search Area. During the PEAs, no confirmed evidence of badger was recorded, however, suitable habitat for foraging badger existed within the local area in the form of woodland and grassland habitats. The woodland habitat bisected by the Access Road also provided suitable opportunities for sett excavation.

1.3 BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. WSP was commissioned to complete a badger survey of the Access Road in accordance with good practice guidance: badger^{3,4,5} to:
- Establish whether badger were present or likely to be absent from the 30m Survey Area; and
 - If present, evaluate the importance of the Survey Area for badger and make recommendations as to how the Proposed Development should account for these species with respect to legislation, planning and biodiversity policy.
- 1.3.2. The results of this survey, and subsequent recommendations, are included within this report.

¹ WSP UK Ltd. (2024a). Calon Y Gwynt Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Access Road. April 2024.

² WSP UK Ltd. (2024b). Calon Y Gwynt Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Main Site. May 2024.

³ Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1991) (Report) Surveying Badgers. The Mammal. Society, Bristol.

⁴ Roper, T (2010). Badger. Harper Collins UK.

⁵ Andrews, R (2013) The Classification of Badger *Meles meles* Setts in the UK: A review and Guidance for Surveyors. In practice. Bulletin of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Issue 82. December 2013.

1.4 LEGAL PROTECTION

- 1.4.1. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill, injure or take any badger, or attempt to do so. It also makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett. Activities that would otherwise constitute an offence under this legislation may be licensed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for certain purposes.

2 METHODS

2.1 OVERVIEW

- 2.1.1. To establish whether badgers were present or likely to be absent from the Survey Area, badger surveys were undertaken in line with current good practice guidelines^{3,4,5}.

2.2 PRESENCE / LIKELY ABSENCE SURVEYS

- 2.2.1. The Survey Area was searched for evidence of badger following the standard methodology as outlined by Harris, Creswell and Jefferies³; with regard for recent reviews and comment on these methods^{4,5}.

- 2.2.2. Where present, evidence indicative of badger presence was recorded; including:

- Setts;
- Latrines;
- Prints and paths or trackways;
- Hairs caught on rough wood or fencing; and
- Other evidence including snuffle holes, feeding remains and scratching posts.

- 2.2.3. Where setts were recorded, their status and level of activity was noted. Sett status is broadly categorised as follows:

- Main: Generally, the largest sett within a badger social group home range, with a relatively large number of sett entrances with well-worn pathways between entrances and radiating away from the sett, and conspicuous spoil mounds. This type of sett tends to be occupied continuously throughout the year and is usually used for breeding;
- Annex: Normally found within 50-150m of the main sett and comprising multiple entrances, this type of sett may not be occupied throughout the year and can be used for breeding if there is more than one breeding sow within the social group. There is generally a path linking to the main sett;
- Subsidiary: Similar to an annex sett but typically located further from the main sett. This type of sett will not be occupied throughout the year and lacks the well-worn paths associated with main and annex setts; and
- Outlier: Normally consisting of one or two entrances, this type of sett will tend to be found furthest from the main sett and will only be used sporadically throughout the year.

- 2.2.4. Sett use or level of activity is broadly categorised as follows:

- Well used sett / entrance: Shows evidence of current use, such as fresh spoil or bedding, well-worn pathways between entrances and the presence of badger hair;
- Partially used sett / entrance: No evidence present indicating current occupation (though hairs may be present, as these can persist for some time), but the sett cannot be categorically described as disused and could easily be re-occupied (for example, it may contain some leaves

or sticks in tunnel entrances, but these would not be blocked and it would take little effort for a badger to reoccupy it); and

- Disused sett / entrance: A badger sett that appears to have been abandoned by a badger social group is described as 'disused'; these differ from partially used setts which can be temporarily disused. Disused setts are often completely blocked with vegetation or have collapsed.

2.2.5. Setts with well used and / or partially used holes were considered to be active i.e. in use by badgers at the time of survey.

2.2.6. Where encountered, other mammal excavations were also recorded during the survey. Information including the location, a description of the type of evidence (i.e. pathway or burrow) and, where applicable, any signs of current use were recorded.

2.3 DATES OF SURVEY

2.3.1. The badger surveys were led by a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) with experience of surveying for badger.

2.3.2. The badger surveys were undertaken over three survey visits:

- 16th June 2024;
- 29th July 2024; and
- 14th November 2024.

2.4 NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

2.4.1. Badger sett status can change quickly; it is not uncommon for badgers to switch the location of their main sett to the location of a previously identified subsidiary sett. Likewise, outlier setts can quickly be re-occupied after a long period of disuse or developed to provide a subsidiary sett. The data within this report represents an accurate assessment of badger activity within the Survey Area at the time of survey but there is potential for sett locations, status or level of activity to change prior to the commencement of works.

3 RESULTS

3.1 OVERVIEW

- 3.1.1. No confirmed evidence of badger was identified during the surveys.
- 3.1.2. Mammal paths were recorded throughout the woodland area, although these were not confirmed as badger. Photographs of the Survey Area are provided within **Annex 5E.1**.
- 3.1.3. The Proposed Development has the potential to present the following risks to badgers:
 - Damage to a sett or disturbance of a badger using a sett during vegetation clearance and construction activities (should a new sett be established);
 - Loss of suitable habitat for badger; and
 - Harm to badgers from moving plant or entrapment in excavations.

3.2 AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

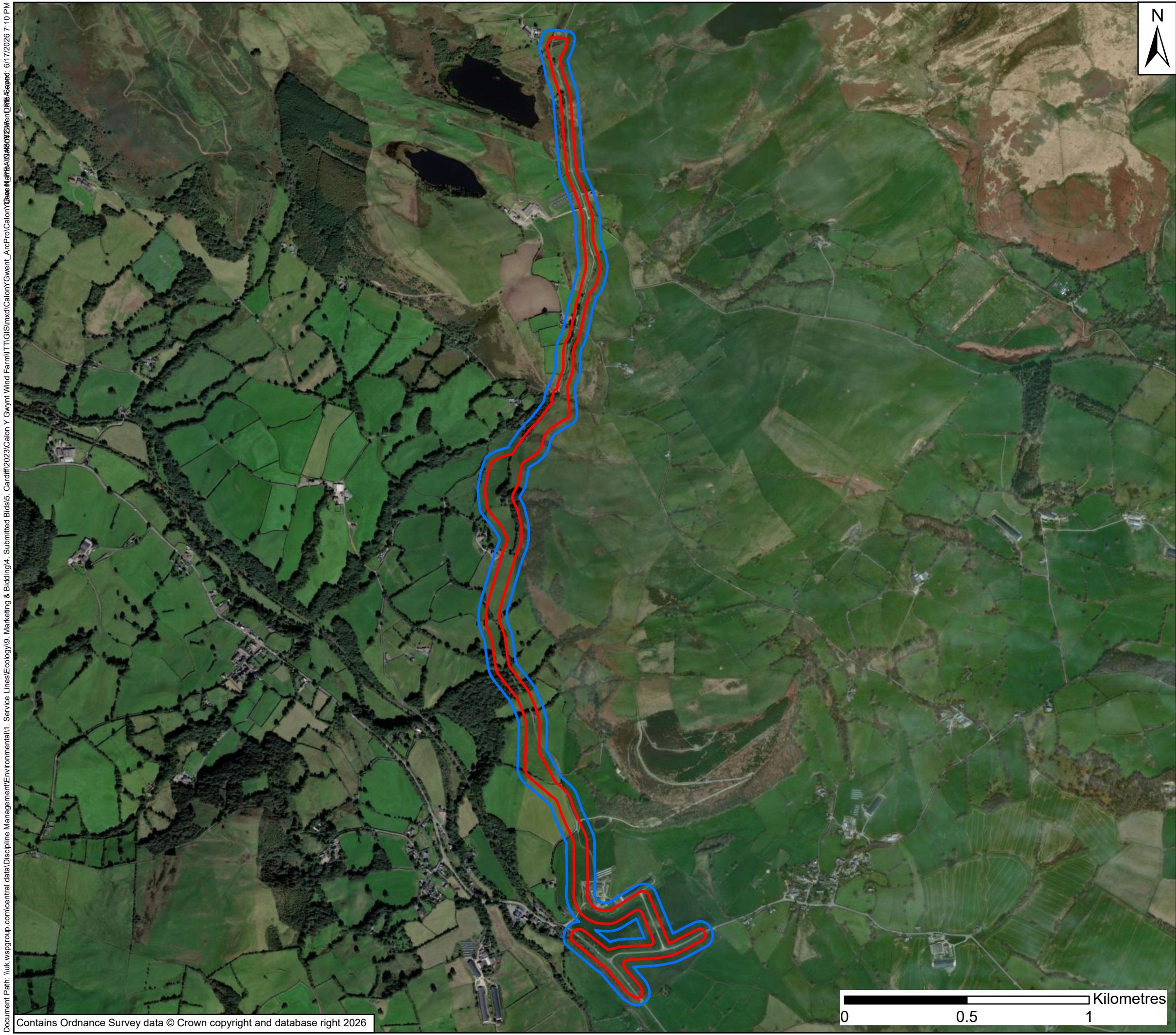
- 3.2.1. Indirect impacts on habitats considered suitable for badger (i.e. woodland) should be avoided, wherever possible.
- 3.2.2. Construction mitigation for the Proposed Development will be fulfilled through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), under ecological supervision. An outline CEMP has been produced, and details the following measures with respect to badgers:
 - Provision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to carry out pre-construction surveys and advise on ecological and environmental matters during the construction of the Proposed Development;
 - Covering of excavations at night (or provision of an escape route);
 - Restrictions to vehicle movement outside of daylight hours and speed controls;
 - Night working restrictions;
 - Restrictions on light spill onto habitats that may be used by badger;
 - Pollution prevention measures;
 - Noise, vibration and dust control measures; and
 - Biosecurity measures.
- 3.2.3. The CEMP will include (but not be limited to) night working restrictions in sensitive areas, restriction on light spill, pollution prevention measures, noise, vibration and dust control measures, and biosecurity measures.
- 3.2.4. Construction should take place in daylight hours only when badgers are less active and where natural light can be utilised as far as possible. Where artificial lighting is required the impacts to badgers should be taken into consideration. No artificial lighting will be used during the operational phase.
- 3.2.5. A designated Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be employed during construction activities to carry out ecological supervision and ensure compliance with the CEMP. Vegetation clearance would be undertaken under specific method statements and supervised by the ECoW.

- 3.2.6. A pre-works checks for badger (a minimum of six weeks in advance of works) is also recommended due to the ability of badger to create new setts in a short space of time. If a badger sett is identified, then exclusion zones should be implemented. If disturbance to / destruction of setts cannot be avoided, then they must be excluded and closed under an NRW licence. In this instance further surveys would be required to characterise the setts on Site and, where access is safe and possible, in the wider area.
- 3.2.7. Licences to exclude and close setts are only issued between 1st July and 30th November.

4 FIGURES

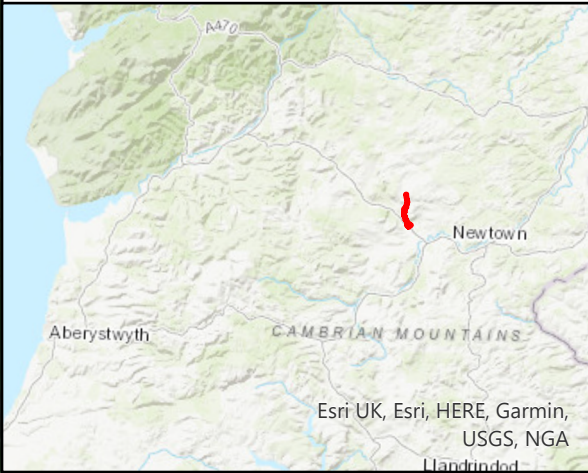
Figure 5E.1 - Site Location Plan and Survey Area

Document Path: \\uk.wspgroup.com\central data\Discipline Management\Environmental\1. Service Lines\Ecology\9. Marketing & Bidding\4. Submitted Bids\5. Cardiff\2023\Calon Y Gwynt Wind Farm\IT\GIS\mxd\CalonYGwent_ArcPro\CalonYGwent_N_ArcMap\CalonYGwent_DRC\Saved: 6/17/2026 7:10 PM

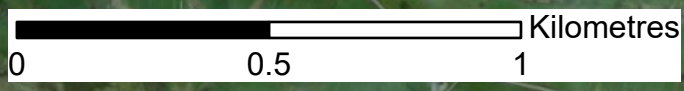


Legend

-  Site
-  Survey Area



Client:	WIND2		
Project:	CALON Y GWYNT - Access Road Badger Survey Report		
Title	Site Location Plan and Survey Area		
Drawing No:	Figure 5E.1	Drawn:	AS
Date:	6/17/2026	Checked:	MB
Scale:	1:15,000 @ A3	Approved:	MC



Annex 5E.1

PHOTOGRAPHS





Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

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