

BADGER SURVEY - SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Badgers and their setts are protected under Article 10 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) (the Order) under which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order, which includes the badger (*Meles meles*). It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly: damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place which badgers use for shelter or protection; damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects any such structure; disturb a badger while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.

To ensure your development proposals comply with the Order, The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has asked you to carry out an appropriate badger survey. The following specifications must be applied to the survey methodology and survey report.

- The surveyor contracted to undertake this work must have relevant experience which is deemed acceptable to the Department, for example an ecological consultant with experience of, and/or qualifications in, mammal surveying.
- Surveys must be carried out within one year of submission to the department.
- The survey information should be presented in a written report and must include a large scale location map.
- The date and time of the survey and the qualifications of the surveyor must be included in the survey 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 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.
- The exact location(s) of nearby alternative setts which are used by the same group of badgers must be identified.
- 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 necessary, the report should recommend the most appropriate ways in which badgers can be protected from the impacts of the development throughout the duration of the development.

- 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.

For more information on badgers and development, please see the following;

- The NIEA '*Badgers and Development*' booklet <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/badgers.pdf>
- NIEA Development Management Advice and Information http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/land-home/plan/advice_and_information.htm
- 'Working with Wildlife' online resource <http://www.ciria.org>
- The Northern Ireland Badger Group www.badgersni.org.uk
- Wildlife Management and Licensing please see the following web page; http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/biodiversity/wildlife_management_and_licensing.htm

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