

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BADGER GROUP

Actively involved in the welfare of badgers
in Northamptonshire



RESCUES. SETT RECORDING. EDUCATION. WELFARE. ADVOCACY



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter!

It is a busy time for badgers! Cubs were born around February and are now emerging from their setts for the first time. Badgers are also travelling further to mate and there are more abundant food sources available. Sadly this does mean an increase in road fatalities, often on the same spot of the road, as they follow their scent trails on mammal paths. It is more important than ever to tell us of badger activity and fatalities for our records.

Rescue & Activity Snapshot

Sally J. was at work when a call came in for a badger walking in circles and then collapsing near Moulton. She took it to the vet and it had a severe head trauma so was put to sleep.

Sally. R went out to a badger that had been hiding underneath someones car on a large estate in Northampton. It was unknown as to whether it was injured, but it decided to run off and wasn't seen again, so we expect it was fine.

Pat & Sally. J have been dealing with a lot of queries via phone, email or on our social media channels, regarding badgers in gardens, which is typical this time of year, but also about development, injuries, crime & general enquiries.

6 committee members were involved in dealing with a sett where a farmer had driven over it and removed all trees, grass and top surface. It was early evening, so whilst one member was reporting it to the police, the rest went over straight away. It was filmed for evidence. Thankfully the sett is well known to us, so they knew where to look for entrances & 5 were found. The tunnels seemed intact and not collapsed. Sally.J has liaised with the RSPCA Investigator and wildlife police & it is an ongoing investigation

Sally & Rich went out to a badger hit by a car near Whittlebury. A kind local who runs Deashanger Hedgehog Rescue found it and reported it in. The badger had a ruptured diaphragm and broken bones so was sadly put to sleep. We are now in the process of training Deanhanger Hedgehog Rescue on how to rescue badgers and given them some of our specialist rescue equipment. All rescue calls should still come through to our rescuers for now, until they are fully trained. We will liaise with them on any rescue that are in the south of the county.

Sally.J worked with The Nutkin Ward to search for a badger cub that was reported to have been walking around a housing estate in Woodford Halse for a few days. Sadly they could not find it.



Badger Cubs

1 WEEK

Badger cubs are born in late January - March

4 WEEKS

Cub's milk teeth begin to erupt

7-8 WEEKS

Cubs become mobile within the sett and emerge above ground

9 WEEKS

Snuffling and digging in the soil for prey begins



11 WEEKS

Cubs begin to self-groom and collect bedding

14 WEEKS

Cubs begin scent-marking

16 WEEKS

Cubs display a full range of adult behaviours

BadgerTrust.org.uk

NEW MERCHANDISE & SHOP ITEMS



We have some lovely new items in our website shop, ranging from great quality, larger size, gusseted canvas bags to small zip up cosmetic or pencil pouches. Visit our website shop to buy:

www.northamptonshirebadgers.co.uk/shop



SETT SURVEY WALKS

Many of our members have now attended the first 'Introduction to Settle Surveying' sessions that we run each year. We now have some 'Sett Survey Walks' planned. These will involve a general walk in the countryside to look for setts in an area where our records need updating. Walks will be in South Northamptonshire and will take a few hours. Good walking shoes, packed lunch etc. will be needed.

Saturday 30th April 2022

Saturday 14th May 2022

Saturday 7th May 2022

Saturday 21st May 2022

Book your place by emailing: northantsbadgergroup@gmail.com

Recording of Setts, Rta's & Live sightings by Peter Edwards (Sett Recorder)

Spring is a busy time for badger movement. Badgers are most territorial during February, the cubs are being born, boars are patrolling their borders & badgers are on the move to make room for the new arrivals etc. Spring is always the worst time of year for badgers getting killed on our roads. Can I ask that we stay especially vigilant in reporting please.

Thanks to all your fantastic hard work surveying setts & reporting.

When reporting setts please include the following: the date you visited, an accurate location (map reference, pin drop on a map, or what3words), the number of active holes and other relevant information such as, is there fresh dung pits/bedding/footprints/hair or spoil present?

Your sett reports are so important to us as they can be used when new developments & roads are in the planning stage, consultants liaise with us so the best mitigation measures can be made to protect the badgers.

Thanks also to all the people who have been sending in Rta's & Live Sightings to me & a big thanks to those who include a map or a pin drop map or what3words, as these help me to not duplicate any of the reports. Anyone who is unable to do a map reference could also give me the distance from a junction I can identify on the map, please.

Accurate location & current activity is really useful to us, as can be used during planning, sett interference investigations, when co-ordinating with the Police & when returning rehabilitated badgers back to the wild.

RTA STATISTICS UNTIL 30/03/2022

STATS ARE INCLUDED FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS FOR COMPARISON:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	13	76	68	34	24	30	22	11	26	19	9	3	335
2020	17	73	59	36	26	23	19	19	21	16	9	3	321
2021	11	52	54	61	38	25	17	28	25	18	14	3	346
2022	19	89	79										187

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UPDATE SETT REPORTS REGULARLY & ADD NEW ONES WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED TO GET REPORTS OF LIVE SIGHTINGS OF BADGERS AS THIS IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF OUR RECORDS.

NORTHANTSBADGERRECORDER@GMAIL.COM

[WEB FORM](#)

BAFFLE ON TOUR: Press Release

Baffle the badger, now a Northampton icon, is venturing out of her territory this April - June, to visit her badger cousins on a tour of West Northamptonshire towns and villages.

Baffle caused a national media storm when she dramatically crashed through the roof of Superdrug at Grosvenor Shopping Centre. Quickly rescued, checked & released by volunteers from Northamptonshire Badger Group, she has left a long lasting legacy, being recognised in the shopping centre with a Blue Plaque & a dedicated 'Badger Street' renamed as a mark of admiration for her species.

Now a mascot of the Badger Group, her legacy continues and the 'Baffle Tour' is visiting locations in West Northants, finishing in Brackley. The Tour will share information and educational messages about badgers and the work of the group. The tour coincides with a crucial time for badgers in parts of West Northants, particularly in around the areas between Towcester and Brackley.

Baffle and the group want to share their concern about the likelihood of the badger cull coming to these areas later this year, which will see thousands of Northamptonshire badgers killed over 4 years.

West Northants residents are encouraged to come and meet the Northamptonshire Badger Group team, have a photo with the Baffle mascot and learn more about these iconic mammals, that we are so lucky to have in our county.

Did you hear us on BBC Radio Northampton?

Baffle and Sally.J from the group made a visit to the Breakfast Show on 8th April to surprise Liz Jeeves, talk all things badger & to launch the tour.

Listen again [HERE](#). We are on at 1 hour 39mins into the show.



Tour Day 1: Northampton

We had a great day meeting people outside the LUSH store in the Grosvenor Centre and on Abington Street. LUSH changed their window display for us and were a great support on the day. Baffle also visited her official Blue Plaque on Badger Street.

Baffle Tour Dates

Sunday 8th May
Northampton Vegan Market

Saturday 4th June
Brackley Carnival



Thank you to Neil Banyard for designing Baffle!



Badger Cull in Northamptonshire: Update

A cull company WNHH Ltd was set up at the end of 2021, for Northamptonshire. It is led by 3 cattle farmers, who are directors, called Bonner, Berner and Donger. We know that they are calling farmers in the Brackley, Towcester & surrounding areas to recruit them to cull.

Application/s to cull badgers in Northamptonshire have been received and there has been a new Government cull licence consultation, which named Northamptonshire for a second time.

All the information indicates that culling will commence in Northamptonshire this year, in the Brackley/Towcester areas and surrounding villages. Licences are normally issued in June and culling normally commences in September for around 6-8 weeks. It will be a 4 year licence as this is the last year that the Government are meant to be issuing these.

Can you help us spread the word? This should not be a dirty secret!

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CULLING HERE THIS YEAR?

- Northamptonshire named on an application to cull badgers.
- Cull company already formed in Brackley - Towcester areas.
- Likely to get a cull licence in 2022 for a 4 year cull.
- Thousands of badgers will be killed in these areas.

We have new cull related leaflets and need to get them out in the areas named above, on notice boards, through doors etc.

We also have versions that can be posted on social media pages.

Contact us for supplies and more information.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A CULL AREA?

Cage Trapping: Cages are baited with peanuts, badgers get trapped in them and shot in the head the next morning.

Free Shooting: Bait points are dug into the ground & filled with peanuts. Badgers are shot at night whilst eating the peanuts.

Badger Setts



Cages



Bait Points



@NORTHANTSBADGERGROUP @NORTHANTSAGAINSTTHECULL

KILLING BADGERS WILL NOT STOP BOVINE TB

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) is a cattle disease, spread between cattle through close contact, slurry & cattle movement. Tighter biosecurity measures, accurate testing & controlled cattle movement are needed, rather than the decimation of the badger, an iconic and protected British mammal which has become a scapegoat for the real issues.

THE ANSWER TO SOLVING BTB IN CATTLE, STARTS AND ENDS WITH CATTLE

Do you know the location of badger setts?
Have you seen any dead badgers on the road?

Email us with information or to help:
northantsbadgergroup@gmail.com

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northantsbadgergroup@gmail.com

Northants Against The Cull are looking for people who want to actively oppose the cull and help protect badgers in the Northamptonshire Cull Zone. They will also be organising 'Wounded Badger Patrols'. Follow their social media channels for information. They can be contacted through those or you can email us and we'll pass the message on.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AGAINST THE CULL



www.facebook.com/Northantsagainstthecull



twitter.com/NorthantsCull



WE ARE URGENTLY FUNDRAISING FOR A NIGHT VISION CAMERA AND OTHER IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT

We're a small volunteer led group, who give our time freely to do all we can for badgers in Northamptonshire. We rely on donations to continue our work & we urgently need some new equipment which includes a specialist Night Vision Camera. If you can help, the ways to donate are below:

Paypal or Card payments: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)

Website: www.northamptonshirebadgers.co.uk/donate

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
BADGER GROUP

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee consists of a variety of people, from different backgrounds, with various skills & experience, all of whom care about badgers. We help shape the group to help badgers across Northamptonshire.

- Attend once monthly meetings (as much as possible).
- Help shape the future of the group & the work it does.
- Have an active role within the group and the work it does.
- Work with and support other group members.
- Willingness to learn about badgers and keep this knowledge updated.
- Some roles involve liaising with the public and need a polite, courteous attitude and manner.
- Specific roles are also available such as Treasurer.

For more information contact:
northantsbadgergroup@gmail.com

www.northamptonshirebadgers.co.uk

DO YOU CARE ABOUT BADGERS?

Can you help us be their advocates in Northants?

We are looking for people like you to join our committee!

We are currently a small group of only 8 people and do our best to cover all aspects of badger related welfare and advocacy. However, the County of Northamptonshire is large and we need more help to cover everything.

The committee actively promotes badgers, manages the group membership, designs leaflets and marketing, runs the website, shop and social media accounts. Some of us go out checking setts and respond to public queries or crimes, others comment on planning applications that affect badgers, keep our sett records or do rescues. Some of us do many of these things.

The role is very rewarding and we are a lovely friendly bunch of people. We have some exciting ideas but need more hands to make light work!

KEEP IN TOUCH & UPDATED



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