

## Badger Survey NIEA Specific Requirements

Badgers (*Meles meles*) and their setts are protected under Article 10 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a badger; or
- intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place (normally a sett) that badgers use for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects any such structure; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb a badger while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.

On assessing your planning application NIEA considers that there is reasonable likelihood of badgers being present on the site and affected by the proposed development. To ensure your development proposal complies with legislation and planning policy, NIEA has recommended to the Planning Authority that an appropriate badger survey should be carried out prior to the determination of your application.

**Please note NIEA reserve the right to determine whether the survey is adequate or when additional information is required.**

In order to ensure an adequate assessment the following specifications should be followed:

- NIEA recommends that all works comply with British Standard 42020:2013, *Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development*. This provides recommendations and guidance for those engaged in planning and development, whose work might affect or have implications for conservation, or the enhancement of biodiversity.
- The applicant must ensure that the commissioned surveyor(s) has the necessary experience and qualifications to carry out this work. The qualifications and experience of all surveyors must be included in the survey report. NIEA recommends that the surveyor(s) is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- The survey information must be presented in a written report and must include appropriately scaled maps.
- Survey dates and times must be recorded in the written report.
- The survey must include the site and an area of 25m outside the red line boundary.
- The survey must establish whether or not badgers have established sett(s) (active or inactive) on site or use the area for foraging.
- The exact location of all sett entrances, dimensions of sett entrances and direction of tunnelling of each sett entrance, including photographs of each sett entrance clearly illustrating scale, must be presented.
- All evidence of use by badgers found, for example, latrines, hair caught on wire, foraging activity (snuffle holes), commuting movements (badger tracks) or bedding must be included in the report.

- Any equipment used must be included in the report.
- If disturbance or closure of a badger sett on site is proposed; the exact location(s) of the main sett and nearby alternative setts which are used by the same group of badgers must be identified.
- If necessary, the report should recommend the most appropriate ways in which badgers can be protected from the impacts of the proposed development. Mitigation measures should cover all phases of the development - before, during and after construction.
- Surveys should be submitted to the Planning Authority within one year of being carried out.
- In the event that the planning application goes to appeal or public inquiry, the consultant contracted may be required to appear and/or give evidence.
- All badger records should be reported to the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)\*
- For more information please refer to the following publications and websites:

**NIEA Development Management website**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/development-management>

**NIEA Development Management publication – Badgers and Development**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/badgers-development>

**The Northern Ireland Badger Group**

[www.badgersni.org.uk](http://www.badgersni.org.uk)

**Wildlife Management and Licensing web page**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity/wildlife-licensing-and-management>

**\* Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)**

<http://www.nmni.com/cedar>

**Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management**

[www.cieem.net](http://www.cieem.net)

**Badgers are vulnerable to persecution and survey information must therefore not be made publically available. Badger surveys must be included as a confidential annex to any protected species reports.**