

OBG Protocol for Badger Road Casualties (RTAs)

This guidance applies to badger road casualties but can be used for any sightings. Ill and injured badgers will try to get back to safety if possible. Bodies may be found away from a road, in gardens, fields or near a sett.

Location

- Note date
- name of road (eg A415 or Abingdon Road) and in which town, village or parish
- badger location (pref by Grid Reference or what3words, but address, postcode, or Google map pin etc will do)
- any comments on size, unusual colour, degree of damage/intact, and position of badger on road (eg northbound kerb).
- Best guess how long the badger has been there
- If you were able to check, confirm if dead and not lactating

Check

If you have time, and **if** you feel comfortable looking closely at an injured/ dead animal, stop to check the badger. Do this **only** if it is safe for you to do so. **Your safety is paramount.**

If driving, try to park where car will protect you from oncoming traffic. Switch on car's hazard warning lights, use warning triangle if you have one.

Put on High Vis Jacket if you have one. Take mobile/camera and gloves etc.

Approach with caution, to ensure badger is actually dead. Again your safety is paramount.

If badger is still alive but injured or sick, switch immediately to **OBG Badger Rescue Protocol**.

Note accurate location of badger – ideally with mobile GPS or Map to get OS Grid Reference or what3words position.

Note size of badger, cub or adult? Any unusual colouration such as all white or brown? Take photos?

Put on disposable gloves or use a stick before handling or turning the badger. If bloated, do not move it.

Check for sex of badger – genitalia visible?

Especially during January to June, if badger has prominent teats along belly, probably a lactating female. There could be orphaned young cubs nearby – **Switch to OBG Badger Rescue Protocol. Request OBG help to search for cubs – contact details as per the report section below.**

Check badger for obvious injuries, signs of being shot or poisoned. If you have a metal detector scan badger for bullets. **If you suspect foul play go to OBG Badger Crime Protocol.** Leave in situ, take photos or video of badger and location.

If no foul play, if possible drag badger into less visible position, under hedgerow/ vegetation or into ditch. Saves double reporting or revealing badger/nearby sett to those with ill intent.

Remove disposable gloves and sanitise your hands.

Report

Report RTAs to OBG as soon as practicable – use “Report – Badger sighting” on OBG website or by e-mail to rtas.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

If you find a live, injured badger in need of rescue call Debbie on 07748 086915

Alternatively the OBG phone: 07926 219446 is manned on a rota. OBG@OxonbadgerGroup.org.uk is monitored during the day but we do not guarantee an immediate response.

Members of OBG WhatsApp groups should message for advice or assistance.

Useful Equipment to carry

- Mobile phone, ideally with camera, GPS, and OBG contact numbers. Useful Apps include GridPointGB and what3words.
- Or camera, pen and paper, and local map.
- High Vis jacket, disposable gloves. hand sanitiser, walking stick
- If really keen to spot badger crime – a handheld metal detector.