

Charlotte Peacock Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

Badger Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Presence / Absence Surveys	One survey undertaken between March and October
Bait marking	Between February and April Between September and October

Legislation

Badgers are protected under the Badger Act 1992 which makes it illegal to amongst other things:

- to kill, injure, or take any Badger; and
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a sett, or disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett.

Preferred Habitat

Badgers can travel large distances and have a variety of setts ranging from a main sett with several entrances and obvious signs of occupation to a single hole with no obvious signs. As badgers use different setts throughout the year a sett may still be classified as in use even if a badger has not used it recently. Setts are often associated with farmland and woodland but can also occur in other areas such as verges and gardens.

Presence / Absence Surveys

An initial assessment is usually undertaken in the form of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey although this can be undertaken separately. The survey will determine sett locations and signs of badger occupation across the site. These can be undertaken at any time of the year but dense vegetation in summer can make it difficult for signs that badgers are using the area to be seen.

Bait Marking

This is used to determine the territory of a sett by placing coloured plastic pellets in bait. These pellets are then deposited throughout the badger's home range in their droppings. This information can be needed if a licence is required. This survey usually requires access to neighbouring land as badger territories tend to be larger than the average development site.

Licensing and Mitigation

If badgers are found to be within a development or in close proximity to it then a detailed development licence to close the sett may be required from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO).

Mitigation could range from planting additional food sources to construction of an artificial sett which may need to be proved to be in use before works commence.