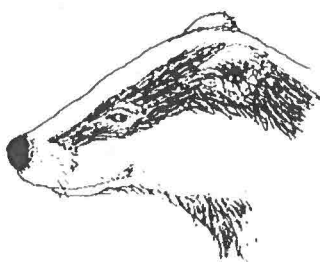
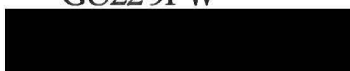


WEST SURREY BADGER GROUP

Registered Charity No 1100142



11, Lime Grove,
Woking,
GU22 9PW



Town Hall,
The Parade,
Epsom,
Surrey,
KT18 5BY

12 October 2025

Dear Sir

Re: Planning Application 25/00846/OUT

I am the chairman and a field officer for The West Surrey Badger Group and have over 30 years practical experience in dealings with badgers. I wish to object to the above planning application for the following reasons:

- a) On 8th August, following a request from local residents I carried out a partial badger sett survey of the site. I was not able to complete a full survey due to heavy undergrowth of brambles and nettles. During the search carried out I found:
- i) A series of 8 badger dung pits approximately 2m from the set aside on the north side of the site. This number of dung pits would constitute a badger latrine used by more than one badger.
 - ii) Leading from the set aside land I found a tunnel through the vegetation leading directly to the latrine. It would have been a risk to health and safety to try and examine the set aside land.
 - iii) A further badger dung pit approx. 3m inside the site from the boundary.
 - iv) Clear mammal paths going through the rough grassland.
 - v) In several places I found "snuffle marks", where badgers had been foraging for food.

The importance of dung pits is that it is only badgers that will dig a scrape in which to defecate, leaving the scrape open and uncovered.

Since doing the partial survey I have received several calls from local residents stating that they have badgers visiting their gardens, with one resident stating that they knew where there is a badger sett.

It is noted that, in the ecological report compiled by Ecology Coop, they carried out a walkover assessment of the site in 2019, this should be classified as being of little, if any, value as badger setts can change many times in a 5 year period. They do not mention when and if further more recent surveys have been conducted. I also note that a Habitat survey was conducted on 23rd May 2025, this would be whilst the set aside land would be in full growth. They do not reveal what, if anything they found. This report is, in my opinion, not worth the paper it is written on as it gives only the briefest of detail.

Under the circumstances that I was only able to complete a partial survey on about half the site I would, respectfully submit that no decision be made until :-

- i) A survey is carried out during the winter when the undergrowth will be reduced
- ii) Further enquiries can be made into the reports from local residents.

Yours respectfully

Robert Shatwell

