

Badger Survey Information

Survey Methodology

Sett Survey

Badger surveys begin with an initial walk-over and habitat assessment. Field signs for badger include badger paths, footprints, scratching trees, hairs, dung pits which a clan will use to mark out their territory, and setts. Badgers may use a number of setts which can be classed as main, annex, subsidiary or outlier setts. The status of a sett is determined by the number of holes and level of activity recorded. Indicators of regular use include a number of dung pits, fresh spoil mounds and bedding outside hole entrances and well used tracks in the vicinity.



Badger at Sett Entrance

Badger setts or potential setts can also be monitored using infra-red motion-activated cameras which are positioned overlooking holes and left for several nights. Any motion around the hole will trigger the camera and activity will be recorded. Alongside this, hair traps (sticks with adhesive tape attached) can be placed within the hole so that any mammal entering / exiting the hole will dislodge the sticks and leave a hair sample.



Motion-activated Camera Monitoring Hole

Bait Marking Surveys

This technique aims to determine the territorial configuration of badger clans. Bait is left close to each badger sett which contains indigestible plastic pellets (harmless to badgers), each given a unique colour that can be identified within their dung. As badgers mark their territory with communal latrines (dung pits), the

area can be re-surveyed a few days later and the locations of each latrine with coloured pellets recorded. These locations can then be mapped and to give a visual indication of the extent of a clan's territory.



Badgers Feeding on Bait

Survey Timings

Although an initial assessment of badger setts can be completed at any time of year, the optimal period of undertaking sett surveys is during February-April (inclusive) and September-November (inclusive). Bait marking surveys can be carried out during February-April. Both types of surveys can be undertaken during winter months although results are limited by periods of badger inactivity.

Survey Calendar for Sett Surveys and Bait Marking Surveys

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Bait Marking/Sett Surveys							Sett Surveys				
Limited Bait Marking/Sett Surveys Throughout Year												

Badger Disturbance/Exclusion Licence

If a badger sett is found during a survey, a badger exclusion or disturbance licence may be required for development works to proceed. If this is the case a licence application, including a detailed mitigation report will have to be submitted to Natural England. Please see EMEC Ecology's information sheet on **sett closure and artificial setts** for more information on this.

Further information is available on our website at www.emec-ecology.co.uk.



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