



Registered charity no. 1186850

**Trustees report
and financial statement
for the year ended 31st Dec 2021**

DRAFT version dated 5th August 2022

Insert Trustees approval: (once final)

Signed on their behalf by: Linda Ward, Secretary and Trustee

Date: DD MON 2022

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Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Badger Group
Type of charity:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members
Registration details	Registered with the Charity Commission on 9 th December 2019 The charity is registered with HM Revenue & Customs
Registration Number	Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1186850
Charity address:	29 Webbs Way, Kidlington, OX5 2EW
Trustees who manage the charity	Julia Hammett (Chair)
	Richard Tilley (Treasurer)
	Linda Ward (Secretary)
Committee members	Eileen Anderson, Karl Moore, Keiron Ward, Debbie White and Barbara Witkowski
Banks	The Co-operative Bank, P O Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (primary) PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A. 22-24 Boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg
Public Liability	Zurich insurance, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution: Based on the Charity Commission model governing document for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Charitable Objects

As defined in our Constitution (Governing Document) the charity's objects are:

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and elsewhere; and
2. To advance the education of the public on the ecology, behaviour and protected status of badgers, their setts and habitats.

Trustees, Committee and organisational approach

Our Constitution specifies that there must be at least 3 charity Trustees to a maximum of 12. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio charity Trustees.

The charity Trustees during the period of this report were: Julia Hammett (Chair), Richard Tilley (Treasurer), and Linda Ward (Secretary). Members confirmed these appointments at OBG's first Annual General Meeting held 5th June 2021.

Other members of the Committee during the report period were:

Eileen Anderson (education and outreach), Emily Lawrence (crime liaison and public relations), Karl Moore (licenced vaccinator), Keiron Ward (licenced trapper), Debbie White (vaccination and rescue coordinator) and Barbara Witkowski (records officer).

The Charity is seeking to recruit additional trustees and has made a role description available via the website. In appointing additional or replacement Trustees, due consideration will be given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Oxfordshire Badger Group has no paid staff and is run entirely on a volunteer basis. Members have the option to volunteer to take part in various organised activities or may simply support our work via their membership fees¹.

Statutory declaration

The Trustees of Oxfordshire Badger Group confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the charity should undertake.

¹ Membership of the charity costs £12 per year per household (or £6 concessionary rate)

Activities and achievements – our officers reports



Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) is a small wildlife welfare charity which promotes the conservation and protection of badgers, their setts and habitats in Oxfordshire and beyond.

OBG began as a not-for profit organisation in January 1989. This is our second annual Trustees report since becoming a registered charity in December 2019. It covers the period 1st January 2020 to 30th July 2022.

Our charity's activities have been focused on: badger rescue; vaccination; study & record keeping; public education and awareness raising. We undertake conservation work, take part in planning consultations, lobby against badger culling and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

We are fortunate to have many supporters and a growing number of wonderful volunteers who give their time and experience freely to help badgers. We are funded entirely by public donations and grants and have no paid staff. Most of our funding goes to run our badger vaccination and rescue programmes.

OBG is committed to providing training and supporting our volunteers. We have worked to put systems and protocols in place to encourage best and safe practices.

Highlights of this report include – several successful and high profile rescues; doubling the land covered by the vaccination programme; increased badger sett and sighting reporting; and starting an educational outreach programme in schools.

Oxfordshire Badger Group activities have been making the news in very positive ways. More and more people are coming to us for help and advice when badgers get into difficulty. It's been a very busy time but it is good to know that our work is benefiting badgers and their human neighbours alike.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Julia Hammett, Richard Tilley and Linda Ward (Trustees)

Membership

Our members are at the heart of Oxfordshire Badger Group and new members are always welcome. One thing we have in common is a love of badgers and other wildlife and a desire to celebrate and protect the natural world. Our volunteers are involved in all of the activities described in this report. We provide mentoring / training and are open to new ideas.

Paid membership is a must for volunteers who work in the field and/or represent Oxfordshire Badger Group. Membership fees are £12 per household per year (£6 concession). £2 of this goes to the Badger Trust and allows members to take part in the Trusts' events and AGM.

There is no pressure on members to volunteer though many do. Many others are content to just be kept informed of our work and badger related news. We try to organise at least one badger watching session per year (COVID permitting). We provide relevant fieldwork training for those taking part in our rescue, vaccination and field work programmes. There are a lot of other things going on – members can expect to get invitations to help out with funding campaigns, awareness raising, sett survey walks, field work, 'office work', signing petitions, lobbying decision makers, responding to planning applications, public enquiries, sales events and so on.

Currently we have 117 members/ households. Oxford is a large county and we hope members will look out for badgers in their local area. We have 25 members based in Oxford City (which has a sizable badger population); Cherwell District – 28; South Oxon – 17; Vale – 22; and West Oxon – 17. Ten of our members live outside the County.

Interest in membership has been boosted by opposition to the cull in Oxfordshire along with the opportunity to take part in our rescue and vaccination programmes. In 2019, the first 'pilot' year of vaccination 25 new members joined us. Despite the pandemic, we had 20 new members in 2020 and 26 in 2021. So far in 2022 we have 29 new members – a record for the badger group. People leave the group for a variety of reasons, but we have 28 people who've been with us for 5 years or more !

We have a further 268 followers /supporters who subscribe to our newsletter. Our newsletters reach 387 people and are opened by a majority (regularly 55-100%).

Our challenge is to find people willing to take on more administrative roles, particularly in fund raising. We've not as yet found a replacement for Treasurer and ideally should recruit two or three additional Trustees. If you are interested in joining the committee please get in touch.

- Linda Ward, Secretary

Badger records

Oxfordshire Badger Group holds secure records of reported deaths, live sightings and setts dating back over five decades. This highly sensitive, confidential information underpins our vital rescue and vaccination work and underpins all our activities.

Professional requests for data

We maintain protected records and offer a professional, chargeable data search service to vetted agencies that can prove that they have a legitimate reason to require information about the presence of badgers in a specific area.

Oxfordshire Badger Group welcomes the opportunity to liaise with developers and Local Authorities sharing expertise to inform and improve development plans that enhance rather than exclude badgers from the environment. We have a mutual data sharing agreement with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to facilitate connection between agencies and ensure that badgers and their habitats are considered and protected.

January – December 2021: One data request received, but the ecologists decided not to pursue the report. No data requests have been received in the first six months of 2022.

Reflection:

Developers & ecologists are performing their due diligence by asking TVERC for an initial data search. The reports that TVERC produce always advise that the developers should then contact OBG for more accurate information than TVERC have, but perhaps the developers feel that the TVERC data search is adequate.

The lack of professional data requests not only impacts negatively on the income to the Oxfordshire Badger Group. It also raises serious concerns that development of land is going ahead across the county without proper research into the prevalence of badgers, putting animals at risk instead of shaping plans that will accommodate this protected species.

Casualty reports

A core group of OBG members from across the county volunteer to check dead badgers & report back on their health (and arrange rescue if viable) or if pronounced dead, to check it's gender and lactation status in case there may be vulnerable cubs nearby that required our assistance. The months marked with * on the table below indicate when this activity takes place.

The activity has generated several reports of new setts, as well as improved records of the gender and approximate age of badgers found dead. Close inspection of the bodies allows us to check for signs of suspicious circumstances of death, as yet none have been found.

The Oxfordshire Badger Group is participating in a study run by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to ascertain the incidence of Bovine Tb in the wild badger population. Members follow a strict process to collect fresh corpses that are couriered to a testing centre. The study began in April 2021 and is currently on going. Results will be published publically after its conclusion.

January – December 2021

287 dead badgers were reported between 1st January 2021 and the end of December 2021.

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The numbers are grim but sadly not notably higher than in previous years, and our reach has grown substantially with the addition of new reporters across the county. Most were killed on roads. One dead cub was found near a sett and another seen on farmland from a footpath, both during dry summer months and neither was thought to be suspicious. Four other badgers were found dead in parks, college grounds and woodland. OBG members checked the bodies, one of which was sent to APHA for post mortem.

Casualties per month:

Season/ Year	Winter 2021	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Winter 2021
		Mar* - 41	June *- 24	Sept - 28	Dec - 5
	Jan - 4	Apr*- 35	July - 19	Oct - 22	
	Feb* - 48	May*- 36	Aug - 12	Nov - 13	
Total dead	52	112	55	63	5

Total deaths reported annually:

2018 = 161

2019 = 165

2020 = 150

2021 = 287

Hotspots for deaths on the county's roads in 2021:

A40: More than 30 deaths reported along the road's length with particular hotspots at Shotover / Sandhills (13 deaths), between Old Marston and Barton (10 deaths) and around Witney (7 deaths).

A34: 22 deaths in total with hotspots between Wytham and Hinksey Hill interchange (12 deaths).

A420: 9 deaths between the Botley interchange and Besselsleigh, a further 11 deaths reported south of Besselsleigh.

A4074: 14 deaths between Reading & Oxford, with clusters of deaths at the familiar hotspots near the Dorchester bypass (4 deaths), Sandford On Thames (3 deaths) and around Nuneham Courtenay & the Arboretum.

There have been notable numbers of reports from the A415 (Culham continues to be a hotspot), B4009 around Chinnor and Aston Rowant and the A4260 around Deddington. The rise in reports from these areas reflects an increasing number of OBG members who regularly travel these roads.

The A40, A34, A420 and A4074 have again claimed the most lives in the first six months of 2022.

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January – end June 2022

191 dead badgers have been reported in 2022 between 1st January and the end of June.

Month	January*	February*	March*	April*	May*	June*
No. of deaths	14	45	47	43	22	20

* = Period when dead badgers are checked for gender and lactation status.

Sett records:

The updates on previously recorded setts are very welcome as they provide a history of the sett and it's health over a period of years, and sometimes several decades. Reports of new setts come in from a variety of sources:

- From members of the public concerned about development of land where there is a sett.
- From sett surveying days organised by OBG to explore areas of the county where we have sparse records or where development is planned.
- From methodical surveying of private land by landowners who have signed up to our vaccination programme. These extremely confidential records are held separately from the main records and are excluded from data sharing agreements and professional data searches.

The increased amount of rescue call outs to injured or ill badgers across the county have generated new records of badger setts and signs in new areas.

2021	January – end June 2022
252 new and updated sett reports, raising the total number of records to just over 1480 collected since the 1970s.	252 new and updated sett reports

Sightings of live badgers

Members of the public and OBG members continue to share their experiences of seeing badgers with us, many from trail cameras. We really appreciate receiving reports about live sightings; they reveal where badgers are living and also describe the genuine excitement that people feel on seeing a live badger going about it's normal activities.

Two notable sightings from the records in 2022: an erythristic badger was seen by a dog walker on Salt Way, Banbury in broad daylight; and an urban badger spotted near Cowley gave a cyclist a shock when it barrelled out in front of him. Luckily a collision was avoided & the badger was observed diving back into the scrub adjacent to the cycle path.

2021	January – end June 2022
27 live sightings	11 live sightings

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and reports to our records.

Barbara Witkowski, Records Officer, July 2022

Badger vaccination project

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with farmers, landowners, volunteers, and the public to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis by providing treatment, under licence, in the form of vaccination to badgers in Oxfordshire.

Bovine tuberculosis is a disease in cattle that has spread into the wildlife population, including badgers.

Through badger vaccination, we aim to reduce the transmission and spread of the disease in the badger population and reduce the risk to cattle.

We believe it is important to offer a humane and equally effective alternative to culling. More and more landowners want to vaccinate their badgers.



During our 2021 season, we doubled the area of vaccination land. With a successful GoFundMe appeal and a kind donation from Waitrose & Partners, Wantage, we were able to pay for more of our existing volunteers to train to become authorised personnel on our Natural England Licence.



OBG badger receiving the charity donation cheque from Waitrose & Partners Wantage.

A generous donation by Mr. Lumpy enabled us to buy a second portable fridge, meaning we could finish the 2021 season running two separate vaccination teams able to work simultaneously in different areas of the county.



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Our 2022 vaccination season is well underway. We have one (large) round left to complete in September. With the rising cost of living, our 2022 GoFundMe appeal hasn't been going as well as we had hoped, but it isn't all bad news. We had budgeted to buy badger vaccine at the 2021 price but DEFRA negotiated a substantially lower vaccine price this year. We were able to spend the resulting surplus vaccination budget on putting two volunteers through their trapping course and one through their vaccination course.



In April 2022, we held a well-attended volunteers introduction session, signing up just over 20 new volunteers.

We enjoyed a lively social and educational event at Wytham Woods Sawmill.



New farms and landowners have meant it has been a busy season so far, but together with our amazing core team, the new volunteers have learned quickly and become indispensable.

Vaccination highlights



Some highlights from the vaccination programme – all health checked, vaccinated and released by our volunteers.



Badger rescue and welfare

Oxfordshire Badger Group works with members of the public and wildlife hospitals in the rescue of injured or sick badgers in Oxfordshire. Our teams are on call to advise the public and landowners who may have concerns about the welfare of badgers in their community. In 2020 we attended 18 rescues and incidents.

Thankfully, 2021 was quieter than previous years, with only six rescues, over half of which were cubs. The rescues involved support feeding orphaned cubs, a road traffic collision, and a badger cub with a plastic bag stuck around its neck. Our teams also visited several sites to give advice. In January, several team members attended the Secret World training event on 'Rescue, care and rehabilitation of badgers

So far, 2022 has been a busy year for the rescue teams, with 15 rescues to date. The rescues have been a mixture of cubs, road traffic collisions, and badgers in poor condition or with injuries. We have used Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and Nutkin Ward for all veterinary treatment, donating to both for each rescue.



Elsa, a 'white' cub, rescued June 2022

Debbie said "she is a tiny fighter and now eating on her own. All badgers are special, but occasionally one just gets you straight in the heart. I first saw this little one hiding under a bin, barely able to walk. Kudos to Oxfordshire wildlife rescue for her care".

"When we was released Elsa back to her family I've never seen a badger so quickly recognise her home and so keen to be released."

Elsa, the white badger cub, and the badger in the skateboard park both received a lot of media attention, which highlights our work.



Thank you to all of the rescue team, not only for the rescues but for helping monitor and support feed cubs and elderly badgers.

- **Debbie White, Rescue and Vaccination Coordinator**

Badger and other wildlife crime

Oxfordshire Badger Group crime lead liaises with the police, Badger Trust, RSPCA and members of the public. We are concerned that wildlife crime in the county is probably under-reported and that the police response is often unduly delayed and inadequate. We stress the importance of reporting all suspicious or actual wildlife crime incidents to the police and also to the Badger Trust. We offer advice and support and also follow through as necessary to monitor situations where badgers may be at risk in future. Our aim is to ensure that all volunteers and members are suitably trained and this is achieved via periodic online crime training sessions provided by Craig Fellows, the Badger Trust Crime officer.

To reiterate all crimes to badgers should be reported to the police online or via 101. Please make sure you get a crime number and then send all these details into the Badger Trust.

We are not satisfied at how Thames Valley Police are dealing badger crimes. We are working for improvements and have asked the wildlife crime team for a meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report crime into us or to BT. It is sad for the badgers but by recording all the statistics it really paints a picture of what badgers in Oxfordshire are facing.

If anyone ever needs advice or assistance on badger related crime I am happy to talk to you.

Emily Lawrence

Promotion of activities and social media

Oxfordshire Badger Group understands how important social media is in attracting new members, spreading our message and engaging with the general public.

Facebook

Currently, 1,380 people like our page and 1,457 people follow us.

Between the 6th July - 2nd August 2022, our posts reached a huge 7.2k and 8 new people liked our page. The most popular post was a share of the new badger bedding at Asda creating the most reactions to a post with 229 likes, 22 shares. It reached 4000 people.

The second was a rescue that Debbie and Amelia undertook at a skate park in Oxford. This reached 1000 people, had 92 likes and 10 shares. This story also reached local media and was in the Oxford mail so reached an even higher audience.

Twitter

Twitter has been very good for engagement this year and less posting has improved engagement to ensure followers aren't saturated with content.

We have 1696 twitter followers and our average rate of engagement is usually is around 500 impressions (How much it is seen in feeds), but we have had some stories in 2022 that have gone way above this. Twitter has been very successful in helping direct people to donate via our vaccination fundraiser. Our post about the vaccination of the pure white badger achieved 6529 impressions/ 522 engagements

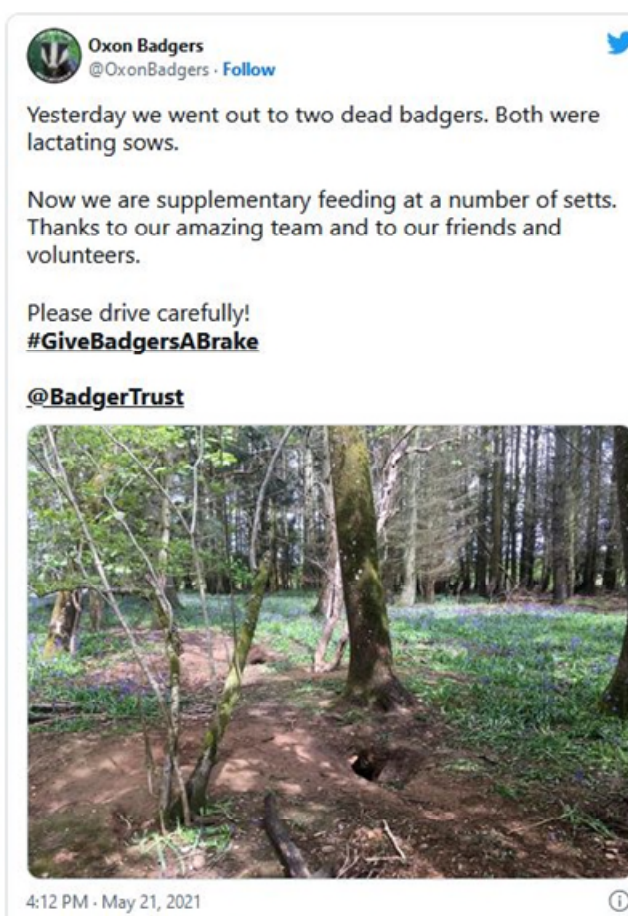
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A tweet we put out with the video of the skate park badger being released had 4224 impressions and 180 engagements. A tweet that we put out regarding a rescue we were called to by Thames Valley police was one of our most popular tweets at 7041 impressions.

We had lots of coverage about the rescue of Elsa the white badger cub. We shared Debbie's tweets on this. The Badger Trust, Oxfordshire Wildlife rescue, Keep the Ban and Dominic Dyer (wildlife campaigner) also shared the story in their words on their own channels which increased our reach.

Where relevant our posts explain how the public can help badgers as in these examples.

In 2022, Facebook posts asking the public to put out water in the hot weather for wildlife reached over 1000 people.



Summary

All in all a really good year on social media with the vaccination and rescue teams providing lots of interesting content to share.

Next steps is promoting other areas of our work including development and education on our platforms. We do a lot of work in these areas which is largely unseen. We haven't needed to use Facebook Ads in 2022, maybe this is an area we can look into for recruiting new people or sharing any big fundraisers we may have in the future.

Our vaccination fundraiser hasn't done so well on social media this year so we are thinking of different ways that we can promote it. Facebook has seen a decline across the whole industry with younger people moving to platforms like Tik Tok so OBG may have to think about where the future of its social media lies. In March 2021 we opened an Instagram account that now has 699 followers

Emily Lawrence

Education: Reaching out for Badgers in 2022

In the Spring of 2022 engagement and support was sought from Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBG) as part of the campaign to save the Horse Fields and Memorial Field in Iffley Village. The Horse Fields is the home of Luna the White Badger, and the Friends of the Fields Iffley wish to protect these fields for her, for the Badger clan living there for many years and for the rich habitat on these ancient meadows which connects with the blue green corridor along the Thames. Oxford City Council purchased the land in 2020 and it is designated for housing development.

As part of our support for the campaign, OBG Committee Members Julia and Eileen attended three local schools² to provide a 'Badger Assembly' and Eileen and Evelyn Sanderson, Co-ordinator of Friends of the Fields, Iffley Campaign attended a fourth school³ to provide a classroom-based event. Following this last event, the children wrote to their local Councillor saying why the Fields should be saved from development. We were able to broaden this session to look at biodiversity more generally and the benefits for all of us of being in and protecting nature at this time of emergencies for people and planet

Some two hundred children took part in these events. Most were 7–8-year-olds, whilst Iffley Academy students who have special educational needs were in some cases older.

Children were wonderfully engaged, enthusiastic and bursting with questions. We shared information about how badgers live and encouraged the children to help us to protect them. Watching the video about Iffley Fields, narrated by Peggy Seeger a famous folk singer, prompted discussion of protecting where Luna and her clan live. Subsequently, some children asked their parents to take them to 'see where Luna lives.'

We look forward to invitations from schools to meet and 'talk Badger' with more children after the summer break. Friends of the Fields Iffley will also be providing an update on Luna and her family.



This photograph is shared with the permission of parents and the school.

Frodo the taxidermy badger was universally loved!

– Eileen Anderson,
Education & Outreach

² Rosehill Primary, St Mary and St John Primary, Iffley Academy

³ Larkrise Primary

Planning and development

The county of Oxfordshire is facing massive development from both local and national planning for growth pressures. Oxford City plans to build on much of the open spaces remaining within its boundaries. As local councils have to provide for Oxford's unmet housing needs, more and more pressure is being put on the Green Belt and rural areas outside the city.

The scale of development planned for Oxfordshire is daunting and many of the proposals are likely to impact the badger population. During the period of this report new development threats have emerged in the form of massive solar farms and industrial warehousing. The Environment Agencies' proposal for the £123 million Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme threatens multiple badger setts along its length.

Oxfordshire Badger Group have responded to consultations for local plans with comments about potential impact on badgers and are trying to make sure that the mitigation is the best it can be for badgers on new developments. We also liaise with and support local residents concerned about the environmental impact of smaller proposals that nevertheless, can be devastating to badgers.

We encourage our members and the public to contact us as early as possible in the planning process if they are concerned that badger setts or foraging areas will be impacted. It is very difficult to influence proposals once planning permission has been granted. The following are examples of current developments where we hope to make a real difference in ensuring the best possible outcome for badgers.

Eynsham Garden Village: OBG is concerned that plans for this green field site would lead to the loss of many setts. We are working closely with Council Officers to suggest mitigation measures.

Land north of Bayswater Brook, Barton: OBG taken part in consultations from the concept stage and have voiced concerns about the impact on badgers and the species rich Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) adjacent to the site. Our feedback was received positively. Recently we submitted comments on the outline plans and will continue to be involved throughout the planning process.

Radley Development: OBG has worked with the developers and local residents to provide a badger road tunnel as part of the new development of 240 houses on fields sold by Radley School. The developer, Pye Homes is proud to have achieved a higher-than-average biodiversity net gain by incorporating natural landscaping to encourage and protect local wildlife, including the introduction of badger corridors. We know, because they have advertised this on the buses !

Iffley Fields: OBG are working closely with local residents in the Friends group to ensure that the badger sett is protected through future development by Oxford City Council on fields in this Conservation area.

Badger cull

Oxfordshire Badger Group has always strongly opposed the policy of culling badgers as part of the government's strategy for eradicating bovine TB. In 2020, the government issued licences to cull badgers in Oxfordshire for the first time. The 2021 culling season opened at the end of August and covered a larger area of the county than previously due to the addition of a second cull zone licence. In March 2022 we reported that 1254 badgers were culled in Oxfordshire in 2021 - up from 1040 in the previous year. We were appalled to see number of badgers killed by the cruel and inhumane 'free shooting' method has increased from 61% to 80% , meaning that many more animals are likely to have suffered a painful and lingering death.

Oxfordshire Badger Group believe that the vaccination of badgers in the county is a more humane and cost effective alternative. We are proud to offer a vaccination service to landowners. We continue to call on the Government to stop the cull. Badgers in Oxfordshire are already under threat due to the unprecedented level of housing developments. Culling an iconic, protected native mammal on such an intensive scale is not acceptable in one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We encourage our members and supporters to oppose the cull by all legal means available.

Collaboration with other organisations

Oxfordshire Badger Group believes that collaboration is essential to deliver our charities' aims. We have established ongoing operating relationships with the following organisations.

The Badger Trust: OBG is a full member of the Badger Trust (registered charity 1111440). The Trust is the national umbrella organisation which represents and support around 60 local voluntary badger groups across England and Wales). OBG functions independently but in partnership with the Trust. This relationship provides access to expert advice, peer group support and mentoring; training; authoritative information (such as leaflets) and the opportunity to apply for Badger Trust grants. OBG supports relevant Badger Trust campaigns and helps disseminate information and calls for action to our members and followers.

Other Badger Groups: We liaise with the Groups covering our neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire; Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) on a regular operational basis. During the reporting period this has involved sharing resources - to cover badger call outs on the 'overlapping' county borders along with joint training and social events. We are part of the wider badger vaccination network and have benefited from training and mentoring along with regular news and best practice updates. We offer special thanks to the highly experienced Somerset, Derbyshire and Cornwall vaccination teams for their support.

The Conservation Volunteers local South Eastern group (TVC) registered charity in England (261009). OBG is a paid member of TVC. This gives us access to advice, support and funding opportunities. We are listed on their website and contribute to their regular newsletters. We also benefit from access to discounted insurance prices.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT): Our local wildlife Trust shares a keen interest in badger welfare, opposes culling and vaccinate against bTB. BBOWT is able to provide local training for vaccination volunteers.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC): We believe it is vital to maintain accurate environmental records capturing the diversity and threats to wild life in this area. We share information with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) via a mutual data sharing agreement that respects the sensitivity of our data.

Wytham Woods Field Station, Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit: OBG is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with the ecologists running Badger Project at WildCRU: The "laboratory with leaves" at Wytham Woods. WildCRU's Badger Project has collected a wealth of fundamental ecological data for over 30 years. We regularly hold social and training events at Wytham Woods.

Wildlife rescue and Hospitals: Our rescue service captures badgers in need of care and take them to a suitable wildlife hospital. We work primarily with 'local' centres within striking distance of Oxfordshire - including The Nutkin Ward; Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue; and the Vale Wildlife Hospital.

Treasurer's Report to AGM 20th August 2022

Financial report for the period 01 January 2021-31 December 2021

Attached with this Report are the Accounts for the period 01 January 2021-31 December 2021, our second year as a CIO, along with figures for our first CIO period 2019/2020 for comparison.

As a CIO with 2021 income of £10,339, OBG's accounts do not require Independent Examination until our gross income exceeds £25,000, unless a specific request is made by membership at the AGM.

2021 INCOME

Sales - With events still curtailed by Covid precautions, sales remained at the reduced level of the previous year. Dedicated sales were started to finance the OBG Conference planned for November 2022.

Interest - No interest accrues to our Co-Op bank account. OBG's old Lloyd's bank account was finally closed in November 2021.

Gift Aid – Some Gift Aid is automatically collected by and paid to OBG through PayPal transactions, where the group member or donor has completed a Gift Aid declaration.

One of our main reasons for becoming a Registered Charity was the benefit of being able to claim Gift Aid from HMRC. Our HMRC registration has already allowed OBG to increase the value of donations made via our PayPal Crowdfunder and other online tools. We are grateful to the many people who have completed a Gift Aid form since this allows OBG to recover 25% on all donations they make. The charity is also able to claim Gift Aid on individual cash or contactless donations of £30 or less. We have successfully submitted a claim to HMRC for reimbursement of further qualifying donations made by cash, cheque or direct bank transfer.

Badger Trust Grant - In May 2021 OBG received a Badger Trust Vaccination Grant of £1,963.00. All used to fund another Module 3 Vaccinator course @£1,143 and four more Module 2 Trapper courses @ £205 each.

Members' Subscriptions – Up 76% in volume on previous year, despite rates unchanged since 1st January 2020. Odd totals are because PayPal deducts a small fee when members pay via that route.

Donations - Comprise 59% of OBG's income in 2021. As last year, the outstanding feature of our accounts is the continued generosity of our members and supporters, who continue to be the mainstay of our funding.

On behalf of the Trustees and Committee I thank all our members and supporters and hope you can continue your support for all the reasons we will expand on throughout this AGM

The Secretary has been leading work to streamline and maximise OBG fundraising and income through the use of online tools which support charities. This has been a significant piece of work for Oxfordshire Badger Group. The charity is now registered with platforms such as PayPalGiving, Amazon Smile, Ebay and Give As You Live Online. These allow supporters to nominate us as their chosen charity, donate items from our wish list and 'top up' payments to benefit our work. We thank those who've helped us in this way.

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

In April 2021 OBG received £615.00 from “Mr Lumpy and friends”, and subsequently further regular weekly payments of £15, totalling an additional £310 to the year end. This generosity allowed purchase of a second fridge for transporting vaccines, and other material for badger vaccination.

Waitrose & Partners, Wantage raised £500 for OBG through their “Give A Little Love” charity scheme, their cheque received in October.

A start was made on seeking donations assigned to fund OBG’s Conference planned for November 2022.

Payments from APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) – In July, OBG received the first payment from APHA for their Badger Found Dead Study. Our collectors of badger carcasses, usually road kills, are paid £25 per badger submitted to cover expenses incurred, such as petrol consumed. All our OBG collectors are donating their £25 per badger collected to the group’s vaccination funds.

By the year end, OBG had received £675 from APHA.

2021 Expenditure

Insurance – Annual insurance continued at £565.86 in October 2021, to cover OBG’s expansion of field activities, including sett surveying, badger rescue and vaccination.

Badger Trust Levy and Donation - In February 2021 OBG paid our annual dues to the Badger Trust. Subscription was £25 (a 50% reduction to allow for Covid restrictions on activities). Levy of £59 (£1 per Group member, again with a 50% reduction for Covid). Topped up with £16 donation. A total of £100 (50% of our total payment in 2020).

Badger Rescue Equipment – In March 2021 OBG spent the last £418.45 of our 2020 Clare Hammacott £1,472 Grant from the Badger Trust on equipment for badger rescues. The Grant enabled us to complete equipment purchase for 7 rescue teams.

Badger Vaccination – 81% of OBG’s expenditure in 2021 has been towards the vaccination project, including purchase of equipment, vaccines, expendables and training of volunteer trappers and vaccinators.

2021 Reporting

The Trustees’ first Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 were submitted to the Charity Commission on 8th October 2021.

2019/2020 Tax Returns and accounts for HMRC, to confirm that, as a charity, OBG should be exempt from Corporation Tax, were submitted online on 11th November 2021.

At year end, 31st December 2021, OBG funds totalled £10,325.27, up 26% on year end 2020.

Richard Tilley, Treasurer, 28th June 2022

Financial reserves policy

The charity aims to hold adequate reserve funding to meet unforeseen or new contingencies; to maintain a good cash flow; known operating commitments; and be able to close down in good order should the charity become financially unsustainable. The Trustees have referred to applicable Charity Commission requirements and Guidance in setting the charities financial reserves policy.

The charity reserves are in cash and cash deposits. They arise from the accumulated surpluses of members' subscriptions, donations and grants over expenditure. They also include surpluses accumulated by the previous voluntary group which were transferred to the charity on 09 December 2019. They are unrestricted and freely available to support any of the charities activities and expenses.

Our policy is to try and maintain reserves sufficient to cover one year's typical expenditure. Anything over and above this will be kept as a general contingency. This policy, and the level of reserves held by the charity is reviewed annually.

As at 31 December 2021 the reserves carried forward to 2022 were £10,325.27.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

Statutory statements on liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (*eg: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services*); and
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (*eg: a mortgage on property owned by the charity*).

Oxfordshire Badger Group: Trustees Annual Report

Statement of accounts for Annual General Meeting, 2022

	09/12/2019 to 31/12/2020	01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021
INCOME		
Trading activities		
Sales	389.86	301.29
Sales for Conference		80.00
Interest	0	0
Gift Aid collected by PayPal	325.75	438.00
From other charities		
Badger Trust grant	1,472.00	1,963.00
Other sources		
Members' subscriptions	446.30	787.35
Donations	5,308.54	6,074.52
Donations for Conference		20.00
Survey fees	60.00	0
Payments from APHA	-	675.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,002.45	10,339.16
EXPENDITURE		
Trading Costs		
Purchases of stock	411.50	0
Stall fees	25.00	58.00
Sales postage	-	5.30
General administration		
Insurance	565.86	565.86
Website fee	178.00	0
PayPal fees	-	92.67
Office supplies	39.45	0
Hall hire for events	93.00	0
Travel expenses	-	173.70
Donations made by OBG		
Badger Trust levy & donation	200.00	100.00
Wildlife hospitals	275.00	85.00
Other expenditure		
Equipment for badger rescues	1,053.55	418.45
Equipment for vaccination	562.54	6,129.01
Vaccination training	-	615.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,403.90	8,242.99
Funds at end of period	8,198.30	10,325.27