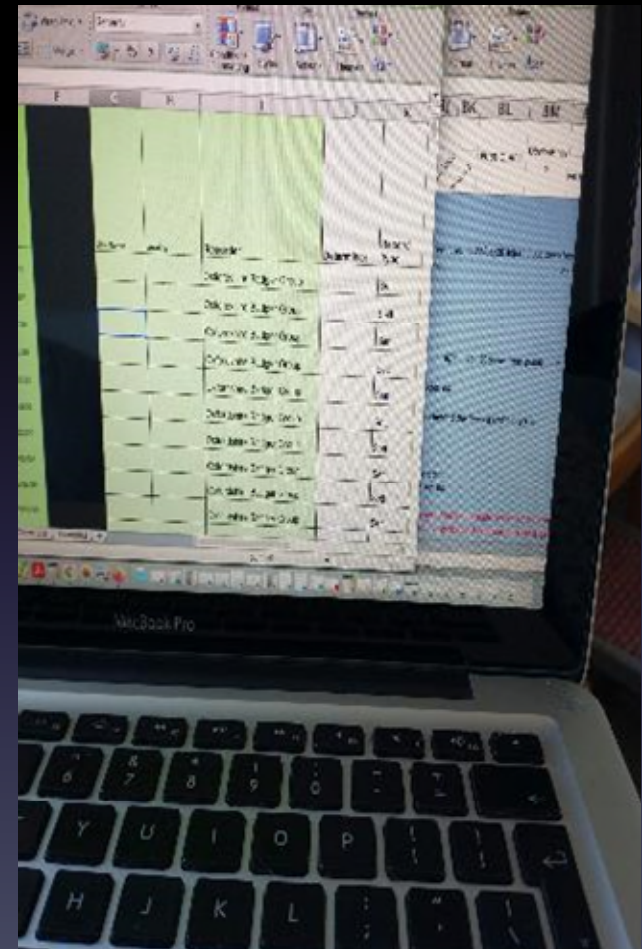


OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP AGM 20 AUGUST 2022

RECORD OFFICER'S REPORT

Our Records:

- Setts, deaths and live sightings
- Held confidentially because badgers and their setts are protected by law. It is illegal to mark, take, injure or kill a badger and to interfere with their setts.
- Oxfordshire Badger Group records cover more than 5 decades
- We offer a professional chargeable data search service to organisations that have a legitimate reason to require information about badger presence.
- Data sharing agreement with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)



How are these records useful?

- Planning:
 - Influences infrastructure planning & safety measures of new developments in liaison with developers and local government
 - Provides evidence to ecologists
- Supplementary feeding or water in times of extreme weather
- Returning a badger to its home following treatment for injury or illness
- Locating dependent cubs of badgers killed on the roads
- Wildlife crime

Deaths

- Badgers are most often found dead on roads following a collision with a vehicle (Road Traffic Accidents) but there are many natural deaths, especially of cubs during a dry spring / summer.
- Reports of dead badgers are shared to a group of OBG members, individuals volunteer to check each body (when safe to do so) as soon as possible in case:
 - the badger is alive & can be rescued
 - a female badger is lactating & leaves dependent cubs
 - the body is viable for a scientific study by the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)
 - there are any suspicious circumstances
- In 2021, 287 deaths were reported to us.
In the first six months of 2022, we've recorded 191 deaths .

Killer roads – hotspots of fatal collisions

2021

- A40 - 32 deaths
- A34 - 22 deaths
- A420 – 20 deaths
- A4074 – 14 deaths

2022 – first six months

- A420 - 17 deaths
- A34 - 16 deaths
- A40 – 10 deaths
- A4074 – 8 deaths

Setts

- Badger setts are at risk of persecution despite being protected by law. Location information is sensitive & held securely.
- Over the past 18 months, 350 new and updated reports have been added to our records. We currently hold just under 1600 sett records.
- Information about new setts is generated from a variety of sources including:
 - contact from members of the public who know of a sett close to them
 - sett surveying days organised by OBG (areas with sparse records or to be developed)
 - surveying of private land signed up to our vaccination programme (confidentiality)
 - rescue call outs
- Updates on recorded setts are very welcome – history of sett & health over the years

Live sightings

- We've kept records of the reports of live badgers spotted across the county since 2015.
- As personal ownership & use of trail cameras has grown, so have the numbers of reports.
- Over the past 18 months, we've received 40 reports from members of the public who, on the whole, are delighted to witness a live badger coexisting happily.
- Notable sightings in 2022 included:
 - an erythristic badger seen in broad daylight on the Salt Way, Banbury
 - an urban badger that gave a Cowley cyclist a shock when it barreled out in front of him.

What to record

- When, where, what you have seen – always!
- Setts: number of active & inactive holes, signs of active use e.g. footprints, bedding, latrines
- Dead badgers: adult / cub, size, sex, rare colouration
- Live badgers: time of sighting, what was it doing
- Photographs – useful but take care with location settings: embedded location information is essential for wildlife crime reports but must be deactivated for other purposes so that sett locations are not revealed

Thank you for taking the time to record this information and send it to us

How to tell us what you see

- If you know of a sett or see a dead badger – **particularly important between January and June when un-weaned cubs are underground** - please either contact us via our website: www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk
- Send reports to OBG via the Reports page on the website www.oxonbadgergroup.org.uk/report
- Or email direct to the records officer:
- Setts: settrecords.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com
- RTAs & live sightings: rtas.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

A huge thank you to everyone who contacts OBG with information about setts, signs and sightings.