

Badgers

What?

- badgers are a protected species
- both the animals and their setts are protected by law
- it is illegal to carry out any construction work close to a badger sett without taking steps to positively avoid damage and without an appropriate licence
- it is no excuse in law to be unaware of the presence of badgers.

Identification

- most badgers have the characteristic black and white striped face although very occasionally they can be creamy white (albino) or red/ginger in colour
- fully grown adults can be up to 1 m in length and weigh up to 14 kg
- the sett entrance is usually D-shaped and at around 300 mm wide by 200 mm high is wider than either a fox or rabbit hole
- there may be signs of freshly excavated material at the entrance or piles of leaves, dry grass, straw or bracken, which the badgers take inside to use as bedding
- badgers have a distinctive footprint – five claws and a broad main pad
- an indicator of badgers can be found on trees or posts that badgers use for scratching.



- disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett
- interfere with a badger sett by damaging or destroying it
- obstruct the access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett
- breaking the law can lead to fines of up to **£5000 per badger and/or up to six months in prison.**

Questions

- 1 Where might signs of a badger sett be found?
- 2 How is a badger sett identified?
- 3 If it is suspected that badgers are present, what should be done?

Why?

- **avoid prosecution:** it is a criminal offence for anyone without a licence to:
 - kill, injure or handle a badger

Do

- ✓ **IMMEDIATELY** stop work and inform a line manager if a badger sett is found or a badger is seen on site or close to the site boundary
- ✓ seek guidance from a competent person before any work within 30 m of a badger sett.

Don't

- ✗ use heavy machines within 30 m
 - ✗ use light machines within 20 m
 - ✗ work within 10 m
- of a badger sett before checking with a line manager whether a licence is necessary**
- ✗ carry out any works that are likely to disturb, damage or destroy a badger sett unless a line manager has categorically instructed to proceed further to a competent ecologists recommendation to do so.



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Title:

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Date:

Site:

Name	Company	Signature