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Dear Severn Trent Water

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BADGER AND DORMOUSE SURVEY LETTER REPORT – CHURCH STOKE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Penny Anderson Associates Ltd (PAA) was commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake a badger (*Meles meles*) and dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) survey at Church Stoke sewage treatment works (STW) and surrounding land, Montgomeryshire, Powys.

The surveys were undertaken by Consultant Ecologist Beth Howes on 4th February 2022. The surveyor is appropriately qualified and experienced to undertake surveys of this type under the CIEEM¹ competency framework (CIEEM 2013²).

Badger Survey

Any information regarding the location of current or historic badger setts within or around the site has been published in a separate report which is to remain confidential and should not be made publicly available.

The survey method was based on the standard approach detailed in the Mammal Society publication *Surveying Badgers* (Harris *et al.* 1991³) and used during the National Badger Survey (Cresswell *et al.* 1990⁴) and *Surveying for Badgers* (Scottish Badgers 2018⁵). This involved searching for field signs associated with badgers, including setts, runs, foraging activity, latrines and footprints. Other signs searched for included scratching posts and hairs caught on fences. Where a badger sett was found, the number of entrances was recorded along with activity levels and sett status.

Dormouse Survey

The dormouse survey was focused within an on-site area of dense scrub which is adjacent to the mixed plantation woodland.

The survey methods were based on the standard approach detailed in *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook* (English Nature 2006⁶). This involved assessing habitats in detail for suitability for use by dormice and searching within areas of suitable habitat for field signs associated with dormouse, such as gnawed hazel⁷ nuts. Any gnawed hazel nuts found were collected for further examination.

No evidence of dormouse was seen during the survey. The area of dense blackthorn and elder scrub to the north-east of the site was extensively searched and no dormice nests were seen. No hazelnuts or gnawed nuts of any kind were found during the survey.

Dormouse are considered unlikely to be present within the site due to the absence of field signs observed during the survey. No further recommendations are made in respect of this protected species.

I hope that the above information is useful, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely
For and on Behalf of
PENNY ANDERSON ASSOCIATES LTD


Beth Howes
Ecologist

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¹ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

² CIEEM, 2013. *Competencies for Species Survey: Overview*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

³ Harris, S., Cresswell, P., and Jeffries, D., 1991. *Surveying Badgers*. An occasional publication of the Mammal Society.

⁴ Cresswell, P., Harris, S., and Jeffries, D.J., 1990. *The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain*. Nature Conservancy Council.

⁵ Scottish Badgers, 2018. *Surveying for Badgers: Good Practice Guidelines*. Version 1.

⁶ English Nature, 2006. *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. English Nature.

⁷ Plant species names follow Stace, C., 2019. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Fourth Edition. C & M Floristics. Common names only are used in the text.