

INTERFERENCE WITH BADGERS AND SETTS

WHAT TO DO

Badgers, their setts, and access to their setts, are protected by law at all times. This is even when setts may seem to be unoccupied. Anyone disturbing badgers or a sett may be committing a criminal offence. Any unusual or suspicious activity should always be reported to the police as soon as possible.

Reporting a Wildlife Crime

- Please report any incidents or suspicions to your local police station by calling **999** if the incident is still taking place and asking for someone to attend urgently. Ask also for the **Police Wildlife Officer** to be informed if they have one. Or you can call **CrimeStoppers** on **0800 555 111**. All other, (less urgent), reports should be made by calling **101**
- **Always** request an incident number (which is a unique reference for your crime report). Don't be put off if the person you speak to doesn't seem to understand that what you are reporting may constitute a crime. Many do not know much about the Protection of Badgers Act.

Badger Baiting/Digging

- If you notice any suspicious activity (which may include dogs being put down entrance holes, men digging into a sett with spades, and/or the using of nets at entrances), contact the police urgently by calling **999**. Report the incident as ongoing and ask for the police to attend immediately. Also ask for the **Police Wildlife Officer** to be informed if they have one. If anyone has firearms or crossbows with them you must advise the Police of this too.
- Take a note of the registration numbers and makes of vehicles you might see close to the incident.
- Note how many people and dogs are present. Take a description of the persons and note any equipment they have with them. Take a photograph (which includes a record of the date) if it's safe to do so.
- Please **DO NOT** approach them or let them know you are watching. They are frequently violent and you should never place yourself in a position where you could be threatened or assaulted.

Damage to Setts and/or Sett blocking

- If you find a sett which looks damaged or blocked, please contact your local police station by calling **999** as soon as possible to report the incident. You should ask for the **Police Wildlife Officer** to be advised if they have one too.
- Explain exactly where the sett is located. If possible, arrange to meet whoever attends to investigate, so you can show them exactly where the sett is.
- **DO NOT** disturb or remove any evidence or materials which may be blocking the sett but please do take photographs which include the date if you can. Please also tell the local Badger Group committee.

VERY IMPORTANT WARNING

- If you come across a sett with every entrance hole blocked do not under any circumstances try to open any up. The sett could have been gassed with cyanide-producing crystals which are lethal. There may be signs of a white powder or residue near to the entrances in such instances. **TAKE ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCES - INFORM THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING 999 AND LET THEM SORT IT OUT.**

Snares

- If you find illegal self-locking snares set in position, or snares of any description set in such a way that they are likely to catch pets or any protected species, please contact the **RSPCA** (0300 1234 999) and your local police station by calling **101**. Ask for the **Police Wildlife Officer** covering the area to be informed too - if they have one. (Say exactly where you have found the snares and if possible, arrange to meet with whoever attends to investigate, so that you can show them exactly where the snares are).
- If snares are set on a badger path or near a badger sett please also contact one of our local Badger Group committee members as soon as you can.
- Any snares that you find should not be removed or interfered with by you as that constitutes an offence in law. Removing snares could see you charged with theft for example. **ALWAYS** contact the RSPCA and police instead - who will investigate.

- Please **DO NOT** trespass in order to look for snares. Also, please do not damage or remove any snares - if you see any which you believe to be illegal, render them safe by closing the noose (with a stick for example).
- If you find a live badger caught in a snare, please contact the **RSPCA** (0300 1234 999) as soon as you can. If they are unable to attend quickly then contact Steve Hawkes (01926 832534) from our local Badger Group committee who can try to arrange urgent alternative safe rescue action. Any other animals found alive in snares should also be reported to the RSPCA. If possible, arrange to meet with whoever attends so that you can guide them directly to the injured animal.
- **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES attempt to release an animal yourself. The animal may injure you, or it may suffer further injuries itself. It may even escape with the snare still in place, and die a lingering death. So please do not interfere with the victim. Just leave things exactly as you found them so that the evidence can be fully recorded and a proper rescue of any live animal can be effected.**

How to deal with shot badgers

Hopefully this is something you will not encounter. But if you do so then please access the internet and read the protocol for the [Examination of badgers with suspected gunshot injuries 2014](#) - prepared by **Secret World Wildlife Rescue** and pass on to your local vet and wildlife centre.

Suspected Poisoning Incidents

- Please **DO NOT** touch the animal or remove it from where it is found
- Note the location as precisely as is possible and phone the **Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme** on **0800 321600**.

They will arrange investigations into such incidents throughout the UK.

You should also report the matter to the Police by calling **999**.

Here is a list of Badger Group committee contact numbers who can give you further help or advice if necessary :-

Steve Hawkes - tel 01926 832534

Mike Hughes - tel 01926 859456

Pauline Allwood - tel 01926 842632

Barbara Cuttell - tel 01926 843122

Denise Taylor - tel 07903323362

All of the information contained within these sheets has been collated from several sources and is provided as a general guide. It hopefully covers most eventualities that you could encounter.

Steve Hawkes - January 2016

